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## Press Release

### The Galena Territory earns Dark Sky designation

**Galena, Ill.** (Feb. 1, 2021) – The Galena Territory, a semi-private 6,800-acre recreational, residential and resort community located 6 miles east of Galena, is now a Dark Sky Friendly Development of Distinction, according to the [International Dark-Sky Association \(IDA\)](#). Inclusion in the IDA Dark Sky Program recognizes The Territory’s commitment to protecting the night from light pollution.

“It’s really a testament to all the hard work done by residents to protect the night and preserve the integral darkness within the community,” Steve Wyland, general manager of The Galena Territory Association (GTA).

The GTA is the common interest community association that manages and preserves the 1,900 acres of common properties and recreational amenities for the enjoyment of property owners and their guests.

The IDA is the recognized authority on light pollution and the leading organization combating light pollution worldwide. The award-winning International Dark Sky Places Program was founded in 2001 to encourage communities, parks and protected areas around the world to preserve and protect dark skies through responsible lighting policies and public education.

“This well-known and popular northwest Illinois community is perfectly suited to represent the ideals of the International Dark Sky Association,” said Zoran Perovanovich, representative of Northwest Illinois IDA Chapter. “This master-planned community has exceptional commitment to preserve some of the darkest skies in Illinois with their environmentally responsible outdoor lighting.”

The GTA implemented its [dark sky initiative](#) decades ago, and in the past three years has been working hard to conform to the requirements to become a certified Dark Sky Place. Its architectural guidelines seek to find a balance between The Galena Territory’s deep, dark vista and residents’ safety and enjoyment.

“The Galena Territory’s application was unanimously endorsed,” said Gary Binder, vice president of the GTA Board of Directors and instrumental in making the designation a reality. “The community should be truly proud of the incredible effort they put forward.”

One of the unique features of The Galena Territory is the quality of its night sky, according to the Bortle Scale that measures the amount of light pollution for a given location. The Galena Territory

measures a Bortle scale of 3 every month of the year. There are nine levels to the Bortle scale with Class 9 being the most extreme amount of light pollution.

Because of its exceptional dark skies, the Galena Astronomical Society holds public [Star Gazing](#) events throughout the year.

For more information, please contact Gary Binder at 331-218-0467 or [gbinder@thegalenaterritory.com](mailto:gbinder@thegalenaterritory.com).

### **About The Galena Territory**

The Galena Territory is located on 6,800 acres within the Driftless Area referring to the ridges and valleys ancient glaciers left untouched. It's home to more than 4,000 property owners and boasts a 25-mile trail system; [Lake Galena](#), a 225-acre fishing lake with an adjacent Marina Park Complex; an [Owners' Club Complex](#) that includes indoor and outdoor pools and recreation facility; and the [Shenandoah Riding Center](#), an equestrian facility. The Galena Territory, managed by the Galena Territory Association, was developed by the Branigar Organization in the early 1970s and is designated a Community Wildlife Habitat by the National Wildlife Federation. It was also designated a Dark Sky Friendly Development of Distinction by the International Dark-Sky Association in 2021.

**Caption for photo:** This photo taken by Marko Pilecky, a property owner in The Galena Territory since 2001, captures a striking night sky within the community.

