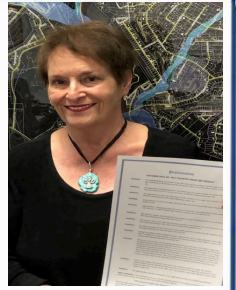


# Proclamation



## OCTOBER 2021 AS "HILL COUNTRY NIGHT SKY MONTH"

- WHEREAS,** the aesthetic beauty and wonder of star-filled skies are the heritage of all humankind and locally to the inhabitants of Woodcreek and the Wimberley Valley, and are therefore worthy of celebration; and
- WHEREAS,** the experience of standing beneath a star-filled night sky inspires feelings of wonder and awe, and may encourage interest in science and nature especially among young people; and
- WHEREAS,** the opportunity to view star-filled skies attracts tourists to our region and therefore economic benefit to Woodcreek and the entire Wimberley Valley; and
- WHEREAS,** preserving the rich historic heritage and starry night skies of the Woodcreek area is important to its residents; and
- WHEREAS,** "light pollution," being wasted light that performs no function, and artificial light that goes where it is not wanted, is created by glare, light trespass, sky glow, and over-lighting; and
- WHEREAS,** light pollution wastes natural resources amounting to at least \$2 billion per year and contributes to diminished American energy independence; and
- WHEREAS,** the historical view of the night skies has been eroding in many nearby areas, and generations are growing up with limited, if any, view of the wonders of the universe; and
- WHEREAS,** the influx of people into the Texas Hill Country region and the accompanying light pollution from area lighting fixtures has been steadily on the rise; and
- WHEREAS,** solving the problem of light pollution involves making better use of outdoor lighting to direct light down to where it is needed instead of upward into the sky, putting outdoor lights on timers and using outdoor lighting only where necessary; and
- WHEREAS,** Hill Country communities are increasingly dedicated to the preservation of the region's night skies, as evidenced by the frequent local educational activities, often with encouragement, leadership and assistance from the Hill Country Alliance, and by the increasing number of places in our region recognized as International Dark-Sky Places by the International Dark-Sky Association, including: the Wimberley Valley including the cities of Woodcreek and Wimberley, Enchanted Rock State Natural Area, South Llano State Park, and the Cities of Dripping Springs, Fredericksburg, and Horseshoe Bay, U Bar U Camp & Retreat Center, River Hills Neighborhood and Lost Creek Neighborhood of Travis County and other places in the Texas Hill Country that are actively seeking this designation; and
- WHEREAS,** Hays County Chapter Texas Master Naturalists, Hays County Friends of the Night Sky, the Hill Country Alliance and the Wimberley Valley Dark Sky Committee have devoted many hours in Hays County to share the wonder of our night skies, and promote responsible lighting to help us see better at night; and
- WHEREAS,** this regional effort and the preservation of our night skies is worthy of a monthlong celebration.

**NOW, THEREFORE I,** Gloria Whitehead, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Woodcreek in the County of Hays, do hereby proclaim the month of October 2021 as

### "Hill Country Night Sky Month" in Woodcreek, Texas

and encourage citizens to enjoy the night sky and to participate in Wimberley Valley and Hill County region events and programs celebrating the night sky and promoting the ways in which communities are working to preserve it, and to learn about light pollution and why it matters, night sky friendly lighting, and lighting regulations, and to implement practices and lighting improvements that will reduce light pollution, thereby preserving our night skies.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF,** I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Woodcreek to be affixed this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of September of the year of our Lord two thousand twenty-one.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gloria Whitehead, Mayor". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Gloria Whitehead, Mayor - City of Woodcreek