



City of Franklin

Mailing Address:
109 3rd Ave S
Franklin, TN 37064
(615) 791-3217

Meeting Agenda

Sustainability Commission

Friday, September 12, 2025

8:00 AM

Admin 2-B

MEETING LOCATION

City Of Franklin Interim Space
740 Columbia Avenue

CALL TO ORDER

CITIZEN COMMENTS (Open for citizens to be heard on any issue or concern, including those related to items on the agenda. Please submit a Speaker Card at the beginning of the meeting if you would like to address the Commission. If you would like to speak on an agenda item, the Chair will hold your comment until the public comment period associated with the item. As provided by law, the Commission shall make no decisions or consideration of action of citizen comments for items not on the agenda, except to refer the matter to the Planning Director/Staff for administrative consideration, or to a schedule the matter for consideration at a later date. Those addressing the Commission are requested to come to the microphone and identify themselves by name and address for the official record. The Chair may restrict the period for public comment, including the length of the public comment period, the number of individuals who can speak and the length of time each individual may speak. When time allows, the standard individual public comment time is two minutes.)

Comments on agenda items may be made in person at the meeting or by emailing planningintake@franklin.tn.gov before noon on the day of the meeting. Emailed comments will be provided to the Commission and included in the minutes, but not read aloud in their entirety during the meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Consideration Of Approval Of Minutes

NEW BUSINESS

2. Announcements:
 1. New Transit Service from Downtown Franklin to Factory
 2. Transit Masterplan Underway
 3. Preservation Plan Update
 4. Fire Station 1 Pollinator Gardens
 5. Solar Array Update
 6. Group Photo Date/Time
3. Discussion of Adjusting Meeting Start Time to 8:30 AM

4. Presentation of Liberty Park Sports Lighting Upgrades
5. Discussion of Streetlight Fixtures Zoning Ordinance Update

OTHER BUSINESS

ADJOURN

Anyone needing accommodations due to disabilities please contact the ADA Coordinator at 615-791-3277 at least 24 hours prior to the meeting.

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August 8, 2025

8:00 AM

Administration Conference Room 2B

Members Present: Al Pramuk, Anna Timme, April Eaton, Christina Christiansen, Jim Mahurin, Brian Stone

Members Absent: Alderman Beverly Burger, Keith Gordon

Staff Present: Andrew Orr, Joel Aguilera, Eric Conner, Michael Walters Young, and Katherine Harelson, Skye Gerhart

Citizens Present: John Kell

Citizen Comments:

John Kell shared that he's assisting the Tennessee Environmental Council on a pollinator garden at Liberty Elementary School that will be installed this winter.

Approval of May Meeting Minutes

A motion was made to approve the June 2025 minutes as presented, by Al Pramuk, seconded by Jim Mahurin. The motion carried with all in favor.

Announcements:

- Andrew Orr shared the following announcements:
 - The City announced a new large cardboard recycling service at the Century Court location for oversized cardboard.
 - The EV Charging Stations have been removed from the Downtown Garages and installed outside of the 4th Ave Garage and a fourth space has been prewired and a sign post has been installed in the event demand increases to add the fourth charger.
 - The City staff took a site visit to learn about the perennial gardens at Natchez Glen near the Natchez Parkway and they have offered to partner with the City on redesigning the Fire Station 1 Pollinator beds.

2025 Citizen Survey Results Presentation

Michael Walters Young and Katherine Harelson provided a presentation over the 2025 Franklin Community Survey Results. Michael Walters Young provided an overview of the presentation and topics including survey methodology, survey results, survey comparisons, and next steps after the survey.

Michael Walters Young shared that the City of Franklin is contracted with Polco and the National Research Center to conduct the Franklin Community Survey and have been doing so since 2016. Michael Walters Young described the methodology used by Polco and the National





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Research Center to create a scientifically valid survey and what was considered a scientifically valid response rate.

Michael Walters Young noted the total number of paper survey responses received from citizens, the number of online survey responses received, and how it compared from previous years.

Michael Walters Young then mentioned that the National Community Survey is designed to measure a community’s livability. Through the National Community Survey, Franklin is evaluated on ten central facets of a community. Michael Walters Young outlined those facets include: economy, mobility, community design, utilities, safety, natural environment, parks & recreation, health & wellness, education, arts, and culture, and inclusivity and engagement.

Katherine Harelson then presented, and proceeded to summarize each facet, the survey responses to the questions of that facet, and how the responses compared to previous survey years.

Katherine Harelson concluded the review and Michael Walters Young then proceeded to summarize the custom questions Franklin includes in the community survey, and responses received for those specific questions. Most notably, the citizens would like to see a permanent location for the Franklin Farmers Market.

Michael Walters Young concluded the presentation with an overview of resident issues for the years the survey was conducted, and how Franklin, Tennessee ranks compared to other cities in the US. Michael Walters Young then outlined the next steps and then concluded his presentation.

Discussion ensued about property taxes, municipal financing, and TDOT partnerships.

NEWS/UPDATE/ADJOURN

With no further business to come before the Commission the meeting was adjourned at 9:09 AM.

Chair Signature

Date



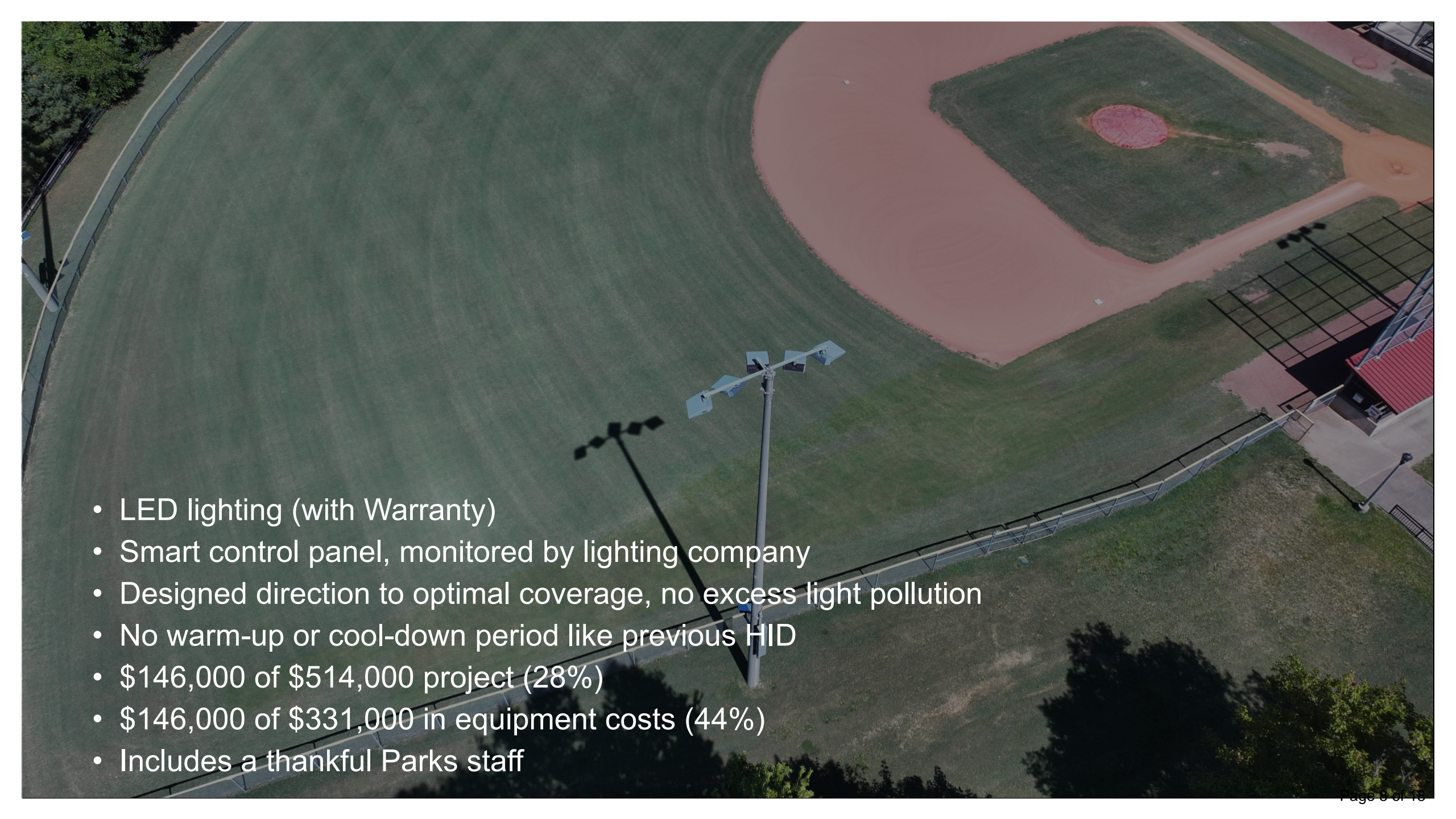
EECBG Update

(Energy Efficiency & Conservation Block Grant)

Background

- Early 2024, staff brought forward concepts for the Sustainability Commission to vote upon to utilize Federal grant money through EECBG program.
- Commission agreed to use funding to aid Parks Department in retrofitting outdated sports field lighting at Liberty Park
- \$145,990 allotted by DoE for project



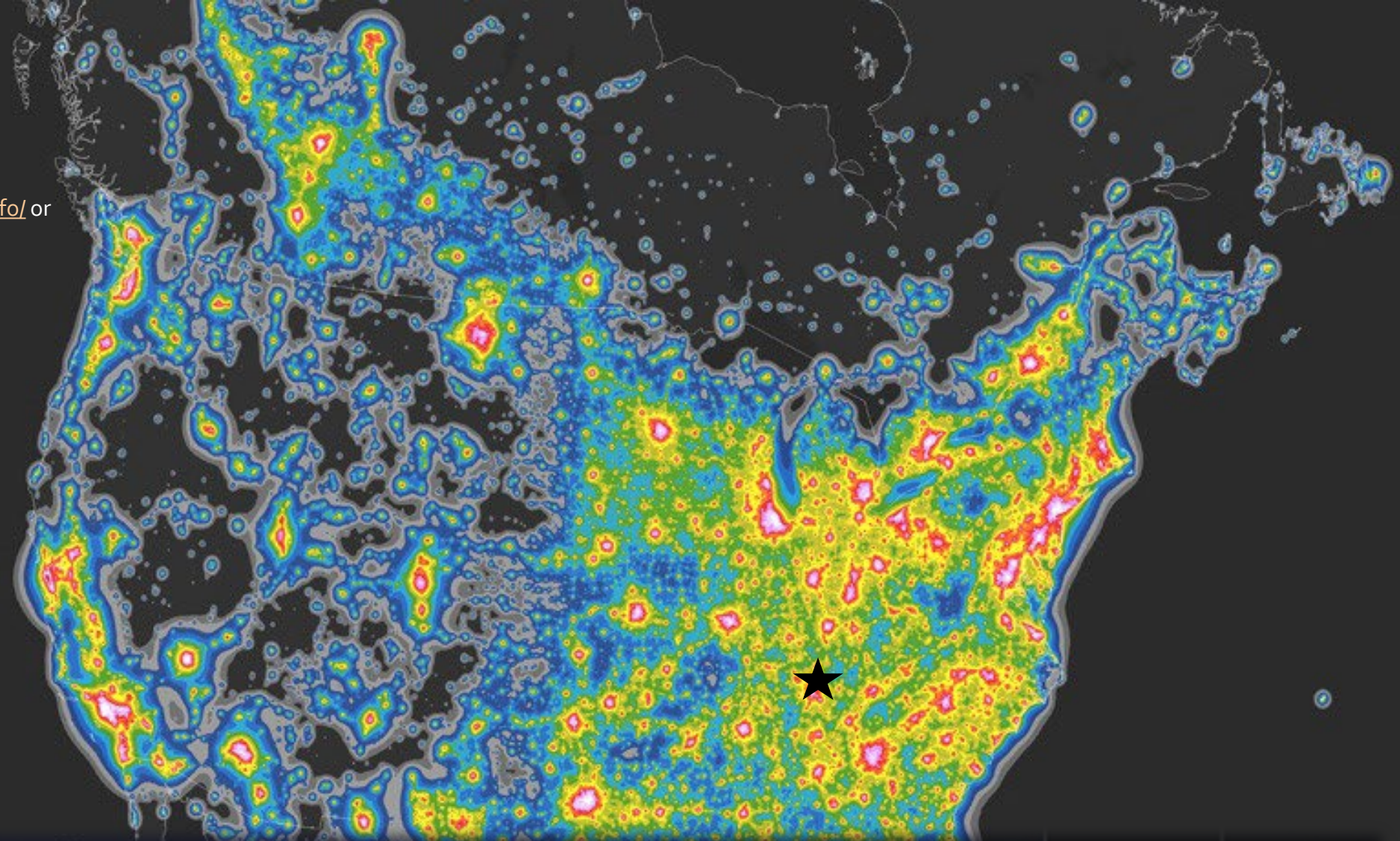
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- LED lighting (with Warranty)
 - Smart control panel, monitored by lighting company
 - Designed direction to optimal coverage, no excess light pollution
 - No warm-up or cool-down period like previous HID
 - \$146,000 of \$514,000 project (28%)
 - \$146,000 of \$331,000 in equipment costs (44%)
 - Includes a thankful Parks staff

Streetlights in Residential Developments

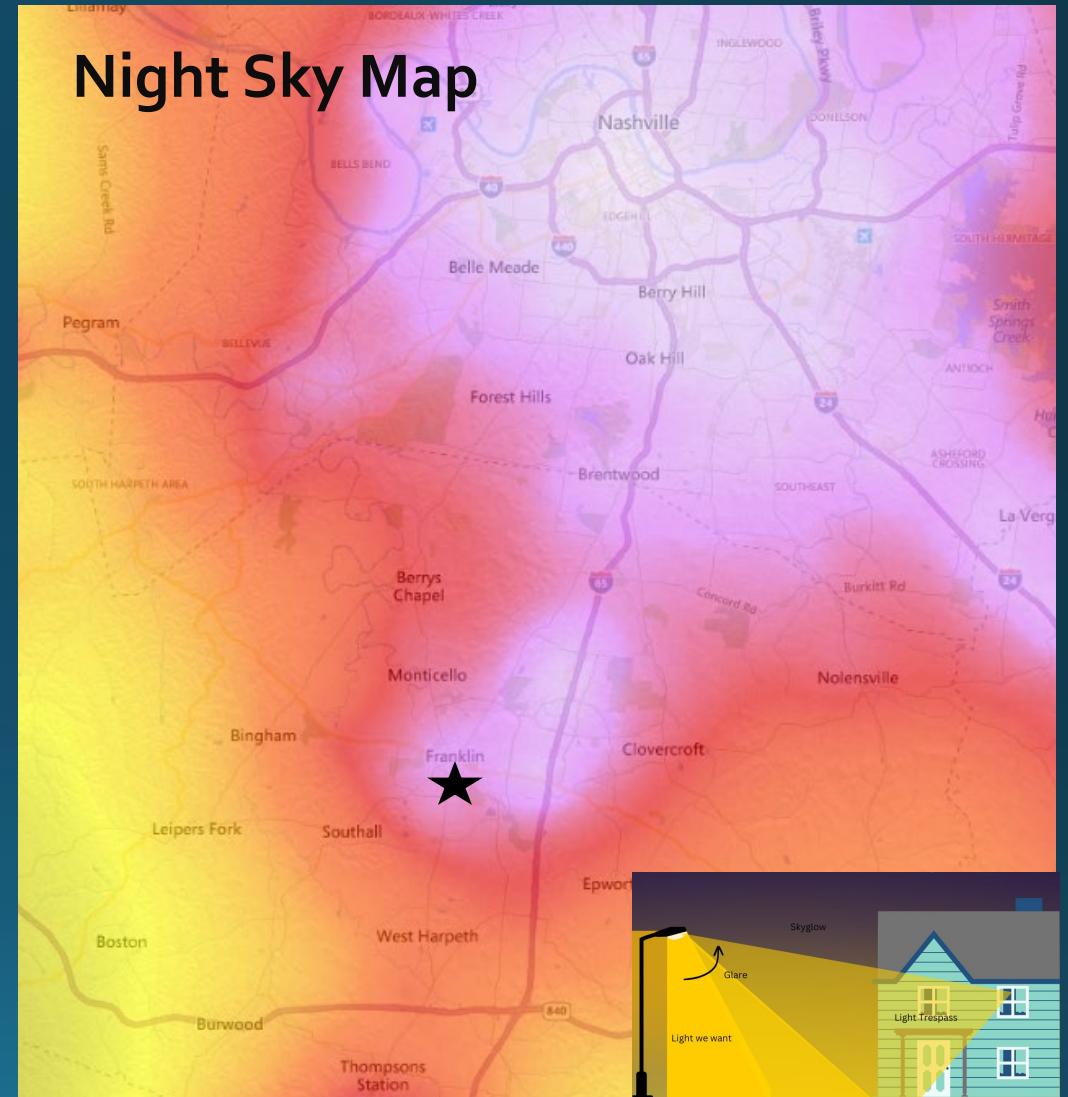
September 2025 Sustainability Commission

Night Sky Map

<https://www.lightpollutionmap.info/> or www.cleardarksky.com



- In 2020, the Sustainability Commission examined Dark Sky concepts and strategies. As new development occurs, more streetlights are added to the system. Dark Sky fixtures generally seek to use the right amount of light to illuminate the desired area.



Streetlights in Residential Developments

- **Controlled by Middle TN Electric (MTE)**
 - MTE provides power and maintenance and bills the City
 - Developer can opt out and have HOA own and maintain streetlights
- **MTE has streetlight manual with standards**
 - Provides for a limited number of pole and fixture options
 - The limited selection helps with ongoing maintenance obligations

City of Franklin Zoning Ordinance Standards

- Maximum pole height of 18 feet
- Ornamental style light fixture
- Subject to MTE and the Transportation and Streets Technical Standards

MTE Streetlight Manual Options



Banded Granville



Plain Granville



Plain Granville with Finial



Lantern Light



Arlington



Town and Country (Dark Sky)



Memphis Teardrop

Status Update

Early 2025, Alderman Caesar and Commissioner Williamson met with MTE to discuss fixture options.

MTE has offered to accept the Granville fixture with a full cover.

Samples were installed on 3rd Ave near the pavilion at Bicentennial Park as well as in Sullivan Farms. The formal green behind the Eastern Flank Rental Facility utilizes the same fixture.

MTE offered to accept the Plain Granville fixture with a house-side shield.

Granville Post Top with Full Cover



Next Steps

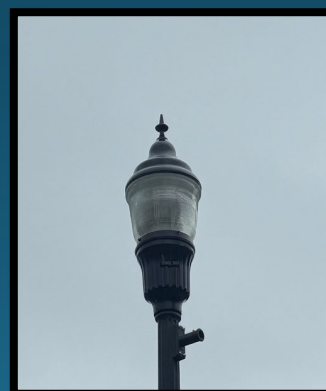
- MTE to add the Granville Post Top with full cover to their approved list of fixtures.
- Zoning Ordinance amendment to include a preference for the fixtures below along residential streets in order to reduce light pollution:



Arlington



Town and Country (Dark Sky)



Granville with Full Cover



*Internal
metal plate
preventing
uplighting*

Plain Granville with Lunar Optics

Streetlights in COF

- MTE owns and maintains 5,750 streetlights in the City of Franklin
- Average cost of \$42,000/month or \$500,000 annually
 - \$7.33/month/light or \$88/light/year
 - Maintenance billed separately as it occurs
- COF owns and maintains interstate and interchange lights, decorative lights in Downtown, and a few other corridors around the City.

