

International Dark Sky Place Annual Report: October 2021 - December 2022



Date

Wednesday, November 30, 2022

General Information

International Dark Sky Place Name

Town of Bon Accord

International Dark Sky Place Category

International Dark Sky Community

Designation Year

2015

Guidelines Version

2015

Your Name

Lila Quinn Community Services Manager

Email Address

csmanager@bonaccord.ca

Primary Contact

Lila Quinn Community Services Manager

Primary Contact Email Address

csmanager@bonaccord.ca

Primary Contact Phone Number

+780 (921) 3550

Secondary Contact

Jenny Larson Economic Development & Planning Officer

Secondary Contact Email Address

ecdev@bonaccord.ca

Secondary Contact Phone Number

+780 (921) 3550

Place Manager Name (if different from above)

Jodi Brown

Management Agency (if applicable)

Town of Bon Accord

What is the physical address of the Place?

5025, 50 Avenue
Bon Accord, Alberta, T0A 0K0
Canada

Is the site currently under Provisional Status?

No

Are you an IDA Delegate, Affiliate, or Chapter Representative?

No

Night Sky Quality Monitoring

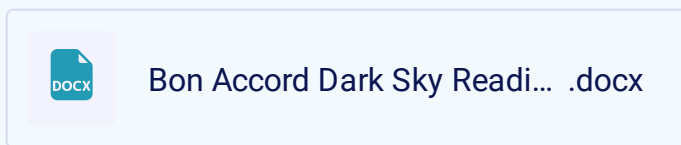
Total average or typical zenith night sky brightness reading reported in the original application:

19.18

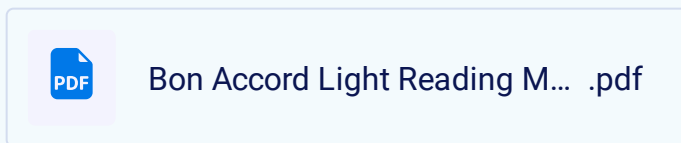
Total average or typical zenith night sky brightness reading for this reporting period:

18.22

Upload your night sky quality raw data documents for this reporting period:



Upload a map (PDF or image) that shows the locations and names of the places that were used to take SQM measurements:



Describe any changes detected in night sky quality from receiving your certification to the present:

Based on our zenith night sky brightness reported in our application our sky brightness has been reduced by approximately one percent.

Lighting Compliance

Parks, Sanctuaries, and Communities, please fill out the applicable row to describe your lighting compliance rate (%) with your Lighting Management Plan/Policy (whole numbers only):

	Year of Certification	Compliance % in Original Application	Current Compliance %	Anticipated % for Next Reporting Period
Communities	2015	74	95	97

What actions have you taken to meet the requirements of your Lighting Management Plan/Policy during this reporting period? Include a summary of any actions taken with privately owned lighting that helped improve your night sky quality as well:

We continue to use motion censored lights on our Public Works shop. The outside light fixtures on Town owned buildings are shielded and lights are pointing down. Street lights are LEDs as well as shielded.

The Town of Bon Accord uses light responsibly. We use the most effective and efficient artificial lighting to minimize energy waste, glare, light trespass and pollution by employing designs measures, legislation, and good lighting practices.

Have you used any fixtures from the IDA Fixture Seal of Approval (FSA) Program?

No

Describe any delays or interruptions, if any, that have impacted your ability to meet your lighting compliance requirements:

None we are aware of.

For International Dark Sky Communities and Reserves, have there been any changes to your local outdoor lighting ordinances? If yes, please describe and provide a link to the updated policy if available:

No.

Outreach, Education, and Media

Please fill out the following table to summarize all outreach efforts from the past reporting period (whole numbers only).

Total # of Events	# of Unique Efforts Offered	Total # of Attendees for All Events
0	1	167

Note - "unique efforts" offered represent different programs at your site. For example, all star/astronomy related events should be classified as one type of effort, "night hikes" as another type of effort, etc.

For each unique event type your Place hosted, provide all of the following information (up to 100 words per entry; 1000 total word limit): Event name; Date or range of dates of all events under that name; Number of attendees; Brief description of the event and the values that you promoted (i.e. wildlife/ecology, lighting, culture/heritage, IDSP status, ordinance/policy, astrotourism, energy security and conservation, human health, etc.).

We developed a public engagement plan to determine the level of resident interest in continuing to maintain the Dark Sky designation.

In doing so we created a public survey for residents to participate. These surveys were available both on-line as well as hard copies were available.

See attached results.

Did you promote the IDA and its mission during your outreach programs/events? If so, describe:

We have information on our website that refers to the IDA with a link to the website.

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

After reviewing the public engagement survey we realized the importance of maintaining our Dark Sky community status. We plan to promote this in the community through our website, monthly newsletter, and social media. We also are considering hosting an event in 2023.

Town Council is also in support of this.

From the unofficial minutes of December 6, 2022 Regular Meeting of Council: "COUNCILLOR MAY MOVED THAT Council direct administration to maintain the Dark Sky designation, and work on future events and better exposure of the title of Canada's First Dark Sky Community.

CARRIED RESOLUTION 22-508"

What have you noticed about your visitors' experiences? For example, is attendance/visitation of dark-sky programs consistent, growing, or dropping off? Have visitors provided any feedback on their experiences at your site?

Please describe:

Visitors to our community have commented they enjoy the dark sky in our community. We also get several inquiries on how to view the dark sky in our community. We have two telescope pads strategically placed for their viewing and convenience.

One comment on our survey was "I think it is positive. We had people visit from Florida who knew about it".

Provide up to five photos of events you hosted this year:



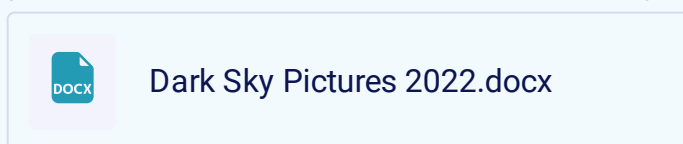
Provide social media handles or website links used to promote dark skies (these will be added to your Place's IDA page):

<https://www.bonaccord.ca/p/dark-sky-community>

Has your Place participated in any IDA-led initiatives such as International Dark Sky Week, the Under One Sky conference, or other relevant promotions during this reporting period?

No

To update our records, please provide a photo of your erected sign with your respective International Dark Sky Place label:



Briefly describe how educational materials are being dispersed/provided at your Place:

The Town of Bon Accord has created a colorful tri-fold brochure which outlines information about our dark sky community, light pollution, and ways the community can participate.

Briefly describe any efforts undertaken to reach new audiences. If this was not part of your efforts last year, describe what you plan to do to engage new visitors in the 2023 reporting period:

We plan to promote this in the community through our website, monthly

newsletter, and social media. We also are considering hosting an event in 2023.

Partnerships

Have you worked with any external partners to promote the dark-sky movement within and outside of your Place's boundaries? If so, identify these partners and explain the result of this collaboration:

Communities in Bloom do our monthly Dark Sky readings. They are paid an honorarium which they use for Town beautification.

Were you awarded any grants or funding for projects during this reporting period? If yes, please describe:

No.

Have you collaborated with an IDA Delegate or IDA Chapter on dark-sky issues since the last reporting period? If so, please describe:

No.

Are there any ongoing conservation and/or research programs at the site? If so, who runs them, and what are the goals?

Nothing Dark Sky related.

Briefly describe future plans (in 2023 and beyond) to engage with existing and new partners and how you will expand the dark-sky movement:

We will continue to work with Communities in Bloom for our Dark Sky readings. If we are able to host an event in 2023 we will seek new partnerships for the event which may include local schools and organizations.

Success in Light Pollution Control, Leadership, and Future Threats

For Dark Sky Communities, briefly describe any new or ongoing projects and/or renovation activities that have taken place during this reporting period:

Nothing at this time.

Have the "threats" identified in your application for certification:

Stayed the same

Provide a brief description of how you will continue to manage "threats" over the next year:

We have no threats at this time.

Change in Ownership, Place Size, or Access

Have there been any changes to the size, access and/or boundaries of your Place (this could be property acquisition, sale, road development/closure, easement access, etc.)? If so, please describe:

Not during this reporting period.

What is the total size of your Place (in square kilometers only)?

2.11

For Dark Sky Communities and Reserves, what is the current population size?

1479

Additional Information

What do you consider the greatest single benefit of the IDA certification to your location?

The Dark Sky Community designation is a great way to promote our Town and bring visitors to view our beautiful dark sky!

Did you have any dealings with IDA over the last 12 months regarding any certification issues? How were they handled by IDA?

No.