

Becoming an International Dark Sky Park (IDSP)

Everything you need to know

What is an International Dark Sky Park?

An IDSP is an area of public or private land that is recognized for and dedicated to preserving its exceptional views of the night sky. Becoming an IDSP promotes the sky without light pollution and educates the public on why it is harmful. IDSPs also protect the nocturnal environment. Many species rely on dark skies to maintain sleep and migration patterns. As for the park itself, benefits of the IDSP designation include an increase of visitation due to astrotourism and a decrease in energy costs.

Requirements for Full IDSP Status

Requirements for Provisional IDSP Status

The Application Process

Post Designation Requirements

Requirements for Full IDSP Status

Refer to the IDA 2018 Guidelines for more detailed requirements.



Must be protected public or private with regular nighttime public access

Must create a Lighting Management Plan



Milky Way is Visible to the naked eye

Minimal light glare is present and any light domes are close to the horizon



Commitment to preserving Dark Skies

Must be able to set a leadership example in the conservation community



Requirements for Provisional IDSP Status

This designation is intended to help the park gain resources and support until full IDSP status can be achieved

Must create a Lighting Management Plan

Must create a lighting inventory

Must have made outreach efforts

Sky quality criteria is met



The Application Process

Refer to the IDA 2018 Guidelines for what to include in the application.

Assign a manager to the project

Write IDSP Application

Reach out to the IDA to discuss getting started

Obtain a letter of nomination from an IDA qualified nominator

Send application to IDA for review

Post Designation Requirements

Write a small annual report to show progress towards meeting the goals of the Lighting Management Plan

Thank you for celebrating the night sky and protecting our planet's resources!

References:

International Dark Sky Association. (2018). International Dark Sky Association Dark Sky Park Program Guidelines. Retrieved Apr. 9, 2020, from <https://www.darksky.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/IDSP-Guidelines-2018.pdf>