The Mystery of the Missing Stars

Light pollution disrupts plants and wildlife who rely on the rhythms of the Sun setting and rising.

**THE DARK SIDE OF OUTDOOR LIGHTING**

**LIGHT POLLUTION**
Light pollution is caused by unnecessary yard lights, street lights, and even the light that escapes from buildings. These bright lights impact our night vision and obscure the twinkling stars and shining Moon.

**INTO THE WOODS**
While we often think of light pollution as a problem for cities, light pollution in rural areas is growing quickly and impacting wildlife.

**DRAWN TO THE LIGHT**
Animals who use the Moon as a guide may be confused by artificial light.

When moths are drawn to lights and circle repeatedly, they become easy prey for bats and birds. They also fail to eat.

**TRICKS OF THE LIGHT**
Migrating birds are drawn off-course by artificial light.

Even flowers and trees can be tricked by outdoor lighting. “Long days” of light make them think it’s still summer, even when frost threatens.

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**BAD LIGHTING**
- Lights unnecessary spaces like landscaping, trees, or architecture
- Light radiates up and out instead of down and focused

**BETTER LIGHTING**
- Uses a timer or motion sensor so that it is not on all night
- Focused light doesn't radiate up to the sky or beyond what is necessary

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Try This!
Flip the switch to see the difference!