

DARK SKIES LIGHTING TIPS

The Town is dedicated to preserving the idyllic natural setting of this region. In 1999, the Town adopted a series of restrictions and guidelines designed to limit glare, reduce unnecessary light and limit other light pollution, so that our residents may enjoy a starry sky. Our Dark Skies Ordinance helps to ensure appropriate lighting where it is needed, but no lighting where it isn't needed, such as in our dark skies. This reduces spillover light between properties, while also increasing safety for travelers and the aesthetic value of our Town.

The Town's Dark Skies Ordinance was created to regulate the installation and use of outdoor lighting fixtures in the Town, in order to improve nighttime public safety, utility and security by directing the light only where it is needed. Poorly installed lighting can cause unnecessary glare that is detrimental to the safety and security of persons, property and vehicular traffic.

So, what can you do to help preserve Fairview's dark skies? Check out our tips below:

- Outdoor lighting fixtures should shine downward or toward structures, retrofitted if necessary, and maintained in order to prevent glare, light trespass and light pollution. Full shielding of outdoor fixtures is preferred to control light output in all situations. See the pictured examples of acceptable versus unacceptable light fixtures. Unacceptable fixtures have exposed bulbs, causing the light to shine outwards. Acceptable fixtures have bulbs that are positioned under the fixture hood, causing the light to shine downward.

- Security lighting should be shielded and aimed so that illumination is directed only within the owner's property boundaries and not cast on other areas.

- Utilize lighting timers, dimmers and/or sensors to turn on lights only when needed. Security lights should include motion sensors so to only be triggered by movement. This makes them more effective than lights left on all night, as the change in lighting can startle an intruder and alert the homeowner than something is happening.

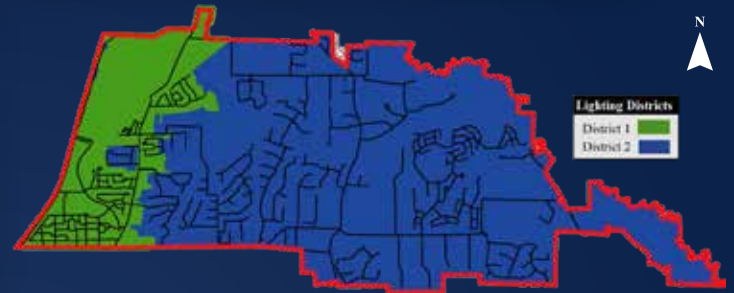
- Update existing fixtures by adding shielding to make them full cutoff. Full cutoff fixtures actually reduce glare and improve lighting by aiming the light more precisely. It puts the light on the ground, where you need it and not in your eyes where it actually inhibits your night vision.

- When unacceptable lighting fixtures break, such as carriage lights, replace them with acceptable and efficient lighting fixtures.

- Switch to lower wattage bulbs and fully shielded fixtures, which can save you money by aiming your lighting where it's needed and not just shining it wastefully into the sky.

- Stay informed about lighting regulations that impact lighting fixtures and lighting levels allowed on your property. There are two lighting districts in the Town of Fairview

that regulate the installation and use of outdoor lighting of properties within each respective district. The map below identifies District 1 as being comprised of all properties located within the Commercial Planned Development District (CPDD). District 2 is comprised of all properties outside of the CPDD. For more information access the Environment page under the Community tab on the Town website.



- In District 1 any light fixture that doesn't comply with full cutoff shielding requirements, unless otherwise addressed in the Town's lighting regulations, is considered nonconforming and is only allowed in unique circumstances if approved by the Town. In the event nonconforming fixtures are approved by the Town, those fixtures are limited to a maximum of 20k lumens per developed acre. In District 1 lighting levels are limited by the type of land use through established minimum and maximum footcandle levels.

- In District 2 any unshielded or partially shielded lighting that are permitted by the Town are limited to a maximum of 10k lumens per developed acre. In District 2 a maximum limit of 50k lumens per developed acre applies to all lighting irrespective of shielding condition.

