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# Mark Lawler Dark Sky Committee Chair, Keep...

Mark Lawler Dark Sky Committee Chair, Keep Sedona Beautiful, Inc.


Submission Date	Jan 25, 2024 2:53 PM
Date	Jan 25, 2024
International Dark Sky Place Name	Sedona, AZ
International Dark Sky Place Category	International Dark Sky Community
Designation Year	2014
Guidelines Version	2013
Your Name	Mark Lawler Dark Sky Committee Chair, Keep Sedona Beautiful, Inc.
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Management Agency (if applicable)	City of Sedona, AZ

What is the physical address of the Place? 102 Roadrunner Dr  
Sedona, AZ, 86336  
United States

Is the site currently under Provisional Status? No

Are you a DarkSky Delegate, Affiliate, or Chapter Representative? No

Total average or typical zenith night sky brightness reading for this reporting period: 20.92

Upload your night sky quality raw data documents for this reporting period:  Sedona DarkSky SkyQualityMeterReadi... .xlsx  
12.24 KB

Describe any changes detected in night sky quality from receiving your certification to the present: The original average sky quality SQM reading from the 2013 certification was 20.91. Therefore, sky quality has not changed significantly since certification. Sky quality showed a slight improvement in 2016 and 2020 (both 21.02) and 2021 (21.03), but dropped in 2022 to 20.89 and then improved in 2023 to 20.92.

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
Parks				
Sanctuaries				
Communities	2014	100	100	100

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: Compliance numbers shown are for City of Sedona municipally owned properties, not including the Sedona-Oak Creek School District. In its second small-business lighting retrofit project, Keep Sedona Beautiful helped Nick's Restaurant replace all its exterior floodlights, which were non-compliant with current City regulations, with narrowband amber LED units. KSB completed the city's application form, obtained approval from city planning staff, and paid for the fixtures from grant funds.

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: The City of Sedona's exterior lighting application process includes a CCT color requirement for new light fixtures but does not include any mention of narrow-band amber fixtures as desirable alternatives--despite specific language in the city's ordinance that encourages NBA lighting. City staff handling the initial application for Nick's Restaurant believed that NBA fixtures did not meet the application form's CCT requirement and rejected the application. (Because NBAs have such a narrow bandwidth, they cannot be referenced to the CCT scale.) This misunderstanding greatly slowed down the process to complete installation of NBA fixtures for Nick's Restaurant. The city's ordinance also imposes a lumens/acre limit on applications by businesses, which posed an additional challenge because of the small footprint that Nick's Restaurant occupies. This was solved in this case by

including an adjacent property owner willing to be included in the lighting application. However, this provision poses a long-term challenge to other businesses on small properties.

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:

In 2023, the Sedona City Council adopted this important revision to the city's Exterior Lighting code: "All lighting that does not conform to all provisions of this Code shall be brought into compliance by January 1, 2028. Until this time, no modification or replacement shall be made to a nonconforming fixture unless the fixture thereafter conforms to the provisions of this Code, except that identical lamp replacement is allowed."

<https://sedona.municipal.codes/SLDC/5.8>

Configurable list

Name of Event/Program	# of Times Offered	Estimated # of Attendees
Star Party at Red Rock State Park, Sept. 16, 2023, with Astronomers of Verde Valley	1	200

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

Keep Sedona cosponsored the event, paid for refreshments, and offered IDA brochures at the Keep Sedona Beautiful table.

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:

Attendance at dark-sky programs continues to be strong. A major star party event sponsored by the City of Sedona was dropped for two seasons due to the Covid pandemic and unfortunately has not returned.

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

<https://www.keepsedonabeautiful.org/our-dark-skies/>

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

No

Has your site erected signage identifying your site as an International Dark Sky Place?

Yes

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

Demonstration NBA lights: Keep Sedona Beautiful assembled typical commercial examples of NBA LED wall light fixtures that local small businesses can use to assess for lighting retrofits. They can plug into an extension cord for outdoor demonstrations.

Dark Sky Brochure: Keep Sedona Beautiful published new, completely updated version of its brochure to be made available to Sedona visitors, residents, and businesses. They are also routinely stocked at the Sedona Chamber of Commerce/Visitor Center and brought to local events.

Upload examples of new (not developed/provided by the IDA) printed educational materials that have been created this reporting period. These may include brochures, handouts, policy-related materials such as utility notices, and/or



KSB Trifold Brochure In.pdf  
7.62 MB

informative messages distributed through utility companies:



KSB Trifold Brochure Out.pdf  
7.7 MB

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 2024 reporting period:

Keep Sedona Beautiful hopes to have a return visit by Lowell Observatory Directory Jeffrey Hall, as part of our speaker series, which sees excellent attendance in Sedona and online.

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:

Worked with Big Park Council's Dark Sky Committee on illegal lighting installation at a bank ATM machine in the Village of Oak Creek Dark Sky Community. County enforcement staff subsequently had it shut it down.

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

City of Sedona: \$10,000 grant for lighting retrofits for local small businesses.  
Albertsons: \$2,500 grant for lighting retrofits for local small businesses.

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

Continue Keep Sedona Beautiful's lighting retrofit program with local small businesses and promote this effort in local media.  
Expand KSB and City of Sedona involvement with local star parties and other educational events.

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

Continue Keep Sedona Beautiful's lighting retrofit program with local small businesses.

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

Increased

If the "threats" identified in your application for certification have increased or decreased, please provide a brief explanation of how they have changed (i.e., increased/decreased visibility of light domes, new sources of glare/problematic lighting, new industry/development, etc.):

- Installation of lights along state highways by the Arizona Department of Transportation is outside of the jurisdiction of the City of Sedona or local counties. DOT's lights have increased light pollution in Sedona and the greater Verde Valley more than almost any other new light sources in the past decade.
- Development of new communities in unincorporated Yavapai County near Sedona (e.g., Rimrock, Montezuma, McGuireville) and Cottonwood could also pose a long-term threat to dark skies in Sedona and elsewhere in northern Arizona if lighting is not properly regulated.

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

- Assist local citizens who find lighting infractions in contacting permit enforcement staff at the City of Sedona.
- Along with other Dark Sky Communities, develop an approach to the Arizona Department of Transportation to regulate its lighting installations and bring them into compliance with local ordinances and best practices to the greatest extent possible.
- Yavapai County planning staff in 2023 started the process of updating the county's Light Pollution Control ordinance. Drafts look very good for encouraging low light levels and NBA fixtures, though final approval by county government has yet to happen. Keep Sedona Beautiful will try to ensure that the county council approves a strong measure that will help to minimize dark sky impacts as development continues throughout the county.

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

49.7

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

**9684**

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:

**none**

What do you consider the greatest single benefit of the Dark Sky Places certification to your location?

**Continued impetus to Sedona City government, Chamber of Commerce, and local businesses to put resources and emphasis into maintaining and improving our dark skies.**

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