

**Originating Committees:** Public and Private Lands and Environment and Ecology

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**Intended Recipients:** Missouri Park and Recreation Association, Missouri Municipal League

**Improve Lighting Infrastructure in Missouri Using “Dark-Sky” Principles**

**WHEREAS**, excess artificial light at night, or light pollution, consists of bright lights which, in addition to illuminating the activities located on the ground, directs light towards the sky due to inadequate shielding and control, frequently occurring in parking lots and athletic fields; and

**WHEREAS**, unnecessary light interferes with bird migration, including along the important Mississippi River Flyway, as well as nighttime pollination, bat feeding, amphibian breeding, astronomy, invertebrate activity, and night sky viewing; and

**WHEREAS**, unnecessary light has negative environmental effects including disruption and displacement of wildlife and disrupts ecosystems by revealing normally concealed prey to predators; and

**WHEREAS**, lighting exceeding the needs of time and space wastes both energy and money, and by using lights only when needed and making use of technologies such as motion sensors, dimmers, and timers to reduce unnecessary light, migratory wildlife, including pollinators, will be able to pass through cities more safely; and

**WHEREAS**, to encourage businesses and the public to turn off lights, especially during spring and fall bird migration, Lights Out Heartland, a multi-state collaboration with the Missouri Chapter of the International Dark-Sky Association, the National Audubon Society, and others, explains that 70% of terrestrial birds are migratory and 80% of those birds migrate at night; and

**WHEREAS**, the International Dark-Sky Association promotes the reduction of unnecessary light and has the following five principles of responsible outdoor lighting: “All light should have a clear purpose, light should be directed only to where needed, light should be no brighter than necessary, light should be used only when it is useful, and use warmer color lights where possible [limit blue light]”; and

**WHEREAS**, the Missouri Park and Recreation Association consists of individuals and agencies employed or working on the municipal, county, or state level to ensure the growth and improve the quality and accessibility of urban and rural parks, open spaces, recreational lands, facilities, and programs for all Missourians by promoting research and information dissemination on park, conservation, recreation, and leisure issues; and

**WHEREAS**, the Missouri Municipal League supports a triple bottom line approach to municipal and state policy and planning efforts, balancing economic factors, community needs, and environmental factors in decision making; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, that the Conservation Federation of Missouri assembled in Osage Beach, Missouri, this 12<sup>th</sup> day of March 2022, strongly encourages the Missouri Municipal League, and public and private park and recreational land managers, to follow the International Dark-Sky Association's five principles of responsible outdoor lighting, and to educate their members about minimizing unnecessary light use.

**Searchable Keywords:** light pollution, artificial light, dark sky, birds, migration, bats, night pollinators, astronomers, night sky viewing, parking lots, parks, athletic fields, lights out, disruption

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