

Cypress Hills Dark Sky Preserve Mission Statement

The Regina & Saskatoon Centres of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada (RASC), in conjunction with the Cypress Hills Inter-provincial Park (CHIPP) & with the support of SaskPower, intend to create Saskatchewan's first provincial Dark Sky Preserve within the Centre Block of CHIPP. To move forward with this task, the Saskatchewan Light Pollution Abatement Committee has been formed.

Saskatchewan has previously been declared as the "Land of Living Skies". Poor lighting practices scatter "Light Pollution" (wasted light) into the sky, reducing the ability of current generations to see the stars as our ancestors did, and raises energy consumption through waste.

The intent of the Dark Sky Preserve is to preserve the natural darkness of the prairie sky by controlling and reducing Light Pollution, by developing standard guidelines for future nature-friendly lighting methods, while not reducing nighttime safety nor visibility. Changes are intended to enhance Park character and are in no way intended to impede Park use. The hope is that the Preserve will be brought into being through provincial declaration or legislation. The Preserve may include a pilot retrofit program of existing lighting within the Park where necessary.

Creation of a Dark Sky Preserve will mirror similar initiatives with the CHIPP West Block in Alberta, and will pilot extension of the Dark Sky Preserve concept to other provincial parks & cities within Saskatchewan. This project is intended to enhance the excellent relationship between the RASC and the CHIPP, which has existed since 1996.