Annual Report 2016 Dark Sky Park De Boschplaat



Introduction

Over 60 species of butterflies benefit from the darkness of De Boschplaat. But other animals and plants also reap the benefits of the status of De Boschplaat nature reserve since 2015: Dark Sky Park.

A growing group of tourists, from the Netherlands and abroad, appreciate the beauty of darkness and are laying in the dunes, gazing at the stars. It is worth a visit at night and with great luck the special phenomenon Aurora Borealis is seen during fall - and autumn time.

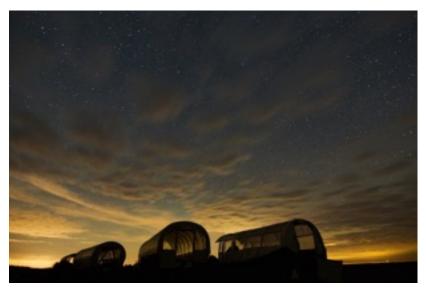
What makes this first Dark Sky Park of the Netherlands unique is that it is accessible wherever and whenever you want - taking into account the breeding season. It's the place to be able to see the Milky Way well, which is on the mainland not self-evident. The title is proudly presented by islander entrepreneurs and this creates added value for tourism. Associated activities were organized in 2016 and it is beautiful to see that Dark Sky De Boschplaat, the Netherlands's first title holder, was an example for Dark Sky Park Lauwersmeer and the intent of declaring the entire Wadden area, UNESCO World Heritage, Dark Sky.

Activities

Birdwatchers on De Boschplaat

During the bird breeding season from April to mid-August birdwatchers are present day and night on De Boschplaat. Just over 80 qualified and selected volunteers alternate weekly in two couples. At Paal 22.4 stands a shack where they reside and also by 'the heads of 28 ', at the beginning of de Koffiebonenplaat.

In addition to counting birds and welcoming guests the birdwatchers have an important role as a spokesperson. From 15 March to 15 August, most of De Boschplaat is not open to the public, but one can walk or bike on the path along De Stuifdijk. More than 150.000 birds perching here annually in al calmness without disturbance.



Night of the Night on the island of Terschelling Foundation Natuurlijk Oosterend organized on 29 October 2016, for the 6th time on Terschelling the Night of the Night. The Night of the Night is an nationwide event that draws attention to the beauty of darkness. In the evening large horsewagons left towards De Boschplaat where Adrie Warmenhoven of Eise Eisenga Planetarium told enthusiastically about the

night sky. When the group got back to the village he gave more explanation about stars and constellations by a presentation. Two nature-photographers were also on 'board' of the horse-wagons to make beautiful pictures. Number of participants: about 125.

Dark Sky weekend

The last weekend of October, Salt Magazine organized the second Dark Sky Weekend Terschelling. The event was again fully booked out. This year 80 Salt subscribers went to the island for a weekend immersion on Dark Sky. On Saturday night the group strolled to the dunes of Oosterend were some islanders told stories about this area and darkness.



The reactions were very positive. For this event Salt Magazine gave islander artist Claudia Hek the assignment to draw a Dark Sky Lady. This logo was used during the weekend for promotion and will be used next year again.

Excursions to Dark Sky Park De Boschplaat

Under attendance of a guide of the Forestry Commission, a group of guests went weekly to the Jan Thijssenduin for an excursion and explanation about stars and darkness. The animo was huge, in 2017 there will be more excursions. This excursions were hold from June till October. Average group size per excursion: 10 persons.

Dark Sky arrangement

In addition of 2015, also in 2016 holiday-accommodation park Tjermelân offered Dark Sky packages. Guests stayed a weekend in a comfortable studio at the park, located just a few steps away from the Dark Sky area. On Saturday night a ranger took the guests along on a tour. Afterwards participants received a planisphere of astronomer Rob Walrecht. The



arrangement was offered a few weekends. This package-deal will be offered again in 2017.

Springtij festival: eye for sustainability

During the annual Springtij festival with approximately 600 participants a part of this group enjoyed a Dark Sky walk under attendance of guides of The Forestry Commission.

Horse wagons trips

Two horse wagons companies organized in 2016 a number of night horse-wagon trips over De Boschplaat. A special experience!



Planisfeer for Terschelling

Specially for Dark Sky Park De Boschplaat astronomer Rob Walrecht designed a planisfeer - a rotatable star chart - which can be bought at the local VVV and the Naturebarn of The Forestry Commission.

Consultation with interested parties

On April 19, 2016, the first Dark Sky consultation took place between relevant agencies, companies and islanders. It was agreed that excursions and night walks booked through the local VVV may use the Dark Sky logo.

Light-procession Oosterend

Foundation Natuurlijk Oosterend organized a light-procession between Christmas and New Year's Eve with the theme Disney. Often families with children, brought their homemade lights with (instead of lanterns with batteries) and walked along. All the public lighting in the village was taken off and inhabitants put their own lighting around the house off.

Number of participants: about 100 persons.

Waddensea Dark Sky declaration

29 October 2016 has been an important date for the whole of the Waddensea-region. At least 43 organizations signed a declaration to develop a Dark Sky World Heritage Waddensea by keeping and developing the darkness in the whole of the Dutch area of the Waddensea. De Boschplaat is just a very small part of this big area, daily twice covers in water and twice for a large part dry land. 43 organizations, including the 6 harbors, ministry of economics, the three provinces, all the 18 municipalities and of course a lot of nature organizations have signed the contract. This happend under the flag of UNESCO World Heritage.



Future activities

This was the second year that De Boschplaat had the Dark Sky predicate. Last year, it was investigated whether various parties as a whole could make of the Waddensea a Dark Sky Park, the letter of intent has already been signed. A next step!

It is sometimes for entrepreneurs on the island a search to find a bit of what to do with the predicate for their island. It is slowly expressed more in communication, but really do something with it, that are just a handful of entrepreneurs. And that's fine too. There are still opportunities for information. Also among the islanders themselves to create awareness. The Forestry Commission intends to set up an exhibition about Dark Sky. Striking: Last year, a few Americans traveled specially to Terschelling for the Dark Sky Park. An account on Trip Advisor will certainly give more attention to foreign guests. That the darkness becomes more important also appears from signals from the surrounding area. Like the petition to ensure darkness on the Afsluitdijk. This was signed

by more than 4000 people. The government has big plans with icon the Afsluitdijk. More light there ultimately also affects the Wadden area.

In 2018, Leeuwarden will be Europe's Capital of Culture. One of the program components is Feel the Night. The aim: preserve the darkness and silence of the night and experience the beauty of the night. Feel the Night is the name of numerous activities and events leading up to 2018.

Publicity

Articles

Various media published articles about De Boschplaat as a Dark Sky Park. I.a. in naturemagazine 'Roots', newspaper 'Leeuwarder Courant', magazine 'National Geographic', 'Allicht', 'Salt magazine' en 'Wadden' of the Waddenvereniging.

National Geographic paid attention to Dark Sky Parks and called De Boschplaat in the <u>article</u> 'Worlds best stargazing parks'.

Nature photographer Bert Faber participated during the Night of the Night and wrote the <u>blog</u>: Sterren kiek'n.

Remi Hougee, forester by The Forestry Commision, was <u>heared</u> at the local news zender 'Omrop Fryslân' about Dark Sky. "The excursions go a long well and are regularly sold out. There are people who are open of mouth because they almost never look up. I still see opportunities for entrepreneurs."



On the blog of The Forestry Commision Terschelling, Eilandmeisje wrote a blog about Dark Sky, the excursion and the use of a planisfeer. The blog is read <u>here</u>.

In 2016 the website www.darkskyterschelling.nl was also launched.

In Terschelling Magazine appeared an article about Dark Sky Park De Boschplaat: worth a visit at night!

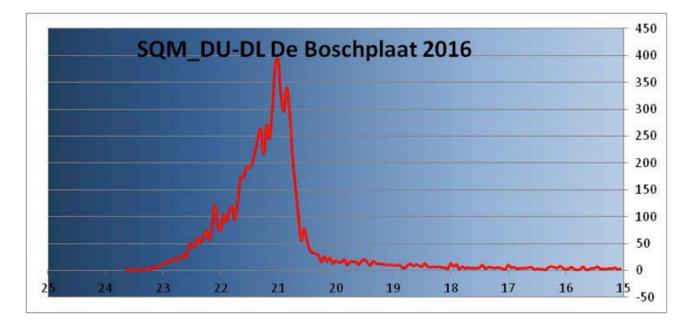
Darkness and light

In June 2015 a SQM LU-DL is erected in the middle of De Boschplaat, about six kilometers from the nearest building.

The whole year a bird watching station is erected permanently manned by two volunteers. Next to it, on a dune, the SQM is erected and has measured two periods in the year 2016. From 11 January till 4 April and from 5 October till 31 December 2016.



In total more than 20.000 measurements are made. From these 8.161 measurements are with the sun more than 18 degrees under the horizon and moon 0 degrees under the horizon.



In August 2016 and later in May 2017 the SQM-LU-DL used, is calibrated against a sophisticated device and with all the other SQM used in the Netherlands and for all the Sqm's used a correction is established. The SQM's are gradually getting less sensible and the used SQM LU-DL (number 1985) is corrected for August 2016 with 0,68 magnitude and in May 2017 with 0,7 magnitude.

All the measurements are corrected with the proper decrease of the sensibility for their date.

Hereunder the graphic is presented of all the 8.161 measurements with the moon under the horizon and the sun more than 18 degrees under the horizon.

The median of these measurements is mags/ bs² 21.09 and the mean 20,83 mags/ bs².

What is interesting to see there is only one peak in the graph. The graphs in other parts of Holland have always two peaks: the clear nights and the cloudy nights. The nights in De Boschplaat are so dark, clouds are hardly affecting the darkness, as there is no artificial light to bounce of the clouds.

Comparing it to the last year, the results are similar.

Amount of measurements:

2015: 2.515

2016: 8.161

Mean mags/ bs²:

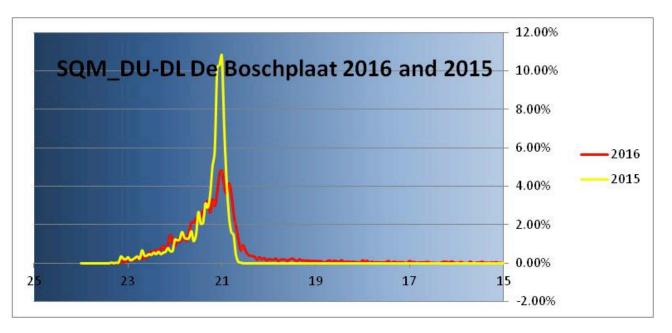
2015: 20,85

2016: 20,83

Median mags/ bs²:

2015: 20,83

2016: 21,09



The results have the same form but the spread in 2016 is much bigger than in 2015. A difference in the weather may be the cause.

Nightly light scan of the mainland of Friesland

In February 2016 an airplane has made during one night a scan of the whole north of the mainland of Friesland, in order to make pictures of the lights on the ground. All the pictures are processed and combined into a map, for internet. This can be find <u>here</u>. Everybody can see the results: the public lighting, the sport fields but also the farms which lit up. It is even possible to zoom in to see really every single light. The north of Friesland is still relatively dark and the municipalities wants to keep it that way. De Boschplaat is only 30 kilometers of mainland and improving the lights out on the mainland are important for the situation on Terschelling.

Beach crossing visibility

At the beach crossing of Oosterend, wings are placed with reflectors in it. The lighting that was there first is removed. Less lightpolution and yet good sight!



Increase livability Waddengoud village Oosterend

Oosterend, the village next to the Dark Sky De Boschplaat received from the provincial subsidy fund StreekWurk in 2015 almost 40,000 euros for facilities in the village. A part of this is reserved to improve the street lights in and around Oosterend (less illumination where possible and yet maintain safety). In doing so, the working-group, compiled in 2016, took into account the new status of De Boschplaat.



Together with the municipality of Terschelling a new lighting plan was designed. The vision: "Out wherever it can, light where it's safe". A round was done to map the street lights and see what could happen. Thereafter, a test was conducted to release a few lanterns for a number of weeks. Neighborhood residents could share their findings with the working group. Then there was a spectacle under the direction of the municipality of Terschelling and research firm NLI. In consultation, a number of test lamps were placed to investigate what type of lighting fits. In 2017 the final design will be presented. A number of lanterns are removed and from 22:30 hours the working streetlights get a dim mode. This will save energy and keep the road well visible. Some are also moved to keep a good balance. In addition, a proposal has been made to provide the bike paths between the villages of Hoorn and Oosterend with Luxavit. This is a reflective addition in the wear layer.



Along the bike-path below the dunes a test buller has been placed. The current lanterns are eventually replaced by these compact ballers.

Part of the lifesustainability project was also to place binoculars on Jan Thijssenduin and Kaapsduin. These binoculars are regularly used to watch stars in the evening.

Appendix



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Ben van de dwalen is om bezoekens te stienderen ap de duidemis en Schtlinder meer sok de beleving

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DARK SKY PARK DE BOSCHPLAAT een bezoek in de nacht waard!

Het schelpenpad knippert onder de schoenen. De duisternis zet in Assistenttowenchter Felline Zwaan leidt de excunsieroep naar het Jan Thijssenduin. De sterren hebben varavend de hoofdrei. Turrend naar de hemst ontdekken we eone eigen oersprong. "Je makt nooit uitgekeken."

um offite - Egisonitaeid disor nee te gann ng een Tanh Bay boht wear je best neer aan de dubterni bestearnt soor plant, dier an mens. "En je kom sporsbaten auteresaantrigtesten egen dusters auteresaantrigtesten Hongme.

neme naoft son chaattans derrentaant bij zicht wen planteliker. Deze is speciaal gemaakt voor Terschelling door Rok Neinscht, "Lokier ouderwett en spoo ap je moteler door het nematigid. Het is inuk specigion?", segt Pelice.

The cheek dis boxerself wan die prentriker oper ook parke (jie die observ, met machtnesting van zomer an winnerfijk, en den nehr je die neuerbelijk (jin op het Nachte en heuzig (jie de prentriker teiner je heuzig) (jie de teiner heuzig))

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PLANSFEER

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Boveno het Jan Tripsandule sjo het schipsel van de Dandels, de nucleoren sei Amstend, Valande en Heinigen, en de toligen tange de Taxas kuit goel te den Rij hetler wert is ook de scheepvaart op de Noendoer. de Turopeer Transportuute (TT)-dudelje waarneembaar.

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hij zich niet goed onlitteren. Ook is het vor nachterholen beimgelte dat er sit wennig magetijk kunstmetig kint is. Op be Boschplant dyn wel 60-soorten nachtelinden."

Hachgierten zoek kenperkele, geuren juist 1 nochs onder ze den open gaar. Nachsitze dukterte is nochs Grunde lont er steeds meer bewuchsechtig over hanneshald licht die mensen gebruiken.

"Regenerating heater each actual booksierden hun welfchiege aangepaal naar gesen tort, als aspectment on se ligten of dat beter is voor die vogen. En je sunt jesethoot, skragen of je tuinvertching wel nootsierdelijk is "



AUBORA BOREALIS NOORDERLICHT

Als lemend vasik het Noorderlicht heeft gezien vanaf Tanschalling, dan is het weterwallapigourselit mi kunstelsow Jah Kanel Lansen wei. Hij is bekend om zijn fime-lapse beetden van het ollend, en zij versameling Noorderlichtbaseiden.

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den om 's avands een antre a van het huis te verlaten, "Se n en ar gedukt voor hetsten", origt tur proberen.

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