

Astronomy at Lake Hudson Hints and Tips

Lake Hudson, has one of the best combinations of dark skies and clear horizons available to amateur astronomers in southern Michigan.

Skies are generally dark, but skyglow is frequently a problem toward the east, and sometimes in other directions.

Local astronomical observers setting up at Lake Hudson usually use the Picnic or Beach parking areas, as there generally is less night activity there.

The campground is occasionally used for observing, as it is the only area where 110-volt power is available to the public, but campfires, lights, and campground traffic may interfere.

Amateur astronomers should remember that Lake Hudson is a public park, and that there are often other legitimate nighttime recreational users of the park present who may not share a sensitivity toward dark skies. Your courtesy and patience is requested. Most such interference tends to die out by an hour or two after sunset.

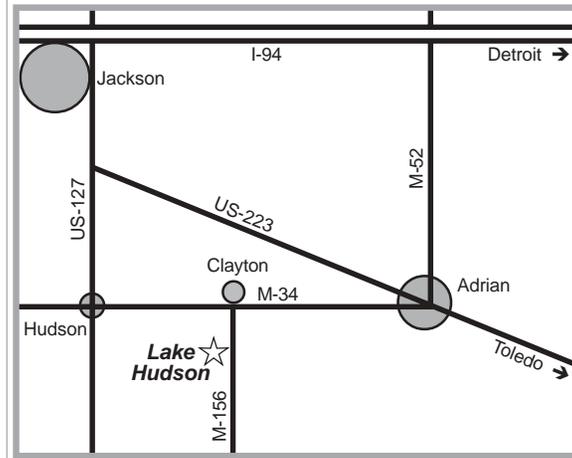
Lake Hudson is normally closed in areas outside the campground from 10 PM to 8 AM . Observing outside the campground is normally permitted if the park manager is contacted ahead of time at (517) 467-7401.

Lake Hudson State Recreation Area

The Lake Hudson State Recreation Area consists of approximately 2,200 acres of land surrounding Lake Hudson. The 600-acre lake was impounded in 1971. The park offers a semi-modern campground, picnic area, boat launch, and a beach, with hand pumps and pit toilets.

Deer, geese, and wild turkeys are common, and hunting is permitted in season. The lake has some of the largest muskellunge found in Michigan's inland waters. Boats on the lake are limited to "no-wake" speed.

Take M-34 east of Hudson six miles to Clayton and go one mile south on M-156.



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For additional information or assistance on this publication contact: MDNR PARKS AND RECREATION, VISITOR SERVICES, PO BOX 30257, LANSING MI 48909. PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER
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Lake Hudson
State Recreation Area
Clayton MI



Michigan's First

Dark Sky Preserve



*"Enjoy the
night skies"*

**Michigan
DNR**
Department of Natural Resources
Parks and Recreation

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The Dark Sky Preserve

With the passage of Michigan Public Act 57, 1993 (MCL 322.821-826), Michigan became the first state in the nation to designate a tract of public land as a "Dark Sky Preserve." Night time lighting is controlled with the intent of preserving an area for enjoyment of the night sky.

In creating the Dark Sky Preserve at Lake Hudson State Recreation Area near Clayton, Michigan, the Michigan Legislature set up a demonstration project to show that preserving night skies for enjoyment is fully compatible with management for other recreational uses.

The legislation requires that outdoor lighting within a dark sky preserve does not unreasonably interfere with nighttime activities that require darkness, including enjoyment of the night sky, nighttime photography and wildlife photography. Such permanent lighting as is deemed necessary has to be directed downward and provided by fully shielded fixtures, with motion sensor fixtures wherever practical.

The legislation places no restrictions on light use by park users, who are asked to use nighttime lighting in moderation, arrive with headlights on low beam, and use courtesy in dealings with others.

By managing for dark night skies as well as other recreational activities, showing that such management has positive recreational and use benefits for public lands, it is hoped that Lake Hudson can be a model for other dark sky preserves in other area of the country.



Lake Hudson, like all other Michigan State Parks and Recreation Areas, requires a daily or annual Motor Vehicle Permit for entry.

Permits are available at the park contact station, when open, or at Knight's Grocery, 1½ miles north of the entrance at the corner of M-34 and M-156.

Annual permits issued elsewhere in the state are also good at Lake Hudson.

For more information about the park or to get night time use permission contact the Park Manager at:

W. J. HAYES STATE PARK
1220 WAMPLER'S LAKE ROAD
ONSTED MI 49265
Phone # (517) 467-7401

For camping reservations call:

1-800-44PARKS