Please silence phones

KERR COUNTY FRIENDS OF THE NIGHT SKY

Dinner & Dark Skies

Protecting the night over the Texas Hill Country

Welcome — grab a slice and settle in

With gratitude to East End Pizza for hosting us tonight

Thursday, October 15, 2026 • East End Pizza • Kerrville, Texas

01

Why dark skies matter here

More to it than the stars — our heritage, our money, our health, our planet.

TONIGHT'S PLAN

What you'll walk away with

1	**See the problem**	How light pollution is encroaching on our skies — and what it costs us.
2	**Speak the language**	Sky glow, glare, and light trespass
3	**Know the fixes**	Five simple guidelines you can apply on your own property this week.
4	**Take action**	Fix your lights and join the effort.

Light is creeping across the map



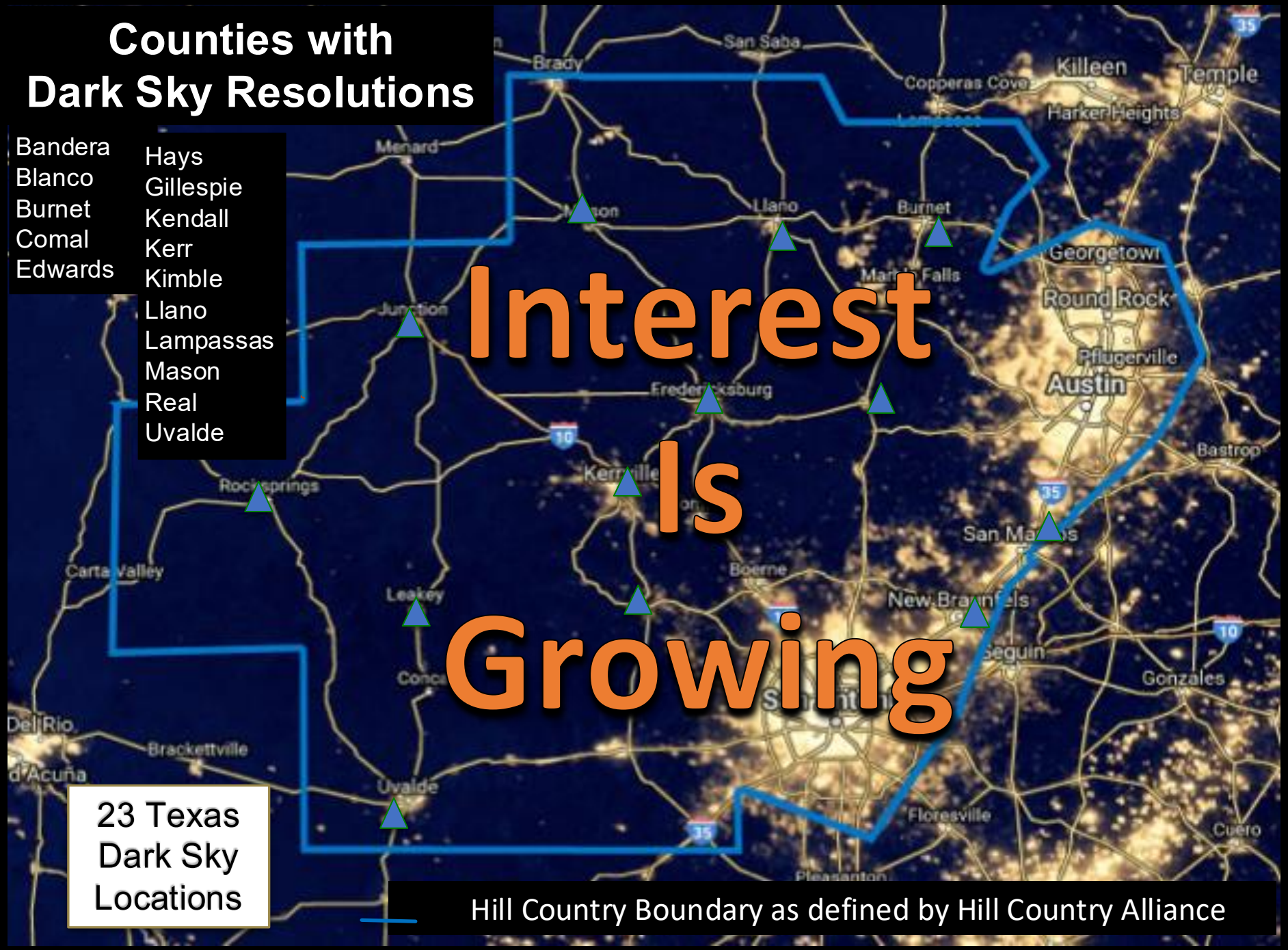
North America at night (NASA)



Kerrville light-pollution —Sky Glow

10% brighter every year — light pollution doubles roughly every decade.

3 in 4 people can no longer see the Milky Way.


Counties with
Dark Sky Resolutions
Bandera
Blanco
Burnet
Comal
Edwards
Hays
Gillespie
Kendall
Kerr
Kimble
Llano
Lampassas
Mason
Real
Uvalde
Interest
Is
Growing
23 Texas
Dark Sky
Locations
Hill Country Boundary as defined by Hill Country Alliance
Brady
San Saba
Killeen
Temple
Harker Heights
Copperas Cove
Menard
Llano
Burnet
Georgetown
Round Rock
Pflugerville
Austin
Bastrop
Junction
Fredericksburg
Rocksprings
Carta Valley
Leakey
Boerne
New Braunfels
Gonzales
Del Rio
Brackettville
Uvalde
Floresville
Cuero

Dark skies are a Kerrville community value

Our rural, small-town character is intertwined with a night sky where the stars still shine — not the glow of a big city

1	**Fall 2019**	Lifelong resident Dr. Bill Rector founds KCFNS to protect Kerrville's night sky
2	**Dec. 13, 2022**	City Council passes Resolution No. 81-2022, committing to Dark Sky Certification
3	**Jan. 24, 2023**	Council adopts the revised Outdoor Lighting Ordinance

With community support for Dark Sky principles, we can keep our rural, dark skies even as we grow.

02

What light pollution does

Wildlife, plants, our health — and even our safety

LET'S DEFINE IT

ALAN: Artificial Light At Night

Human-made light that brightens the outdoor night.

Streetlights, floodlights, signs, parking lots, porch and barn lights.

Most of it is well-intentioned — and more than we actually need

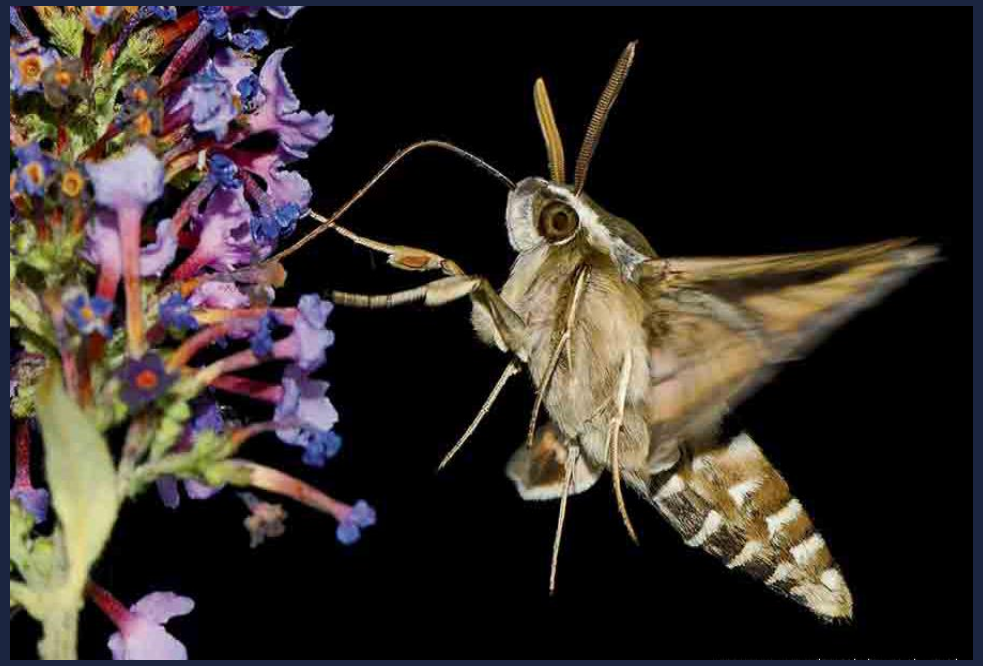


Apartment in Kerrville — bright, blue-white, and spilling in every direction.

Nobody intends to create light pollution — simple choices make a real difference.

IMPACT — WILDLIFE

Birds & insects lose their way



Migrating birds navigate by stars and the moon. Sky glow traps birds — hundreds of millions die each year.

Insects & pollinators use natural light to feed and mate. Fireflies, beetles, and night pollinators need dark to function.

Lights Out Texas: turning off non-essential light 11pm–6am during migration saves birds (birdcast.org).

IMPACT — PLANTS & TREES

This is WINTER—This Tree Should NOT Have Leaves

ALAN disrupts the natural rhythm plants rely on for photosynthesis and rest.

- Trees near lights hold their leaves too long and are caught by the first hard freeze.
- Stressed plants do not support wildlife that depends on them.



Artificial light scrambles plants' sense of the seasons.

IMPACT — YOUR HEALTH

Your body runs on darkness



Melatonin

ALAN at night — especially blue light — suppresses the hormone that regulates sleep and our internal clock.



Circadian rhythm

Disrupted sleep cycles linked to fatigue and long-term health effects. Our biology needs dark nights.



Glare & your eyes

Harsh light makes pupils constrict— you actually see less, and recover slowly

Warmer, dimmer, shielded light at night is easier on your eyes — and your sleep.

IMPACT — SAFETY

BRIGHTER ISN'T SAFER



Glare Kills Visibility



Good Visibility
= Safety & Security

Light makes it more difficult for our eyes to adjust to low-light conditions

03

The three aspects of light pollution

Name what you see: sky glow, glare, trespass.

Sky Glow

Lights-- shining toward the sky- scattering off dust and moisture in the air.



These two photos were taken minutes apart.

Facing south toward Kerrville: a bright glow.
Turning north, away from town: a dark, star-filled sky.

Glare



Harsh, excessive brightness from a **light** source shining directly into your eyes — uncomfortable and visually disabling.

If you can see the bare bulb, it's glare.
A shielded fixture aims light down where it's needed — and keeps the glare out of your eyes.

Light Trespass

Plain English: light that spills where it isn't wanted or needed

- a floodlight pouring onto your neighbor’s property,
- Uplighting the sky



04

Simple solutions

The same. simple fixes solve glow, glare, and trespass.

5 Simple Steps to Reverse the Damage

Useful	1. All light should have a clear purpose
Targeted	2. Light should be directed only where needed
Low Lumens	3. Light should only be as bright as necessary
Controlled	4. Light should only be used when needed *Install motion sensors or timers*
Color	5. Use warmer colors (*3,000 kelvin or lower*) and stay away from blue light

SHIELDING & DIRECTION

Aim it down — shielding does the heavy lifting



Goal: no light up, no light sideways — down-light only

The bulb should not be visible from the side

COLOR & BRIGHTNESS

Make it warm, make it dim



Kelvin = color

Choose 2700K or lower. Blue light harms people, plants, and wildlife most.

Lumens = brightness

Use as few as do the job. An LED at 800 lumens equals an old 60W bulb Read lumens, not watts.

SPOT THE ISSUES — BUILDING 1 OF 3

The Bank—after 11 p.m.



WHAT'S THE ISSUE?

Check the light sources. There are at least THREE issues.

SPOT THE ISSUES — BUILDING 2 OF 3

Kerr County Courthouse



WHAT'S THE ISSUE?

SPOT THE ISSUES — BUILDING 3 OF 3

Water Plant



WHAT'S THE ISSUE?

Serious lighting on a rural-style property — and you can see Kerrville's glow behind it.

Call to action

Tonight, at your table:

1. Sign up for the KCFNS mailing list
2. Become a member — just $20 a year
3. Complete your Action Card with one property goal
4. Take the resource list home

Be part of protecting our night sky

Then, at home:

- Walk your property — spot glow, glare, and trespass
- Fix one light: shield it, dim it, warm it (≤3000K), or add a sensor
- Look up your address on lightpollutionmap.info
- Do the darkskytexas.org Home Assessment; apply for a “Be A Star” award
- Be an Advocate for Dark Sky-lighting in your neighborhood.

Every day needs a night.

Every tree needs to sleep.

Thank you for joining us!

And Thanks to East End Pizza for graciously hosting us tonight

Hill Country Lighting • DarkSky International • DarkSky Texas • Hill Country Alliance

Kerr County Friends of the Night Sky — kerrnightsky.org