

Updating Northfield's Dark Sky Policy

Recommendations to the Planning Commission

Current policy

City Code Ch. 34 (LDC), Article 3.3.4: Outdoor lighting standards

Covers:

- All new development requiring a permit (Ch. 16-3(4))
- Larger developments (Type 2 review) must submit lighting plan
- Existing lighting must be brought into compliance when fixture replaced
- College athletic facilities may exceed standards until midnight when there's a game

Provisions

- Light poles in parking lots should be placed in landscaped areas
- Maximum height specified
- Height limits may be exceeded if light is fully shielded
- Maximum illumination specified

What's missing:

- *No regulation of color temperature*
- *No requirement to use lighting controls to reduce night lighting*
- *No enforcement provisions beyond the initial permit requirement*

Provisions added:

- Regulate color temperature: (C)(4)(e)
- Require lighting controls in designated zones: (C)(4)(f)
- Enforcement: Add an audit system and public nuisance provision: (D)(1),(2)