

WHAT IS A DARK SKY PARK?

The International Dark-Sky Association awards this distinction to “land possessing an exceptional or distinguished quality of starry nights and a nocturnal environment that is specifically protected for its scientific, natural, educational, cultural heritage, and/or public enjoyment.”

Kickapoo Valley Reserve, Wildcat Mountain State Park, and Mississippi Valley Conservancy are cooperating to designate their 13,300 acres along the Kickapoo River in Vernon County as Wisconsin’s next International Dark Sky Park—one of only 200 on our planet. Benefits of creating the Kickapoo Valley Dark Sky Park include a healthier community and ecosystem, the financial benefits of tourism, the pride of being a world-leading community, and financial savings owing to reduced energy usage from smart lighting. But most important is preserving our heritage of starry skies for the enjoyment and awe of future generations.



INTERNATIONAL DARK-SKY ASSOCIATION

THINGS TO KNOW

| PROPERTY | PERMIT | HOURS |
|-----------------------------|--|--------------------------|
| WILDCAT MOUNTAIN STATE PARK | Required for vehicle/camping | 6am-11pm for non-campers |
| KICKAPOO VALLEY RESERVE | Required for trail use/parking/camping | Always open |
| TUNNELVILLE CLIFFS | None required. No camping | Always open |



LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The lands that comprise the KVDSPP fall within the ancestral homelands of First Nations people including the Hooçak Nation who fill the sky with their stories. We are grateful for their support.

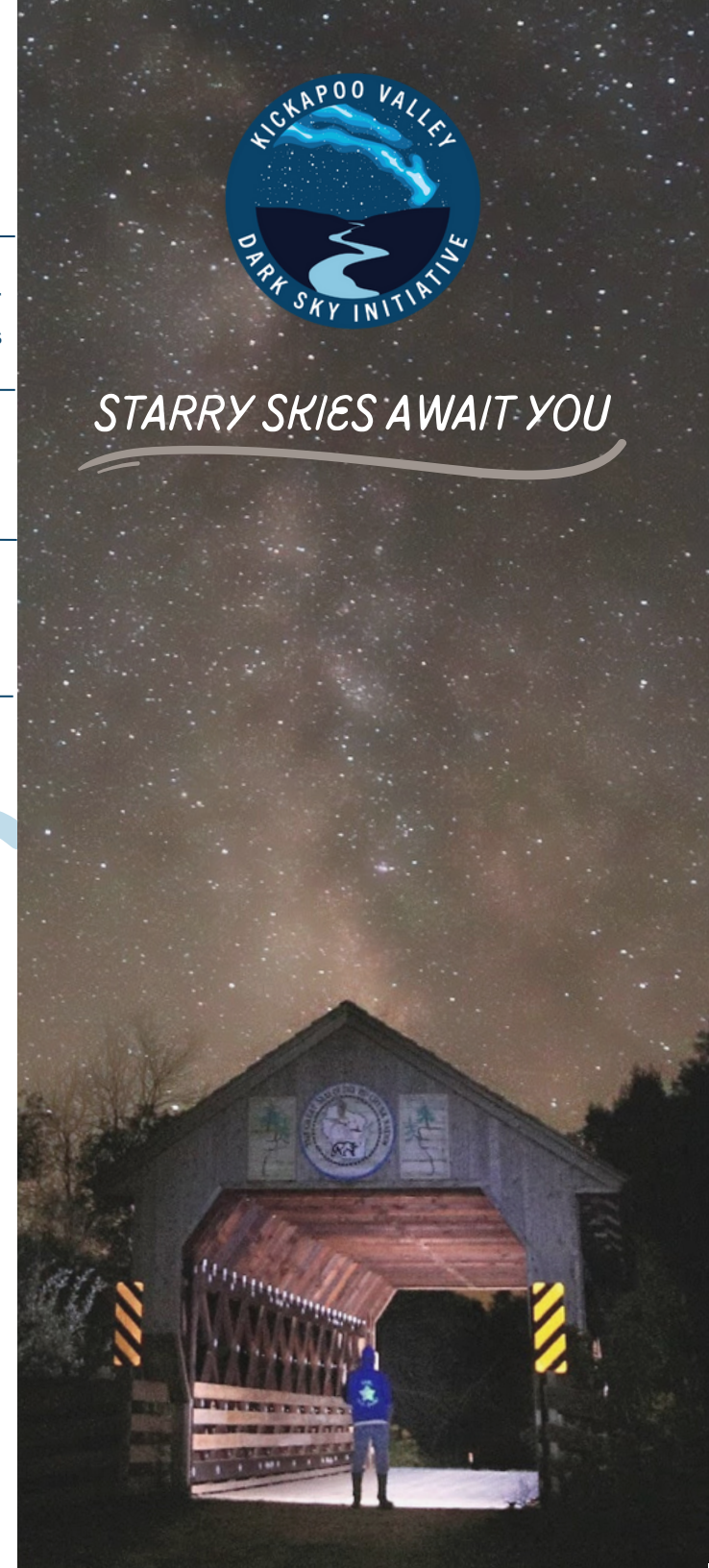


WILDCAT MOUNTAIN STATE PARK

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STARRY SKIES AWAIT YOU



WHY STARRY SKIES MATTER

HOME

The Kickapoo Valley Dark Sky Park shares starry skies with the present generations and conserves them for future generations. This is the place where we can still see and connect with our home in the Solar System, Milky Way, and Cosmos.

AWE

The sight of starry skies can take us out of the ordinary and fill us with a sense of vastness, gratitude, and generosity.

HOPE

Unlike many other environmental problems, such as climate change and groundwater contamination, there are simple steps we can all take to reduce light pollution for the benefit of wildlife and ecosystems.

KICKAPOO VALLEY DARK SKY PARK



SCAN ME

HOW TO BE A STARGAZER

★ Scan the QR code for detailed maps of great places to stargaze & night hike near you.

★ Keep it dark. Set aside your flashlight or cell phone. If you need a little light, red or amber is best.

★ There's a lot to see with just your eyes, but grab your binoculars or telescope to see even more.

★ Dress for the weather. Bring along some snacks, a warm beverage, blanket & chair to make the experience more comfortable.

★ Be safe. Hike on familiar trails. Bring a buddy or let someone know where you are headed.

★ Essentially, get outside. Look up. Be wowed. You're a stargazer!

