

DARKEST SKIES IN THE UPPER PENINSULA

After months of travel and research, I have decided that the darkest skies in the upper peninsula of Michigan are in Delta County. A few miles north of the town of Nahma in the Hiawatha National Forest one finds the Nahma Marsh Trail. The trail is short, only a third of a mile, at the end is a viewing platform that is large enough to accommodate several people and their cameras or telescopes. The platform was built to serve birdwatching, but it is perfect for stargazing. This place is so special that Nahma Marsh Dark Sky Initiative was created.

Dark sky preserves are often in remote locations making them difficult to access. Many times there are few conveniences like food and lodging.

Dark skies are disappearing across the state and country. Some locations have been designated as Dark Sky Preserves. This designation by the state protects these areas from development and the introduction of artificial light. There are no state designated Dark Sky Preserves in the upper peninsula of Michigan. There is a legal statute that prevents the creation of a Dark Sky Preserve in the upper peninsula.

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