

OUTDOOR
LIGHTS ARE A

BIG
DEAL

IN ALPINE PARK

STARS AND CRITTERS COME OUT AT NIGHT



UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY
FACULTY OF SCIENCE
Rothney Astrophysical Observatory

Dark Skies in Alpine Park

Night skies are important for human health, flora and fauna, and research



The Rothney Astrophysical Observatory (RAO), operated by the Faculty of Science at the University of Calgary (UC), is celebrating its 50th anniversary in 2022.

Located just beyond the reach of Calgary's lights, the RAO is a valuable facility for teaching and learning and engaging the next generation of scientists, astronomers, and the community at large.



Guided by the UC's ii'taa'po'to'p strategy, the RAO facilitates the convergence of Indigenous and non-Indigenous ways of knowing into the study of astronomy, providing access and enjoyment of starry filled skies for all.



In partnership with the IndigeSTEAM Society and the Migration Arts Society, the Cybermentor Program hosts the online podcast, "Our Home in the Sky" - a convergence of responsibility, sustainability and reciprocity in our journey together.

The RAO is located in Foothills County and is right next door to the Ann and Sandy Cross Nocturnal Preserve - just 15 minutes southwest of Alpine Park. We hope to see you there!

Hey Neighbours!

Find out more about upcoming programs at the Rothney Astrophysical Observatory by visiting ucalgary.ca/rao



Scan this QR code to visit the RAO's dark sky resource page

Here you will find valuable links to websites with the answers to all your dark-sky related lighting questions, and tons of pertinent information.

THIS DOCUMENT HAS BEEN REVIEWED AND IS ENDORSED BY



City of Calgary?
Dream?
Qualico?

Dark & Quiet Skies

Greetings from your neighbours

Alpine Park is one of Calgary's newest neighbourhoods, located just south of the Tsuut'ina lands and west of the Ring Road. What makes Alpine Park different is its location, nestled in a special geographic area of Calgary...

From the start, the community was developed with a vision. The City of Calgary, in partnership with the University of Calgary, Foothills County, and the Ann and Sandy Cross Nocturnal Preserve, developed guiding principles to design a dark sky-friendly community, the first of many such communities coming in Calgary.

To realize this vision, development partners, Dream and Qualico work with the City and University to implement lighting standards to minimize the effects of the light pollution which negatively impacts your neighboring nocturnal wildlife preserve and space research facility.

Research shows the health benefits of a dark environment at night for humans by maintaining circadian rhythms, and for wildlife also by reconnecting to the natural cycle of lighting for a healthier nocturnal environment.

A star filled sky at night is an awe inspiring wonder to behold for anyone. In Alpine Park this enchanting sight can be viewed from your back yard - unless light pollution erases the magic. Working together we can preserve the wilderness of the nighttime sky.

Phil Langill
Dr. Phil Langill, Director,
Rothney Astrophysical Observatory,
University of Calgary

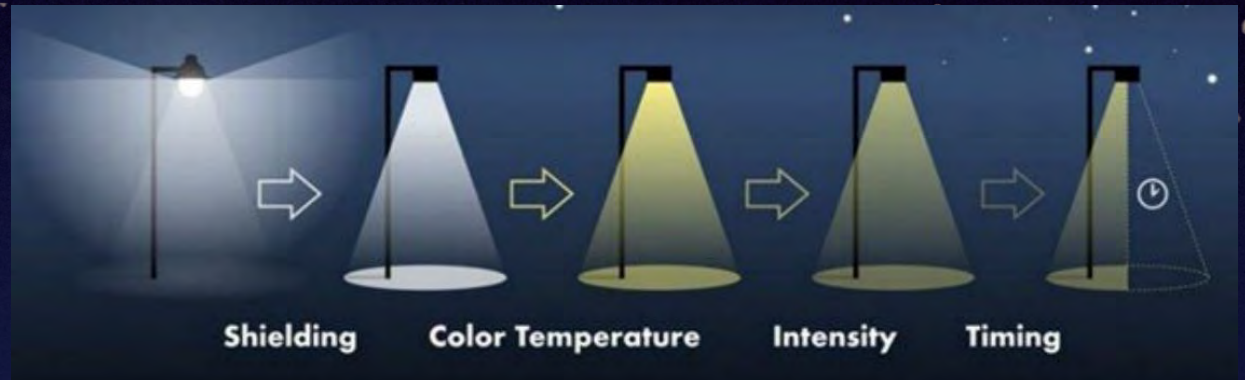
Outdoor light at night is important for wayfinding and safety, but it can be done smartly.

Your smart choices for outdoor lighting will help the University prolong its valuable research, and its important work in community engagement and sky-watching activities, for years to come.

Your smart choices for outdoor lighting will also keep Alpine Park dark at night, so residents can see and enjoy the wonders above.

Dark Sky Friendly Lights

The University of Calgary would like to share global best practices to help you make the most informed choices for outdoor lighting



The above graphic by Remi Boucher illustrates progressive strategies that can be pursued, especially as technologies improve. The graphics below show the best examples of shielded lights, to point lighting, downward. Read more about Luminaire, Backlight, Uplight and Glare on our website on the back of this brochure.



How you can help reduce light pollution in your community:

Consider lighting that is ...

- only on when the user is there
- only illuminating the area that needs it
- no brighter than necessary
- controlled with timers & motion detectors
- as low as possible in blue light emissions by using the lowest possible colour temperature (warmer colour tones)
- fully shielded (pointing downward) to minimize glare and light trespass
- pointed downward

