

# **Pickett – Pogue International Dark Sky Park**

Annual Report

1 October, 2016 to 1 October, 2017

Pickett State Civilian Conservation Corps Memorial State Park  
4605 Pickett Park highway  
Jamestown, TN 38556

## **Current information for the site IDA contact(s)**

Primary Contact:

**Michael Hodge**

Park Ranger

Pickett State Civilian Conservation corps State Park

4605 Pickett Park highway

Jamestown, TN 38556

(931) 878-5821

Alternate contact

**Monique Hodge**

Park Manager

Cordell Hull Birthplace State Park

1300 Cordell Hull Memorial Dr.

Byrdstown, TN 38549

(931) 864-3247

**Does the site currently have a Provisional status? If so, what work has been done in the past year to resolve concerns that resulted in the Provisional designation?**

No, silver tier

***Parks/Reserves:***

**Does the site plan to apply for a tier status upgrade in the future? If so, what work has been done in the past year furthering the application?**

At this time, we do not plan to apply for a tier upgrade.

The park had approximately 350,000 visitors in the last year. We still do not have an accurate method to count the number of visitors here for night sky viewing but we are researching methods and technology to allow us to capture that data. I have noticed in personal communication with visitors that many are coming specifically because of the IDA designation.

## **Lighting**

***Parks/Reserves:***

**Were any new lighting projects completed this year? If so, describe**

We still have a few lights to switch over to the new LED shielded lights. They are mostly on rarely used buildings

**Is any lighting within the Park/Reserve non-compliant with the LMP (as permitted at the time of IDA designation)? If so, what is the plan to bring the remainder into compliance within the allowed window of time?**

We have a small number of rarely used flood lights that will be placed on timers.

**Was any new territory added to the Park/Reserve? If so, does any lighting on it comply with the LMP? If lighting on new territory doesn't comply, is there a plan to bring it into compliance?**

All new territory that has been added this year does not have any lights.

**Communities:**

**Were any changes made to local/municipal outdoor lighting policy in the past year? If so, describe and include text of any code language added or changed.**

The local electrical utility has agreed to use and promote shielded lights in the community. Additionally, the local city of Jamestown, TN is considering lighting ordinance and we have asked area astronomers to write letters of support for their efforts. The park will be submitting a letter of support as well.

**Sky Quality**

Were sky quality data taken in the past year? If possible, include a table or figure showing the information.

<b>Location</b>	<b>21 September 2016</b>	<b>30 July 2017</b>	<b>17 September 2017</b>
Picnic Area	--	21.13	21.20
Group Camp	21.26	21.11	21.20
Astronomy Field	20.61	21.27	21.20

**Did sky brightness increase over the previous year?**

The light pollution levels remained about the same.

**Is a permanently mounted sky monitor installed, or are there plans to install one?**

No and at this moment, we do not have plans. This may be something added in the next couple years.

**Conservation and Research (Parks/Reserves)**

**Any ongoing conservation and/or research programs at the site? If so, who runs them, and what are the goals?**

We do not currently have any research programs, but we are continuing efforts to partner with the University of Tennessee's Astronomy department to begin research projects. We are also planning to work with the University's Institute for a Secure and Sustainable Environment to enhance communication with the local community.

**Are there any new research results to report? Have any been published this year?**

No

**Funding**

**Currently administering any grants related to dark-skies programming? If so, describe.**

No

**Were any new grants won this year?**

No

**Are there plans to apply for any future grants?**

Yes, we are looking into a grant with the University of Tennessee to build a research observatory on a new piece of property.

**Arts and Culture****Is any programming ongoing or planned blending the arts/culture with dark skies? If so, describe**

Yes, consideration is still being given to having concerts at one of the new properties to highlight the dark sky with an astronomy program.

**Outreach****Were any new programs begun this year?**

We offered a program on the night before the solar eclipse at a park within totality. Additionally, The park offered nine public programs during the period from October 1, 2016 to September 30, 2017. Program attendance totaled 565 with an average of 58 attending each program. The 2016 Fall Astronomy Day program was a popular program with 100 people attending. The largest attendance was for the night sky program before the August Solar Eclipse with at least 150 stopping by to view through the telescope and discuss the Dark Sky program.

**Community and Media Relations**

Any new media coverage you would like us to know about? May include e.g., PDFs as attachments

“Dark Sky 50 Miler.” Nashville Running Company, [www.nashvillerunning.com/dark-sky-50/](http://www.nashvillerunning.com/dark-sky-50/).

“The 3 Best RV Parks for Stargazing.” Never Idle Journal, 11 Feb. 2017, [www.outdoorsy.co/blog/3-best-rv-parks-for-stargazing/](http://www.outdoorsy.co/blog/3-best-rv-parks-for-stargazing/).

“Head to Pickett CCC Memorial State Park for unparalleled stargazing.” Timesfreepress.com, [www.timesfreepress.com/news/getout/bestmonth/story/2017/feb/01/head-pickett-ccc-memorial-state-park-unparall/408953/](http://www.timesfreepress.com/news/getout/bestmonth/story/2017/feb/01/head-pickett-ccc-memorial-state-park-unparall/408953/).

**Any engagement with local governments, community organizations, or private landowners in the past year to report?**

We have continued to promote the dark sky designation through programs such as Wilderness Wildlife Week and continue to engage with local governments to develop better lighting policies.