



# Town of Blue River Memorandum

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TO: Mayor Babich & Members of the Board of Trustees

FROM: Town Manager Michelle Eddy

DATE: July 12, 2023

SUBJECT: **Citizen Advisory Recommendations**

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## **Background**

In February 2023, the Citizen Advisory Committee was tasked with evaluating the community interest in pursuing a dark skies designation. A survey was conducted with 151 responses. The survey results are posted here on the Town website [Natural Night Sky | Town of Blue River \(colorado.gov\)](https://www.colorado.gov/natural-night-sky). Staff was asked to submit a “inquiry pre application” to gather more information on requirements for a dark skies designation. The Citizen Advisory Committee conducted an initial review of lighting in the neighborhoods along with the survey. Based on survey comments and evaluation of the current night sky ordinance the Committee recommendations are as follows.

## **Citizen Advisory Committee Recommendations:**

The Citizen Advisory Committee met on July 11, 2023 to review the data and information from the dark sky survey that was conducted. The Committee supports the concept of dark skies, however the Committee does not recommend pursuing a dark sky designation at this time. The Committee prefers a more educational approach and to provide incentives for voluntary compliance. The Committee does not support mandates and feel the bureaucracy, enforcement and administration is burdensome to the Town resources.

The Committee is asking to develop an incentive program for residents to apply for grants for the following:

- Bear Resistant Trash Cans
- Wildfire Defensible Space Programs
- Dark Sky Lighting.

There is currently a \$20,000 budget for an incentive program.