

## **Beverly Shores IDA Annual Report 2016.**

### **Activities from the past year in Beverly Shores, IN.**

We continue to work on improving the situation with the eight Mercury Vapor "Dusk to Dawn" lights on private property in town. Attached you will find an article from the June 2016 ABSR Sand Tracks Newsletter, providing information and requesting assistance from the community on this issue. We have found that one of these lights has been turned off, and although we have not been contacted by the property owner, we are assuming it was in response to the article.

Greg Brown, resident, Town Council Member, and ABSR Board Member, created two new signs announcing the town's achievement of being designated a Dark Sky Community. He purchased the lumber and routed the lettering. We painted in the lettering and hung the signs on two of the town welcome signs. We now have the announcement on three of the four entry roads into town. A photo of one of the new locations is attached.

The National Park Service, in cooperation with members of the Chicago Astronomical Society began a program of Stargazing Nights at the Kemil Rd. parking area just outside of the western Beverly Shores town boundary. These events have been held on the first Saturday night of each month beginning in December 2015 through November 2016. These have been very well attended and a photo of some of the equipment brought by the local astronomers is attached. Our friend Larry Silvestri, from Michigan City heads up the contingent of astronomers from Northwest Indiana. Larry was also instrumental in putting together our application for Dark Sky Community designation. The telescope equipment is set up for visitors and guests to have the opportunity to see some of the great night sky available in our area. This is a link to the NPS program: [Stargazing Programs at National Lakeshore - Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore \(U.S. National Park Service\)](#).

**Stargazing Programs at National  
Lakeshore - Indiana Dunes National  
Lakeshore (U.S. National Park Service)**

INDIANA DUNES NATIONAL LAKESHORE: Join  
members of the Chicago Astronomical Society on the  
first Saturday night...

Larry Silvestri has also been instrumental in the opposition to the new lighting plan at the Indiana Dunes State Park pavilion which we discussed in last year's report. A recent update from Larry is that the case is now in the courts and we await a decision by the judge on the case. Funding for the court action has been provided by a local

chapter of the Isaac Walton League, one of the partners in the movement to stop this development project. The National Park Service provides funding to the State of Indiana for the Dunes State Park, and NPS has objected to the plan for the pavilion. Part of the requirements for receiving federal funds states that no for-profit 3rd parties can be involved in the operations of the State Park. We remain hopeful that this project will not go forward, in particular the huge lighting plans for the larger parking area, which has never been lit.

The projected initiative to replace all Cobra Head streetlights in neighboring Ogden Dunes has been scrapped due to the cost of refitting all the existing street lights with full cutoff fixtures. The number of lights is more than double those in Beverly Shores. Ogden Dunes town government has determined that the cost is prohibitive and the resident's association does not believe they can raise the money through donations. However, our contact, Susan Adams in Ogden Dunes reported a few weeks ago that the town resident's association is attempting to provide education and support for improvement of private lighting all over town. Susan will be updating us on any progress.

We continue to receive inquiries from private citizens who have heard about the Beverly Shores Dark Sky Community designation. Most of these citizens are looking for night sky programs in town and locations where viewing the night sky is appropriate. We have recommended the NPS/Chicago Astronomical Society program to all seeking good locations for night sky viewing. Parking for non-town residents is available at that location which would be a problem in town for visitors who do not have town parking permits displayed on their vehicles. The three most recent inquiries came from Carol Bieneman of Cassopolis, MI, and Rosalia Lugo a Chicago Adler Planetarium employee in charge of the Planetarium's Teen Programs Department. We were also contacted by Bob Mizon of the British Astronomical Society, Commission for Dark Skies. Bob has written a book for Springer Publishers NY about dark-sky sites worldwide, where astronomers might go to escape light pollution and enjoy the night sky. Bob inquired about locations in our area for viewing that he might include in his book. This is a link from Bob on the book...

<http://link.springer.com/book/10.1007%2F978-3-319-33855-2>.

We are delighted to remain active members of the IDA. Town residents continue to feel privileged to have been selected as a Dark Sky Community. Thank you, John for your encouragement and support.

Sincerely,  
Rosemary and Alan Bell

Association of Beverly Shores Residents Sand Tracks Newsletter June 2016.

**JUNE 2016: THE SECOND ANNIVERSARY OF  
THE BEVERLY SHORES DARK SKY COMMUNITY DESIGNATION**

By: Alan & Rosemary Bell, ABSR Environment Committee

In June 2016 our Dark Sky Community will be two years old. In our continuing effort to be responsible stewards of the Dark Sky with all of the associated health, safety, and environmental benefits, we are asking for help from our neighbors.

There are eight mercury vapor “dusk to dawn lights” in various locations around Beverly Shores. The light from these fixtures creates “Sky Glow” and “glare”. It would be much more friendly to humans, flora and fauna if they were downward shielded. Herein lies the dilemma...how to make that happen. One idea is to apply radiator paint to the sides of the fixtures in order to direct the light downward where it would be most effective, and also less polluting and intrusive.

We are open to other suggestions. Please contact Rosemary and Alan Bell at [roandalan@yahoo.com](mailto:roandalan@yahoo.com), with any ideas that might help us achieve this goal. Your input would be very much appreciated. Thank you.





