

**"Dark Skies in Ohio"**  
**By Raphael Rosen**  
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Now there is one more place where people can view the night sky in all of its glory.

The International Dark-Sky Association (IDA) has added Ohio's Observatory Park to its list of International Dark Sky Parks, locations that, according to the IDA website, have "exceptional starry skies and natural nocturnal habitat where light pollution is mitigated and natural darkness is valuable as an important educational, cultural, scenic, and natural resource."

Observatory Park includes 1,023 acres in Geauga County, and offers 5 telescope pads where amateur astronomers can set up their equipment. During public programs, visitors will have their choice between using a 25.5" Newtonian and a 36" Cassegrain telescope, each in its own observatory. The park's lighting is astronomy-friendly: the fixtures are fully shielded and dim automatically when the Moon is full.

"This is what happens when the local park district and the local astronomy group cooperate," says Ian Cooper, president of the local Chagrin Valley Astronomical Society (CVAS). "And it hasn't cost the taxpayers a penny." The entire project, in fact, was funded by philanthropic donations.

For the full article, go to:

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