



NIGHT SKY PRESERVATION FUND



Application Window

Open October 1 - 31, 2025

512.894.2214 | info@hillcountryalliance.org | www.hillcountryalliance.org

ABOUT US

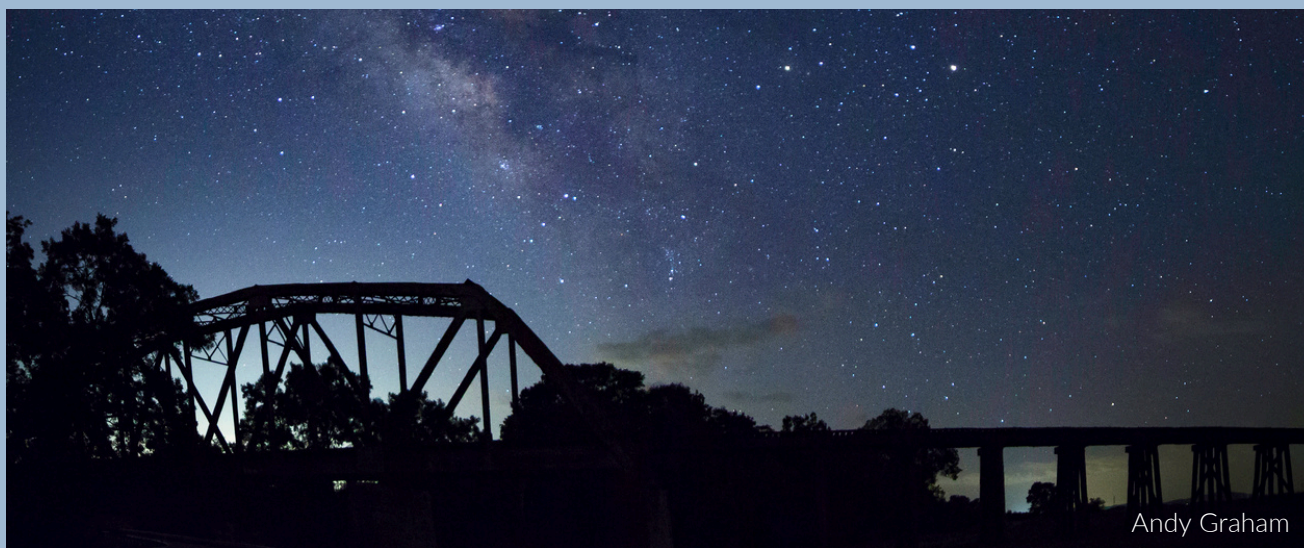
At the Hill Country Alliance, we are dedicated to ensuring current and future generations have the opportunity to experience, enjoy, and benefit from the remarkable beauty of the Hill Country we know and love. Our mission is to bring together a diverse coalition of partners to preserve the open spaces, starry night skies, clean and abundant waters, and the unique character of the Texas Hill Country.



We are stewards of the night sky.

The Hill Country sits on the edge of the night. To its east is a nighttime landscape dominated by artificial lighting that stretches to the East Coast. To its west lies a less inhabited landscape, famous for its starry skies. Stepping outside on a cool, clear Hill Country night to gaze at the stars helps us escape the fast pace of our daily lives, though few regulations currently stand in place to preserve this experience for future generations.

The Hill Country Alliance Night Skies program helps Hill Country counties and cities minimize the impacts of light pollution through education and outreach, the establishment of outdoor lighting policies, and the recognition and celebration of certified Dark Sky Places in our region. Join us in our effort to stop the spread of light pollution and keep our Texas night skies “big and bright”.



ABOUT THE FUND

The Hill Country Alliance Night Sky Preservation Fund provides financial reimbursement assistance to local grassroots organizations, groups, institutions, and communities engaged in efforts to improve outdoor lighting and decrease light pollution.

This is a reimbursement fund. Fund recipients will be reimbursed for hard costs, up to \$5,000, incurred over a 12-month period following the award date.

TARGET GOALS

Support locally led work for night skies by:

- Improving outdoor lighting
- Reducing light pollution and its effects
- Decreasing energy usage, cost, and greenhouse gas emissions
- Supporting the development and growth of International Dark Sky Places (IDSP)
- Expanding education and advocacy

Apply for up to \$5,000 in financial reimbursement assistance for your night sky preservation project.

Apply today!

Let us help you reach your goals of darker, star-filled skies.

**OPENS OCTOBER 1
CLOSES OCTOBER 31**



CRITERIA

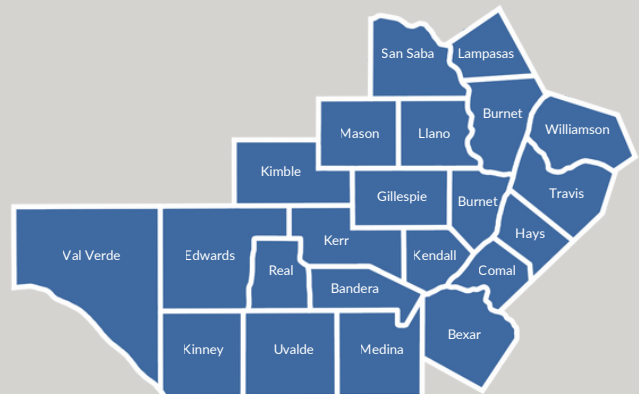
- Funds must support night sky preservation.
- Applicants using funds to cover IDSP application fees must provide active applicant status confirmation from DarkSky International.
- Funding for outdoor lighting retrofit or new installation fixtures must be accepted under [DarkSky's Approval Program](#).
- Applicants can use funds to purchase bulbs at or under 3000K for fixtures that are fully shielded.
- Applicants using funds to purchase shields for outdoor lighting must provide proof of fixture compatibility.
- Funds used to retrofit the lighting of a local business, Homeowner Association (HOA), or Property Owner Association (POA) must intend to apply for recognition through HCA's Night Sky Friendly Neighborhood Program.
- Use of funds for any other purposes will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

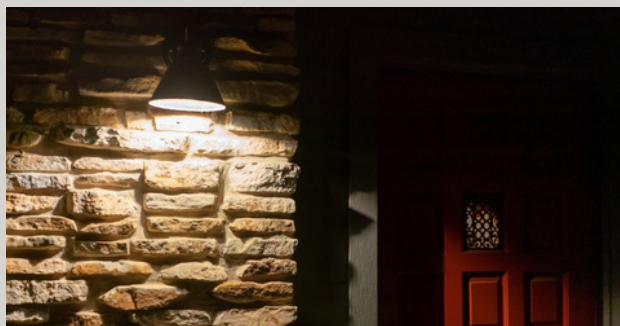
ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

- **Nonprofits** with 501(c)(3) status
- **Sole proprietorships**
- **Local governmental entities**
- **Small businesses**
 - Independently owned and operated

Applicant products or services must serve some or all of the counties listed below:

- | | | |
|-------------|------------|--------------|
| • Bandera | • Kendall | • Real |
| • Bexar | • Kerr | • San Saba |
| • Blanco | • Kimble | • Travis |
| • Burnet | • Kinney | • Uvalde |
| • Comal | • Lampasas | • Val Verde |
| • Edwards | • Llano | • Williamson |
| • Gillespie | • Mason | |
| • Hays | • Medina | |





Ralph Arvesen

SAMPLE PROJECTS ELIGIBLE FOR FUNDING

(In order of priority)

- International Dark Sky Place applications
- Local community lighting retrofits
- Local organization facility or property lighting retrofits
- Businesses, HOAs, or POAs pursuing recognition through HCA's Night Sky Friendly Business or Neighborhood Programs
- Education and outreach resources and materials

Star light, star bright - help grow our fund and support the night!

The Hill Country Alliance Night Sky Preservation Fund is dedicated to protecting our night skies from light pollution and ensuring the breathtaking celestial views that define our nighttime landscape remain vibrant and accessible for generations to come.

Donations made to the Night Sky Fund will help grow the number of Dark Sky Place designations across the region, enable the implementation of night sky best practices, support local advocates, and expand appreciation for our unique nocturnal environment.

Join us in preserving the wonder of the night sky and maintaining the Texas Hill Country's cherished starlit heritage.

Click here to donate: bit.ly/HCAfundthenight



2024 FUND RECIPIENTS

- Blanco County Friends of the Night Sky
- Comal County Friends of the Night Sky
- Gillespie County
- Jonestown Night Sky Advocacy
- Keep it Real Beautiful
- Northwest Hills Homeowner Association
- Real County Public Library
- Travis County Parks Foundation
- Vision Lampasas/Lampasas County Friends of the Night Sky



Milton Reimers Ranch County Park Observatory
10th Anniversary (March 2025)

“Travis County Parks Foundation will use the funding to establish educational public programs focusing on night sky preservation and contribute to regional data collection efforts through the installation of night sky quality monitoring stations throughout the Travis County Parks system.”

**- Amy Jackson | Night Sky Program Director
Travis County Parks Foundation**

*“Thanks to a grant from the HCA, the Lampasas County Friends of the Night Sky brings the community together for **Stars at Night**—a free, family-friendly celebration of the night sky. This event showcases the awe-inspiring beauty of the stars, educating residents on ways to help protect our dark skies for generations to come.”*

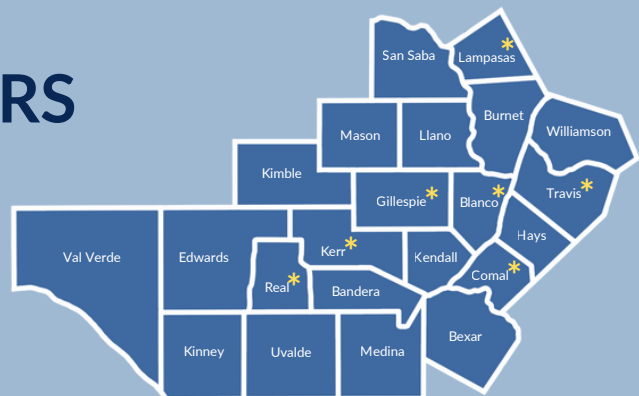
**- Martha Noell | Member & Volunteer
Lampasas County Friends of the Night Sky**



Lampasas County Friends of the Night Sky
Annual Stars at Night Event (March 2025)

2024 BY THE NUMBERS

- 20 | Applications Received
- 11 | Projects Funded
- 9 | Entities Awarded
- 7 | Counties Supported *





HOW TO APPLY

This fund provides financial support from the Texas Hill Country for the Texas Hill Country! Apply today to benefit from the fund, or reach out to us and learn how you or your organization can help grow the fund.

Click on the link below or scan the QR code to fill out and submit your application to the Hill Country Alliance Night Sky Preservation Fund.

<https://bit.ly/2025NightSkyFundApplication>

The funding committee will review and evaluate each application and reach out with any questions. Awardees of night sky funds will be notified in December.



Good luck!

NEED ASSISTANCE? HAVE QUESTIONS?

Email info@hillcountryalliance.org with the subject line Night Sky Fund.