

Pickett – Pogue International Dark Sky Park

2018 Annual Report

Pickett 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.

Visitation

The park had approximately 519,150 visitors between 1 October 2017 and 25 September 2018. 306 people attended programs offered to the public. We still do not have an accurate method to count the number of visitors here for informal night sky viewing but we are researching methods and technology to allow us to capture those data.

Lighting

Parks/Reserves:

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

A new kiosk was installed at the visitor center and fully shielded lighting fixtures were used. These fixtures were placed below the roof line. Red bulbs were placed in walkway lights at the Group Camp.

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 approximately four rarely used entrance 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 city of Jamestown, TN has passed a lighting ordinance. The ordinance requires new lights to be shielded as well as other lighting requirements.

Sky Quality

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

Location	21 September 2016	30 July 2017	17 September 2017	7 June 2018
Picnic Area	--	21.13	21.20	21.45
Group Camp	21.26	21.11	21.20	--
Astronomy Field	20.61	21.27	21.20	21.43

Did sky brightness increase over the previous year?

The sky brightness does not appear to have increased and has possibly decreased. More measurements will need to be taken.

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 coming 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 continue to work with University of Tennessee's Astronomy department to bring research projects to the park. The park was considered as a field location for an international research project to gather observations during the recent Pluto occultation. We are continuing 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 continue to look into a grant with the University of Tennessee to build a research and education observatory.

Arts and Culture

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

We have offered limited programming focused on the areas Native American culture and their cosmology. We plan to further develop an area of programming concentrating on the night sky as a cultural resource.

Outreach

Were any new programs begun this year?

The park offered 12 public programs during the period from October 1, 2017 to September 30, 2018. Program attendance totaled 362 with an average of 30 attending each program. The largest program was attended by 100 people. We presented a Native American Cosmology program to tie into the park's archaeology museum and research.

Pickett maintains a Facebook and Instagram and regularly posts astronomy and dark sky related information to social media.

Community and Media Relations

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

1. Hancock, J. (2018). Ten Romantic Tennessee Getaways. Tennessee Weddings, pp.116-117.
2. Rivera, D., Cosores, P., Cosores, P., Rossignol, D., Cosores, P., Cosores, P. and Rossignol, D. (2018). **The 8 Best Dark Sky Parks In The US To Catch The Perseid Meteor Shower.** [online] UPROXX. Available at: <https://uproxx.com/life/where-to-watch-perseid-meteor-shower/> [Accessed 25 Sep. 2018].
3. Berdan, M. (2018). **Dark Sky tourism lets the stars shine bright in Southwest, on East Coast.** [online] Newsday.com. Available at: <https://www.newsday.com/travel/dark-sky-tourism-lets-the-stars-shine-bright-in-southwest-on-east-coast-1.14964687> [Accessed 25 Sep. 2018].
4. 14 August 2018. Interview on Knoxville WBIR TV 10 about the Pickett Dark Sky Park

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

We continue to work with the county government have staff serving as a member of the Economic and Community Development Board. We hope to increase our efforts to work with local government to expand dark sky protection and promote the park as a dark sky destination. We have also worked with the Friends of Pickett State Park to acquire new camera equipment as well as present night sky programs.

Report prepared by Michael Hodge.