

# N O R T H F O R K P A R K

*Ogden Valley, Utah*

## 2015 Annual Dark Sky Place Report

Submitted to IDA by Ogden Valley Starry Nights and Weber County Parks

*Period: April 13 (date of accreditation) - September 1, 2015*



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**Date of Designation:** April 13, 2015

**Annual Report Submitted By:** Janet Muir and Frank Cumberland (Ogden Valley Starry Nights) and Jennifer Graham (Director, Weber County Parks)

**N.B.** This annual report covers the less-than-six-month period from mid-April (accreditation) to September 1. In that monitoring and most events are post-September 1 (and given necessary lead-time for Weber County to approve the report), their details will be included in the 2016 edition.

**Lighting Guidelines:** no changes to lighting guidelines; no non-conforming lighting; 100% current conforming lighting.

## **Sky Quality Measurements**

The annual monitoring by Weber State University (WSU) takes place in either September or October, depending upon weather and viewing conditions. Because of approval timetable with Weber County and the possibility of October readings, each Fall's measurements will be reported in the year following. Please refer to accreditation application for the most recent (Fall 2014) measurements.

## **Reserve Commitment to Education**

Outreach Programs Held (between April 13 and September 1, 2015)

**Spring Full-Moon Wildlife Wander** - May 2 - approximately 75 attendees (largest dark sky event in NFP to date)

Description and Event Feedback (from article in *Ogden Valley News*):

### **And Then a Moose Appeared: First Wildlife Wander in New International Dark Sky Park**

The evening of May 2 was warm and dramatic, with volatile clouds causing the full moon to move in and out of obscurity. Over 75 folks turned out, some on their own, many with children, to wander in North Fork Park. The event was led by Utah Division of Wildlife Resource specialists Clint Brunson, Pam Kramer and James Abbott. Weber County Parks Director Jennifer Graham and family attended this inaugural event – the first dark sky event since North Fork Park achieved prestigious accreditation as the world's 21<sup>st</sup> International Dark Sky Park (in an accreditation round shared with Capitol Reef National Park), and the first to be urban-adjacent (with mountains shielding against skyglow). Indeed, about half of the attendees came from the highly light-polluted Wasatch Front (levels equally those of the Los Angeles Basin).

It was a lovely evening to walk. Skins and skulls were displayed and simulated animal calls rang out when the group reached the corral area. The darkness continued to deepen and then, very quietly, a moose appeared nearby, drinking from the stream.

What is a Wildlife Wander in an International Dark Sky Park all about? To have fun, see a full moon in great detail and to learn about the importance of dark skies to the many animals that experience "disorientation of time when there is too much artificial light at night." "Behavior governing mating, migration, sleep and finding food are determined by the length of nighttime. Light pollution negatively disrupts these age-old patterns." (International Dark Sky Association). And this is remains true whether the animals are nocturnal or diurnal.

Jess Dwyer, Education Director (Ogden Valley Starry Nights) and newly appointed Dark Sky Student Representative Zach Thomas were on hand not only to talk about dark skies but also to interview the younger set of participants (all of whom received glow-in-the-dark stars and wildlife/dark sky puzzles)

Some reactions:

Tate (6): "I like that the stars move."

Zach (12 - Kaysville Elementary) "Dark skies are important"

Andrew (11) "(Dark skies) are very important. Without them, no stars and no nature."

Ava (8 - Valley Elementary) "The stars are pretty bright, and I like sleeping outside."

Maya (5 -Valley Elementary) "They twinkle."

Lauren Endicott, representing the Huntsville branch of Weber County Library, brought a powerful set of moon binoculars (easier than a telescope for many people) and a moon globe, which few had seen before.

Geography Professor Jeremy Bryson of Weber State University, who leads the park's annual light-monitoring teams, was also on hand with his wife and three young children.

Casey Grimley ([www.caseygrimley.smugmug.com](http://www.caseygrimley.smugmug.com)), official photographer of the accreditation effort, recorded the moods of the sky, the moose, the moon, and the many Wildlife Wanderers, young and old.

**Future Events** (Fall 2015) - all with dark sky educational material (especially covering inexpensive lighting retro-fit):

- Children's *Marvelous Moon* Program (afternoon September 12 at Huntsville Library).
- Annual Star Party and Dedication of the Dark Sky Viewing Area (evening September 12 in North Fork Park)
- WSU Monitoring with student partners (September 12, following star party)
- Fall Full Moon Wildlife Wander (September 26 in North Fork Park)
- Accreditation Celebration (October 21 Wildcat Theatre, Weber State University)
- Owl Prowl with Wasatch Audubon Society (October 31)

(Winter/Spring 2016)

- Winter Moonlight Snowshoe Glides (Ogden Nordic - three events at full moon)
- WSU Physicist Stacy Palen: *The Cosmos* (Jan or Feb 2016 at Huntsville Library)
- Spring Full Moon Wildlife Wander (May)
- Other programs TBD with education partners

### **New Education Partner**

*Tracy Aviary* (largest aviary in America, located in Salt Lake City): development of dark sky educational material as related to bird behavior and health.

### **Continuing Education Partners**

*Utah State Division of Wildlife Resources* (DWR) (Northern Region)

*Swanson's North Fork Environmental Center* (Weber County Schools)

*Ott Planetarium* (Weber State University)

*Wasatch Audubon Society*

*HawkWatch International*

*Ogden Nature Center*

*Ogden Astronomical Society*

Respectfully Submitted:

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Frank Cumberland [[frankc@xmission.com](mailto:frankc@xmission.com) - 801.745.5694]

Jennifer Graham, Director, Weber County Parks  
[[jgraham@co.weber.ut.us](mailto:jgraham@co.weber.ut.us) - 801-399-8258]

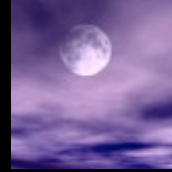
N O R T H F O R K P A R K

*Ogden Valley, Utah*

Attachments



Saturday 26 September 2015 @ 7pm  
Family-Friendly Adventure  
With DWR biologist Clint Brunson  
North Fork Park in Ogden Valley  
South Entrance Parking Lot



Utah Division of Wildlife Resources  
Ogden Valley Starry Nights  
Weber State University  
Weber County Parks and Recreation

Please dress warmly for an evening in the mountains

Full Moon in North Fork Park

# Fall Wildlife Wander!



# N O R T H F O R K P A R K

Ogden Valley, Utah

## ogden valley starry nights



### Upcoming Events

details at:  
[WWW.STARRYNIGHTSUTAH.ORG](http://WWW.STARRYNIGHTSUTAH.ORG)

- Sep 10 The Cosmos
- Sep 12 Marvelous Moon
- Sep 12 Annual Star Party
- Sep 26 Wildlife Wander
- Oct 21 Celebration

21<sup>st</sup> International Dark Sky Park



### North Fork Park

An International Dark Sky Park: Accredited 2015

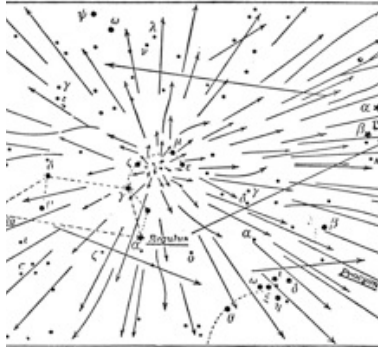


- SEP 10: PROF. STACY PALEN 7PM (HUNTSVILLE LIBRARY)
- SEP 12: MARVELOUS MOON 10AM (HUNTSVILLE LIBRARY)
- SEP 12: STAR PARTY AND AREA DEDICATION 8:30PM (NF PARK)
- SEP 26: FULL MOON WILDLIFE WANDER 7PM (NF PARK)
- OCT 21: ACCREDITATION CELEBRATION 12PM (WSU-WILDCAT)

ACCREDITATION

# N O R T H F O R K P A R K

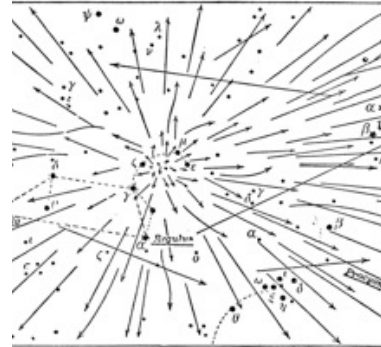
*Ogden Valley, Utah*



**North Fork Park**  
International Dark-Sky  
Accreditation Celebration  
for the public and the  
WSU Community

Wednesday, 21 Oct 2015  
Noon - 1pm

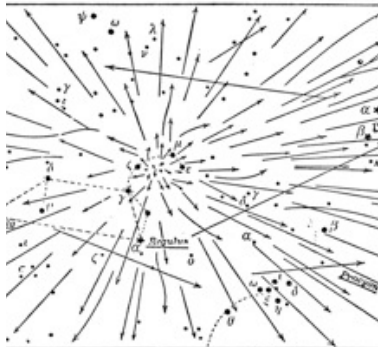
Weber State University  
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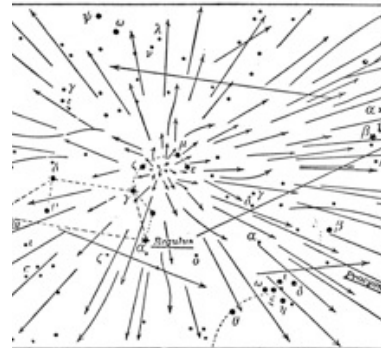
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*Ogden Valley, Utah*

## North Park Park

The world's 21<sup>st</sup> International Dark-Sky Park  
Wednesday 21 October 2015: noon - 1pm  
Weber State University, Wildcat Theatre

### Ogden Valley Starry Nights

A special invitation to Nominators, Collaborators, Supporters, and Education Partners. Please join President Wight and Commissioner Bell to represent your group and help us celebrate the accreditation of North Fork as a prestigious International Dark-Sky Park. For more information, call 917.385.6555 or email [janet.e.muir@gmail.com](mailto:janet.e.muir@gmail.com).

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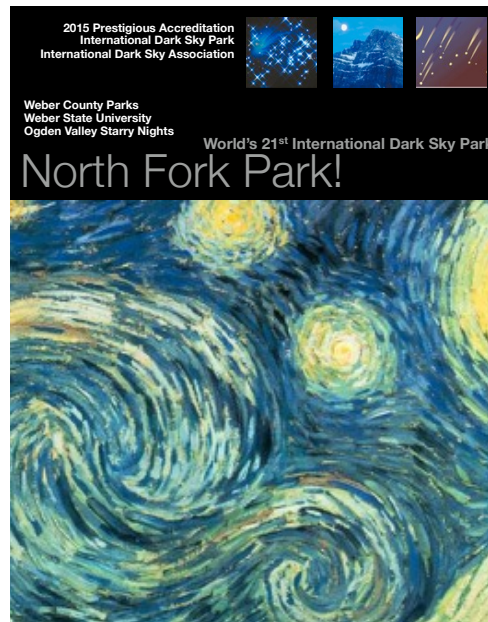
*Ogden Valley, Utah*

## North Fork Park

*World's 21<sup>st</sup> International Dark Sky Park*

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Accreditation Celebration: 21 Oct 2015 noon  
Weber State University / Wildcat Theatre  
[DRAFT Aug 15, 2015]



### Celebration Program

- \* Video Prelude
- \* Welcome and Opening Statements (Professors Stacy Palen and Jeremy Bryson)
- \* Video Presentation: What's at Stake (Professor Stacy Palen)

North Fork Park: International Dark Sky Park

# N O R T H F O R K P A R K

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## DRAFT TEXT

- \* John Barentine, IDA (Importance of IDSPs)
- \* President Charles Wight (a cross-discipline undertaking)
- \* Commissioner Matt Bell (importance for county, state, region, world)
- \* Weber County Parks Director, Jennifer Graham (the power of a public/private partnership)
- \* Utah State Representative Gage Froerer
- \* Supporter Comments TBD
- \* Honoring Our Education and School Partners (Janet Muir, Zach Thomas, Jess Dwyer, Frank Cumberland)
- \* The Bright Future of Dark Sky (Professor Jeremy Bryson)
- \* Conclusion (Professors Stacy Palen and Jeremy Bryson)
- \* Video Postlude

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### *Why Today's Celebration Matters . . .*

In some ways, dark sky and smart lighting design are perfect issues, providing a powerful combination of increased energy savings, security, economic development (that, in certain areas, monetizes open space), property values and protection of night skies that can continue to fill our children and children's children with wonder.

Saving money + making money + increasing wonder = good deal.

The accreditation of North Fork Park as an International Dark Sky Park (ISDP) - the first urban-adjacent IDSP in the world and only the second county park in America to be so recognized - is a signal moment, certainly, but also just the beginning. Through public art, public education, and considered civic action, Ogden Valley and Weber County can become internationally recognized for not only spectacular scenic beauty but also magnificent dark skies, best viewed, of course, in North Fork Park.

With the accreditations of Capitol Reef, Natural Bridges and Hovenweep and the pending accreditation of Canyonlands and Grand Canyon National Parks, Utah secures position a state leader in astro-tourism dollars, attracting folks from, in particular, the East and West Coasts and Europe, where 80% of the population has never seen the Milky Way.

North Fork Park: International Dark Sky Park

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## Collaborators and Supporters

### Collaborators

Weber County Parks (Jennifer Graham, Director)  
Weber State University [Professors Stacy Palen (Physics) and Jeremy Bryson (Geography)]  
Ogden Astronomical Society (Craig Browne, past President)  
GEM Committee (Kim Wheatley, Steve Clarke, others)  
Ogden Valley Starry Nights (Janet Muir, Frank Cumberland and IDA chapter members)  
Jess Dwyer, Director of Dark-Sky Education, Ogden Valley Starry Nights

### Supporters

State of Utah

The Honorable Robert W. Bishop, U.S. House of Representatives  
Utah State Governor's Office of Economic Development [ADD TOURISM]  
Representative Gage Froerer, House District 8, Utah State Legislature  
Utah Division of Wildlife Resources [Justin Dolling, Northern Region Supervisor]

Weber County

Commissioner Matthew Bell (Weber County)  
Commissioner Kerry Gibson (Weber County)  
Pen Hollist, Chair, Ogden Valley Planning Commission  
Executive Director / CEO Sara Toliver, Weber/Ogden Convention & Visitor Bureau

Weber State University

President Charles Wight  
Professor Stacy Palen (Physics)  
Professors Jeremy Bryson and Bryan Dorsey (Geography)  
Sustainability Specialist Jennifer Bodine,

Ogden City (Mike Caldwell, Mayor)

North Ogden City (Brent Taylor, Mayor)

Huntsville Town (Jim Truett, Mayor and Town Council )

Others:

Wasatch Audubon Society, Katie McVey, President  
John Loomis, General Manager, Snowbasin Resort  
Greg Mauro, Chairman, Summit Mountain Holding Group  
Weber Pathways, Mark Benigni, Executive Director  
Ogden Nordic Ski Resort, Alan Wheelwright, President

North Fork Park: International Dark Sky Park

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*Weber State University*

*Utah State Division of Wildlife Resources (DWR) (Northern Region) (Clint Brunson and Pam Kramer)*

*Swanson's North Fork Environmental Center (David Jenkins)*

*Ott Planetarium (Weber State University) (AmyJo Proctor)*

*Wasatch Audubon Society (Lynn Carroll)*

*HawkWatch International (Jess Dwyer)*

*Tracy Aviary (Tim Brown)*

*Ogden Nature Center (Stefanie Miller)*

*Ogden Astronomical Society (Craig Browne)*

## School Partners

Snowcrest Jr. High School (Carolyn Robertson)

North Ogden Jr. High School (TBD)

DaVinci Academy

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### *Selected WSU Student Measurement Team Reactions*

**Sam Stout:** "I have never seen the night sky as beautiful and majestic as it was last night. I feel that for me, the night sky represents a personal and intimate relationship that we each have with the world. I feel that the sky last night was meant just for me, and it gives me a perspective that I can make a difference."

**Eliza Lyons:** "The night sky is a window to enlightenment, to something much larger than all of us, something we must discover if we wish to achieve inner peace and happiness."

**Devin Grigsby:** "I saw two shooting stars and the Milky Way, and it made me ecstatic. I am a person who hasn't spent very much time outside a city, so I don't take the night sky's beauty for granted. The dark sky preservation efforts in Ogden Valley are keeping experiences like mine possible for generations to come and that is what was most exciting to me. I learned that we have a growing disconnect with our dark night skies and in order to protect and preserve them we must have people re-engage with the skies and teach them how to protect those skies. That is what this night was all about."

**Vincent Hanson:** "I'm from Massachusetts where we don't have many opportunities to view dark skies like we do here in Utah. I'm really glad that people are taking steps to preserve areas like North Fork Park so that future generations will be able to enjoy the night sky."

**Travis Lund:** "For me, last night was my first exposure to the North Fork Park area, although I've lived in Ogden for the last few years, and I wish I had understood the beauty of the park."

**Dennis Wu:** "This trip has changed the way I see the night sky."

North Fork Park: International Dark Sky Park

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## Acknowledgements

The Ogden Valley IDA Chapter has been the grateful recipient of an extraordinary range of encouragement, perspective, and technical assistance from John Barentine and Scott Kardel of the International Dark Sky Association. Thank you!

Additional thanks to:

The WSU Departments of Physics and Geography for supporting the accreditation effort *from the beginning*.

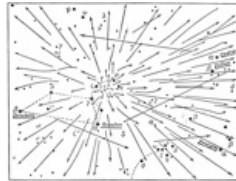
Weber State University for hosting this event and WSU's Center for Community Engaged Learning for making available sky quality meters for measuring the dark skies of North Fork Park.

Casey Grimley, photographer, for fully capturing the wonder of the night skies of North Fork Park [caseygrimley.smugmug.com]

Pam Kramer, DWR Ogden Valley, for support, encouragement and assisting in cataloging the park's wildlife.

University of Utah Sustainable Campus Initiative Fund (SCIF) for supporting the historic Ft. Douglas dorm lighting project.

Allison Hess of Weber State University and Holin Wilbanks of Weber County for their valued perspective and support.



“Even today the most jaded city dweller can be unexpectedly moved upon encountering a clear night sky studded with thousands of twinkling stars.

When it happens to me after all these years it still takes my breath away.”

- Carl Sagan, *Pale Blue Dot: A Vision of the Human Future in Space*

North Fork Park: International Dark Sky Park