

Street Lighting project

Why replace our street lighting?

Light pollution. Light pollution is any adverse effect of artificial lighting including glare, surface reflections, lighting trespass, and “sky glow” (the brightening of the night sky as a result of light pollution).

Glare. Light directly entering the eye from unshielded streetlights actually reduces visual acuity. It makes it more difficult to see into nearby darker areas. As glare increases, people, cars and other objects in the illuminated area become more difficult to see.

Illumination. Light spreading outward horizontally from a street fixture quickly loses intensity and is less effective in illuminating objects. Light focused downwards actually increases illumination and the visibility of objects in the illuminated area. The only improvement in lighting intensity comes from focusing all the light downward into the target area.

Crime. Effective lighting that minimizes light pollution and reduces glare increases illumination of target areas and is more effective in discouraging criminal activity. As stated above, glare makes it more difficult to see into dark areas, where criminal activity could be taking place.

Health. There is research that indicates a correlation between increases in night lighting and specific health issues including certain cancers and sleep deprivation.

The aging eye. Since aging eyes are much more sensitive to glare, bright light sources should be out of direct view or shielded so direct glare is eliminated. The only thing we can do to decrease or avoid disabling glare is to screen the glaring light source from reaching the eye.