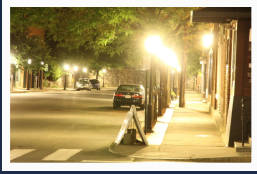


Safety: Over-lighting and glare from lights without proper shielding can make it difficult to see.

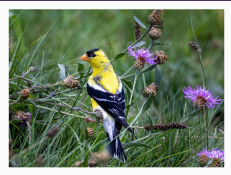


PUBLIC HEALTH

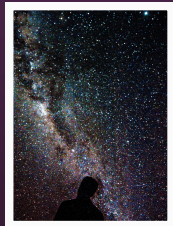
Health: Exposure to artificial light at night can disrupt our sleep cycles and immune system function, endangering health and increasing cancer risk.

The **Northampton Board of Health** recognizes light pollution as a public health issue and supports efforts to reduce its effects in our community

Wildlife: Light pollution affects animals' ability to navigate, pollinate, hunt, and reproduce. Birds may become disoriented by excessive lighting, leading to collisions.



Wonder: Lessening light pollution makes it so we can all enjoy the beauty and inspiration of the night sky.



It's easy to overlook the impact of light pollution when indoors. To address artificial light at night, Northampton and many other municipalities have adopted bylaws. This pamphlet explains Northampton's ordinance and how small adjustments can significantly improve outdoor lighting.



Scan QR code to access resources below:

Northampton City Lights
DarkSky International
Northampton Zoning Code Section
350-12.2

NORTHAMPTON OUTDOOR LIGHTING



A guide to the
Northampton, MA
outdoor lighting ordinance

Produced in consultation with
the City of Northampton
Office of Planning & Sustainability

What you can do:

- Ensure light fixtures **shield** the bulbs, preventing light from shining upwards or sideways.
- Use bulbs that are warmer in color (more amber) with a light appearance of **1800-2700K** and the lowest possible lumens (brightness). Maximums vary by zoning.
- **Turn outdoor lights off** when not actively being used. Use motion sensors, dimmers, and timers. Businesses must turn lights off 1 hour after closing.
- Change the direction of outdoor lights so they illuminate only within your property. **Light trespass, glare, and uplighting are prohibited.**

If streetlight glare affects your residence, contact Central Services at **(413) 587-1238** to request shielding. Requests are reviewed case by case.



Examples of light trespass, uplighting, and glare



Security: More light is not necessarily safer. Studies have shown lights do not deter criminal activity.

Glare can make it hard to see people or things in the shadows just outside the light.

Properly designed light that is warmer and directed down without glare allows our eyes to adjust to the dark.

Light fixture tips

