

General

- Current information for the site IDA contact(s)

Monique Hodge

- 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.

- Estimate number of site visitors in the last year. Of those, how many participated in dark-skies programming?

2015 384,524

as of July 31st the park has already had 225,351 visitor

We do not have an exact number of visitors to the astronomy field. We do not have a counter at the field so I do not have an exact number. There has been an increase of 127% in visitation since 2011. We began our astronomy programs in 2012.

Lighting

Parks/Reserves:

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

We replaced over 100 lights throughout the park in the last year. 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 still have some lights that have not been switched to the new light fixtures so we hope to have them replaced when the seasons slow down and catch up on unfinished projects.

- 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.

We are still working with the City of Jamestown to create a new dark sky friendly light ordinance. The city has already requested that the new LED that Volunteer Energy Cooperative (VEC) is placing to meet dark sky. We are still working with the county to get VEC to comply.

- Were there any new municipal lighting installations (or similar, large-scale installations on commercial property) built in the last year to show as examples built to your dark sky-friendly code?

No

Sky Quality

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

Yes

Location	December 3, 2015		January 6, 2016		August 24, 2016		September 21, 2016	
Pump house			20.96	10°				
Campground	21.25	11°	21.02	14°	21.30	29°	21.24	28°
Office	21.01	12°	20.58	14°	21.37	29°	21.25	28°
Cabin 18	20.74	12°	21.08	14°	21.20	29°	21.24	28°
Astronomy Field	21.24	12°	20.97	31°	21.14	29°	20.61	29°
Group camp Ballfield	23.41	10°			21.28	29°	21.26	28°
Proposed campground					21.20	28°	21.21	28°

- Did sky brightness increase over the previous year? Decrease?

The sky brightness is about the same. We have not had a significant change in the data.

- 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 trying to partner with the University of Tennessee's Astronomy department to begin research projects.

- 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, they would like to have 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 started a few new dark sky/ astronomy programs this year including an astronomy weekend, a perseid meteor shower party, fall astronomy day, and making plans for an astronomy campground.

- If so, are they complete or ongoing?

They are all ongoing and we plan to continue each program every year.

- Are statistics available (e.g., how many visitors served, donations, etc.)

2015 July star party- 70 people

2016 July star party- 40 people

It was a cloudy night.

2014 New Year Eve Astronomy program- 40 people

2015 New Year Eve Astronomy program- 30 people

2016 Astronomy weekend- 38 people

Night Sky Program in October 2015- 25 people

2016 Perseid Meteor Shower Party- 200 people

Community and Media Relations

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

Tennessee State Parks has created a dark sky brochure. We have had several news articles. There was an article in the Tennessee Conservationist. We have had several blog post review our astronomy field. Below is links to several online.

<http://www.blueridgeoutdoors.com/go-outside/4-of-the-best-night-sky-parks-in-appalachia/>

<http://www.chattanooga.com/2015/5/13/300306/Tennessee-State-Park-Designated.aspx>

<http://uppercumberlandnow.com/pickett-state-park-receives-excellence-in-innovation-award/>

<http://celestial-imaging.com/archives/2356>

<http://vec.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/06/August-Powerlines-2016.pdf>

<http://www.starlingskyblog.com/visits-to-dark-sky-sites/pickett-state-park-tn/>

<http://www.knoxnews.com/news/local/starry-night-state-park-natural-area-recognized-for-nocturnal-beauty-ep-1065632774-361941931.html>

http://www.utdailybeacon.com/news/state-park-doubles-as-a-stargazing-delight/article_f62c7f44-7b98-11e5-9b13-73dbcc9454e3.html

<https://rootsrated.com/stories/lights-hours-adventures-near-knoxville>

<https://www.expedia.com/postcard/posts/parks-with-breathtaking-views-of-the-stars>

<http://www.wbir.com/news/local/10-things-to-know-about-the-perseid-meteor-shower/295320497>

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

I have presented to media groups, astronomy clubs, state officials, and Wilderness Wildlife Week in Pigeon Forge about the IDA and the dark sky designation to promote support for the park.