

## **RCRFA Policy - 100**

### **Dark Sky Park Protocol for Rappahannock County Park**

v1 adopted July 9, 2020

The Rappahannock County Park was granted a Silver Tier Dark Sky Park status on February 21, 2019 by the International Dark-Sky Association. Upon request, the Rappahannock County Recreational Facilities Authority (RCRFA) will make the Park available on Friday and Saturday nights only, without fee, for after dusk use by individuals and groups to make astronomical observations, take night photographs, and hold dark sky events. This policy documents the request protocol and the associated Park rules.

#### **DESIGNATED AREAS FOR AFTER DUSK USE**

Areas of the Park designated for after dusk use include the gravel parking lot, the pavilion and restrooms, the asphalt pad where the shuffleboard and cornhole facilities are located, and the open field east of the tennis courts. All other areas of the park are excluded from after dusk use including the tennis courts, basketball court, skateboard park, and walking trails in the forested area.

#### **PARK RULES FOR AFTER DUSK USE**

1. Only astronomical observations, night photography, and dark sky events are permitted.
2. Usage requests for specific dates and times must be made before 4:00 pm on the date of use.
3. The individual/group using the Park is solely responsible for injury or damage to property or persons using the facility. The RCRFA, the County of Rappahannock, its agents or employees accept no responsibility for injury or damage resulting from permitted or unpermitted use.
4. The individual/group using the Park agrees to pay for damages caused by their use.
5. Only organizations who have signed a Memorandum of Agreement with the RCRFA may request exclusive after dusk use. Others will share the facilities.
6. Trash and debris must be removed from the Park on the date of use.
7. Alcohol, fireworks, and loose pets are prohibited.
8. Electric generators are prohibited.
9. Amplified sound is not permitted without prior consent by the RCRFA.
10. Use of car headlights shall be minimized and directed away from adjacent private residences.

To make your request, please contact:

- Mr. Torney Van Acker, RCRFA Board Vice-Chair
- Phone: 703-250-7943 (9:00 am - 10:00 pm)
- E-mail: [torney630@gmail.com](mailto:torney630@gmail.com)

Torney will notify appropriate authorities advising them when the Park will be in use after dusk. All requesters will be sent an authorization e-mail with a copy of this Policy. The requester should present it upon demand. The appropriate authorities will be copied on the authorization e-mail.

In your request, please provide:

- Name of individual or group
- Telephone number (cell preferred, noting that only Sprint and T-Mobile have service at the Park)
- E-mail and physical addresses
- Date and planned hours of Park use
- Expected number of Park users
- Vehicle license number(s) and state