

## WHAT IS A DARK SKY PARK?

Land possessing an exceptional or distinguished quality of starry nights and a nocturnal environment that is specifically protected for its scientific, natural, educational, cultural heritage, and/or public enjoyment.

Because of Newport's geographic situation along the shores of Lake Michigan with an absence of artificial light, the nights are remarkably dark, providing an ideal spot for enjoying truly dark skies.

### OUR DARK SKY PARK GOALS

- Advocate for the protection of the night sky
- Educate the public and policymakers about night sky conservation
- Promote eco-friendly outdoor lighting
- Empower the public with the tools and resources to help bring back the night
- Provide a safe and welcoming environment, and quality programs to observe the night sky we protect

A Dark Sky Park is a very select designation given by the oldest recognized organization in the world dedicated to protecting and preserving our heritage of dark skies; the International Dark-Sky Association. At the time of designation in 2017, Newport was the first park in Wisconsin and only the 49th in the world to receive this honor.

## Things to Know

### PARK HOURS 6:00 AM to 11:00 PM

Closing hours are flexible for DARK SKY viewing as long as rules and etiquette are maintained.

**RESTROOMS:** Flush toilets at the main office building are open 24/7. Pit toilets located in Lot 3, no lights.

**CAMPING:** Backpack wilderness camping only in designated campsites. No camping or bonfires allowed on the beach or picnic area and no overnight stays in vehicles in any parking lots

**WATER:** At the park office

**ELECTRICITY:** Not readily available

### This is a Wisconsin State Park

*A vehicle admission sticker is required*

**Please follow State Park rules**

### Newport State Park

475 County Road NP  
Ellison Bay, WI 54210  
Phone: 920-854-2500

Brochure Underwritten by:

The Park's Official Friends' Group  
NEWPORT WILDERNESS SOCIETY  
[newportwildernesssociety.org](http://newportwildernesssociety.org)

Cover photograph by Denny Moutray



## YOUR DARK SKY PARK

WELCOME TO  
WISCONSIN'S FIRST  
INTERNATIONAL DARK SKY PARK

Newport State Park  
*Door County, Wisconsin*

## DARK SKY PARK ETIQUETTE

Whether you are a first-time visitor or a seasoned astronomer, there are a few guidelines to observe while visiting the park

### KEEP IT DARK

*Please Avoid White Light*  
Lights should be red and pointed downward

We encourage the use of red-filtered flashlights or headlamps. Red light does not disturb night vision or night photography conditions.

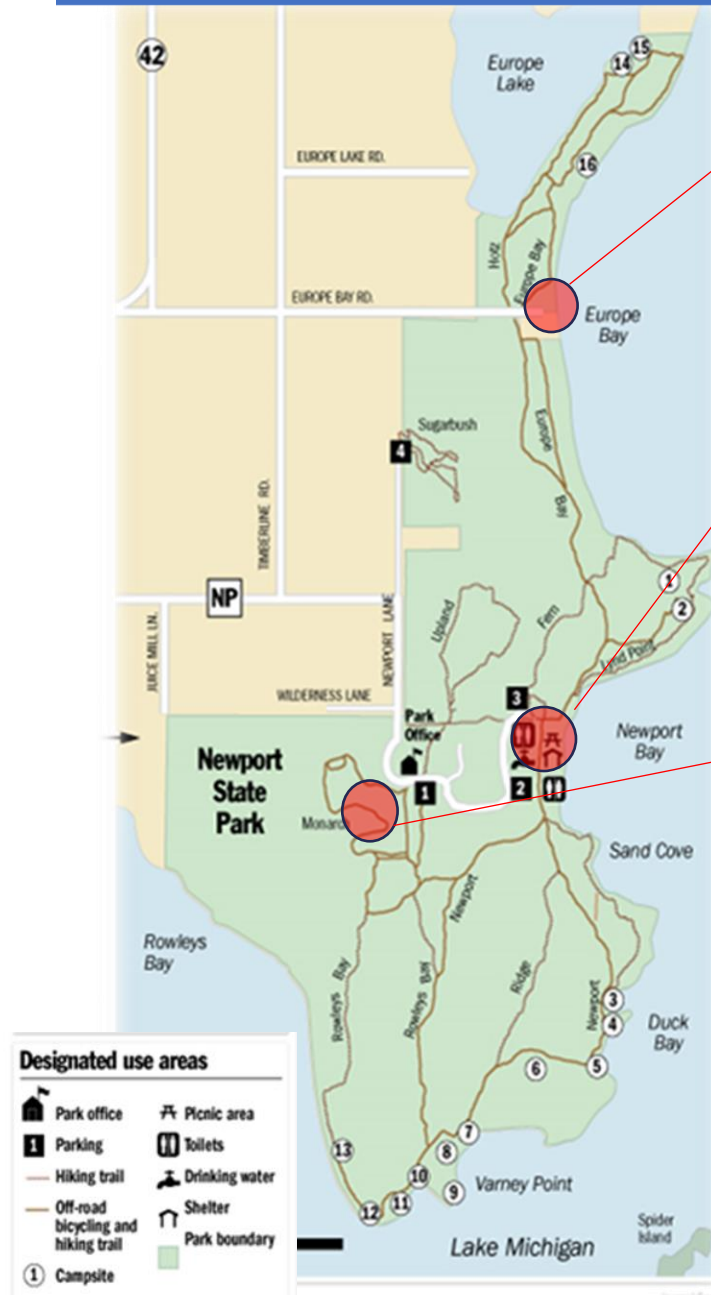
- All types of screens and lights, including mobile phones, should be shielded, red and dim. There are red screen filter apps just this purpose.
- Use red lens covers, cellophane (or a red balloon) to cover flashlights.
- No flash photography please
- Keep headlights on low beam when arriving and exiting parking areas
- Visit the park before dark to allow time to get acquainted with surroundings and set up equipment
- Smoking and aerosol sprays interfere with observing equipment

Be respectful of other visitors.  
Preserve the quality of their experience.

## WHERE TO VIEW THE DARK SKY

The entire park provides dark skies. The map illustrates locations with optimal viewing.

**WHAT TO BRING** *Chairs and blankets – Seating is not available in all viewing areas*



**AT THE END OF EUROPE BAY ROAD**  
Parking, a picnic area and pit toilets available.

### LOT 3

Marked blacktop paths lead to the beach and shelter building. Both areas are great places to set up equipment. There are pit toilets and viewing areas with telescope pads. The main viewing area, once off the path, is uneven grass and sand.

### LOT 1

At the park office. Walk west to the meadow along Monarch Trail.

**NEWPORT IS A WILDERNESS PARK WITH FEW PAVED ROADS OR LIGHT SOURCES.** There are minimal blacktop paths within the park, most of the viewing terrain is bare ground, sand, mowed grass or uneven meadow. Keep this in mind if you are bringing in any equipment to set up.