

Astronomy Fun

Join the Royal Astronomical Society for a Star Party and explore constellations, check out Saturn's rings and perhaps catch a glimpse of another galaxy!



Ask Park Staff about the Annual Star Parties that occur in the East and West Block.

Stargazing Safety Tips:

- Two Trees Trail, Frenchman Valley Campground and Rock Creek Campground are great, car-accessible stargazing locations.
- Watch out for bison, rattlesnakes and rugged terrain.
- Use a red flashlight to help you retain your night vision.
- Stargaze near your vehicle. Walking distances at night can be difficult.

What can you do?

Take responsibility for practicing responsible lighting:

- Direct outdoor home, cottage and camping lights downward
- Turn off lights when not in use
- Use low wattage lights
- Use dimmer controls and timers where possible

Half the light we produce is not useful because it is often misdirected.

Think *better* light, not *more* light.

For More Information:

Royal Astronomical Society of Canada
Light Pollution Abatement Committee
www.ras.sk.ca/lpc/lpc.htm

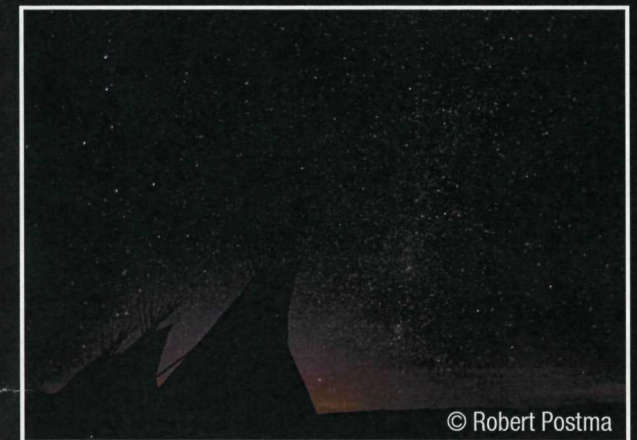
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Grasslands
National Park

Grasslands National Park

Dark Sky Preserve



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What is a Dark Sky Preserve?

Saskatchewan - the Land of Living Skies.

At Grasslands National Park Dark-Sky Preserve you will find yourself astonished by the wonders of the dark night sky.

Did you know?

The night sky is threatened. We all use outdoor lighting, for safety, utility and decoration. However, when artificial light is used improperly, it pollutes our dark sky.

The goal of the Dark-Sky Preserve is to protect the dark skies, limit light pollution and become stewards of responsible lighting practices.

A light bulb is not always a bright idea!

Artificial light that shines where it is not wanted or needed causes *light pollution.*



Why Protect the Dark Sky?



Black Footed Ferret: One of North-America's most endangered mammals

All Wildlife

from insects to mammals require natural cycles of daylight and darkness to navigate, migrate and even to mate.

Native prairie plants

also depend on light cues for germination and normal functioning.

Nocturnal animals

are especially susceptible to light pollution. The black-footed ferret requires true darkness to hunt and live here. Bats and birds require the stars and moon to navigate.

Grasslands National Park Dark Sky Preserve

The Grasslands National Park Dark-Sky Preserve:

- A partnership between the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada and the Parks Canada Agency.
- Officially designated on October 2nd, 2009.
- One of many Dark-Sky Preserves in Canada.
- Encompasses both the East and West Block of Grasslands National Park.
- Is the darkest Dark-sky preserve in Canada.

Grasslands National Park offers unlimited access to the prairie dark skies and is open to dark sky observers throughout the seasons.

Park-staff will gladly support your dark sky experience with information on viewing points, safety information and weather conditions.

