

Since the dawn of time all life on earth has existed with a regular schedule of light and dark which was day and night. This balance gave life a schedule there was time to eat, time to rest, and a way to navigate. A great number of this life comes out at night to feed and breed without fear of harassment from the predators that hunt in the light but there were a few that became awe-inspiring nocturnal hunters relying on low light vision, a magnificent sense of hearing, or even echolocation. All this is being interrupted by light pollution.

Light pollution is the excess artificial light produced by any light source that is not natural. Light pollution limits or all together destroys the natural cycle of life by adding light where there should be none. This light pollution attracts some species making them easy prey or repels other species creating habitat loss, or just resulting in a trap which exhausts and kills them. Our artificial lights at night seriously constrain their lives, exposing them to predators and reducing the time they have to find food, shelter, or mates to reproduce. Humans also suffer from the effects of light pollution as it disrupts the natural circadian rhythms and sleep cycling of our bodies. This is especially prevalent in bigger cities, as people do not have control over their exposure to large sources of light, such as Times Square in New York City.

Light pollution is also detrimental to the viewing of celestial formations, as light pollution in many cities disrupts the ability to clearly view constellations. This harms our understanding of astronomy and limits the public's viewing of such events as meteor showers, planetary viewing, and star gazing. According to International Dark Sky Association, following an earthquake in Los Angeles in 1994 concerned residents contacted emergency services upon viewing the Milky Way for the first time. The large silvery veil in the sky alarmed many who had not viewed the celestial body before.

In response to these factors Stephen C. Foster State park is committing to doing our part to end light pollution. Through education and reducing our own light pollution footprint to a minimum we hope to make a positive impact on the environment, wildlife, ourselves, and guests that visit our park. The default policy of Stephen C. Foster State Park is to not use a light unless a specific safety concern dictates otherwise. The park will only use light when it is needed, where it is needed, and in the appropriate amount. Stephen C. Foster is currently 93% compliant with the Light Management plan and will replace all lights that are not motion sensor activated by December 2017, with motion sensor activated LED lights.

LMP-2 Acceptable Light sources

- LED light, LED light is directional and less disruptive
- Fully shielded light that only shines downward, directional

- Lights beneath overhang, directionally limited by structures
- Special purpose lights, necessary for security or safety
- Lights attached to the flag for illumination
- Lights that emit red or amber in color.
- Lights that are connected to a motion sensor and are off unless motion is detected.
- light this less than 3000k
- light that is less than 500 lumens

LMP-3 Facilities

At Stephen C. Foster there is a quiet time / curfew that restricts the movement of people throughout the park after 10:00 pm. Any travel after dark is discouraged as a result any unoccupied area after dark will not be illuminated.

All Outdoor lighting should be fully shielded and make appropriate use of timers and motion sensors regardless of lumens and kelvin of the light.

Day Use Areas: Day use areas will not have any illumination.

Office: The front office will use the minimal amount of light necessary for security with an approved light source. Any lights on the office will be LED and attached under the roof overhang to prevent the light from escaping into the sky.

Cottages: The cottages will only be illuminated with motion sensor equipped LED lights that are off when no movement is detected. The cottage area will have 3 LED street lights for safety and security purposes.

Campsites: The campsites including Campground Host sites will not have any illumination. Campers and Campground Host will be allowed a minimal amount of light to see the campsite for safety and security. Excessive lighting or overly bright lights on campsites are not allowed to preserve the quality of the night sky over Stephen C. Foster and limit the light pollution emitted

from the Campground. Fully shielded lights or red or amber lights are recommended. Strands of decorative lights are permitted as long as they are not excessively bright. Passive Interpretation in the form of signs and flyers will be used to educate campers on light pollution.

Comfort Stations: Comfort stations will use the minimal amount of light necessary from an approved light source. Lights around comfort stations will be on motion sensors with the visible interior of the Comfort Station lit with amber or red lights.

Staff Residents: Will only have a minimum amount of approved lights.

Parking Lots: Parking Lots will not have any illumination.

Roadways: Roadways will not have any illumination. The use of motor vehicle headlights are recommended.

Pathways: Pathways will not have any illumination. Campers can use flashlights or star/moon light.

Cul-De-Sac: the cul-de-sac is used as the astronomy area therefore there will be no illumination permitted.

Signage: No signs will be illuminated. Signs on the park are recommended to be retro-reflective.

Flag pole: The flag will be illuminated at all times during the night bright enough to see the stars and bars on the U.S. Flag and state seal on the flag of the great state of Georgia.

After Designation Responsibility