



# City of Dripping Springs Nomination Package for the International Dark-Sky Community Designation

A proposal to the International Dark-Sky Association  
Part I: Introduction & Nomination



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Backyard Camping in Dripping Springs by Rob Greebon

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# City of Dripping Springs

## Dark Sky Community Application Introduction

“The stars at night, are big and bright, deep in the heart of Texas”,  
“Don't mess with Texas” and “Remember the Alamo”

All three quotes reflect the fact that Texans are proud of their history and culture, and are determined to preserve the natural beauty of this state. Here in the hill country, we see the results of Lady Bird Johnson's campaign to propagate wildflowers around us every spring, the roadsides teeming with bluebonnets, firewheels, and indian paintbrush. The citizens of Dripping Springs are just as determined to protect their heritage of dark skies and want to keep the stars over Drippin' “big and bright”. As the town grew from a ranch community to a suburb of nearby Austin, its population doubling, there was a window of opportunity to guide that growth in a manner that would minimize light pollution, protect property owners from light encroachment, and protect the natural environment. Encouraged by the local citizenry, the city council seized the opportunity, passing the town's first Outdoor Lighting Ordinance in 2000. Citizens and elected officials alike protect the night sky here in Dripping Springs.

The City has worked with over twenty building projects in Dripping Springs, including an HEB grocery, The Home Depot, banks, churches, gas stations and restaurants, all currently illuminated effectively without causing light to encroach on other properties or the shared view of the night sky. Funds have been allocated by city council to improve older lighting fixtures as well.

Dripping Springs is a beautiful Texas hill country community, growing quickly, but preserving its history and staying true to character.

“The stars at night, are big and bright, deep in the heart of Dripping Springs Texas”

### Dripping Springs Dark Sky Community Application Team

*Cindy Luongo Cassidy*, IDA member, City Lighting Consultant

*Michelle Fischer*, Administrator, City of Dripping Springs

*Joan Mihal*, IDA member, Community Volunteer

# Green Earth Lighting LLC

620 Onion Creek Ranch Road  
Driftwood, Texas 78619  
(512) 944-7354  
Cindy Luongo Cassidy, President



Board of Directors  
International Dark-Sky Association  
3223 N. First Avenue  
Tucson, Arizona 85719-2103

Dear IDA Board Members:

I am delighted to nominate the City of Dripping Springs, Texas to be designated as a Dark Sky Community. As a lifetime member of IDA, Green Earth Lighting LLC tirelessly works to protect and restore the night skies. It has been an honor to work with the Dripping Springs elected officials and city staff as they have consistently pursued the reduction of light pollution in the area.

Citizens throughout the Dripping Springs area value their heritage of being able to view the night sky. We are all fortunate that the City of Dripping Springs has over a period of many years, worked to reduce and prevent additional light pollution in the City. Its influence is also felt beyond the city limits on numerous sites in the extraterritorial jurisdiction (ETJ) where approval of a variance comes with a commitment to follow the City's Outdoor Lighting Ordinance.

Because of the commitment and progress made to date, I believe the City of Dripping Springs, Texas should receive the designation of Dark Sky Community by the International Dark-Sky Association.

With best regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Cindy L. Cassidy".

Cindy Luongo Cassidy, President  
Green Earth Lighting LLC  
IDA Lifetime Organizational Member



7-3-2013  
9122 Circle Dr. #C  
Austin, TX 78736

International Dark-Sky Assn.  
3223 N. First Avenue  
Tucson, Arizona 85719

To whom it may concern:

I have reviewed the successful light pollution reductions in Dripping Springs, TX and find the current lighting ordinance and enforcement to be on par with the best dark sky friendly initiatives anywhere. All new lighting is better than full cut off, with specific ordinance requirements for glare reduction and total lumen output. This community is well on it's way to securing a place as one of the truly night sky friendly communities in the U. S.

Stephen Bosbach  
IDA Texas Coordinator

P. Wayne Gosnell  
1374 River Run, Blanco, Texas 78606  
(830) 833-0586/cell (210) 557-6127  
[GosnellTexas@Gmail.com](mailto:GosnellTexas@Gmail.com)

July 6, 2013

International Dark Sky Association  
3223 N. First Avenue  
Tucson, Arizona 85719

Dear IDA:

This is to provide my enthusiastic endorsement of the application of the City of Dripping Springs, Texas to be designated an IDA Dark Sky Community.

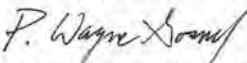
As a member of IDA and the Texas Chapter of IDA and in my capacity as a member of the Night Sky Team of the Hill Country Alliance, I have worked with individuals in the Dripping Springs community for several years on night sky preservation issues. The progress the community has made during this period is truly remarkable. The enthusiasm evident in the City Council and within the community-at-large in support of night sky preservation is refreshing. There is widespread recognition that the wondrous night sky above Dripping Springs is a community asset that must be protected. They have bolstered their enthusiasm with concrete action that has rendered impressive results.

The city has aggressively pursued development agreements with several large franchises (Home Depot, HEB groceries, McDonalds, Whataburger, Valero service stations, and others) to ensure that the outdoor lighting on major new construction throws no light above the horizon and only minimal light off premises. This cooperation has extended to local banks, churches, and community organizations. The city's positive example has been emulated by developments in its Extraterritorial Jurisdiction with developers voluntarily adopting night sky-friendly outdoor lighting standards. The city's Outdoor Lighting Ordinance is excellent and has become a model for similar ordinances being considered by communities throughout the 17 county Texas Hill Country region.

Granting Dripping Springs IDA Dark Sky Community status would provide both recognition for a job well done and motivation to continue to aggressively pursue light pollution abatement and thus regain some of the darkness lost to grandfathered outdoor lighting within the City. Additionally, such designation would provide incentive to other Texas Hill Country communities to follow Dripping Springs's lead in night sky preservation.

I urge your positive reception and quick approval of the Dripping Springs application.

Sincerely yours,

  
P. Wayne Gosnell, Ph.D.  
Colonel, U.S. Army (retired)

August 26, 2013

International Dark Sky Association  
3223 N. First Ave.  
Tucson, Arizona 85719

Dear IDA,

With great pleasure, we would like to endorse the nomination of the city of Dripping Springs, Texas, as a designated Dark Sky Community. As members of IDA, we've welcomed the efforts of the citizens and elected officials in Dripping Springs as they have worked diligently with large and small retail businesses, banks, and churches who are building in our vibrant, growing community. The results have been exceptional. The new enterprises are lit with safety, beauty, and efficiency in mind, rather than distracting drivers with glaring, unsafe lights and signage. When driving through Dripping Springs at night, the city glows gently, and the stars above are clearly visible.

Other communities in the area have taken notice as well. More than one nearby community has requested assistance from our lighting consultant with their current lighting ordinance. Several developments in the Extraterritorial Jurisdiction area have voluntarily adopted similar outdoor lighting standards to preserve the dark skies.

The City website provides existing businesses, as well as homeowners, with the information they need to understand the purpose of the lighting ordinance, create new lighting in compliance, and to refit and improve existing lighting. Study units to increase community awareness through the school district are in the pipeline, and the Hays Country Master Naturalists are extending their support in the area of educational and awards for good lighting.

Dripping Springs is a fine example of a community balancing growth and preservation of its character. The city council deserves a great deal of credit for their diligence on behalf of the residents, and their foresight in planning for the long term. The City and concerned citizens have put hours of work into insuring the projects built, and the projects currently on the drawing board, meet the requirements of our Outdoor Lighting Ordinance. Everyone who has worked toward protecting the night sky in Dripping Springs, be it through increasing awareness of the issue or through ordinance compliance, deserves respect for their dedication.

Therefore we request that Dripping Springs be approved as an IDA Dark Sky Community.

Thank you,

*Joan and Dave Mihal*

1211 Oak Meadow Drive  
Dripping Springs, Texas 78620



# City of Dripping Springs

P.O. Box 384  
Dripping Springs, Texas 78620

(512) 858-4725

(512) 858-5646 Fax

July 15, 2013

Attention: Ms. Amee Hennig  
International Dark Sky Community Program  
International Dark-Sky Association  
3225 N. First Ave.  
Tucson, AZ 85719

Re: City of Dripping Springs Application to International Dark Sky Community Program

Dear Ms. Hennig:

When people enter the City of Dripping Springs area at night, many of them notice something is different---the skies over the City of Dripping Springs ("City") are not spoiled by light pollution. This is evidence that the City and the people who live in and near the City value the natural environment, including the beauty of the Hill Country and high quality of the night sky.

The City hopes to be recognized by the International Dark Sky Community Program for its commitment to and success in implementing the ideals of dark sky preservation and restoration, and promotion of quality outdoor lighting.

The City's first Lighting Ordinance was adopted in January of 2000 and its current Lighting Ordinance was adopted in December 2011. Through these ordinances the City has been successful in preventing light pollution and bringing non-conforming lighting into compliance.

The City is experiencing tremendous growth and we are glad to have a comprehensive lighting code and program in place. We hope that the International Dark Sky Community Program will be our partner in seeing that the quality of our night sky is continued to be preserved.

Sincerely,

Todd Purcell, Mayor





## City of Dripping Springs Nomination Package for the International Dark-Sky Community Designation

### A proposal to the International Dark-Sky Association Part II – About Dripping Springs



Backyard Camping in Dripping Springs by Rob Greebon



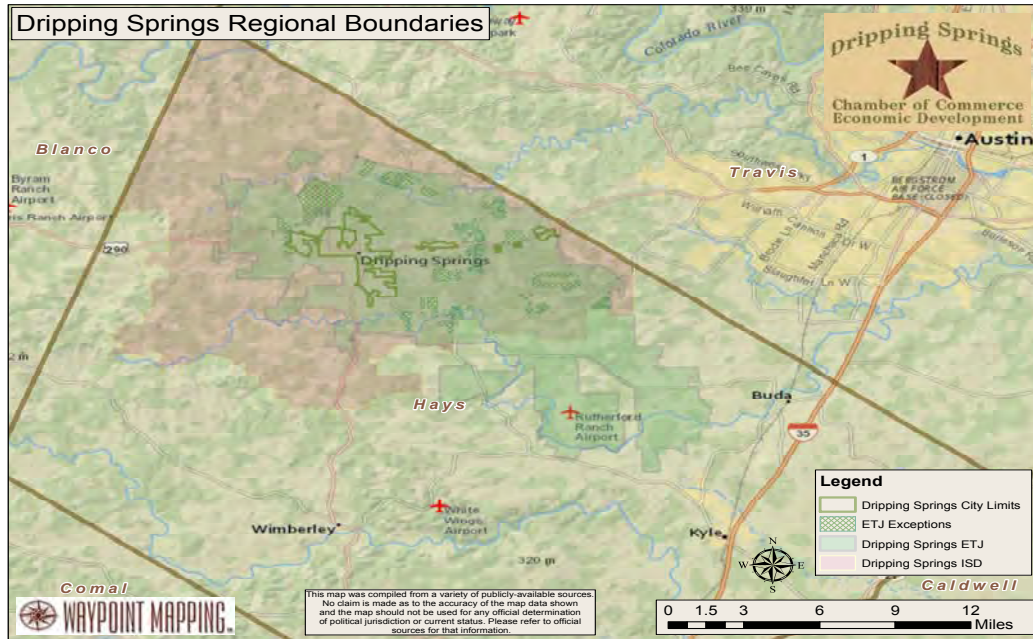
## The City of Dripping Springs Gateway to the Hill Country

Dripping Springs, settled in 1853, lies in the beautiful Texas Hill Country, about 25 miles west of Austin, the state capitol, along Highway 290 west. In recent years the town has become a focal center for development, as the Austin economy has grown, commercial businesses and residential subdivisions have sprung up along the 290 corridor. The population has doubled, two new elementary schools and a new high school have been built, banks, retail stores, and restaurants have appeared on the landscape. While the city accepts and embraces growth, it seeks to maintain a healthy balance of the old and new, working to preserve the heritage and character of the area while welcoming the new opportunities, which can benefit all its residents.



The population in the area around the City of Dripping Springs grew 72% between the 2000 and 2010 U.S. Census, and the growth has not stopped. The current wave of growth is led by small businesses. Many of the historical building along Mercer Street, the original “main street”, have new occupants with a wine bar, an herb shop, a coffee house with wifi, a brew pub, realty offices, a gift shop, a

restaurant, and a traditional Texas dance hall joining Rippy Ranch Supply, Dripping Springs Rental and other long time businesses.



Dripping Springs is located in the northwest corner of Hays County, along Highway 290, between Austin and Johnson City. Fewer than 2000 people live within the city boundaries; however, there are approximately 30,000 people in the extraterritorial jurisdiction (ETJ).

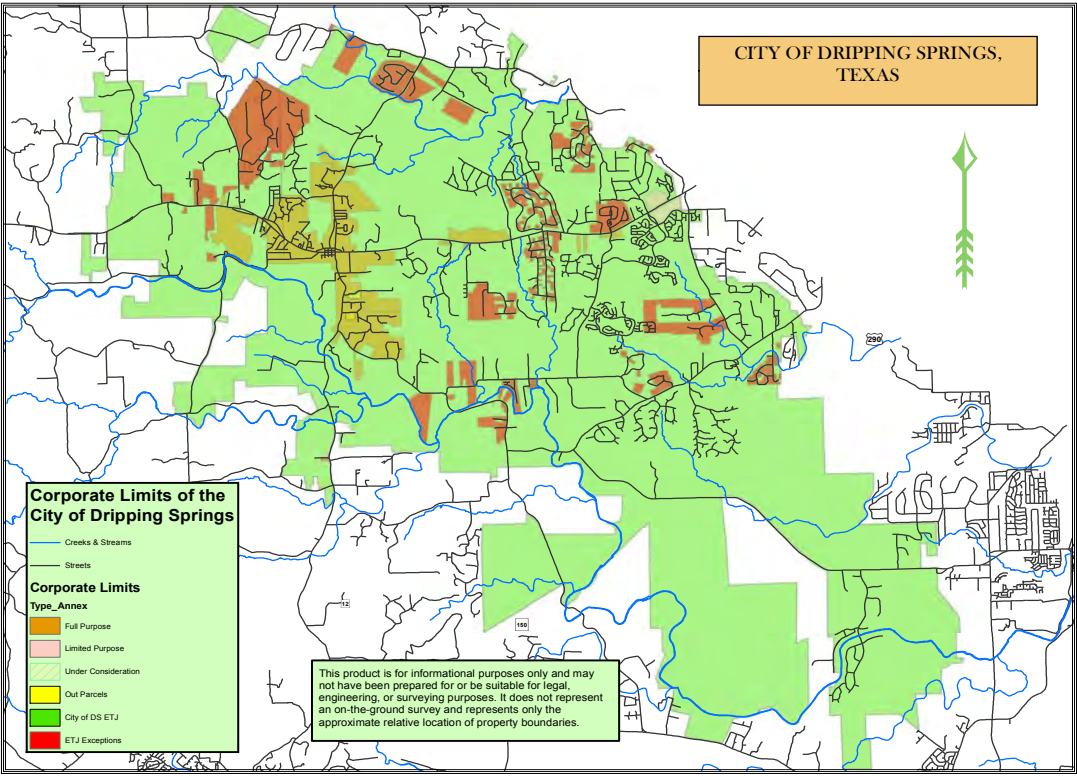
CITY OF DRIPPING SPRINGS,  
TEXAS



**Corporate Limits of the  
City of Dripping Springs**

- Creeks & Streams
- Streets
- Corporate Limits**
- Type\_Annex**
- Full Purpose
- Limited Purpose
- Under Consideration
- Out Parcels
- City of DS ETJ
- ETJ Exceptions

This product is for informational purposes only and may not have been prepared for or be suitable for legal, engineering, or surveying purposes. It does not represent an on-the-ground survey and represents only the approximate relative location of property boundaries.





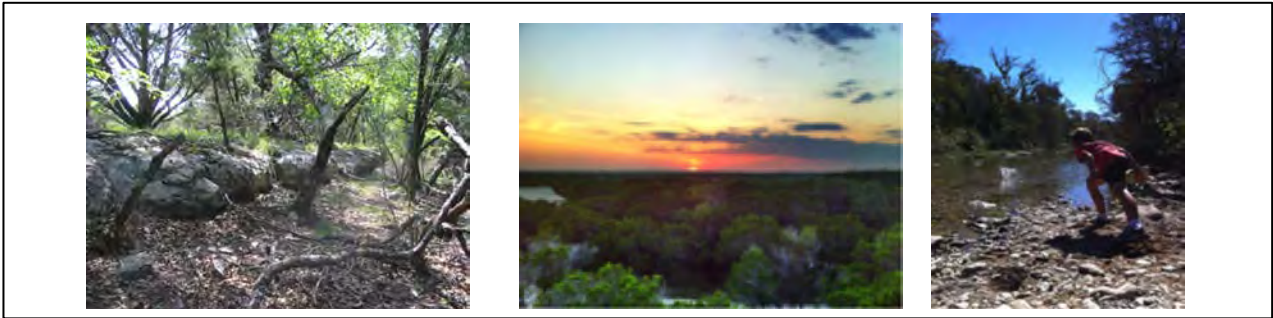
## Schools and Education

The Dripping Springs Independent School District is well known for the excellence of its three elementary schools, Dripping Springs Elementary, Walnut Springs Elementary, and Rooster Springs Elementary, as well as the achievements of the students at Dripping Springs Middle School. Newsweek Magazine and US News and World Report have recognized Dripping Springs High School as one of the nationwide top high schools in 2012 and 2013.



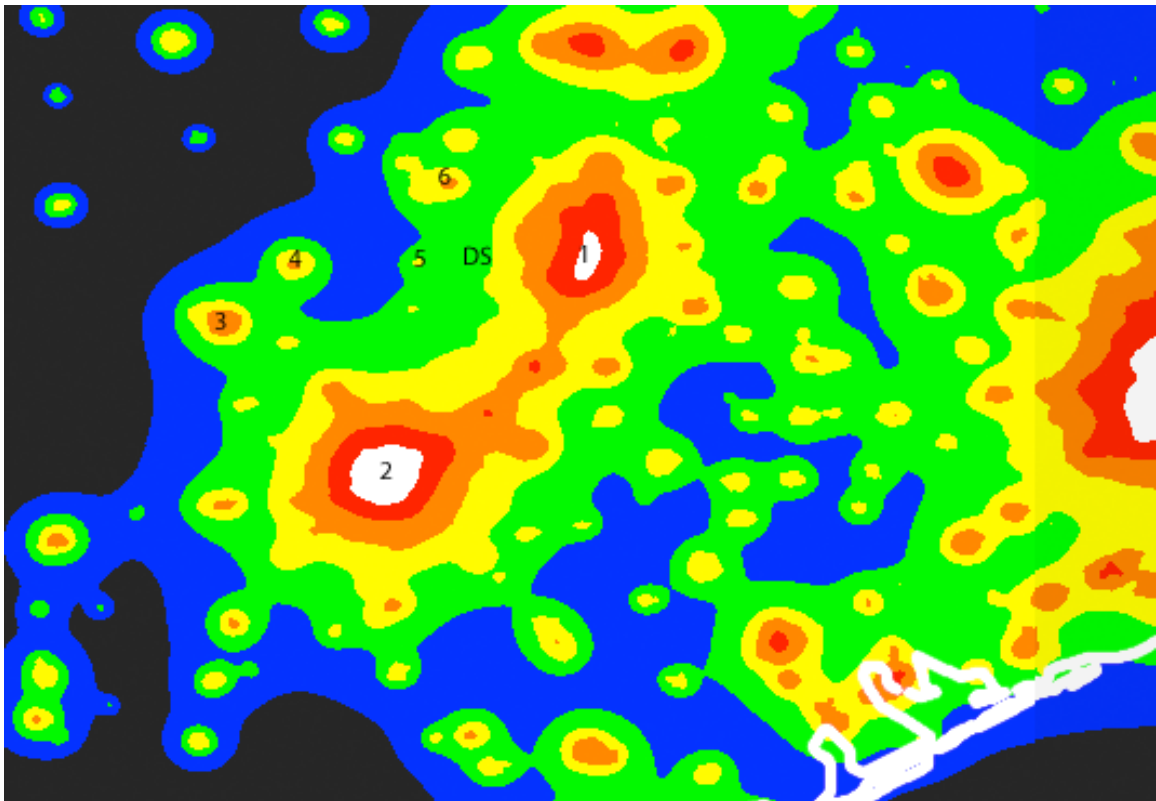
## Parks and Recreation

There are five parks in the city, Charro Ranch Park, Dripping Springs Ranch Park, Founders Memorial Park, Sports and Recreation Park, and Veteran's Memorial Park. Dripping Springs Ranch Park is the site of Wild West Days, and other community events such as Camp Lasso, FFA activities, and equestrian competitions.



## Natural Beauty

Set at the threshold of the Texas hill country, the Dripping Springs is characterized by its splendid views of rolling hills, live oaks woodlands, and rocky creeks. The semi arid climate makes the stars visible in every season, and night sky viewing is almost always possible.



DS) The City of Dripping Springs and the cities that surround it: 1) Austin 2) San Antonio 3) Kerrville 4) Fredericksburg 5) Johnson City 6) Marble Falls



## A Sense of History

The Pound House farmstead and museum has been meticulously restored to its exact composition and appearance from the period when the Pound family was in residence. The annual Founder's Day event includes tours, crafts, and games in the five acre homestead park.

Path lighting was recently added to the grounds for nighttime activities. The lights were carefully selected to gently illuminate the path without creating glare or damaging the view of the night sky.

## Farmer's Market

Dripping Springs hosts a weekly farmers market with live music during the spring, summer and fall. Numerous local farmer offer their produce, eggs and grass fed, free range meats. A sampling of other vendors include those with locally produced honey, sauces, sweets, pasta, olive oil, relishes, crafts, artisan breads and even upscale chicken coops!





# City of Dripping Springs Nomination Package for the International Dark-Sky Community Designation

A proposal to the International Dark-Sky Association  
Part III – Outdoor Lighting Ordinance



Backyard Camping in Dripping Springs by Rob Greebon



# City of Dripping Springs Outdoor Lighting Ordinance History

The growth of the community and a concern for the night sky spurred local citizens to action. They worked with elected officials to create the first City of Dripping Springs Outdoor Lighting Ordinance (OLO), which was adopted in January of 2000.

In 2006, as the City had gained experience with outdoor lighting restrictions and with a large new retail center being planned, it was determined that outdoor lighting regulations were desired that were slightly more restrictive and specific as well as easier to understand and enforce. A development agreement with tighter lighting restrictions was forged with the retail center's developer. Over the years, as the new construction was completed, citizens and City staff found that the lighting regulations in the development agreement were very successful in controlling exterior lighting.

Combining those years of experience in regulating outdoor lighting with research utilizing the Outdoor Lighting Handbook v1.14 from IDA, the USA Pattern Outdoor Lighting Code v2.0, and the Model Lighting Ordinance (MLO) from IDA, an updated Outdoor Lighting Ordinance was drafted. City Council then fine tuned it with input from citizens and it was adopted in January of 2011. That is the current City of Dripping Springs Outdoor Lighting Ordinance.

CHAPTER 24 BUILDING REGULATIONS
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**ARTICLE 24.06 OUTDOOR LIGHTING**

ARTICLE 24.06 OUTDOOR LIGHTING
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**Sec. 24.06.001 Title**

This article shall be known as the “lighting ordinance.”

ARTICLE 24.06 OUTDOOR LIGHTING
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**Sec. 24.06.002 Definitions**

Words and phrases used in this article shall have the meanings set forth in this section. Terms that are not defined below, but are defined elsewhere in this code, shall be given the meanings set forth in the code. Words and phrases not defined in this code shall be given their common, ordinary meaning unless the context clearly requires otherwise. When not inconsistent with the context, words used in the present tense shall include the future tense; words in the plural number shall include the singular number (and vice versa); and words in the masculine gender shall include the feminine gender (and vice versa). The word “shall” is always mandatory, while the word “may” is merely directory. Headings and captions are for reference purposes only.

*Applicant.* A person or entity who submits to the city an application for an approval required by this code. To be qualified as an applicant under this article, the person or entity must have sufficiently documented legal authority or proprietary interests in the land to commence and maintain proceedings under this code. To avoid confusion, the term will not include anyone other than the property owner(s), tenant(s), or a duly authorized agent and representative of the property owner. As to enforcement between tenant(s) and property owner(s) of a particular piece of property, the property owner(s) shall have ultimate liability for violations of this article.

*City.* The City of Dripping Springs, an incorporated municipality located in Hays County, Texas.

*City limits.* The incorporated municipal boundary of the city, as may be expanded by annexation.

*ETJ.* The extraterritorial jurisdiction of the city.

*Full cut-off fixtures.* Fixtures, as installed, that are designed or shielded in such a manner that all light rays emitted by the fixture, either directly from the lamps or indirectly from the fixture, are projected below a horizontal plane running through the lowest point on the fixture where light is emitted.

*Holiday lighting.* Lighting used for a specific celebration which may be one of the following types:

- (1) Festoon type low-output lamps, limited to small individual bulbs on a string.
- (2) Low-output lamps used to internally illuminate yard art.

- (3) Flood or spot lights producing less than 2,000 lumens each, whose light source is not visible from any other property, and which are used only as temporary lighting.

Light trespass. Light emitted from fixtures designed or installed in a manner that unreasonably causes light to fall on a property other than the one where the light is installed, in a motor vehicle drivers' eyes, or upwards toward the sky.

Lighting. Any source of light that does not include natural light emitted from celestial objects or fire. The term includes any type of lighting, fixed or movable, designed or used for outdoor illumination of buildings or homes, including lighting for billboards, streetlights, canopies, gasoline station islands, searchlights used for advertising purposes, externally or internally illuminated on- or off-premises advertising signs, and area-type lighting. The term includes luminous elements or lighting attached to structures, poles, the earth, or any other location.

Logo. A representation or symbol adopted by a business, organization, or an individual used to promote instant public recognition.

Lumen. The unit of measurement used to quantify the amount of light produced by a bulb or emitted from a fixture (as distinct from "watt," a measure of power consumption). For the purposes of this Article, the lumen output values shall be the initial lumen output ratings of a lamp. The lumen rating associated with a given lamp is generally indicated on its packaging or may be obtained from the manufacturer. (Abbreviated lm)

Lumens per acre. The total number of initial lumens produced by all lamps utilized in outdoor lighting on a property divided by the number of acres, or part of an acre, with outdoor illumination on the property.

Luminous elements (of a light fixture). The lamp (light bulb), any diffusing elements, and surfaces intended to reflect or refract light emitted from the lamp individually or collectively comprise the luminous elements of a light fixture (luminaire).

Major addition. Enlargement of twenty-five percent (25%) or more of the building's gross floor area, seating capacity, or parking spaces, either with a single construction project or cumulative series of construction projects, after the enactment of this article. The term also includes replacement of twenty-five percent (25%) or more of installed outdoor lighting.

Nonresidential. Property designated as nonresidential under the city's zoning ordinance.

Outdoor lighting. Temporary or permanent lighting that is installed, located or used in such a manner to cause light rays to shine outdoors. Nonresidential fixtures that are installed indoors that cause light to shine outside are considered outdoor lighting for the intent of this article. (See [figure A](#)), residential fixtures installed indoors generating more than 6,200 lumens (approximately equal to a 300 watt incandescent bulb) that cause light to shine outside are also considered outdoor lighting for the intent of this article.

## Figure A

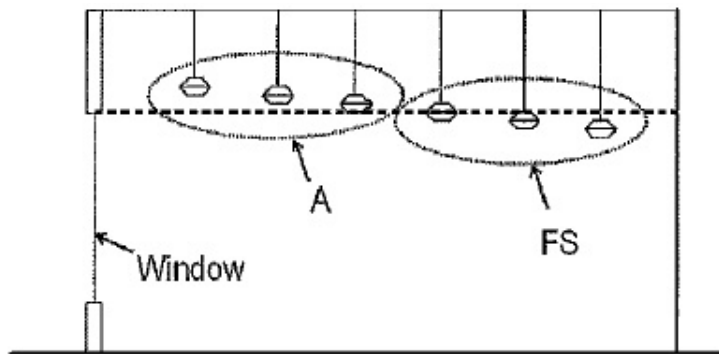


Figure A: Elevation view showing a nonresidential application of indoor lighting, labeled FS, which will be subject to this article and indoor lighting, labeled A, which is installed so that it is not subject to this article.

***Person.*** A human individual, corporation, agency, unincorporated association, partnership, or sole proprietorship.

***Residential.*** Property designated as residential under the city's zoning ordinance.

***Temporary lighting.*** Lighting intended for uses which by their nature are of limited duration; for example holiday decorations, civic events, or construction projects.

***Total outdoor light output.*** The total amount of light, measured in lumens, from all outdoor light fixtures within the illuminated area of a property. The lumen value to be used in the calculation is the initial output, as defined by the manufacturer. To get the total, add the initial lumen output attributed to each light fixture.

***Uplighting.*** Lighting that is directed in such a manner as to shine light rays above the horizontal plane.

## ARTICLE 24.06 OUTDOOR LIGHTING

### Sec. 24.06.003 General

(a) **Scope.**

- (1) This article applies within the city limits.
- (2) Nothing herein shall be construed as preventing or limiting the city from applying this article to the ETJ through agreements with property owners, or as a term affixed to a conditional approval (such as a variance).

(b) **Exemption.** The following are exempt from the application of the regulations of this article:

- (1) Lighting equipment required by law to be installed on motor vehicles; or
- (2) Lighting required for the safe take-off and landing of aircrafts.

- (c) Prohibition. It shall be unlawful and an offense for any person to do the following:
- (1) Install lighting contrary to this article;
  - (2) Fail to comply with any terms or conditions set forth in a permit issued under this article.

ARTICLE 24.06 OUTDOOR LIGHTING
--------------------------------

**Sec. 24.06.004 New lighting**

- (a) General. All outdoor lighting shall be installed in conformance with the provisions of this article, applicable electrical codes, energy codes, and building codes, except as provided herein.
- (b) Prohibition. It is an offense to install outdoor lighting that does not comply with the standards established by this article.
- (c) Nonresidential. All outdoor lighting installed on nonresidential properties shall conform to the standards by this article, except as provided herein.
- (d) Residential. All outdoor lighting installed on residential properties that is affixed to a construction project for which a building permit is required under this code shall conform to the standards established by this article.

ARTICLE 24.06 OUTDOOR LIGHTING
--------------------------------

**Sec. 24.06.005 Nonconforming existing lighting**

- (a) All existing outdoor lighting that was legally installed before the enactment of this article, that does not conform with the standards specified imposed by this article shall be considered nonconforming. Nonconforming outdoor lighting is allowed to remain until required to be replaced pursuant to the terms of this article.
- (b) If more than fifty percent (50%) of the total appraised value of a structure (as determined from the records of the county's appraisal district), has been destroyed, the nonconforming status expires and the structure's previously nonconforming outdoor lighting must be removed and may only be replaced in conformity with the standards of this article.
- (c) Nonconforming outdoor lighting shall be brought into conformance with this article as follows:
- (1) Nonresidential-major addition. All existing outdoor lighting located on a subject property that is part of an application for a rezoning application, conditional use permit, subdivision approval, or a building permit for a major addition is required to be brought into conformance with this article before final inspection, issuance of a certificate of occupancy, or final plat recordation, when applicable. For the following permits issued by the city, the applicant shall have a maximum of 90 days from date of permit issuance to bring the lighting into conformance: site development

permit, sign permit for an externally or internally-illuminated outdoor sign, initial alcoholic beverage permit, initial food establishment permit, and on-site sewage facility permit.

(2) Residential addition or remodel. Nothing herein shall be construed to terminate a residential property's nonconforming status as a result of an addition or remodel.

(3) Abandonment of nonconforming. A nonconforming structure shall be deemed abandoned if the structure remains vacant for a continuous period of six (6) months. In that instance, the nonconforming status expires and the structure's previously nonconforming outdoor lighting must be removed and may only be replaced in conformity with the standards of this article.

(d) It is unlawful to expand, repair or replace outdoor lighting that was previously nonconforming, but for which the prior nonconforming status has expired, been forfeited, or otherwise abandoned.

## ARTICLE 24.06 OUTDOOR LIGHTING

### Sec. 24.06.006 Shielding and total outdoor light output standards

(a) All outdoor lighting, except governmental owned streetlights, shall be shielded so that the luminous elements of the fixture are not visible from any other property. (See [figures B](#) and [C](#)).

**Figure B**



Figure B: Mounting height or proximity to property lines may cause the luminous elements of a light fixture to need additional shielding. Above are two examples of shielding.

**Figure C**

**DO NOT USE**

**MAY BE USED IN MOST CASES**

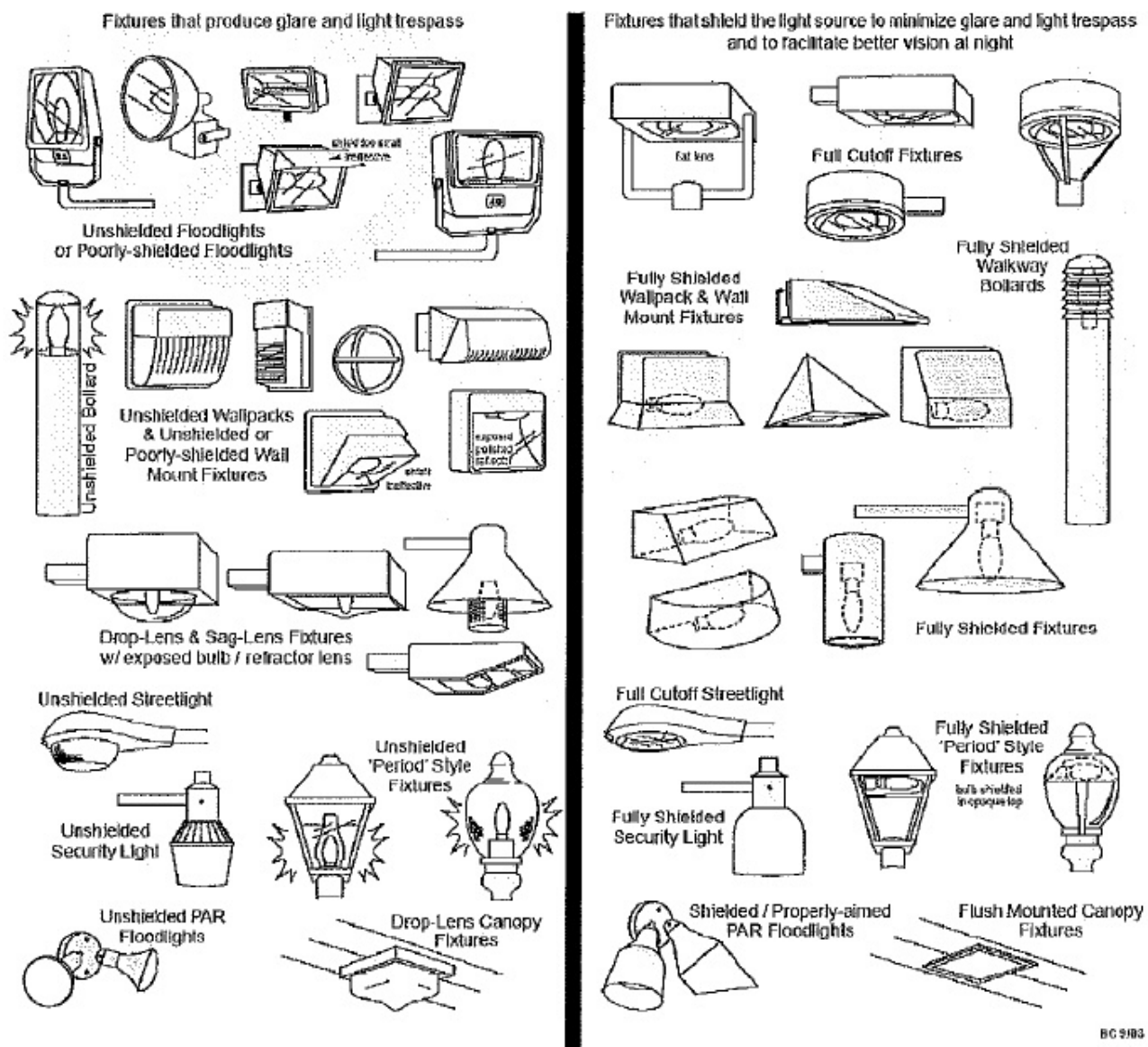


Figure C: The lights on the left are nonconforming. Those on the right can be used in most cases. However, the mounting height and proximity to the property line may cause them to need additional shielding to prevent the luminous elements from being visible from any other property.

(b) Governmental owned streetlights shall meet the qualifications to be full cut-off fixtures in order to limit light trespass. (See [figure D](#)).

**Figure D**

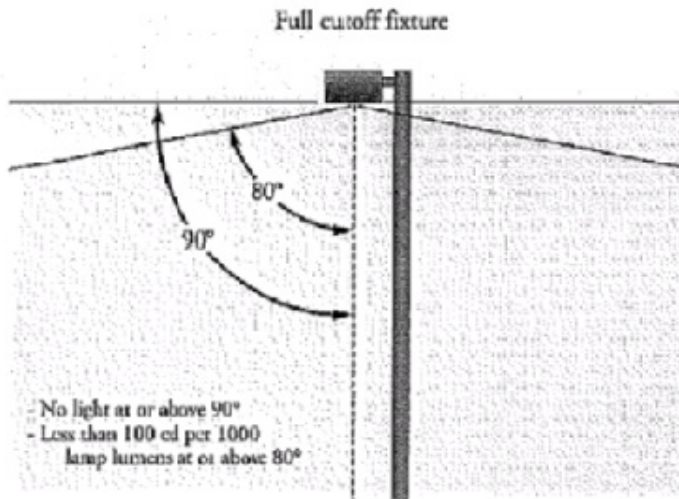


Figure D: Full cutoff fixtures do not allow any light to be emitted above the fixture. The fixture controls glare by limiting the light output at 10 degrees below the horizontal, to less than 10% of the light output in lumens.

(c) Outdoor uplighting is prohibited, except in cases where the fixture is shielded by a roof overhang or similar structural shield and a licensed architect or engineer has stamped a prepared lighting plan that ensures that the light fixture(s) will not cause light to extend beyond the structural shield, and except as specifically permitted in this article.

(d) Outdoor lighting fixtures, except uplighting covered in subsection (c) above, are not allowed to have light escape above a horizontal plane running through the lowest point of the luminous elements. (See [figures E and F](#)).

Figure E

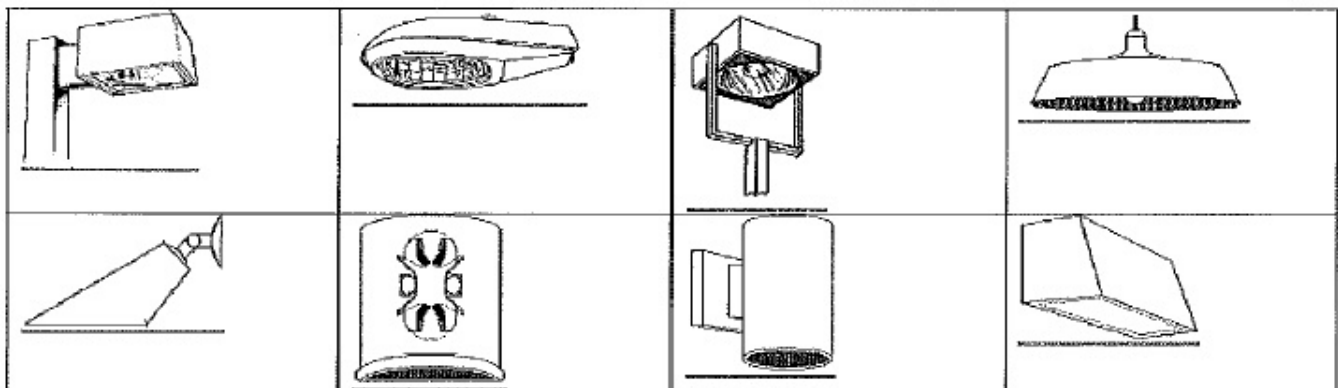


Figure E: This figure shows examples of fixtures that will conform to the provision to not allow light to escape above a horizontal plane running through the lowest point of the luminous elements if they are closed on top and mounted such that the bottom opening is horizontal. Note that the mounting height and proximity to the property line may cause them to need additional shielding to prevent the luminous elements from being visible from any other property.



A practical way to determine if a light fixture will conform to the provision to not allow light to escape above a horizontal plane running through the lowest point of the luminous elements: the lamp or tube, any reflective surface or lens cover (clear or prismatic) must not be visible when viewed from above or the side.

**Figure F**

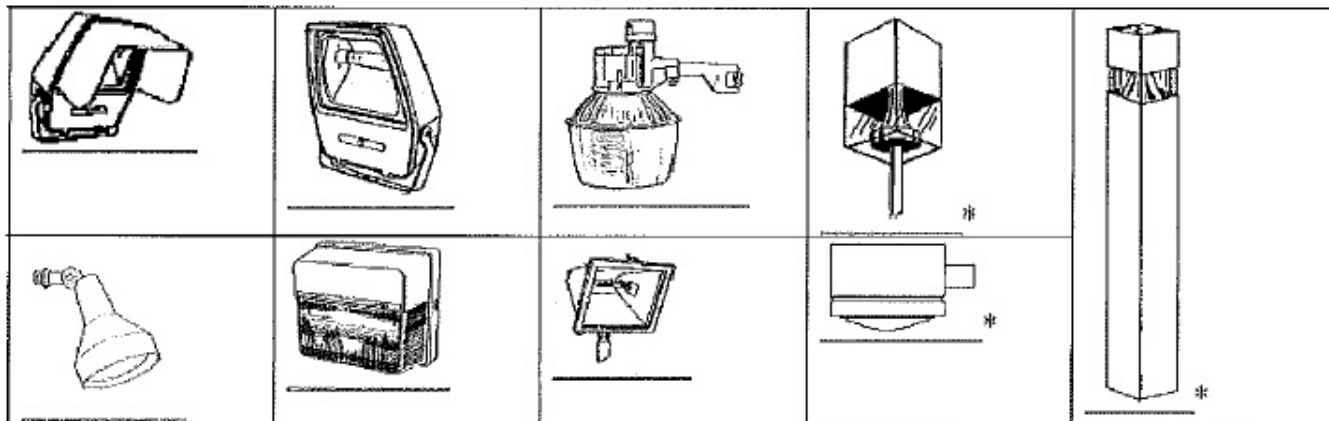


Figure F: This figure illustrates examples of fixtures that do not conform to the provision to not allow light to escape above a horizontal plane running through the lowest point of the luminous elements.

\*Note: Even though the lamps in these fixtures are shielded from direct view when viewed from the side or above, reflective surfaces within the fixtures and/or lens covers are directly visible from the side.

(e) Total outdoor light output (excluding governmental owned streetlights used for illumination of public rights-of-way and outdoor recreation facilities) of any nonresidential property shall not exceed 100,000 lumens per net acre in any contiguous illuminated area. This lumen per net acre value is an upper limit and not a design goal; design goals should be the lowest levels that meet the requirement of the task.

(f) Total outdoor light output (excluding governmental owned streetlights used for illumination of public rights-of-way and outdoor recreation facilities) of any residential property shall not exceed 25,000 lumens per net acre in any contiguous illuminated area.

(g) Outdoor recreational facilities are not subject to the lumens per net acre limit. However, outdoor recreational facilities are subject to the shielding requirement (subsection (a) above). Where fully shielded fixtures are not available, lighting fixtures using external louvers or shields that, in the final installed configuration, extend to within 3 inches on the lowest portion of the light fixture opening are required. (See [figure G](#)). The fixtures shall be installed and maintained with aiming angles that permit no greater than 1% of the light emitted by each fixture to project above the horizontal. It is recommended that the lumens per net acre for multi-directional aerial sports (e.g., baseball, basketball, football, soccer) not exceed 1,000,000 lumens per net acre. It is recommended that the lumens per net acre for uni-directional aerial sports (e.g., golf at a driving range, skeet shooting) and all ground level sports (e.g., field hockey, swimming, archery, target shooting) not exceed 800,000 lumens per net acre.

**Figure G**

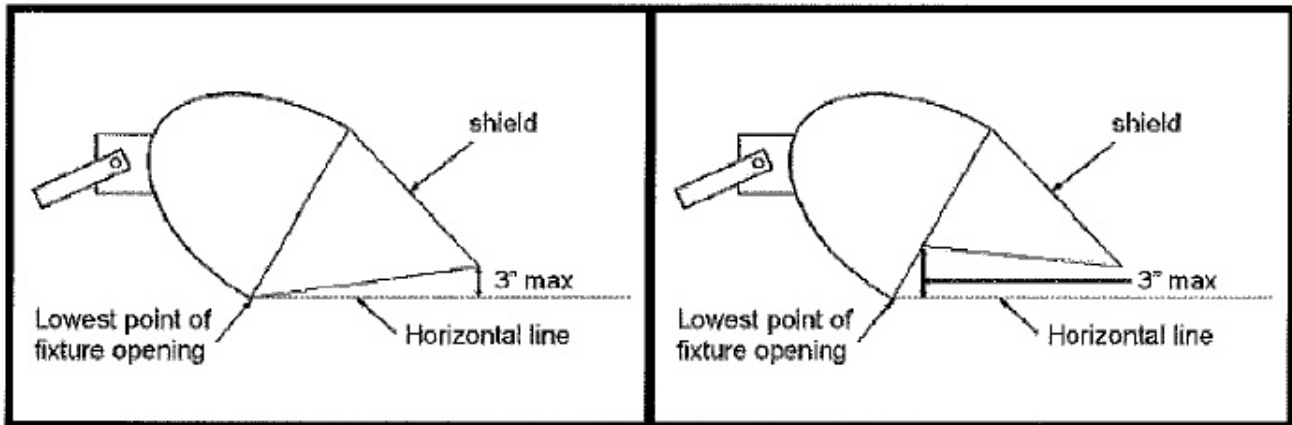


Figure G: Sports lighting where fully shielded fixtures are not available.

## ARTICLE 24.06 OUTDOOR LIGHTING

### Sec. 24.06.007 Lighting for outdoor signs and panels

(a) Outdoor internally-illuminated signs (whether freestanding or building mounted) shall be constructed with an opaque background and translucent letters and symbols or with a colored background and lighter letters and symbols. (See [figure H](#)). The internally-illuminated portion of the sign cannot be white, cream, off-white, or yellow unless it is part of a logo. White, cream, off-white or yellow are permitted in the logo only, provided that such colors in the logo shall represent not more than 33% of the total sign area permitted. Lamps used for internal illumination shall not be included in the total outdoor light output calculation.

### Figure H







Light Background <input type="checkbox"/>	Colored Background <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Opaque Background <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
		
		

Figure H: Internally-illuminated signs.

- (b) Outdoor internally-illuminated panels (such as illuminated canopy margins or building faces), shall be included in the total outdoor light output calculation.
- (c) Outdoor externally-illuminated signs shall conform to all provisions of this article and the sign ordinance, [chapter 26](#) of this code.

## ARTICLE 24.06 OUTDOOR LIGHTING

### Sec. 24.06.008 Lighting under canopies, building overhangs, or roof eaves

- (a) All outdoor light fixtures located under canopies, under building overhangs, or under roof eaves must conform to all provisions of this article.
- (b) Outdoor light fixtures located under canopies, under building overhangs, or under roof eaves where the center of the lamp or luminaire is located at 5 feet, but less than 10 feet from the nearest edge of the canopy or overhang are to be included in the total outdoor light output as though they produced only one-quarter (1/4) of the lamp's rated lumen output. (See [figures I](#) and [J](#)).

Figure I

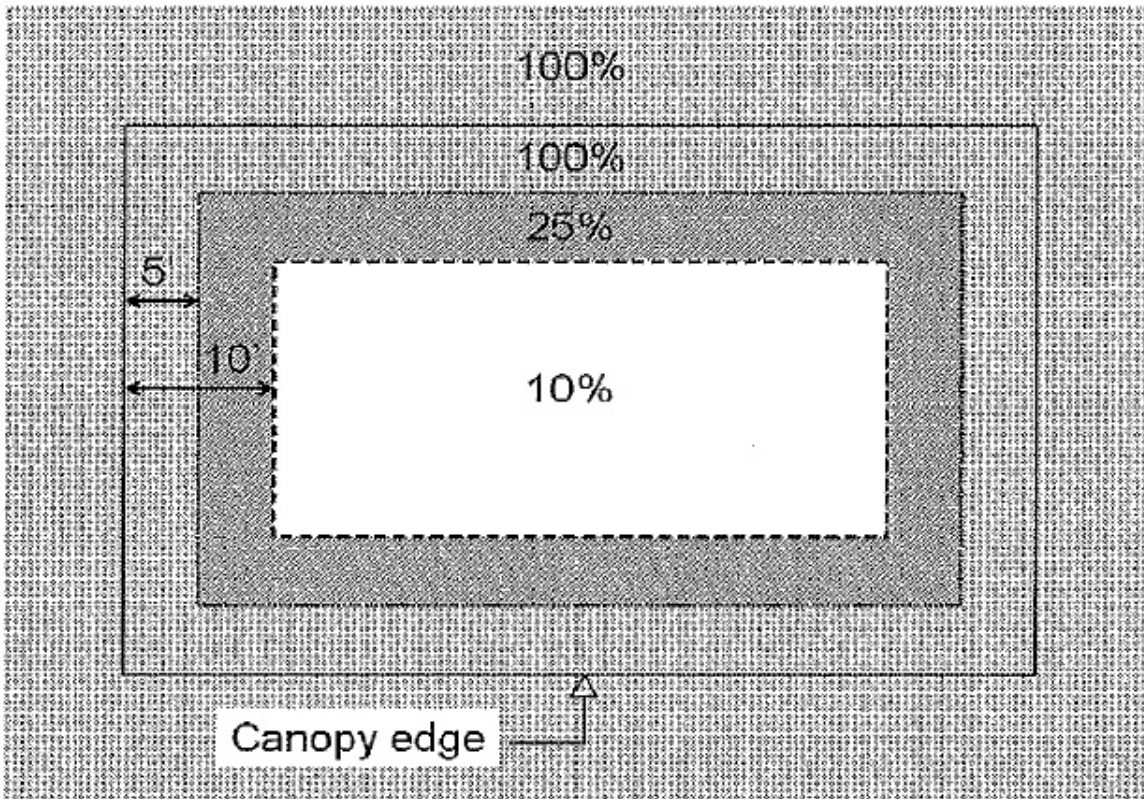


Figure I: Plan view of a canopy, showing fixture location and initial lamp output percentage counted toward total lumens.

Figure J

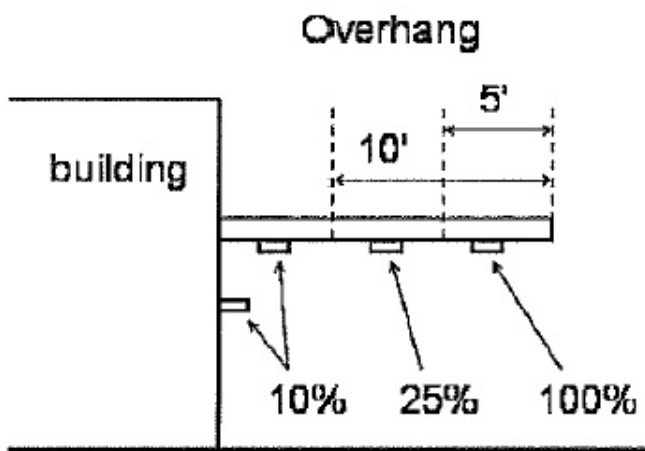


Figure J: Elevation view of a canopy or overhang attached to a building, showing location of shielded fixtures and initial lamp output percentage counted toward total lumens.

(c) Outdoor light fixtures located under canopies, under building overhangs, or under roof eaves where the center of the lamp or luminaire is located 10 or more feet from the nearest edge of a canopy, building overhang, or eave are to be included in the total outdoor light output as though they produced only one-tenth (1/10) of the lamp's rated lumen output. (See [figures I and J](#))

(d) The total light output used for illuminating under canopies or building overhangs, defined as the sum of all under canopy initial lamp outputs in lumens, shall not exceed 20 lumens per square foot under the canopy area. All lighting mounted under the canopy, including but not limited to light fixtures mounted on the lower surface of the canopy and auxiliary lighting within signage or illuminated panels under the canopy, is to be included in the total.

## ARTICLE 24.06 OUTDOOR LIGHTING

### **Sec. 24.06.009 Neon Lighting**

Neon lighting is permitted, so long as lumen calculations from such lighting are included in the total outdoor light output calculations for the site. Lumens are calculated on a per foot basis, rather than per "fixture." Such lighting shall also be subject to the shielding requirements of this section, unless exempted under [section 24.06.014](#).

## ARTICLE 24.06 OUTDOOR LIGHTING

### **Sec. 24.06.010 Flagpoles**

Nothing herein shall be construed to limit or apply to the flagpoles in existence at the Veterans Memorial Park, which are expressly grandfathered. Lighting of up to 2 governmental flags per property is permitted with the following restrictions:

- (1) Flagpoles illuminated from below are limited to a height of 25 feet aboveground level. They are to be illuminated with a single spot type fixture whose maximum initial output is 75 lumens per foot, measured from the light fixture to the top of the flagpole. The fixture is to be mounted so that the lens is perpendicular to the flagpole.
- (2) Flagpoles illuminated from above may utilize a light fixture attached to the top of the flagpole or a fixture mounted above the top of the flagpole on a structure within 15 feet of the flagpole and must comply with [section 24.06.006\(a\)](#) and (b) of this article except for lights such as the ones in [figure K](#). The total number of lumens initially output from any light fixture mounted on top of a flagpole is limited to 800.

### **Figure K**

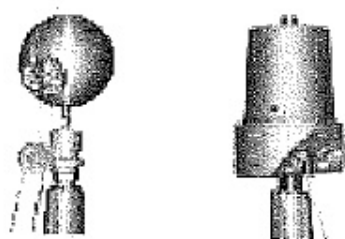


Figure K: Options for flagpole lighting.

- (3) Lamps used for flagpole illumination shall be included in the total outdoor light output calculation.

## ARTICLE 24.06 OUTDOOR LIGHTING

### Sec. 24.06.011 Lighting curfews

- (a) Nonresidential outdoor lighting intended to be left on more than 30 minutes after closing, or the completion of activities, must be reduced to 25% or less of the normal lumen output. Motion sensor activation may be allowed to cause the light to resume normal lumen output only when activated and to be reduced back to 25% or less of normal lumen output within 5 minutes after activation has ceased, and the light shall not be triggered by activity off the property.
- (b) Illumination for all advertising signs, both externally and internally illuminated, shall be turned off by the later of closing time or 10:00 p.m., provided, however, that such signs may be turned back on prior to sunrise, but no more than one hour prior to opening.
- (c) Street lighting, other than at the intersection of roadways, shall utilize half night photocells or timers to turn off the lights halfway between dusk and dawn.
- (d) Lighting for outdoor recreational facilities is allowed between one hour prior to sunset and 10:30 p.m., unless it is needed to complete a specific organized activity or event already in progress at 10:30 p.m.
- (e) All outdoor lighting is encouraged to be turned off when no one is present to use the light.

## ARTICLE 24.06 OUTDOOR LIGHTING

### Sec. 24.06.012 Prohibitions

- (a) The installation of any mercury vapor fixture or lamp for use as outdoor lighting is prohibited.
- (b) The installation of any wall pack style fixture for use as outdoor lighting is prohibited unless the fixture is rated by the manufacturer as full cutoff.

Examples of acceptable wall packs, when mounted with light directed downward only are shown in [figure L](#).

**Figure L**



Figure L: Samples of acceptable wall packs.

(c) The installation of any barn-light style fixture for use as outdoor lighting is prohibited unless the fixture includes a full opaque reflector instead of the standard translucent lens. An example of barn-light style with and without the required opaque reflector is shown in [figure M](#).

**Figure M**

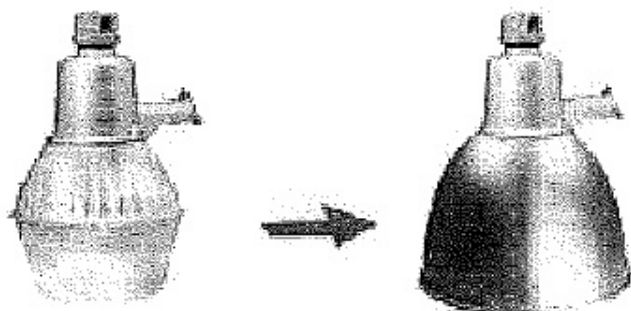


Figure M: Acceptable shielding of barn-style light fixtures.

(d) The operation of searchlights for advertising purposes is prohibited.

## ARTICLE 24.06 OUTDOOR LIGHTING

### **Sec. 24.06.013 Submission of plans and evidence of compliance**

(a) All commercial building permit applications must include an outdoor lighting plan which includes the following information:

- (1) The location of all existing and proposed light fixtures (may be included on-site plan).

- (2) A lumen calculation sheet to determine lumens per net acre. It must include the total area to be illuminated, the fixture descriptions, lamp types (i.e., incandescent, low pressure sodium, compact fluorescent, LED, etc.), wattages, number of lamps, lamp initial lumens and mounting height of all existing and proposed lamps.
  - (3) Specification sheets for all existing and proposed light fixtures.
  - (4) Acknowledgement that the applicant has received notification of the provisions of this article.
- (b) Upon receipt of residential building permit applications, city staff shall provide the homebuilder and/or applicant with educational materials about this article. The city's submission of educational materials shall be prima facie evidence that the applicant has received notification of the provisions of this article.
- (c) Verification that a residential or commercial construction project requiring a building permit application has complied with the provisions of this article shall occur during the final electrical inspection by the city building inspector.

<b>ARTICLE 24.06 OUTDOOR LIGHTING</b>
---------------------------------------

#### **Sec. 24.06.014 Exemptions**

The following lighting instances are exempt from this article:

- (1) Outdoor light fixtures with a maximum output of 300 lumens per fixture, regardless of the number of bulbs, (equals approximately one 25 watt incandescent light), may be left unshielded provided the fixture has an opaque top to keep light from shining directly up. The output from these fixtures shall not exceed 5% of the allowable lumens per net acre.
- (2) Outdoor light fixtures with a maximum output of 600 lumens per fixture, regardless of the number of bulbs, (equals approximately one 45 watt incandescent light), which are shielded with a colored lens provided said lens reduces the lumen output approximately in half and the fixture has an opaque top to keep light from shining directly up. The output from these fixtures shall not exceed 20% of the allowable lumens per net acre.
- (3) Outdoor lighting for which light is produced directly by the combustion of fossil fuels.
- (4) Holiday lights as defined in this article are exempt from the requirements of this article from November 15th to January 15th during the hours from 6:00 a.m. to midnight each day, except that flashing holiday lights are prohibited on nonresidential properties. Flashing holiday lights on residential properties are discouraged. Holiday lights may be illuminated one additional seven (7) day period per calendar year.
- (5) Lighting required by law to be installed on motor vehicles.
- (6) Lighting needed during activities of law enforcement, fire and other emergency services.



- (7) Lighting employed during emergency repairs of roads and utilities may be unshielded provided the lights are positioned so they do not shine in the eyes of passing drivers.
- (8) Lighting required for the safe operation of aircraft.
- (9) Temporary lighting required to save life or property from imminent peril provided the lights are positioned so they do not shine in the eyes of passing drivers.

ARTICLE 24.06 OUTDOOR LIGHTING
--------------------------------

**Sec. 24.06.015 Materials and methods of installation**

This article is not intended to prohibit the use of any design, material or method of prescribed installation not specifically proscribed by this article, provided such alternative meets the legislative intent of this article.

ARTICLE 24.06 OUTDOOR LIGHTING
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**Sec. 24.06.016 Compliance with building code**

All lighting installations commenced in accordance with this article must be in compliance with the International Building Code, as adopted by the city council.

ARTICLE 24.06 OUTDOOR LIGHTING
--------------------------------

**Sec. 24.06.017 Civil and criminal penalties**

The city shall have the power to administer and enforce the provisions of this article as may be required by governing law. Any person violating any provision of this article is subject to suit for injunctive relief as well as prosecution for criminal violations.

ARTICLE 24.06 OUTDOOR LIGHTING
--------------------------------

**Sec. 24.06.018 Criminal prosecution**

Any person violating any provision of this article shall, upon conviction, be fined a sum not exceeding five hundred dollars (\$500.00). Each day that a provision of this article is violated shall constitute a separate offense. An offense under this article is a class A misdemeanor. The culpable mental state to incur criminal liability under this article is recklessness.

ARTICLE 24.06 OUTDOOR LIGHTING
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**Sec. 24.06.019 Civil remedies**

Nothing in this article shall be construed as a waiver of the city's right to bring a civil action to enforce the provisions of this article and to seek remedies as allowed by law, including, but not limited to the following:

- (1) Injunctive relief;
- (2) Monetary damages; and
- (3) Other relief as directed by a court with jurisdiction over the matter.

ARTICLE 24.06 OUTDOOR LIGHTING
--------------------------------

**Sec. 24.06.020 Alternative relief**

To prevent specific conduct that violates this article or to require specific conduct that is necessary for compliance with this article; and

- (1) In lieu of criminal prosecution, a civil penalty up to five hundred dollars (\$500.00) a day to be deposited in the landscaping fund, when it is shown that the defendant was actually notified of the provisions of this article and committed acts in violation of this article or failed to take action necessary for compliance with this article; and other available relief.
- (2) In the event work is not being performed in accordance with this article, the city shall issue a stop-work order and all work shall immediately cease. No further work shall be undertaken on the project as long as a stop-work order is in effect.

ARTICLE 24.06 OUTDOOR LIGHTING
--------------------------------

**Sec. 24.06.021 Public nuisance**

(a) Any violation of this article that results in light trespass or an unreasonable interference with the common and usual use of neighboring property is hereby declared to be a public nuisance, which is prohibited by this article.

(b) It is an offense under this article for a person to emit light onto the property of another unreasonably interfering with the neighboring property owner's use and enjoyment of their property.

ARTICLE 24.06 OUTDOOR LIGHTING
--------------------------------

**Sec. 24.06.022 Administrative guidance**

The city is authorized to promulgate one or more interpretive documents to aid in the administration of, and compliance with, this article. Such interpretive documents shall be educational only and shall not constitute regulations, amendments, or exceptions.

(Ordinance 1260.20 adopted 1/13/11)



## City of Dripping Springs Nomination Package for the International Dark-Sky Community Designation

A proposal to the International Dark-Sky Association  
Part IV – Success in Light Pollution Control







*www.ImagesfromTexas.com*


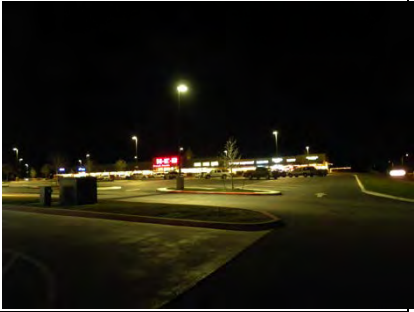

Backyard Camping in Dripping Springs by Rob Greebon

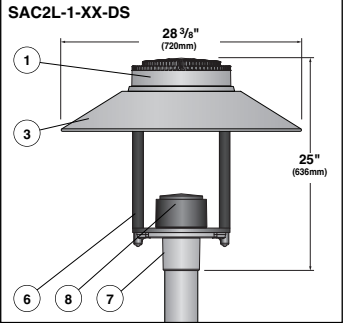
## Dripping Springs Success in Light Pollution Control

Concerned they might lose the night sky as the community was growing, a group of long time area residents worked with city council to create the initial City of Dripping Springs Outdoor Lighting Ordinance (OLO) in 2000. In 2007 and 2008, as a plan for a large retail center was initiated, city staff realized more specific lighting regulations were needed. Outdoor lighting regulations were set in place via a development agreement with the corporation developing the land. That developer, in turn, brought in Texas and national businesses that were subject to the development agreement. The Home Depot was the first to be built. McDonalds, Chase Bank, Broadway Bank, HEB Grocery Store, HEB Service Station, and Whataburger followed it closely. The City chose to codify the lighting requirements in use for that new construction to cover all new construction and require others to meet those requirements, as permits were required for some other reason. The new OLO went into effect in January of 2011. The Outdoor Lighting Handbook v1.14 from IDA, the USA Pattern Outdoor Lighting Code v2.0, the Model Lighting Ordinance (MLO) from IDA, and the City's experience melded to create the City of Dripping Springs OLO.



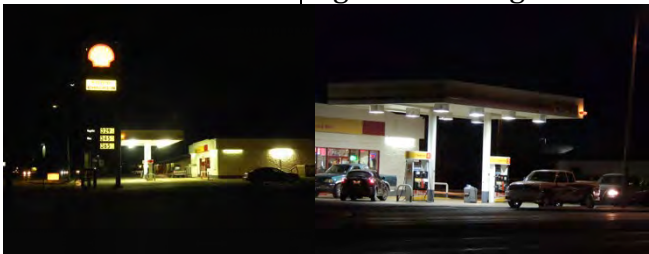
Location or Business	Situation	Lighting Plans Submitted	Approved
Valero on West Highway 290 in Dripping Springs	Local grandfathered service station with drop down lighting under the canopy. Because of the awareness of the local sensibility to protect the night sky and reduce glare the owner agreed to install shields that a local citizen created. People from neighboring counties used this example to work with other service stations.	None submitted as this service station's lights were grandfathered.	
Home Depot	First of the new projects under the lighting requirements of the 2008 Development Agreement, which was more restrictive than the 2000 Outdoor Lighting Ordinance.	<p>Submitted: Parking Lot Avg- 8.27 FC Max - 18.6, Building Façade Avg- 5.73 FC Max 13.3 FC, Property line: Avg 5.3 FC - Max 25 FC.</p> <p>Some lights tilted up above the</p>	<p>Installed: Parking Lot Avg- 4.3 FC Max - 8.0 FC, Front Building Façade Avg - 3.0 FC Max 6.8 FC, Rear Building Façade Avg - 3.6 FC Max-7.1 FC, Property line: Avg 1.0 FC - Max 2.6 FC</p> <p>All at least full cutoff &amp; higher mounted fixtures</p>

Location or Business	Situation	Lighting Plans Submitted	Approved
		horizontal.	with shrouds as in photo below. 
Broadway Bank	Constructed under 2008 development agreement	All full cutoff fixtures with internal glare shields.	Approved with internal glare shields on the pole-mounted fixtures.
Chase Bank	Constructed under 2008 development agreement	All full cutoff fixtures.	The pole-mounted fixtures were required to have shrouds added just like the ones for Home Depot.
McDonalds	Constructed under 2008 development agreement	Exterior fixtures submitted were full cutoff. They didn't understand that fixtures installed indoors but visible through the glass had to be shielded.	The pole-mounted fixtures were required to have shrouds added like the ones for Home Depot. The interior lighting visible through the glass had to have metal reflectors installed to replace the initial glass globes.
Waste Water Treatment Plant	Constructed under 2000 Outdoor Lighting Ordinance. The contractor missed or misunderstood the requirement to have full cutoff lighting. The solution was to install RAB Shades with full cutoff tops as in the photo in the "approved" column.		
First Baptist Church	The church was rebuilt after a fire and the new structure was under the 2000 Outdoor Lighting Ordinance.	They wanted to fully illuminate the steeple with large flood lights so that it would be the first	Low wattage LED's are directed at the steeple to softly illuminate it at night.

Location or Business	Situation	Lighting Plans Submitted	Approved
		<p>thing people saw when they came over the hill into Dripping Springs.</p> <p>The other new lighting for this facility is full-cutoff.</p>	
HEB Grocery Store	Constructed under the 2008 Development Agreement		<p>Pole-mounted lights have shrouds like the ones installed at Home Depot. Interior lights visible through the glass front had to have metal reflectors covering the bulbs rather than refractive glass as submitted.</p> 
HEB Service Station	Constructed under the 2008 Development Agreement	Initially insisted they must have 30 to 40 FC and up-lighting all around the service station.	<p>Agreed to consider and were subsequently approved to use LSI's LEDs under the canopy and full cutoff wall packs on the associated car wash.</p> 


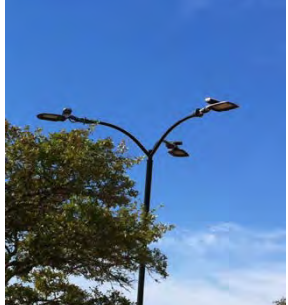
Location or Business	Situation	Lighting Plans Submitted	Approved
What-a-burger	Constructed under the 2008 Development Agreement	Originally proposed large flood lights all around and on top of the building.	Full cutoff lighting for the building. Pole-mounted parking lot lights are the same as the Home Depot & HEB Grocery Store
Randolph Brooks Federal Credit Union	Built within the City Limits under the 2011 Outdoor Lighting Ordinance. Their lumens cap for their location is 112, 582.	Initially submitted a lighting plan with 231, 299 lumens (205% of their allowed lumens).	The final approved lighting plan has 114, 006 lumens (101% of their allowed lumens). The overage was approved due to the need to follow regulations regarding lighting at their multiple ATM's. All fixtures are fully shielded and many of the fixtures are recessed.
Twisted X Brewery	New construction built under the 2011 Outdoor Lighting Ordinance	Slightly below lumens cap with all full cutoff fixtures.	A parking lot light was eliminated due to possible light trespass issues. Final approved plan will have 1.8 lumens per square foot.
Deep Eddy Vodka	New construction being built under the 2011 Outdoor Lighting Ordinance	Originally submitted plans were 46,466 lumens BELOW their lumen cap. Their main light fixture is an LED with all illumination directed downward and below an approximately 35 degree angle below the horizontal as controlled by the luminaire hood shown at right.	Approved with the fixture below and with the total lumens significantly below their lumens cap. 
DS Ranch Park	The City of Dripping Springs is building a large new arena at this park.	Submitted lumens were about half of the allowed lumens for the area.	Total lumens of about half of the allowed lumens for a commercial property. The only exterior light is pictured below. B1-U0-G1 with only 2.4 lumens in the FVH (80-90 degree angle).



Location or Business	Situation	Lighting Plans Submitted	Approved
			
Mercer Street Project	Grant funded upgrade of the sidewalks, streets and streetscape for the original business street in Dripping Springs.	Street Lighting was selected and lighting designed specifically to conform to the Outdoor Lighting Ordinance. All fixtures are full cutoff.	<p>This is the style of fixture selected for Mercer St.</p> 
Shell Service Station west of RR12 & Hwy 290 intersection	Their lighting was grandfathered. When they wanted to install a new sign they were also required to come into compliance with the 2011 Outdoor Lighting Ordinance.	Pre-shielding:	<p>The canopy lights are now shielded and the building lights are being addressed.</p> 
Dripping Springs Youth Soccer Association	Several soccer dads requested additional fields be reserved for the soccer association and that they be allowed to put up lights that did not comply with the Outdoor Lighting Ordinance. City Council, with concerned citizens in attendance, talked to them about the commitment to dark skies in the area and helped them understand that NO VARIANCE would be issued for lighting.	Lighting was requested with 40 foot poles which were inadequate to illuminate the field at a competition level. They decided to use the new field only for practice but still wanted it illuminated. The lighting designer was able to work out a plan that met the DS Ordinance.	Sports lighting fixtures fitted with shields and louvers are being installed in a way so that light is not allowed to escape above a horizontal plane running through the lowest point of the luminous elements. The field is illuminated unevenly since the club could not afford taller poles at this time.

## Dripping Springs Success in Light Pollution Control Outside the City Limits

The City of Dripping Springs is about 25 miles west of Austin, Texas. It has less than 2000 citizens although its extraterritorial jurisdiction (ETJ) has a population of about 30,000. Texas law does not allow a City to regulate outdoor lighting in its ETJ. However, when possible, City staff work hard to get new developments to agree to follow the Dripping Springs Outdoor Lighting Ordinance. As you will see from this chart, there are instances outside of the ETJ where the City has been a good influence in regards to outdoor lighting.

Location or Business	Situation	Lighting Plans Submitted	Approved
Ledge-stone	This subdivision is not in The City of Dripping Springs but is in the City's Extra Territorial Jurisdiction (ETJ). Hence, the Outdoor Lighting Ordinance does NOT apply to them. However, because of the area sensibility and the good example of the city, the developer chose to use only full-cutoff lighting for public streets and private residences.	None needed, since the development is not under the Outdoor Lighting Ordinance. However, the developer sought input from the City's lighting consultant to select the lighting. Note the under soffit lighting and the shield around the bulb in the coach light fixture.	
Trudy's Restaurant	Located in the extraterritorial jurisdiction (ETJ) where the Outdoor Lighting Ordinance does not apply. However, City staff got them to agree to controls on their lighting.	They put them up first, then we worked with them to have shrouds attached to cut the glare and eliminate up-light.	
Blue Blazes Ranch	Approximately 35 acre, multi-purpose development in the ETJ. The City Outdoor Lighting Code would not normally apply to this property.	Wanted to have loose lighting rules and not have the Outdoor Lighting Ordinance regulations as part of the development	Have agreed to follow the Dripping Springs 2011 Outdoor Lighting Ordinance with their internal road being defined as a public

Location or Business	Situation	Lighting Plans Submitted	Approved
	Because the developers wanted to vary from the normal rules for subdivisions within the ETJ, they crafted a development agreement with the City.	agreement.	road for the purpose of the ordinance.
Neighboring unincorporated community of Henly where Texas state law does not allow the regulation of outdoor lighting.	A new baseball park that creates excessive light trespass. During the public meeting about the situation, a Henly resident asked the developer why they didn't follow the nearby City of Dripping Springs Outdoor Lighting Ordinance. The Henly resident said the DS OLO expressed the desire of the whole area to protect neighbors and the night skies.	N/A – This entry is merely a demonstration of the good example being set by the City of Dripping Springs.	N/A



# City of Dripping Springs Nomination Package for the International Dark-Sky Community Designation

A proposal to the International Dark-Sky Association  
Part V – Community Commitment



*www.ImagesfromTexas.com*

Backyard Camping in Dripping Springs by Rob Greebon

# Community Commitment

## City Owned Lighting:

The vote to bring all City owned lighting into conformance within five years was published in public city records. The inventory and assessment of City owned outdoor lighting for the purpose of replacing all fixtures that do not conform to the Outdoor Lighting Ordinance is complete. Bids are coming in for the recreational fields, which represent the majority of the non-conforming fixtures and monies have been allocated for the first phase. Note the letter from the mayor following this page.

Jon Thompson, City Planning Director, and Ginger Faught, Deputy City Administrator are shown holding one of two Glarebusters purchased recently by the city to begin the replacement of all non-conforming lights owned by the City.





# City of Dripping Springs

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P.O. Box 384  
Dripping Springs, Texas 78620

(512) 858-4725

(512) 858-5646 Fax

Date: July 17, 2013

To: Michelle Fischer, City Administrator  
From: Todd Purcell, Mayor

Re: Lighting Compliance Plan for City Owned Properties

As you know, the City Council is committed to dark sky preservation. We would like City Staff to conduct an inventory of the lighting on City owned properties and identify lights that do not comply with the Lighting Ordinance. Then we would like City Staff to draft a plan to bring non-conforming lights into compliance within five years.

We would like to see the inventory and consider a plan at an August City Council meeting.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read 'Todd Purcell', is written over the end of the previous paragraph.

## Municipal Support of Dark Skies:

The main communication tool used in Dripping Springs and the surrounding area, other than word of mouth, is the Internet. The area is blessed with many news sources but the one that reaches more citizens than any other is the Internet.

The City's webpage has a "Find it fast" link to Outdoor Lighting with a wealth of information and helpful links to educate citizens and incoming businesses about good lighting. You may find it here:  
<http://www.cityofdrippingsprings.com/preview.aspx?name=city.generalighting>

Hardcopy handouts with samples of compliant outdoor lighting are also provided at City Hall for anyone who gets a permit that requires their property to be compliant with the Outdoor Lighting Ordinance. This handout is attached next.

# **Pictures of Sample**

## **“Good” and “Bad” Lighting**

The “Good” lighting, when installed properly, will conform to the Dripping Springs Lighting Ordinance. The “Bad” lighting would usually be non-conforming or would be a challenge to alter it to conform.

The *rule of thumb* is that if you can see the source of the light then the light is producing glare and light trespass. Neither glare nor light trespass is desirable. Both reduce visibility.

Prepared by Cindy Luongo Cassidy of Outdoor Lighting Associates. (512) 944-7354

**Please return to Dripping Springs City Hall.**



## Thinking of lights?

A standard one like the one below creates glare and light trespass.



**Do NOT use lights like the one on the left where the source of the light is visible.**

Instead, use a fixture like the ones below that shield the source of the light.



**Good, cutoff fixtures with shields around the light bulb.**

by Hinkley Lighting

Or use something like these.



K-9834

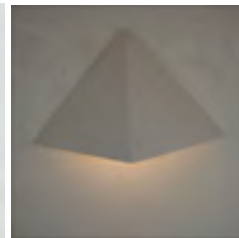
Kitchler Lighting



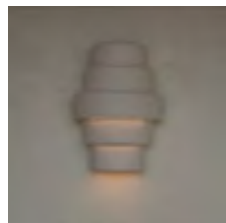
Kitchler Lighting



Cordelia Lighting



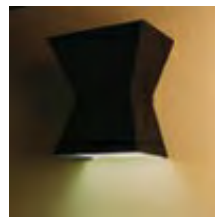
AC Lighting



AC Lighting



Steel Partners



Eclipse Lighting



Lighting by Branford

**Other approved full cutoff or fully shielded lights**



by RUUD



U.S. Architectural Ltg.



WideLite



Visionaire Lighting



Visionaire Lighting



SELUX



Architectural Area Lighting



Architectural Area Lighting



American Electric (Full Cutoff)

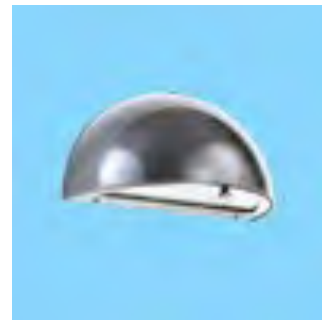
Light is in upper section of the fixture.



Eurotique



RAB



Cooper Lighting

Note that all lights must be shielded to keep the source of the light hidden. On the far left is an example of a standard wallpack which is a “Bad” light. The same wallpack purchased with a full cutoff visor is a “Good” light.



Standard Wallpack without Visor



With Full Cutoff Visor

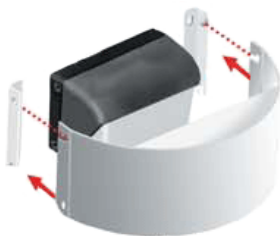


It looks like the one above.

These are all “Bad” lights. Do NOT use lights like these:



If you’re stuck with lights like the ones above, you can shield them with shields like these to make them “Good” lights:



# Approved Landscape Lighting

Effect	Description		
	<p><b>Path Lighting</b> Concentric circles of light ripple out from the fixture, perfect for walkways, borders, steps, driveways and entrances. Typical spacing 8'-12' (2.4-3.7 m).</p>		
		<p><i>GL44</i>-* 18W #1141 Included *BK or VE (26W#1156 max.)</p>	<p><i>GL09</i>-* 18W #1141 Included *BK or VE (26W#1156 max.)</p>
	<p><b>Area Lighting</b> Symmetrical patterns of incandescent light are very effective in low shrubbery and ground cover. Typical spacing: 8'-12' (2.4-3.7 m).</p>		
		<p><i>GL47</i>-* 18W #1141 Included *BK or VE (26W#1156 max.)</p>	<p><i>GL41</i>-* 18W #1141 Included *BK or VE (26W#1156 max.)</p>
	<p><b>Security Lighting</b> With the addition of the Photocell/Time Clock option for reliability, and Ruud® fixtures installed in proximity to the building, property owners can feel comfortably secure while delighting in the effect. Typical Spacing: 5'-8' (1.5-2.4 m).</p>		



**Texas Master Naturalist**  
**Hays County Chapter**

...dedicated to the beneficial management of natural resources and natural areas within our communities

The Hays County Chapter of the Texas Master Naturalist supports a community commitment to dark skies with Approved Volunteer Project 1108: Light Pollution Education and Outreach.

The activities in this project include:

- 1) Educating people about what light pollution is, its negative effects, and how to solve it. As part of this activity we offer a presentation called "Take Back the Night." We also offer a presentation more focused on the negative effects of artificial light at night on flora and fauna which is called "Save the Night."
- 2) Training others so that they are able to lead programs in educating people about light pollution. A team of speakers is being trained this fall to be guest speakers in Hays County schools and engage the students in the Globe At Night program. Hays County communities with school districts include: Buda, Dripping Springs, Hays, Kyle, San Marcos, and Wimberley.
- 3) Designing and recommending solutions for specific sites to reduce light pollution. Master Naturalists have been trained in the Texas IDA program to perform lighting assessments and determine what fixtures need shielding or replacement in local parks, wildlife centers, nature refuges, city owned facilities, and businesses as a service to the community and to raise awareness of the issue. Assessments are in progress as of this writing.

4) Recognizing homes, businesses, and organizations with neighbor and night sky friendly outdoor lighting as an educational outreach program for adults. The goal is to teach the public about light pollution through a positive approach of awarding recognition to those who practice principles to reduce it. This is similar to the way the Texas Wildscapes Certification program teaches people how to create a great wildlife habitat by awarding recognition to those who practice certain principles.



## City of Dripping Springs Nomination Package for the International Dark-Sky Community Designation

A proposal to the International Dark-Sky Association  
Part VI – Support & Night Sky Readings



*www.ImagesfromTexas.com*

Backyard Camping in Dripping Springs by Rob Greebon

# Business Letters and Resolutions of Support

16.B.1

**Pedernales Electric Cooperative, Inc.  
Regular Meeting  
August 15, 2011**

## **RESOLUTION (ID # 1714)**

### **Area Lighting in the Texas Hill Country**

**WHEREAS**, the Pedernales Electric Cooperative, Inc. ("the Cooperative") recognizes the Texas Hill Country for its diverse ecosystems, ethics for land stewardship, rich cultural heritage, and breathtaking scenic beauty; and

**WHEREAS**, the influx of people into the region over the years and accompanying light trespass from area lighting fixtures has been steadily on the rise, and these factors have impacted the natural environment and the quality of life of the people of this region; and

**WHEREAS**, the Cooperative is committed to protecting the beauty of the night skies.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE COOPERATIVE**, that the Cooperative shall promote outdoor lighting fixtures and practices that follow up-to-date guidelines for efficient, non-intrusive lighting and work with its partners to educate and encourage landowners, businesses, residential communities, and public entities to join in this commitment; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Chief Executive Officer or his designee is authorized to take such actions as needed to implement this resolution.

Packet Pg. 200



# BARSHOP & OLES

COMMERCIAL REAL ESTATE

VIA USPS REGULAR MAIL AND EMAIL

August 30, 2013

International Dark Sky Association  
3223 N. First Avenue  
Tucson, AZ 85719

**RE: Nomination of City of Dripping Springs, TX as Dark Sky Community**

Dear Sirs/Madams:

Our partnership worked very closely with the City of Dripping Springs during the development of a shopping center anchored by Home Depot and by HEB Grocery Company, the dominant grocery store in the Central Texas market. Throughout that process, the City stressed the importance of reducing and preventing light pollution. Our project was designed, permitted and constructed with quality outdoor lighting that met the goals of the Dark Sky guidelines.

Our retail project has been successful on all fronts. One of the main reasons for its success was the high level of quality required from the City of Dripping Springs. For its focus on reducing light pollution within its community, we support the nomination of the City of Dripping Springs to receive the designation as an International Dark Sky Community (DSC).

Best Regards,



Milo Burdette  
Vice President, Development  
Barshop & Oles Company

801 CONGRESS AVE. SUITE 300 AUSTIN, TEXAS 78701  
812.477.1212 FAX 512.495.9655  
WWW.BARSHOP-OLES.COM

Barshop & Oles was the developer of the commercial property for Home Depot, HEB, Chase Bank, Broadway Bank, and Whataburger.

"Edwards, David" <DEdwards@BroadwayBank.com>

July 18, 2013 11:47 AM

To: "cindy@greeneearthlighting.com" <cindy@greeneearthlighting.com>

Support for Dark Sky Community Application

1 Attachment, 12 KB

I support the application of the City of Dripping Springs to be designated as a Dark Sky Community by the International Dark Sky Association. I appreciate the City's efforts to reduce glare and sky glow in the area. Those efforts lead to an improved quality of life for all Dripping Springs area residents.

Thank you for taking the initiative to improve our community.





RESOLUTION NO. 2013-1

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF DRIPPING SPRINGS HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION SUPPORTING THE CITY OF DRIPPING SPRINGS APPLICATION TO THE INTERNATIONAL DARK-SKY ASSOCIATION COMMUNITY PROGRAM FOR DESIGNATION AS AN INTERNATIONAL DARK SKY COMMUNITY

- Whereas,** the City of Dripping Springs Historic Preservation Commission recognizes the importance of a clear view of the starry night sky as part of our rural heritage and of the breathtaking natural beauty of the Dripping Springs area; and
- Whereas,** the historical view of the night skies has been eroding in many nearby areas and generations are growing up with limited, if any, view of the wonders of the Milky Way; and
- Whereas,** preserving the rich historic heritage that is embodied in the starry night skies of Dripping Springs is a significant part of preserving our history; and
- Whereas,** the City of Dripping Springs's Lighting Ordinance and Dark Skies Lighting Program help to preserve the starry night skies of Dripping Springs;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION OF DRIPPING SPRINGS, TEXAS:**

1. The Dripping Springs Historic Preservation Commission supports the use of outdoor lighting fixtures and practices that preserve and restore our historic starry night skies.
2. The Historic Preservation Commission supports the City of Dripping Springs application to the International Dark-Sky Association Community Program for Designation as an International Dark Sky Community.
3. The meeting at which this Resolution was passed was open to the public, and that public notice of the time, place and purpose of said meeting was given as required by the Open Meetings Act, Texas Government Code, Chapter 551.

PASSED & APPROVED this, the 1st day of July 2013, by a vote of 4 (ayes) to 0 (nays) to 0 (abstentions) of the City of Dripping Springs, Texas Historic Preservation Commission.

**CITY OF DRIPPING SPRINGS  
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION:**

by: Ted Lehr  
Ted Lehr, Chair

**ATTEST:**

Jo Ann Touchstone  
Jo Ann Touchstone, City Secretary



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT  
FOR HEALTHY LIVING  
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

**To: International Dark Sky Association**

**From: Kristi Paul, Executive Director, Springs Family YMCA**

**August 22, 2013**

Hello,

I am writing in support of Dripping Spring's nomination as the first International Dark Sky Community in Texas. Drippings Springs is working diligently to decrease the amount of light pollution in the night sky.

This work has had a positive impact on our way to control outdoor lighting and on the importance of the night sky as one of our valuable resources. Outdoor lighting is kept on the property where it originates so unwanted light is not directed on a neighbor's property and glare has been prevented by shielding and directing light where it's needed.

I appreciate the opportunity to lend support to the effort for Dripping Springs to become Texas' first International Dark Sky Community,

Sincerely,

Kristi Paul

Springs Family YMCA

Springs Family YMCA 27216 Ranch Rd 12, Dripping Springs, TX 78620, 512-894-3309

[www.austinyymca.org](http://www.austinyymca.org)

**ONION CREEK FARM**

August 26, 2013  
International Dark Sky Association  
3223 N. First Avenue  
Tucson, Arizona 85719

Dear IDA,

I am writing to support the application of the City of Dripping Springs, Texas to be designated as an IDA Dark Sky Community.

I have lived and owned a rural, agricultural business here for over 20 years. As a newcomer, I was impressed with the deep appreciation residents had for this community. I was inspired to join with others to support the efforts of our fledgling city government to preserve and protect what makes our place special. It often felt like 'a race against time'...as big-city Austin, Texas was knocking at our door.

We have grown in ways I would never have thought imaginable 20 years ago, and most of that is due to the fact that people want to live here, choose to live here. And this is because, like the early residents, we still hold a great sense of pride in our heritage, our natural resources and working together to build a community that is sustainable and meets the needs of a growing population while preserving what that population values.

Our city government has matured, with the help of a significant force of civic-minded volunteers, and faces this difficult challenge. I am impressed with the efforts to craft and adopt (and revise as needed) ordinances that serve this effort. The city's Outdoor Lighting Ordinance marked a huge turning point in guiding commercial development and the city was able to use it effectively to pursue development agreements with large businesses. There is great support for protecting our night sky in the community-at-large as well.

The IDA Dark Sky Community designation will recognize the accomplishments already achieved; send the message to our larger region that it is possible, and imperative, to protect our night sky; provide another tool to promote the special character and beauty of our area that residents and visitors dearly love, stimulating tourism and sound community economic development.

Please approve this application for a well-deserving community. Thank you for this opportunity.

Sincerely yours,

  
marianne simmons

1611 Creek Road Dripping Springs, Texas 78620

*Friends of the Pound House Foundation  
Board of Trustees  
Resolution*

*Whereas, the Friends of Pound House Foundation Board of Trustees recognizes the importance of and promotes the rich historic heritage and the natural beauty of the Dripping Springs area; and*

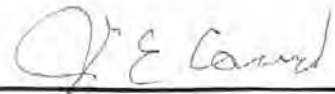
*Whereas, our heritage of starry night skies has rapidly been eroding and generations are growing up with limited, if any, view of the wonders of the night sky; and*

*Whereas, preserving the rich historic heritage including the starry night skies of Dripping Springs is important to our mission.*

*Be it therefore resolved that:*

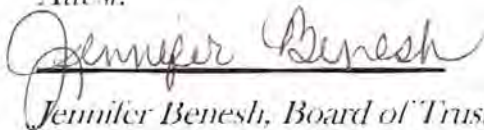
*The Board of Trustees of the Friends of Pound House Foundation supports practices that preserve and restore our historic starry night skies.*

*Adopted this 13<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2013*



*John Cassidy, Board of  
Trustees President*

*Attest:*



*Jennifer Benesh, Board of Trustees Secretary*

"Kathi Thomas" <kathi@hastings.com>  
To: <cindy@GreenEarthLighting.com>  
Support for Dark Sky Community Application

July 8, 2013 7:07 AM

1 Attachment, 3 KB

I am thankful that The City of Dripping Springs has worked so hard to have "dark skies"- requiring lighting within the city limits to meet specs for "dark skies" and working with those in the ETJ to encourage the use of "dark sky" lighting. The awful (as we call it "ugly store" at the intersection of FM1826 and Nutty Brown Road started out with brightly glaring lights, in spite of promising to abide by "dark skies" rules. When complaints were received, the City folks worked with them and got them to install shields. It still certainly isn't ideal, but it is better than it was.

The City does a great service to all of us who live here in mandating and/or encouraging the use of "dark skies" lighting, and as someone who enjoys seeing the stars at night, we really do appreciate it.

Kathi Thomas

(live in ETJ of Dripping Springs)



Kathi Thomas, AIFD, PFCI

Kathi Thomas Design

[www.KathiThomasDesign.com](http://www.KathiThomasDesign.com)

studio: 512-860-2244

August 23, 2013

International Dark Sky Association  
3223 N. First Avenue  
Tucson, AZ 85719

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in support of the City of *Dripping Springs*' nomination to receive the designation Dark Sky Community.

The City of Dripping Springs, just like the International Dark Sky Association, is working to decrease the amount of light pollution in the night sky. ThunderCloud Subs, as a supporter of a healthy sustainable community, would also like to show its support in this endeavor and encourage the IDA to award Dripping Springs this very important designation.

Sincerely,



David Cohen  
Director of Development  
ThunderCloud Subs

Local Dripping Springs Location:  
598 E. US290  
Dripping Springs, TX 78620



Jeff Bendall <[jbendall@lighthousesolar.com](mailto:jbendall@lighthousesolar.com)>

July 10, 2013 9:22 AM

To: Cindy Luongo Cassidy

Support for Dark Sky Community Application

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To whom it may concern:

I support the application of the City of Dripping Springs to be designated as a Dark Sky Community by the International Dark-Sky Association.

This community has been diligent in its efforts to keep a small town Dark Sky as the city grows ever closer. They have preserved for my children the opportunity to view the night sky and its bounty of stars, without the intrusion of the orange glow of city street lights. For this I am grateful and look forward to the continued progress oriented lighting that the city will no doubt involve in future development.

Thanks,

--

**Jeff Bendall**  
*Project Manager*

**Lighthousesolar**

2000 South 7th Street  
Austin, TX 78704  
[www.lighthousesolar.com](http://www.lighthousesolar.com)  
512 476 5555 office  
512 569 0855 mobile  
[facebook.com/Lighthouse](https://www.facebook.com/Lighthouse) Solar Austin

PRIVILEGED AND CONFIDENTIAL COMMUNICATION NOTICE: The information contained in this electronic mail transmission and any attachments is confidential and privileged. This email is intended only for the use of the individual or entity to which it is addressed. If you are not the addressee, or the employee or agent responsible for delivering the message to the addressee, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, dissemination, distribution, copying, printing or retransmitting of this communication is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please notify the sender by return email, and immediately delete the email you have received. Thank you in advance for your assistance and cooperation.

International Dark Sky Assn.  
3223 N. First Ave.  
Tucson, Arizona 85719

Dear IDA,

We wish to have the City  
of Piquing Springs, Texas, designated  
an IDA Dark Sky Community. Lights,  
illuminating the grounds where  
we need them, should be just  
that, and not competing with  
the moon & stars which  
inspire wonder, possibilities,  
beauty, poetry and philosophy,  
etc. All good things.

Please approve our application.

Sincerely,

Margie Andrus

3600 McGregg Lane

Piquing Springs TX 78620

Bonnie Tull <bonehead.tull@gmail.com>

July 7, 2013 9:57 PM

To: Cindy Luongo Cassidy <cindy@greeneearthlighting.com>

dark skies

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I would like to lend my support to the application for Dark Sky Community by the City of Dripping Springs. As populations increase, I believe that it is ever more important that we attempt to reduce our human footprint on Earth wherever and whenever possible. Keeping our light from polluting the night sky and the nighttime world of other species is important not only for our health but the health of the Earth itself not to mention the aesthetic of protecting our natural view of the nighttime sky. Please give careful consideration to this request.

Sincerely,

Bonnie Tull

Kathy Carriker <kathyc123@gmail.com>  
To: Cindy Luongo Cassidy  
Support for Dark Sky Community Application

---

July 8, 2013 9:49 PM

To Whom It May Concern:

I am a resident of the greater Dripping Springs, Texas community. Although I live 9 miles west of Dripping Springs, I consider Dripping my hometown. I would like to lend my support to the application of the City of Dripping Springs as a Dark Sky Community by the International Dark-Sky Association (IDA).

I'm proud of our City's efforts to reduce glare, light trespass, and sky glow in the Dripping Springs area. I can still see the stars most nights from my little piece of heaven in the country out of Dripping in part because of the responsible lighting practices initiated by the City of Dripping Springs. I think being designated as a Dark Sky Community would encourage both businesses and land owners inside and outside the City of Dripping to incorporate good lighting practices that protect the night sky and human health.

I appreciate your consideration of the City of Dripping Springs, Texas as a Dark Sky Community.

Best Regards,  
Kathy Carriker  
Dripping Springs, Texas

August 26, 2013

International Dark Sky Association  
3223 N. First Avenue  
Tucson, AZ 85719

Re: Support for Dark Sky Community Application

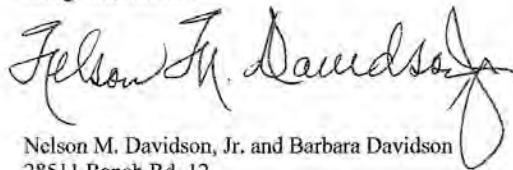

To the Members of the Association:

We are writing in support of the nomination of the City of Dripping Springs to receive the designation of Dark Sky Community by the Dark Sky Community Association. We have lived and worked in Dripping Springs for over 60 years and recognize the importance of acknowledging and strengthening efforts to prevent additional light pollution in the city and its extraterritorial jurisdiction.

Dripping Springs is a beautiful town in the Hill Country of Texas. In our lifetime, and especially within the past 15 years, we have seen tremendous growth and development in the area. Although we appreciate many of the fine additions to our community, we miss the opportunity to view the grandeur of the night sky as we once did. Many of our local citizens share this concern and have already taken steps to shield and direct outdoor lighting, limiting its impact to the areas where it is truly needed for safety. The City, mindful of the need to conserve energy and protect our environment and ecotourism, has enacted restrictions on outdoor lighting within the city limits. These ordinances influence requests for variances in the outlying areas as well.

We are thankful for the growing awareness of the need to preserve the dark sky as a valuable resource and hope that you will give strong consideration to this nomination.

Thank you very much for your efforts to protect the beautiful starry skies for our children and grandchildren.

Nelson M. Davidson, Jr. and Barbara Davidson  
28511 Ranch Rd. 12  
Dripping Springs, TX 78620

Nelson M. Davidson, Jr., Attorney at Law  
P.O. Box 529  
Dripping Springs, TX 78620

RCLovelace@aol.com

July 17, 2013 1:40 PM

To: cindy@GreenEarthLighting.com

Cc: RCLovelace@aol.com, AMIDAD@aol.com

Support for Dark Sky Community Application for Dripping Springs, Texas

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To Whom It May Concern:

We support the application of the City of Dripping Springs to be designated as a Dark Sky community by the International Dark-Sky Association. We appreciate the efforts of many of our local businesses and residents to reduce glare, light trespass, and sky glow in our community.

Good lighting practices that protect the night sky and human health are important to all of us.

We have greatly respected the efforts of good citizen businesses such as H.E.B., Home Depot, and many others to avoid harsh and unhealthy lighting. We hope that public education continues, so that all businesses and residents are aware of the safety, cost, and health benefits of appropriate lighting in the community.

Thank you.

Joe and Renee Lovelace  
Dripping Springs Residents

Lori <lori\_norton@yahoo.com>

July 15, 2013 3:12 PM

To: Cindy Luongo Cassidy

Dripping Springs, TX and the Dark Sky initiative

---

I live in Dripping Springs and have for the past 14 years. I am not in the city limits but just on the Hays and Travis county line. One thing I have always loved is the fact that I can go outside and really feel close to God as I gaze at the wonder of the night sky. I used to see The Milkyway very brightly but as Beecave grows and stretches itself ever farther.. It really impairs the darkness.

I fear that if Dripping Springs does the same we will not have the same quality of life that we currently enjoy, which includes a nice dark and natural sky.

Therefore, I support the application of the City of Dripping Springs to be designated as a Dark Sky Community by the International Dark-Sky Association. I also appreciate any efforts to reduce glare, light trespass, and sky glow in the area.

I support good lighting practices that protect the night sky and human health. There are already businesses along hwy 290 that cause huge glare and really are blinding when driving at night.

Thank you for considering this issue!!

Rick Gregory <rgregory@acsbenefitservices.com>

July 17, 2013 9:23 AM

To: Cindy Luongo Cassidy

Support for Dark Sky Community Application

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Our family are homeowners within the extraterritorial jurisdiction (ETJ) of Dripping Springs. We value the efforts of all of those involved these past many years to reduce light pollution of our beautiful night sky. Keeping outdoor lighting on the property where it originates has been promoted by many folks working to make the nighttime Texas sky and earth perfect for everyone to enjoy. This includes light trespass on neighboring property and "sky glow" and glare. We support the application of the City of Dripping Springs to be designated as a Dark Sky Community by the International Dark Sky Association.

Sincerely yours,

Rick Gregory  
Hwy 290 W, Dripping Springs



bonnie rose <brose10@austin.rr.com>

July 8, 2013 5:31 PM

To: Cindy Luongo Cassidy

Support of application for Dark Sky Community Designation

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To Whom It May Concern:

I support the application of the City of Dripping Springs to be designated as a Dark Sky Community by the International Dark-Sky Association. I appreciate any efforts to reduce glare, light trespass, and sky glow in the area. I support good lighting practices that protect the night sky and human health.

I congratulate the City of Dripping Springs for working to reduce and prevent additional light pollution in the City and on sites in the extraterritorial jurisdiction (ETJ). Outdoor lighting should be kept on the property where it originates so that unwanted light is not directed to a neighboring property. Shielding and directing light where it's needed not only makes the City more attractive, it allows residents and visitors alike to see better, creating a safer more secure environment. In the process, electric costs can be reduced and it is possible to have a view of the beautiful starry sky.

Bonnie Rose, REALTOR, GRI, GREEN,  
TEXAS AFFORDABLE HOUSING SPECIALIST

Rose Real Estate

Office: 512-894-0835

Cell: 512-626-7673

Fax: 512-894-0643

E-mail: [brose10@austin.rr.com](mailto:brose10@austin.rr.com)

[www.roserealestate.com](http://www.roserealestate.com)

The nicest compliment you can give me is the referral of your friends and family. Thank you for your trust.

Susan Troppy [troppyfarm2@gmail.com](mailto:troppyfarm2@gmail.com)  
To: GEL [cindy@GreenEarthLighting.com](mailto:cindy@GreenEarthLighting.com)

July 17, 2013 2:01 PM

Support for Dark Sky Community Application

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I support the application of the City of Dripping Springs to be designated as a Dark Sky community by the International Dark-Sky Association.

I am currently in the position of having significant light trespass onto my property in the unincorporated area of Henly, and as a result, have become much more aware of the importance of our communities to protect all citizens from unnecessary glare.

We need to educate the public and businesses on good lightening practices. I believe that the City of Dripping Springs is a model of how we can protect the legacy of dark skies.

Regards,

Susan Troppy

7400 Creek Rd Dripping Springs, TX 786720

# Sky Quality Readings

## In & Near Dripping Springs, Texas

The first readings in 2011 were taken for the GLOBE at Night program without a Sky Quality Meter. Readings for 2012 and March of 2013 were all taken for the GLOBE at Night program using a Sky Quality Meter. The July 2013 readings and a selection of those to follow are to be kept in the Dark Sky Meter app data base and are to be posted on the City of Dripping Website.

The Hays County Master Naturalists are preparing to go into the schools this coming school year to teach the GLOBE at Night program and have students add to the database. In addition, the current team taking readings will continue.

Date	Conditions	Location Description	Latitude / Longitude	SQM or other
March 2, 2011	Clear	Mercer Street, Dripping Springs	30.1928 / -98.0906	LM 3 (estimate)
February 22, 2011	Clear	Onion Creek Ranch Road	30.1466 / -98.0171	LM 4 (estimate)
February 21, 2012	Cloud cover 25%	City of Dripping Springs	30.1979 -98.0943	SQM 19.3
February 21, 2012	Cloud cover 25%	Hwy 290 & Trauwein Rd	30.1988 / -98.0187	SQM 19.38
February 21, 2012	Cloud cover 25%	Onion Creek Ranch Road	30.1467 / -98.017	SQM 20.44

February 21, 2012	Clear	Near Charro Ranch Park	30.1633 / - 98.0794	SQM 20.45
March 5, 2013	Clear	Onion Creek Ranch Road	30.1466 / - 98.0171	SQM 20.13
July 5, 2013	Clear	Entrance to Patriot Erectors	30.205285 / - 98.135569	20.51
July 5, 2013	Clear	Sportsplex Trail & Hwy 290	30.192173 / - 98.096945	19.38
July 5, 2013	Clear	Mercer Street in front of Sunrise Restaurant	30.192855 / - 98.090546	18.32
July 5, 2013	Clear	Dr Pound Historical Home parking lot	30.199605 / - 98.081592	19.45
July 5, 2013	Clear	Sports Park Road & Ranch Road 12	30.185311 / - 98.086458	19.64
July 5, 2013	Clear	Charro Park Entrance at Ranch Road 150	30.159586 / - 98.072618	20.22

"Fischer, Michelle" <mfischer@cityofdrippingsprings.com>  
To: Cindy Luongo Cassidy <cindy@greeneearthlighting.com>  
Status of Lighting Compliance Plan for City Owned Lights

September 23, 2013 4:08 PM

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Cindy:

On July 9, 2013, the City Council authorized City Staff to do an inventory of City-owned lighting and develop a plan to bring nonconforming City-owned lighting into compliance with the Lighting Ordinance. The inventory is almost complete. The City is working with the Pedernales Electric Cooperative on including street lights in the inventory.

On August 13, 2013, the City Council approved Ordinance No. 1100.55, an amendment to the Fiscal Year 2013 Budget, to spend \$20,000 on bringing City owned lighting into compliance with the Lighting Ordinance. Some of the exterior lighting on City Hall and the exterior lighting on the restrooms and concession stand at the Dripping Springs Sports & Recreation Park are being brought into compliance (the fixtures have already been purchased, they will be installed in the next week). City Staff is in the process of obtaining proposals to bring athletic field lighting at the park into compliance with the Lighting Ordinance.

The draft budget for Fiscal Year 2014 includes the expenditure of \$5,000 to bring City owned lighting into compliance with the Lighting Ordinance. Approval of the budget will take place by September 30, 2013.

Michelle Fischer  
City Administrator  
City of Dripping Springs

511 Mercer St  
PO Box 384  
Dripping Springs, TX 78620  
Office (512) 858-4725  
Facsimile (512) 858-5646  
Email: mfischer@cityofdrippingsprings.com  
<http://www.cityofdrippingsprings.com>

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