

CITY OF CHARLOTTESVILLE



Proclamation

Dark Sky Week in Charlottesville April 13-20, 2026

WHEREAS the beauty and wonder of a natural night sky is a shared heritage of all humankind, and the experience of standing beneath a starry sky inspires feelings of wonder and awe, and many people in Charlottesville live under a dome of light pollution—excessive artificial lighting that disrupts natural darkness—and may never experience the visual wonder or ecological and health benefits of living under a dark sky. The City of Charlottesville is now part of the Biophilic Cities Network and is committed to providing opportunities for community members to connect with the natural world; and

WHEREAS the City of Charlottesville is in close proximity to the Shenandoah National Park and is surrounded by natural landscapes that are home to many species which rely on undisturbed night environments to hunt, mate, and thrive; and

WHEREAS peak spring bird migration falls during Dark Sky Week and 80% of migrating birds fly at night and need starlight to navigate; and

WHEREAS reducing light pollution saves energy therefore helping the City of Charlottesville to meet its climate action goals; and

WHEREAS the City of Charlottesville is a neighbor to the McCormick and Fan Mountain Observatories, which are operated by the Astronomy Department of the University of Virginia, and the observations and research carried out at these observatories is hampered by the effects of light pollution; and

WHEREAS the International Dark Sky Association is the globally recognized authority on light pollution and has created International Dark Sky Week to raise awareness of light pollution, and provide free education, resources, and solutions to the public to encourage the protection of and enjoyment of dark skies and responsible outdoor lighting;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Charlottesville City Council hereby declares April 13-20, 2026, as DARK SKY WEEK in Charlottesville, Virginia, and we ask each resident to join us, not only in observing and pondering upon the importance of this week, but also in raising awareness and support to protect our precious dark sky resources.

Signed and sealed this 6th day of April 2026.

Juandiego Wade, Mayor

Kyna Thomas, Clerk