



Eagle Harbor Township Proclamation for International Dark Sky Week

WHEREAS, the aesthetic beauty and wonder of a natural night sky is a shared heritage of all humankind; and

WHEREAS, the experience of standing beneath a starry night sky inspires feelings of wonder and awe, and encourages a growing interest in science and nature, especially among young people and out-of-area visitors within Eagle Harbor Township; and

WHEREAS, light pollution has scientifically established economic and environmental consequences, which result in significant impacts on the ecology and human health of all communities; and

WHEREAS, 80 percent of the world's population, including many people in Eagle Harbor Township, lives under a dome of light pollution—excessive artificial lighting at night that disrupts natural darkness—and may never experience the visual wonder, ecological and health benefits of under a dark sky; and

WHEREAS, light pollution represents a waste of natural resources amounting to roughly \$3 billion per year of wasted energy in the United States and contributes to diminished energy security; and

WHEREAS, Michigan was the first state in the Union to initiate Dark Sky Preserves and is now home to six Dark Sky Preserves and three International Dark Sky Parks including the Keweenaw Dark Sky Park located here in Eagle Harbor Township. These parks are designated areas that allow for thousands of astro-tourists to see the true beauty of the Michigan night sky, and to observe the wonder of meteorological events such as the Northern Lights; and

WHEREAS, Astrotourism helps bring unique economic opportunities into our Township; and

WHEREAS, Eagle Harbor Township is home to dozens of nocturnal wildlife species and others that are active during the night—including bats, flying squirrels, foxes, wolves, coyotes, owls, moths, etc.—and these species rely on undisturbed night environments to hunt, mate, and thrive; and

WHEREAS, The Eagle Harbor Township Board of Trustees aims to spread awareness about the dark sky and the negative impact light pollution may have on them and on the human population; now, therefore, be it Resolved by the Board, That the members of this Board recognize April 2-8, 2024, as International Dark Sky Week; and be it further Resolved, That we continue to support the success of dark sky parks and show continued devotion to preserving access to the night sky.

Now, Therefore, Eagle Harbor Township, State of Michigan, County of Keweenaw, does hereby declare April 2-8, 2024 as INTERNATIONAL DARK SKY WEEK.


Rich Probst, Jr, Supervisor Eagle Harbor Township

3/14/2024


Jeane Olson, Clerk – Eagle Harbor Township

• 321 Center Street Eagle Harbor, Michigan 49950-9722 • Phone: 906-289-4407 • Fax: 906-289-4462 •

• E-mail: office@eagleharbortwp.org • Web: www.eagleharbortwp.org •

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