

INTERNATIONAL DARK-SKY ASSOCIATION

3223 N First Ave - Tucson Arizona 85719 USA - +1 520-293-3198 - www.darksky.org

TO PRESERVE AND PROTECT THE NIGHTTIME ENVIRONMENT AND OUR HERITAGE OF DARK SKIES THROUGH ENVIRONMENTALLY RESPONSIBLE OUTDOOR LIGHTING



INTERNATIONAL DARK SKY PARKS

International Dark Sky Park Program Guidelines

June 2018

TABLE OF CONTENTS

DEFINITION OF AN IDA DARK SKY PARK.....	3
GOALS OF DARK SKY PARK CREATION.....	3
DESIGNATION BENEFITS	3
ELIGIBILITY.....	4
MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS FOR ALL PARKS	5
LIGHTING MANAGEMENT PLAN	8
LIGHTING INVENTORY.....	10
PROVISIONAL STATUS.....	12
IDSP APPLICATION PROCESS.....	13
NOMINATION	13
STEPS FOR APPLICANT	13
TO BE INCLUDED IN IDSP APPLICATION PACKAGE	14
IDA REVIEW PROCESS	15
POST-DESIGNATION REVIEW AND MAINTENANCE	16
REASSESSMENT OF IDSP DESIGNATIONS	17
INVESTIGATION AND DUE PROCESS.....	18
REINSTATEMENT FOLLOWING SUSPENSION.....	18
SALE OR TRANSFER OF LAND OWNERSHIP	19

DEFINITION OF AN IDA DARK SKY PARK

An International Dark Sky Park (IDSP) is a land possessing an exceptional or distinguished quality of starry nights and a nocturnal environment, and that is specifically protected for its scientific, natural, educational, and/or cultural heritage resources, and/or for public enjoyment. The land may be publicly owned, or privately owned, provided that the landowner(s) consent to the right of permanent, ongoing public access to specific areas included in the IDA designation.

GOALS OF DARK SKY PARK CREATION

- To identify, restore, and protect public lands, such as national, state, provincial, and other parks, and publicly accessible private lands, with exceptional commitment to, and success in implementing, the ideals of dark sky preservation and outstanding night skies.
- To promote eco- and astro-tourism
- To promote protection of the natural nighttime environment, public enjoyment of the night sky and its heritage, and/or areas ideal for professional and amateur astronomy
- To encourage conservation professionals to recognize dark skies as a valuable resource in need of proactive protection
- To provide national and international recognition for such parks
- To encourage parks and similar public entities to become environmental leaders on dark sky issues by communicating the importance of dark skies to the general public and surrounding communities, and by providing an example of what is possible with proper stewardship

DESIGNATION BENEFITS

Achieving an IDSP designation brings recognition of the efforts a park has made towards protecting dark skies. It raises the awareness of dark skies among Park leadership, staff, visitors, and the surrounding community. An IDSP designation entitles the Park to display the IDA logo in official Park publications and promotions, and enables use of this logo by commercial or other groups within the

community when identifying the park area itself¹. IDA will promote and highlight ongoing Park efforts to protect night skies and maintain a pages on its website identifying and describing all IDSPs. The Park managing agency may also identify IDA as a partner.

ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible for consideration as an IDSP, a candidate Park must meet all of the following criteria:

- 1) All protected public lands, whether managed by national, state, provincial, or local agencies, are eligible². These may include parks, refuges, forests, wilderness areas, monuments, protected rivers, or other categories of protected lands. Private lands whose owners consent to regular nighttime public access to designated areas of their property in perpetuity are also eligible. Collectively, all public or private lands contemplated in this section are hereafter referred to generically as “parks”.

The Park must provide the opportunity for public nighttime access, with or without supervision. A portion of designated land may meet this requirement, or access must be available for a fraction of the length of the night. In some cases, such as when working with areas that protect endangered wildlife, archeological sites, or other sensitive resources, this requirement may be adjusted. Public access to public or private lands may be subject to a nominal entry fee, but must not be contingent on the required paid use of any other product, service, program or facility available at the site.

- 2) There is no minimum or maximum land area for IDSPs. For larger parks with a minimum total size of 1,000 km², a smaller portion of the Park less than its full land area may be designated with special permission. A justification explaining why this subset of the larger Park was chosen must be approved in advance by the International Dark Sky Places Program Manager.

¹ e.g., an organization can refer to itself as “located in Cherry Springs State Park, an International Dark Sky Park” or other words to the same effect.

² Private inholdings and lands within parks similarly situated are formally exempt from regulation under the terms of this document, but applicants are encouraged to try to obtain voluntary compliance from private landowners.

- 3) The Park must provide an exceptional dark sky resource, relative to the lands and communities that surround it.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS FOR ALL PARKS

- 1) The Park must create a quality comprehensive Lighting Management Plan (LMP). Minimum standards are described below in the section titled “Lighting Management Plan Guidelines”.³
- 2) Typical nighttime conditions characterizing the site must be consistent with or exceed the following criteria:
 - A) The Milky Way is readily visible to the unaided eye;
 - B) There are no nearby artificial light sources yielding significant glare; and
 - C) Any light domes present are dim, restricted in extent, and close to the horizon.

These conditions correspond approximately to a visual-band zenith luminance of 21.2 magnitudes per square arcsecond (0.4 mcd/m²) and a naked-eye limiting magnitude (NELM) of +6.

In order to substantiate the sky quality, measurements of the night sky brightness at the zenith must be made with suitable instruments, or the NELM estimated by a qualified observer. Measurements of night sky brightness must be distributed over a sufficiently long enough period of time in order to average out fluctuations over timescales ranging from hours to seasons in length. Further, panoramic nighttime photography of the horizon must be included in order to substantiate the number and extent of light domes visible from the site.

Applicants should discuss their measurement protocol with the International Dark Sky Places Program Manager and submit all data necessary to substantiate these conditions.

Any designated IDSP that no longer meets these conditions but documents a visual-band zenith luminance from 20.0 to 21.19 magnitudes per square arcsecond or a naked-eye limiting magnitude (NELM) no higher than +5 will

³ Lighting required by law under the authority of any entity having higher legal jurisdiction over the Park may be formally exempted from the requirements of this section.

be included in a List of Endangered IDSP Sites published on the IDA website. IDA reserves the right to suspend or revoke the IDSP designation of a Park with night sky quality that falls below a visual-band zenith luminance of 20.0 magnitudes per square arcsecond or a naked-eye limiting magnitude (NELM) of +5.

- 3) The Park's commitment to dark skies and quality outdoor lighting are demonstrated by all of the following:
 - A) The Park recognizes dark skies as an important natural, cultural, and/or scientific resource value as demonstrated by inclusion in approved management documents⁴.
 - B) At least two-thirds (67%) of existing outdoor lighting fixtures within Park boundaries conform to the Park's LMP at the time of IDSP application (or an alternative fraction approved by the Dark Sky Places Committee).
 - C) A lighting inventory and a plan to bring 90% of outdoor lighting into compliance with the Park's LMP within five (5) years of receiving an IDA designation, as well as a written commitment to bring the Park into 100% compliance within ten (10) years of designation.
 - D) A measurement program must be maintained either by the Park, private landowner(s), or by another public or private organization (university, research center, IDA chapter, astronomy club, etc.) to follow the evolution of light pollution in the IDSP and assure that the night sky quality does not degrade. Applicants are encouraged, but not required, to submit their measurements to the citizen science projects such as My Sky At Night (myskyatnight.com) and Globe At Night (globeatnight.org).
- 4) A description of current and suspected future threats to dark skies over the park.
- 5) Evidence that the Park has set a leadership example in the restoration of dark skies by implementing at least one of the following:
 - A) Producing at least one "night sky friendly" lighting project that is publicly visible and interpreted.

⁴ Examples of such documents include General Management Plans, Resource Management Plans, and Facility Development Plans. Consult IDA staff as to whether a particular type of management document meets this requirement.

- B) Involving at least two external partners in dark sky restoration efforts⁵.
- C) Cooperation with at least two nearby municipalities that results in adoption of lighting policies that improve sky conditions in the Park.

A combination of the above or an alternative restoration project may be instead be suggested.

- 6) The Park's commitment to public education.
- 7) The importance of dark skies/natural darkness and the benefits of quality lighting must be part of Park interpretation/outreach programs⁶.
 - A) If the Park typically provides interpretive programs, then dark skies must be one of the central themes communicated through on-site interpretation, and at least a portion of the event must include dark sky awareness or preservation specifically including reference to IDA and what it means to be an International Dark Sky Park.
 - B) If interpretive programs are not typically offered, then extensive publications, flyers, press releases, media, social media, or other outreach are appropriate substitutes.
- 8) Dedicated programming must occur at least four times per year; however, more events are preferable. These events may highlight the value of natural nighttime darkness in any appropriate way⁷.
- 9) Once established, the Park must erect and maintain appropriate public signage indicating the International Dark Sky Park designation along a roadway entrance, along a footpath entrance if no roadway exists, or at a visitor contact center. If approved by IDA, language as an alternative to "International Dark Sky Park" may appear on the signage and in Park communications re-

⁵ Examples of potential external partners in restoration efforts include chambers of commerce, electric power utilities, universities, tribal/indigenous nations, environmental and conservation groups, and natural history associations.

⁶ 'Dark skies education' refers not only to astronomy education but also education about wildlife, energy efficiency, safety, and human health. Astronomy education events such as star parties ONLY count as 'dark skies education' if they prominently feature material about dark skies and outdoor lighting.

⁷ Examples include cultural or historic value, importance to wildlife, astronomical or stargazing events.

garding the IDSP status. Once the sign is erected, a photograph documenting this sign must be taken and sent to IDA for records along with a description of its location.

- 10) The Park will submit an annual report to IDA by 1 October of each year detailing activities and progress towards fulfilling IDA IDSP goals during the previous year. The reports serves to document that the Park continues to meet minimum program requirements; sustains partnerships, outreach, and interpretive efforts; and makes adequate progress toward LMP compliance thresholds. The report should include dates and brief descriptions of interpretive events, lighting retrofit projects, community outreach, etc. New measurements of the night sky brightness in the Park must be obtained and included in the report. It should also provide information on any new lands acquired since designation and/or the most recent prior report, as well as any potential future sale of land that may result in reassessment of IDSP status (see “Sale or Transfer of Land Ownership,” below). Samples of printed materials and press articles should also be included.

Electronic submission of these documents is required in Microsoft Word or PDF format. If the annual report is not sent in a timely fashion, IDA may suspend IDSP status until the annual reporting requirements have been met.

A designated IDSP is exempt from the annual reporting requirement in the calendar year in which the IDA designation was awarded. If the designation is received after 1 October of a given calendar year, the IDSP’s first annual report to IDA will be due on 1 October of the following calendar year.

IDA reserves the right to request stronger or alternative requirements if deemed appropriate and deny IDSP status if these requirements are not met. Any requests by IDA will be made through direct contact and communication with the Park.

An IDSP designation is subject to regular review by IDA and possible revocation if minimum requirements are not maintained. More details may be found in the “Reassessment of IDSP Designations” section.

LIGHTING MANAGEMENT PLAN

The Lighting Management Plan (LMP) is a written policy, approved by Park management, that must contain at least the following minimum provisions:

- 1) The written policy meets or exceeds applicable agency or departmental policies regarding outdoor lighting and conforms to all local, regional, and national laws.
- 2) The use of outdoor light at night is only prescribed when it is strictly needed, where it is needed, and in the appropriate amount for a specific task. The purpose of outdoor light allowed under the policy must be specifically to ensure public safety.
- 3) All outdoor lighting fixtures >500 initial lamp lumens⁸ must be fully shielded⁹ and make appropriate use of timers and motion sensors. Lighting of ≤500 initial lamp lumens may be left unshielded for special purposes, such as historical preservation. The approved special uses must be stated in the LMP. IDA will scrutinize these uses to ensure that Park lighting is a suitable example of quality lighting for the public and protects the nighttime environment to the maximum practical extent. IDA may request additional descriptions, photographs, or drawings of these lights. These lights are not exempt from the other lighting guidelines, and must still be designed in such a way to minimize impact to the nighttime environment.
- 4) Lighting controlled with motion-activated switches limiting the duration of illumination to less than five (5) minutes after activation is exempt from the other requirements of this section.
- 5) Lighting must be chosen to minimize the amount of short-wavelength light emitted into the nighttime environment. The Park's LMP must restrict lighting in this respect according to one of the following prescriptions:
 - A) The correlated color temperature (CCT) of lamps must not exceed 3000 Kelvins; **OR**
 - B) Allowed lighting must not emit more than 25% of its total spectral power at wavelengths < 550 nanometers; **OR**

⁸ "Initial lamp lumens" is defined as the number of lumens of light emitted by a lamp when new and not counting any depreciation of output due to the age of the lamp. This information can be found in manufacturer data sheets.

⁹ "Fully shielded" is defined as a light source screened and its light directed in such a way that none is emitted above the horizontal plane passing through its lowest light-emitting part.

- C) The scotopic-to-photopic (S/P) ratio of allowed lighting must not exceed 1.3.

These metrics may be found in manufacturer data sheets for lighting products.

- 6) Visitor activities with respect to the introduction of unnecessary artificial light at night into the park environment must be regulated. This must include reasonable limits on the lighting of camping equipment and recreational vehicles, as well as a general prohibition of inappropriate “light painting,” the use of searchlights, and similar activities. Note that this requirement is in no way intended to compromise visitor safety; lighting required in emergency situations may be exempted from compliance.
- 7) Illuminated signs¹⁰ must be regulated as follows:
- A) Operation is prohibited from one hour after local sunset to one hour before local sunrise (unless strictly required for wayfinding or identification of concessions in the Park during normal business hours); **AND**
 - B) Displays must be single-color on a black background; **AND**
 - C) Luminance after sunset must not exceed 100 nits (100 candelas per square meter); **AND**
 - D) The luminous/illuminated surface area of an individual sign must not exceed 200 square feet (18.6 square meters).
- 8) A policy governing the installation of temporary lighting requiring that any such installation will adhere to the LMP to the greatest possible extent and whose duration will be limited to the shortest possible time.

LIGHTING INVENTORY

A lighting inventory is a formal audit of all artificial outdoor lighting in a park. It is used to determine rates of compliance with the LMP and to identify lighting

¹⁰ “Illuminated sign” is defined as any informational or advertising display that is illuminated by either internal or external means. Descriptive terms are adjusted here accordingly according to the type of illumination.

equipment in need of rehabilitation through retrofitting or replacement. A complete inventory of outdoor lighting in the Park is a requirement for IDSP status, and it must be accompanied by a plan under which Park lighting will be brought into compliance with the LMP under the terms specified in “Minimum Requirements for All Parks” (above).

The following must be taken into consideration when collecting and reporting lighting inventory data:

- 1) When there are numerous outdoor lights it is acceptable to group lights by facility or area. Whether the fixtures are fully shielded, are special purpose fixtures under 500 initial lumens, and what the lighting application is must be noted for each fixture or group of fixtures.
- 2) Daytime photographs or manufacturer diagrams of each fixture type may accompany the inventory.
- 3) Inoperable fixtures, including those physically disconnected from power supplies, must be inventoried. Only those physically disconnected from power supplies may be counted as compliant for the purpose of determining the rate of LMP compliance.

The following is a sample table from portion of a lighting inventory:

Location	Fixture	Fully-Shielded?	Operable?	Special Purpose <500 lumens	Application	Conformity with LMP
Visitor Center	12 fixtures on 14' pole, 70 W HPS	YES	YES	NO	Parking lot, timer off at 10pm	YES
	2 door lights, 100 W MH	YES	NO	NO	Building egress	YES
	6 bollard (post) lights, 32 W CFL	NO	YES	NO	Walkway	NO – see plan

Restrooms	2 carriage style lights at doorways, 40 W incandescent	NO	YES	YES	Historic Preservation, egress	YES
	6 wall packs, 250 W MH	NO	YES	NO	Occasional night operations	NO – see plan
	8 Glarebusters, 11 W CFL	YES	YES	NO	Egress, security	YES

PROVISIONAL STATUS

In some cases, a Park interested in becoming an International Dark Sky Park may lack the resources to make a successful application. Provisional status recognizes the Park’s ongoing work to become an IDSP and is intended to be used as leverage to enable the necessary lighting upgrades or retrofits.

Provisional status expires after three (3) years. At any time before the end of its Provisional status, a Park may apply for full status. Material submitted for the removal of Provisional status may be an addendum to the initial application as long as the material includes a current assessment of night sky quality, goals, outreach, and programs listed in the original application.

A Park may apply for Provisional status if all of the following conditions are met:

- 1) A Lighting Management Plan has been approved by Park management;
- 2) Minimum sky quality criteria are satisfied;
- 3) An inventory of outdoor lighting in the park (owned by either the park or concessionaires); and
- 4) Appropriate outreach efforts have been undertaken.

To be considered for a Provisional status, the minimum quality night sky described under “Eligibility” must be met.

Applicants requesting Provisional status should send a nomination package to IDA that contains at least the following information:

- Documented intent to create and support a DSP
- Initial sky quality measurements
- A Lighting Management Plan
- An action plan describing how the aspiring Park will meet minimum requirements

IDSP APPLICATION PROCESS

NOMINATION

The nomination may be initiated by an IDA qualified nominator¹¹. Nominators are encouraged to correspond with IDA staff and the Park throughout this process. In addition, the application must include evidence, such as in the form of a letter of support, from the Park leadership, such as a superintendent or administrator, consenting to consideration for IDSP status.

STEPS FOR APPLICANT

- 1) Make initial contact IDA by phone or email to discuss the process and receive recommendations, followed by continued communications to update IDA staff on progress and receive continued assistance;
- 2) Designate a formal point of contact (POC) person, such as a project manager, and provide their telephone number, and email address to IDA staff. Before and after designation, any changes to this POC, or their information, must be transmitted to IDA immediately in order to ensure continuous communication at all times.
- 3) Obtain a letter of nomination from a qualified IDA member nominator, as well as a supporting letter from the Park leadership, such as a superin-

¹¹ An “IDA qualified nominator” is defined as an individual or organization holding an IDA membership in good standing at the time that the IDSP application is submitted. The Park managing agency itself may join IDA as an organizational member and self-nominate.

tendent or administrator. Solicit additional letters of support from community organizations, clubs, groups, universities, etc.

- 4) Upon completion, send the application to IDA staff for review of the document at least one month before the chosen submission deadline date. IDA staff will confirm that the application is complete and ready for submission or return it with suggestions for improvements.
- 5) Submit in plenty of time for IDA staff to review and prepare your application to make the bi-monthly deadline that you prefer, as found on the IDA website. Requests to rush applications will **NOT** be honored; planning ahead is essential if the Park wishes to meet a specific deadline.

TO BE INCLUDED IN IDSP APPLICATION PACKAGE

- 1) Map of the area to be designated, indicating the legal boundaries of the Park.
- 2) Letter of nomination from a qualified IDA member nominator.
- 3) Letter of support from appropriate Park administrator.
- 4) Park management documents supporting dark skies and/or the natural nighttime environment as a valued resource.
- 5) If it exists, agency/departmental/municipal policy on outdoor lighting and dark sky protection.
- 6) Documentation of sky quality, light pollution measures, satellite images, maps, photographs, or other evidence that demonstrates the noteworthiness of the Park's dark-sky resource. Measurements of night sky brightness must be obtained using IDA-approved night sky brightness measuring equipment. A sufficient number of sites within the Park must be measured to clearly establish the significance of the resource with emphasis on the areas of highest visitation. Data included in the application must contain an updated night sky brightness survey of the Park completed no more than two years before the application's submission along with any other relevant information.
- 7) Lighting Management Plan.
- 8) Documentation signed by the Park administrator showing a Lighting Invento-

ry of the Park and a plan to bring 90% of outdoor lighting into compliance with the LMP within five (5) years and 100% within ten (10) years of achieving IDSP designation.

- 9) Description of a dark-skies restoration project.
- 10) Description of interpretive programming or products related to dark skies and natural darkness, including examples of successful education efforts (photos, documentation of student projects, etc.)
- 11) A summary of future plans for activities in the Park after receiving IDSP status.
- 12) Proposed alternative wording for IDSP (e.g. “Dark Sky Wilderness,” “Dark Sky Refuge,” etc.), if desired, along with a justification for the request.
- 13) If the candidate IDSP is a privately held property, documentary evidence ensuring public access and transit outlined in the section “Eligibility”, item (3).

Examples of successful past applications are available on the IDA website.

IDA REVIEW PROCESS

Six (6) application submission deadlines occur in each calendar year, commencing in January and continuing every other month. Before the Park’s final application is submitted, it is highly recommended that the Park be in regular communication with the International Dark Sky Places Program Manager to perfect the application before the next application deadline.

IDA staff regularly forwards applications to the DSPC for review. Endorsement of applications by the DSPC is by a 2/3 supermajority vote; otherwise, the DSPC will return applications with reasons for denial of an endorsement and specific recommendations for improvement.

If endorsed, the applicants will be notified and the International Dark Sky Places Program Manager will present the application to the IDA Board of Directors (BOD). A ten (10)-calendar-day waiting period then commences during which the BOD has the right to deny IDSP status should it determine that any problems with the application exist.

If the BOD registers no objection within the ten-calendar-day waiting period, the IDSP designation is considered immediately awarded by IDA. The Park has the right to choose when the designation is made public, but it must organize the announcement to be made at the same time as the IDA public notice unless otherwise agreed by both parties. Along with the announcement notice, IDA will publish the Park's application on its website. By submitting the application, the Park agrees in advance that the application will be made publicly available.

If an application is denied final approval by the IDA BOD, a letter is will be sent to the applicant outlining elements of the application that need improvement and along with specific recommendations for ways to remedy any problems the BOD identifies. Applications may be resubmitted for future consideration after remediation is complete. Resubmitted applications will be considered without prejudice.

IDA realizes that certain circumstances surrounding an IDSP application may cause some potential authors of letters of support (or opposition) to feel uneasy about publicly declaring their opinions about the IDA designation. In the interest of providing the Dark Sky Places Committee with as full a picture of community sentiment about applications as possible, it is possible for some letters to be suppressed from online publication if it is felt that making the letters publicly available will subject their authors to retaliation or harassment. A prospective IDSP seeking this protection for letter writers must make a formal written request. The International Dark Sky Places Program Manager must approve suppression of publication of any part of an application. Note that suppression of online publication does not prevent either the DSPC or the BOD from reading all submitted letters.

POST-DESIGNATION REVIEW AND MAINTENANCE

The IDSP designation is not awarded in perpetuity. Rather, it is subject to regular review by IDA and possible revocation if the minimum program requirements are not maintained. More details may be found in the "Reassessment of IDSP designation" section below.

To ensure that Parks remain exemplary in their protection and restoration of the natural nighttime environment, IDA will periodically reevaluate each site in the International Dark Sky Places Program. This is done to confirm that the Park continues to meet the minimum requirements and is making adequate progress toward LMP compliance goals outlined in this document.

Each designated IDSP must submit to IDA a written report of its activities related to the maintenance of its designation on or before 1 October of each calendar year. The report is a short (typically less than ten-page) synopsis of the Park's activities and initiatives during the intervening year¹². The report should include dates and brief descriptions of any interpretive events, lighting retrofit projects, outreach efforts, etc. Samples of printed materials and press articles should also be included.

Annual reports should not be burdensome to produce, as they are intended as a compilation of information accumulated throughout the year. Annual reports and supporting documentation must be submitted electronically to the International Dark Sky Places Program Manager in either PDF or Microsoft Word format. If the annual report is not received by IDA in a timely fashion, IDA may suspend the site's IDSP status until the annual reporting requirement has been met (see the following section). On or about 1 August and 1 September of each year, the International Dark Sky Places Program Manager will remind local contacts at each IDSP of the pending 1 October annual report submission deadline.

A designated IDSP is exempt from the annual reporting requirement in the calendar year in which the IDA designation was awarded. If the designation is received after 1 October of a given calendar year, the IDSP's first annual report to IDA will be due on 1 October of the following calendar year.

REASSESSMENT OF IDSP DESIGNATIONS

An IDSP designation is intended to represent the beginning of an ongoing relationship between the Park and IDA to our mutual benefit. IDA will periodically review the nature of that relationship in the required annual reports (see "Minimum Requirements For All Parks", Item G). From time to time, IDA also receives comments from visitors to IDSPs that raise concerns about the veracity and timeliness of information provided to IDA by IDSPs. IDA may, at its discretion, investigate claims in which it is alleged that IDSPs are not adhering to commitments made to IDA and the public in their applications to the Program. This section details the IDA procedure for carrying out such investigations, and the rights of IDSPs in such matters.

¹² Examples of acceptable annual reports are available on the individual IDSP pages on the IDA website.

INVESTIGATION AND DUE PROCESS

An allegation of impropriety concerning any of the elements of participation in the Program outlined in this document is subject to IDA investigation and potential remedial action including temporary suspension and/or permanent revocation of the IDSP designation. IDA staff shall perform due diligence in gathering facts concerning such allegations it deems credible, and will prepare a report of its findings for consideration by the DSPC. The DSPC commits to weighing the evidence fairly and impartially, and to seek to resolve disputes whenever possible through dialog. A IDSP subject to an investigation shall be notified in a timely manner and solicited for evidence contrary to the specifics of the allegation at hand. The IDSP will be given an opportunity to correct any deficiencies with regard to the Program guidelines established by the IDA investigation within a reasonable time period to be prescribed by the DSPC.

Failure to achieve consensus through these means risks a DSPC recommendation for suspension or revocation of the IDSP designation. If made, such a recommendation will be forwarded to the BOD for formal ratification before coming into force. The BOD's decision on any disciplinary matters involving an IDSP shall be considered definitive and binding.

Any IDSP so investigated has the right to review the allegations against it and all factual information collected by IDA pertinent to the allegations.

REINSTATEMENT FOLLOWING SUSPENSION

If the DSPC recommends a suspension of an IDSP designation, and the BOD ratifies the suspension, the IDSP shall be immediately notified. The status of a suspended IDSP shall be changed to "Provisional" in all IDA communications until the designation is reinstated or revoked; however, the process of obtaining reinstatement of a designation is not the same as that outlined in the "Provisional Status" section of these guidelines.

To obtain reinstatement of a suspended designation, the IDSP must provide evidence to the DSPC 's satisfaction that the specific issues identified by the DSPC as grounds for the suspension have been corrected and that all Program guidelines are once again met. The DSPC will consider the evidence presented by the DSP and render a judgment to either

- Accept the reinstatement petition, **OR**
- Reject the petition and recommend revocation, **OR**
- Return the petition with further instructions and a defined deadline for a DSP response.

A suspension left unresolved after one (1) year from the date of the BOD's assent to the suspension automatically becomes a permanent revocation. Revocation entails removal of the IDSP from IDA's roll of approved Dark Sky Places, and from mention on the IDA website and in member and external communications. IDA reserves the right to take legal action against any former IDSP whose designation is duly revoked but continues to use the IDA name/logo in advertising, communications, and/or signage.

SALE OR TRANSFER OF LAND OWNERSHIP

IDA considers the rights and privileges outlined here in association with IDSP status to be simultaneously permanent and revocable. Furthermore, IDA requires that the responsibilities and obligations of the landowner at the time IDSP status is achieved are incumbent upon all future landowner(s) if a participating Park is sold or its title is otherwise transferred to any other public or private owner. A new owner or owners may unilaterally withdraw from participation in the program at any time by indicating these wishes in writing; otherwise, IDA will hold a new owner or owners accountable to the provisions of these guidelines in perpetuity.

Any failure of new ownership to abide by the conditions for continued participation in the program laid out in this document, whether indicated by withdrawal or abandonment of responsibilities, will cause IDA to take action as described above ('Investigation and Due Process') which may result in the permanent revocation of IDSP status.