

Dark Skies Reg / Ordinance / Proclamation

Branford

6.7 OUTDOOR LIGHTING.

Purpose. These Regulations provide standards for the responsible use of exterior lighting within the community with regard to the effectiveness and energy efficiency of outdoor lighting and its impact on residents, wildlife and to the environment.

Applicability.

The standards herein shall apply to all new and renovated exterior lighting where a Site Plan or Special Exception application is required. The standards herein will also apply to exterior lighting on town municipal buildings, facilities and structures and public parks.

Exterior Lighting Use Standards.

These requirements apply to all exterior light fixtures mounted on: buildings, signs, structures, poles, bollards, and ground surfaces.

To Control Glare and Uplight. All exterior light fixtures that use a light source(s) rated at 900 lumens or higher must be 1) a full cutoff type, or 2) provide equivalent performance to full cutoff type through proper shielding, or mounting. Please refer to Appendix A for examples.

To Control Light Trespass. All exterior light fixtures shall be mounted, installed or aimed so that no direct light is visible from within the property boundaries of all surrounding properties.

To Control Over-Lighting. Refer to Appendix B for illuminance level requirements for site lighting, listed by site size, type and lighting zone.

To Limit Sky Glow and Interference with Nocturnal Life and Bird Migration. Decorative uplighting is prohibited. This prohibition includes exterior lighting used to uplight trees, flora, building facades, commercial icons, statues and monuments. Uplighting of small scale signs is permitted with limitations – see Sign Lighting.

To Promote Visibility and Boater Safety Along Waterways. All exterior light fixtures installed adjacent to town waterways shall be mounted, installed or aimed so that, to the greatest extent possible, no direct light is visible from the waterway.

To Promote Energy Conservation. All non-essential exterior lighting shall be required to be turned off after business hours, leaving only lighting deemed essential for building security. (“Non-essential” can apply to: display, aesthetic, parking and sign lighting)