



November 2022 VR Monthly Newsletter “Conservancy Corner”

Dark Sky Initiative

Did You Know...

Light Pollution: Scientific evidence suggests that artificial light at night has negative and deadly effects on many creatures including amphibians, birds, mammals, insects and plants. Light pollution radically alters nocturnal animals’ nighttime environment by turning night into day. Near cities, cloudy skies are now hundreds, or even thousands of times brighter than they were 200 years ago. We are only beginning to learn what a drastic effect this has had on nocturnal ecology.

Not only is light pollution harmful to ecology, the night skies remind us of our place in the Universe. It gives us identity, makes us feel a connection. The natural night sky is our common and universal heritage, yet it’s rapidly becoming unknown to the newest generations.

WHAT CAN YOU DO

- Use “Dark Sky” certified exterior lighting fixtures. Per HOA Guidelines: “Exterior lighting shall not exceed the color range of more than 3000 Kelvin, nor exceed the luminous flux of more than 1500 lumens. Any fixture more than 500 lumen should be fully shielded to direct light emission towards the ground.” [Find Dark Sky Friendly Lighting](#)
- High color temperature LEDs (5000 and above) have a lot of blue light in their spectrum. Blue light creates a lot of glare, impairs vision, brightens the sky more than any other color. People actually hate harsh blue lights.
- Light only what's needed, when needed and the amount that's needed
- Use motion sensors/timers/adaptive lighting rather than leaving lights on all night especially if you are not in residence. It’s easy to do with “smart plugs” like [Gosund](#).
- **Holiday lighting** at VR is allowed from November 15 through March 15. It must conform to the design guidelines above, be white in color, and only be attached to the structure’s roof eaves, and/or adjacent trees and shrubs in the front of the home. Holiday lighting that is otherwise attached to the structure or placed in the yard is strictly prohibited.” **PLEASE make sure your holiday lighting contractor is using the correct color range of white lights (these are “warm” in color, not “bright”), and please put your holiday lights on timers to go off at a reasonable hour...so we can see the stars!**
- Consider skipping putting up exterior holiday lights and enjoy the VR community holiday lights.

And please remind your Property Manager, contractors, or house cleaners to turn off all the lights when they leave your house.

For more information on the Dark Sky Initiative, visit [DarkSky.org](#)
[Click here](#) to view **Lost in Light**, a short film on how light pollution affects the view of the night skies.

[Click here](#) to view the documentary **Saving the Dark** which explores the need to preserve night skies and what we can do to combat light pollution.