



Parks Lighting Policy

Policy (or Procedure) Number:	A09-LI Lighting Policy
Department:	Development Services
Section:	Parks Planning
Sub-Section:	
Subject:	Level of Lighting in Parkland
Council Motion:	08-G-367 PARKS LIGHTING POLICY
Staff Report:	ENG047-08 PARKS LIGHTING POLICY
Effective Date:	June 30, 2008
Document Date:	April 17, 2025
Revision Date:	

PURPOSE STATEMENT

The Lighting Policy will provide a system to rank and determine the level of community and neighbourhood park lighting needs to establish a standardized level of service for Barrie's greenspace lands.

The purpose in the policy is to assist in:

- Defining the quality of lighting required to address safety, security and functional requirements;
- Identifying lighting fixtures that meet the functional requirements of facilities;
- Identifying opportunities for the use of timing devices and motion detectors; and,
- Developing an implementation strategy for new lighting fixtures and the funding plan associated with the installation.

SCOPE

1. This policy applies to all City parks.
2. The City of Barrie does not encourage park use after dusk (except where lit amenities exist). Park lighting in some circumstances may encourage nighttime park use and give the public a false sense of security in isolated park areas or in areas screening by the vegetation. Environmentally protected lands, including but not limited to Lackie's Bush, Little Lake, Ardagh Bluffs, as well as any woodlots, open space and watercourses etc., are not considered.
3. The City of Barrie supports dark sky principles in their approach to lighting.

DEFINITIONS

Recreational Lighting: Recreational Lighting within a park is provided to illuminate recreation amenities to extend their hours of use for scheduled user groups, with consideration for impacts on adjacent land uses.



Transportation Lighting: Transportation lighting is provided for park users to create safe passage between park amenities and the illuminated municipal road system and associated sidewalks.

Morality Lighting: Morality lighting is used to illuminate a playground to deter inappropriate activities.

Public Park (Parks): All lands owned or operated by or belonging to the City or other public body such as school boards, Allandale Community Development Corporation or conservation authority which may be designated as Open Space or Environmental Protection Area and used by the public for active or passive recreational use including sporting activities and games, or as gathering places such as urban or village squares, or which may be left in their natural state for environmental reasons. Shall include but not be limited to Inland parks, waterfront parks, Dog off Leash Recreational Areas or other such areas as designated from time to time.

Dark Sky Principles: A set of guidelines aimed at reducing light pollution, preserving the natural night environment, and promoting energy efficiency and human and ecological well-being. They are especially important for communities near observatories, wildlife habitats, or areas aiming to maintain their view of the night sky. The core principles include using light only when needed, using the right amount of light and directing light downward, using warm coloured lights and being environmentally conscious of the impact of light wildlife corridors and habitat.

PROCEDURE

In order to ensure that requests for park lighting improvements are properly prioritized and are efficiently and effectively provided, all requests for park lighting will be subject to this policy.

- a) Recreation amenities located within Community Parks be considered for lighting to extend their hours of seasonal use, subject to public or user group demand.
- b) Lighting controls be implemented to conserve energy, and continue to limit use to no later than 11:00 p.m.
- c) Walkway and parking lot lighting be considered primarily in Community Parks to enhance the safety of users of lit recreation amenities.
- d) Lighting generally not be implemented in natural areas to discourage nighttime use and avoid creating a false sense of security.
- e) Morality lighting be implemented near existing City playgrounds on a request basis, subject to available budgets and other lighting priorities.
- f) Lighting be implemented for outdoor skating rinks in existing City parks on a request basis, subject to available budgets and other lighting priorities.
- g) All future outdoor lighting fixtures, used within City parks, adhere to the City's Dark Sky Policies. Existing non-compliant lighting fixtures shall be replaced with dark sky compliant fixtures at the end of their life expectancy, subject to budget approval.
- h) Low energy consumption lighting be preferred for all future walkway and morality lighting applications within parks.
- i) Staff shall review the existing park lighting inventory and controls in an ongoing effort to reduce energy consumption.



- j) Community Park lighting shall be designed to meet the Illuminating Engineering Society recommended minimum standards for safety and security.
- k) Lighting of sports fields, parking lots, walkways, courts, and playgrounds needs to be sensitively designed to minimize impact to adjacent residences. Mitigating measures should consider directing light away from neighbouring development toward the park and utilizing cut-off type fixtures.
- l) In certain circumstances lighting improvements may complement neighbourhood crime prevention efforts. Increased lighting in itself, however, will not solve crime problems. Lights should only be added where the neighbourhood is organized to make use of the added visibility from new lights to actively report inappropriate park activities.

REFERENCES AND RELATED DOCUMENTS

[City of Barrie Parks Use By-law](#)

[Illumination Study | Terms of Reference](#)

[draft-city-wide-community-and-sustainable-design-guidelines.pdf](#)



LOG OF CHANGES

(This document should include any and all changes to the procedure and be kept separately from the procedure itself for document management purposes).

DATE	SPECIFIC CHANGE	EDITOR'S NAME	REASON FOR CHANGE
April 17, 2025	Adaptation of the Lighting Policy into a Policy template, as per Staff Report ENG047/08 Appendix "A".	Wendy Loevenmark	Lighting policy had not been placed in a current policy template.