

Background

The City of Port Townsend takes a proactive approach to the use of street lights to balance safety with our valued dark skies.

This brochure provides basic information about street lighting.

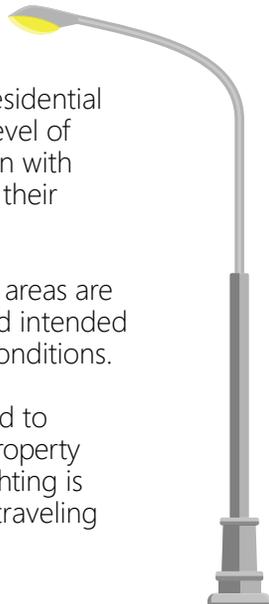
- Lighting in the right of way is a partnership between the City and the PUD. The PUD owns and operates the lights and the city provides guidance for where they go.
- The City has approx 635 lights and invests approx \$120,000 per year for lights or approximately \$10 per month per light
- The City and the PUD recently replaced all of the existing lights with new LED energy efficient and dark sky compliant fixtures. The lights are a temperature of 2,700 K which is on the warm end of the lighting spectrum. The wattage is 40 watt and they are dimable. Most lights have been dimmed on residential streets.
- The community came out in support of this change for the benefit of dark skies and energy efficiency in 2021.

Lighting Objective

The lighting objective in residential areas is to provide a low level of ambient such that a person with average eye sight can see their shadow.

The lighting in commercial areas are generally more intense and intended to provide near daylight conditions.

City lighting is not intended to address crime or private property interest. This means that lighting is for general benefit of the traveling public.



Lighting Concerns

If you have any lighting concerns please fill out our online concern form on the City's website. The City evaluates lighting concerns one week per year every Winter.

The evaluation will look at the light position and whether or not it is within the City specifications. Very rarely does a light evaluation result in a change of the light.

www.cityofpt.us/concern



City of Port
Townsend

Street Lighting



Working in partnership with:

PUD
Jefferson County
Public Utility District



City of Port Townsend Public Works Dept.

(360) 379-5096 | www.cityofpt.us

250 Madison St. Suite 2R
Port Townsend, WA 98368

Lighting Approach

The lighting approach for the City is to work with the existing light layout throughout the city and to maintain status quo more or less. The City does not generally add new lights to residential areas unless a new housing development is installed or arterial street improvement project are made for safety of the traveling public. In the case that new lights are added, they are minimized.

Specifications (Ordinance 3271)

1. Light specifications - dark sky compliant
2. Height specs - goal: less than 25' with target of 20'
3. PUD specs -18 ft minimum. Can't conflict with other utilities on the pole



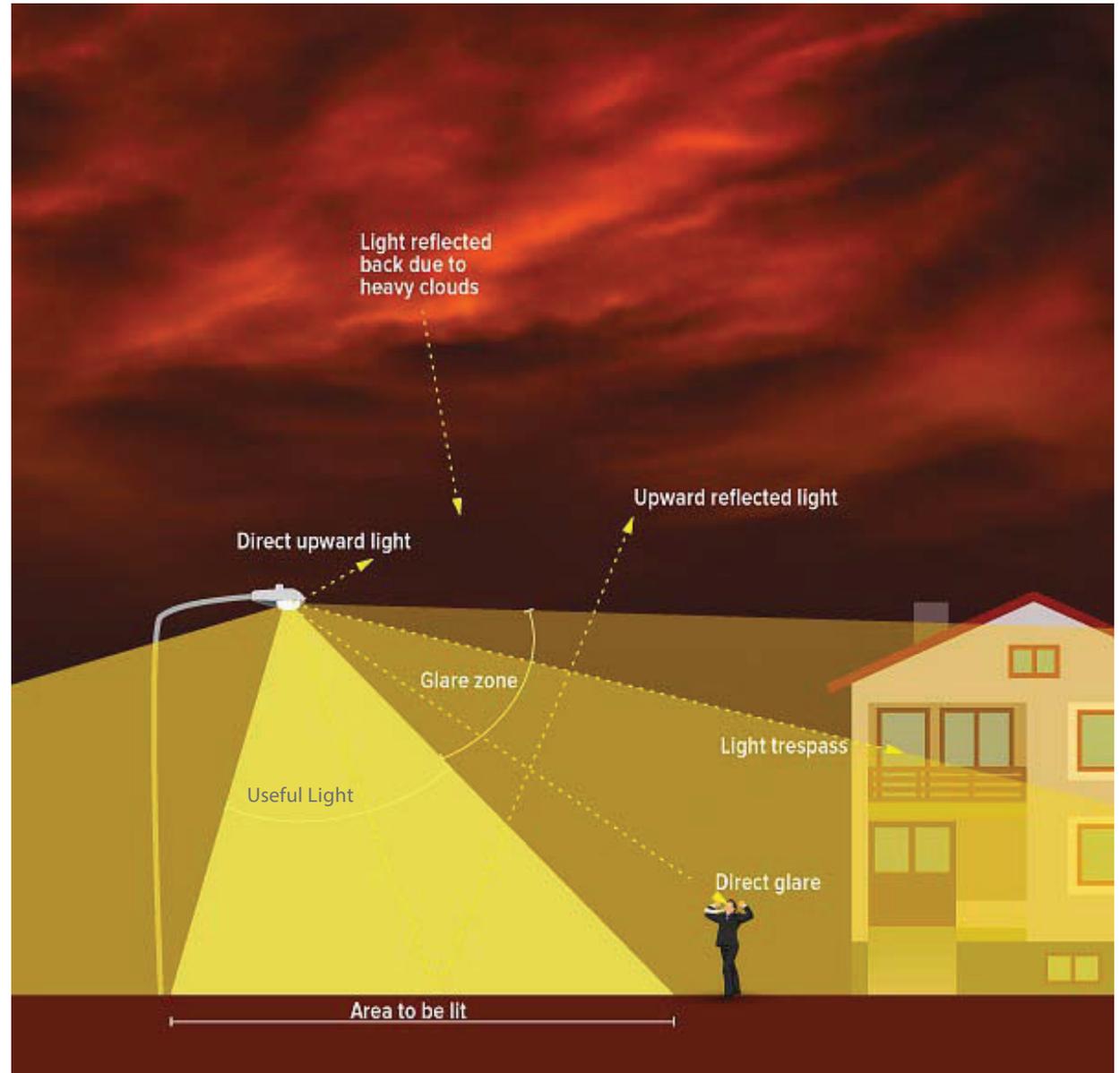
4. Spacing is generally not closer than 400-500 feet with a focus on intersections
5. Lights shall be Dark Sky compliant and have a temperature of 300k or less.

Shielding Information

It is the City's position to not install shielding, as it impacts the effectiveness of the light and causes light pollution to near properties. Shielding is often requested for private benefit and can be costly, therefore the City and PUD do not recommend shielding and will only consider shielding when a lights well out of specification and results in excessive light trespass. Many shields have been removed for these reasons.

The objective of Dark Skies is to minimize light trespass upward. This is done with dark skies compliant fixtures.

To the extent possible light trespass to adjoining properties is minimized, however not all light can be controlled. Being able to dim the light is our greatest tool for controlling glare. Most lights have already been dimmed.



Light Trespass Figure

Note: Light trespass can only be mitigated and not eliminated.