

The Lakeland Dark Sky Celebration is held on the 3rd weekend of September each year. This annual event highlights the importance of Lakeland Provincial Park & Lakeland Provincial Recreation Area's Dark Sky Preserve designation and gives visitors the opportunity to stargaze together, learn about the night sky, and recognize the importance of preserving the dark.

This year for our 4th annual event, we welcome you to travel to a park near you or simply just look up in your own backyard, and try this Night Sky Scavenger Hunt Challenge and see how many of these night sky wonders you can spot!

Night Sky Scavenger Hunt

The mission can be best attempted the 3rd weekend of September 2020.

Planets

- ◇ Mars
- ◇ Jupiter
- ◇ Saturn
- ◇ Uranus

Constellations & Asterisms

- ◇ Ursa Major (big dipper)
- ◇ Ursa Minor (little dipper)
- ◇ Draco
- ◇ Lyra
- ◇ Aquila

Additional Night Sky Wonders

- ◇ Nocturnal Animals (see or hear)
- ◇ Meteor (Shooting Star)
- ◇ International Space Station Satellite, or other Satellites
- ◇ Aurora Borealis (Northern Lights)
- ◇ The Milky Way, or another Galaxy
- ◇ Earth's Moon - Can you see it? What phase is it in?

Stars

- ◇ Polaris
- ◇ Vega
- ◇ Capella
- ◇ Altair
- ◇ Deneb
- ◇ Mizar & Alcor
- ◇ Arcturus
- ◇ Albiréo

Lakeland Provincial Park & Lakeland Provincial Recreation Area received its Dark Sky Preserve designation

November 2016. The area preserves 145,865.58 acres (59,030.27 hectares) of space to minimize and reduce the amount of light pollution within the dark sky preserve. If you're interested in visiting the area for stargazing, check out Shaw Lake Day Use Area in Lakeland Provincial Park or Pinehurst Lake Day Use Area in Lakeland Provincial Recreation Area.

What is a Dark Sky Preserve?

- ◆ Dark Sky Preserves are designated areas located all over the world where artificial lighting is reduced to a minimum and the reduction of light pollution is promoted and encouraged.

What Dark Sky Preserves are within Alberta?

- ◆ Lakeland Provincial Park & Lakeland Provincial Recreation Area
- ◆ Cypress Hills Provincial Park
- ◆ Beaver Hills Dark Sky Preserve; encompasses Miquelon Lake Provincial Park, Cooking Lake - Blackfoot Provincial Recreation Area, and Elk Island National Park
- ◆ Jasper National Park
- ◆ Wood Buffalo National Park (world's largest dark sky preserve!)

What is light pollution?

- ◆ The inappropriate or excessive use of artificial light – known as light pollution – can have serious environmental consequences for humans, wildlife, and our climate. Find out more about the affects of light pollution and other interesting information about dark skies at darksky.org.

Looking for additional information or help for the scavenger hunt?

- ◆ Free apps like: [ISS Detector](#), [Sky Safari](#), [Star Chart](#), [Sky View Free](#), [NASA App](#), [Aurora Borealis Forecast & Alerts](#)
- ◆ Royal Astronomical Society of Canada: rasc.ca
- ◆ Canadian Space Agency: asc-csa.gc.ca