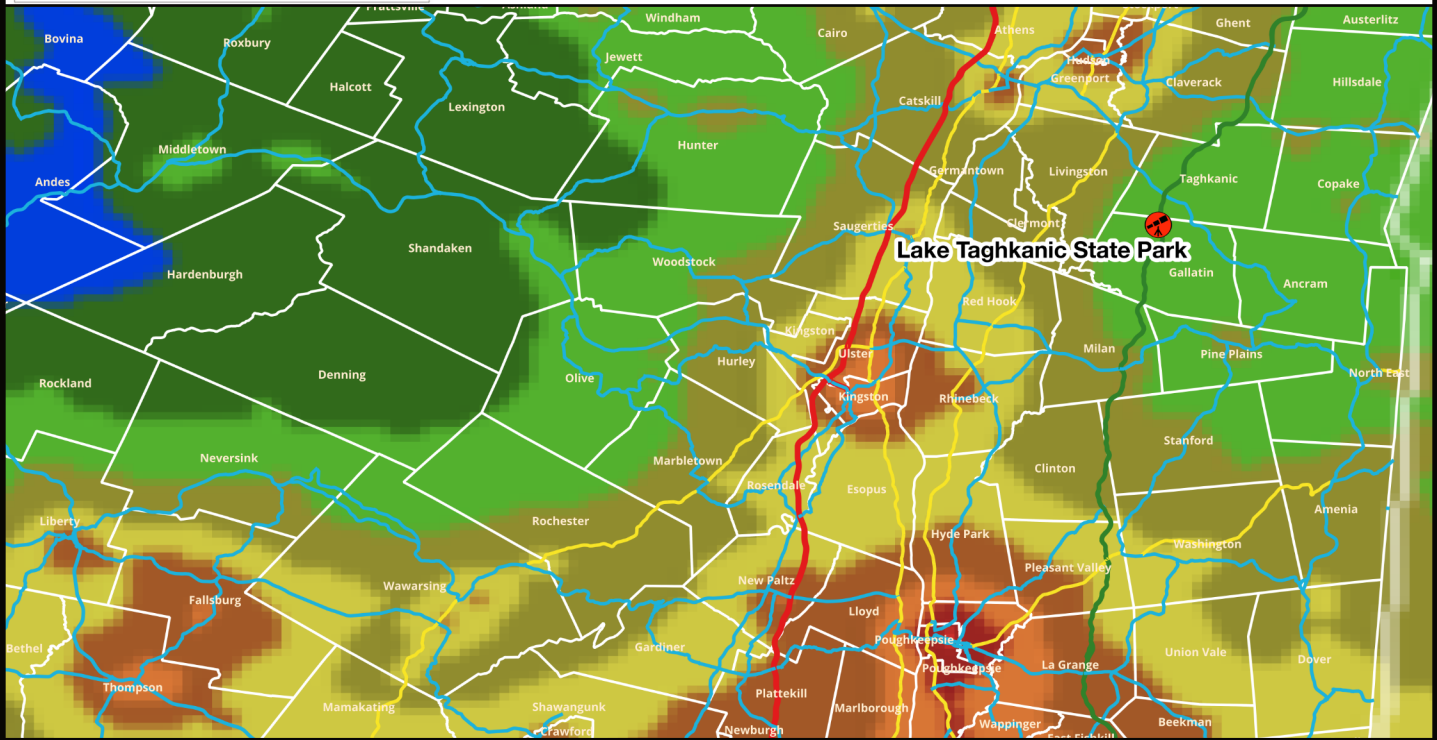




DARK SITE



Lake Taghkanic State Park



Dark Level	Estimated at Bortle 3/4
Site	Lake Taghkanic State Park (Website)
Management	New York DEC
Address	1528 Route 82 Ancram, NY 12502 (Google Maps)
Season	Memorial Day through Labor Day
Phone	(518) 851-3631
Permit cost in season	The park requires a Stargazing Activity Permit to use the Beach Parking Lot at night. MHA A members receive a free Stargazing permit (see text). Members of the public can apply for an individual stargazing permit. It costs \$25 and is valid for the current calendar year. In season, a day use or camping/cabin permit is required.

Comments: Lake Taghkanic State Park is a popular destination for swimming, camping, and lake-side cabins and cottages.

The Beach Parking Lot is a fabulous dark site with great sight-lines in all directions. With a Stargazing Permit, you can set-up next to your vehicle.

A Stargazing Permit costs \$25 and is valid for the current calendar year. In addition, in-season, star-gazers require either a day use permit or a valid camping/cottage permit.

Alternatively, you can join MHA A or sign up to attend one of our star parties. Our members receive free use of the club's Stargazing Activity Permit which entitles them use the Beach Parking Lot on any night of their choosing and eliminates the requirement for purchasing a day-use pass in-season.

See the text overleaf, next to the park map, for more information.

Mid-Hudson Astronomical Association has educated the public and supported amateur astronomers since 1985. We partner frequently with local organizations to conduct observing parties and educational events while enjoying the camaraderie of amateur astronomers from all walks of life. We sponsor monthly, public star-parties year-round at Taghkanic State Park, and a seminar series at SUNY New Paltz: midhudsonastro.org





Cardinal directions are approximate (see bottom center window in each of the above images for accurate compass bearing). Altitude to the crosshair (in degrees) is shown in the right hand window. Note that observing over water can improve or degrade viewing conditions. Broadly speaking, the best viewing takes place when water surface temps are close to air temps. Warm evening temps can cause lake fog; colder temps may cause dew. You should be prepared with dew shields and dew heaters.



Stargazing is permitted only at the Beach Parking Lot, or from your permitted campsite/cabin (which generally have restricted views of the sky). Use of the Beach Parking Lot requires a valid Stargazing Activity Permit, and you must provide at least 12 hours notice to the Park's office of your intention to stargaze along with your vehicle license plate.

Members of the public can attend one of MHAAs star parties at no cost, held year-round on the Friday night closest to every new moon. Saturday is the alternate rain/cloud date. However, you must register, via MHAAs Meetup Group, 24-hours in advance and provide your vehicle license plate number.

During the star party, you are welcome to bring and set up your own telescope even if you are not a full MHAAs member.

Full MHAAs members can stargaze at the Beach Parking Lot any day of the year, by logging into our website and filling in a web form. Members must submit the required information a minimum of 12 hours before their intended visit. A copy will be automatically forwarded to the park office. By showing a printed copy of a completed MHAAs form, in-season, your day use fee will be waived.