

**IDSP Annual Report 2018**  
**Village of Homer Glen, Illinois - 4<sup>th</sup> International Dark Sky Community**

Homer Glen is the fourth International Dark Sky Community in the world to be recognized by the International Dark Sky Association and the third in the United States. This report to IDA includes support for the goals set forth by International Dark Sky Association, the Village of Homer Glen Outdoor Lighting Ordinance, support for goals of the Homer Glen Street Light Retrofit Program, two outreach Stargazing programs involving public participation, building projects, Dark Sky signage, and creation of a Lighting Brochure during 2016.

**Replacement of Lumec Renaissance Fixtures - Street Light Retrofit**

The Village agreed to five years of retrofitting street lights when the application was sent to IDA. Changes resulted in installing 70W HPS flat lens cobra street lights from drop lenses and also changing to 70W HPS full cut off post top fixtures which had unshielded bulbs. Three hundred and eighteen fixtures were installed. The Village has continued beyond the five-year program, and plans to replace more unshielded post tops and 14 inch drop lens fixtures causing glare in order to meet the standards of Homer Glen's Outdoor Lighting Ordinance.

For the 2017/2018 budget year, Homer Glen has allotted \$100,000 to retrofit the 14 inch drop lens Lumec Renaissance light fixtures. These fixtures will be replaced with 70W HPS Salem fixtures with flat lenses within subdivisions. The Village has researched the most economical way to retrofit the fixtures.

**Outreach Programs –Stargazing – Two Star Parties Scheduled**

The Stargazing event for spring in 2018 at Homer Township's historic Trantina Farm was cancelled due to inclement weather. The second outreach program was scheduled for another star gazing on September 14 from 8 pm to 10 pm. The evening was good for viewing and a large amount of people attended.

**Stargazing Background**

The Homer Glen Environment Committee that organizes the stargazing star parties is very fortunate to have the three astronomer groups volunteer their services by participating with various size telescopes which are available free to the public for viewing. The astronomers are from the Kankakee Area Stargazers, Naperville Astronomical Association, and South West Astronomy Observers Group. They provide educational information for visitors of all ages. Others assisting with the event are Homer Township government, the Homer Glen Emergency Management Commission, and Will County School District 92.

**New Building Projects and Lighting - New Lighting Project**

The Outdoor Lighting Ordinance is applied to any proposals for new construction or renovations before approval is given. This year construction began on the new land

previously acquired for a park and the Village of Homer Glen office. Light poles were installed as a new lighting project on the park grounds which complied with the Outdoor Lighting Ordinance.

### **Dark Sky Street Signage**

After creating and evaluating Dark Sky Signs, the Environment Committee has selected a design that appropriately details the message of being a Dark Sky Community. After approval from the Village Board, the signs will be installed at main entrances to Homer Glen. The design will be presented to the Village Board.

### **Outdoor Lighting Brochure**

After the Lighting Brochure was created in 2016 by the Environment Committee, it received positive results from the residential and commercial communities. The topics and goals are clearly explained regarding the Outdoor Lighting Ordinance, guidelines for outdoor lighting, aspects of negative glare, pictures of good lighting fixtures that reduce pollution, and fixtures that produce glare and poor lighting. Lighting definitions, references, sources, credits and ways to properly light flags are also included. The brochure continues to serve as way to educate the public and to be used as a reference to the community.

### **Dark Sky Contacts and Inquiries**

The Village welcomes inquiries from people near and far and has shared information with other Dark Sky communities such as questions about the Outdoor Lighting Ordinance, signage, stargazing, light pollution and how to reduce it. The Village is aware that many other municipalities have developed their own lighting codes based on the Homer Glen lighting ordinance.

As the work was developing when creating the lighting ordinance, the Environment Committee became aware that the ordinance could be encouraged to be used as a way to serve communities by example for adopting, amending, and utilizing the ordinance according to requirements and purposes of individuals, organizations, and municipalities. We are aware that this has happened.

### **The Importance of Being Night**

*Since the following message is so very important, it once again has been included in the report for 2018.* The night and the night sky must be recognized as an important natural resource. There are generations who have never witnessed the wonders of the night sky without the cover of sky glow or pollution. Community efforts and determination are worth the price to protect and preserve this valuable resource and culture for future generations. Chicago is a city of perpetual twilight and Homer Glen, approximately 40 miles away, is in the halo of this large municipality. Other nearby communities are ever increasing their installation of lighting. Fortunately, Homer Glen still has a dark enough and convenient enough location to attract people.

Sincerely,

Margaret Sabo,

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