

IN THE MIDST OF THE TEXAS HILL COUNTRY

Proclamation

Declaring October 2025 as Hill Country Night Sky Month in Woodcreek, Texas

- WHEREAS, the aesthetic beauty and wonder of star-filled skies are the heritage of all humankind and locally to the inhabitants of Woodcreek and the Wimberley Valley, and are therefore worthy of celebration; and
- WHEREAS, the experience of standing beneath a star-filled night sky inspires feelings of wonder and awe, and may encourage interest in science and nature, especially among young people; and
- WHEREAS, the opportunity to view star-filled skies attracts visitors to our region, providing economic benefit to the entire Wimberley Valley, while preserving the rich natural and cultural heritage of the area; and
- WHEREAS, this October marks the **6th Annual Hill Country Night Sky Month**, celebrated across the Texas Hill Country through partnerships with cities, counties, nonprofits, and educational groups, highlighting the collective efforts that protect our awe-inspiring night skies; and
- WHEREAS, throughout the month, dozens of partners will host **telescope-filled star parties, educational programs, and collaborative policy initiatives** to raise awareness about light pollution, inspire action, and honor the wonder of the night sky; and
- WHEREAS, light pollution—caused by glare, light trespass, sky glow, and over-lighting—wastes billions of dollars of energy each year, contributes to climate impacts, and robs communities of their historic view of the universe; and
- WHEREAS, darker skies are beneficial to birds in their migrations, helping them safely navigate across Texas and ensuring the health of ecosystems throughout our region; and
- WHEREAS, solving the problem of light pollution involves responsible outdoor lighting practices such as directing light where it is needed, reducing over-lighting, using timers, and installing night-sky-friendly fixtures; and
- WHEREAS, Hill Country communities, including Woodcreek, are increasingly dedicated to dark sky preservation, supported by organizations such as the Hill Country Alliance, Hays County Friends of the Night Sky, the Hays County Chapter of Texas Master Naturalists, and the Wimberley Valley Dark Sky Committee, and by the growing number of International Dark-Sky Places in our region, including the Wimberley Valley; and
- WHEREAS, the preservation of our night skies strengthens community identity, supports ecological health, and is worthy of a monthlong celebration.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED by the City of Woodcreek, Texas:

- 1. That October 2025 shall hereafter be known as "Hill Country Night Sky Month" in Woodcreek, Texas.
- 2. That the City Council encourages all citizens to enjoy the night sky and to participate in Wimberley Valley and Hill Country events and programs celebrating the night sky and promoting preservation efforts.
- 3. That the City Council further encourages citizens to learn about light pollution and implement night-sky-friendly practices to preserve this invaluable natural and cultural resource for future generations.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I, Jeff Rasco, Mayor, City of Woodcreek. have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Woodcreek to be affixed this 8th day of October, 2025.

Jeff Rasco, Mayor

Kari Lebkuecher, City Secretary, Witness