

Washoe County Dark Sky Survey Guide

Bortles 9

- Brightest places in cities
- Only very bright stars can be seen
- Sky very bright
- Less than 300 stars visible

Bortles 8

- A couple more stars visible, but still only the brightest
- Can make out the basic constellations
- Sky bright, glowing white or orange
- Milky Way is invisible
- About 500 stars visible

Bortles 7

- Darker skies on the fringes of cities
- All stars of the little dipper are visible
- Milky Way is **not** visible
- About 1,000 stars visible

Bortles 6

- All stars of the little dipper are visible
- The Milky Way can barely be seen overhead (but only overhead)
- Can barely see detail on the ground
- About 1,500 stars are visible

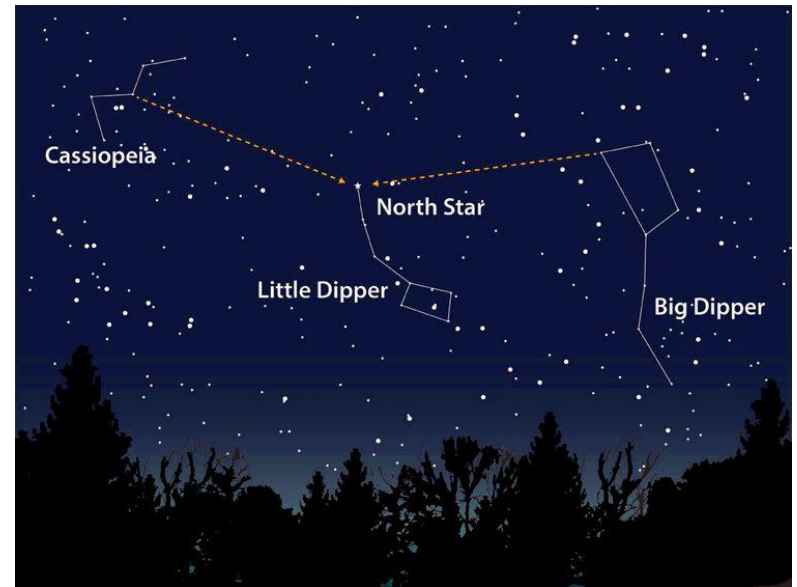


Figure 1 Map of Major Constellations

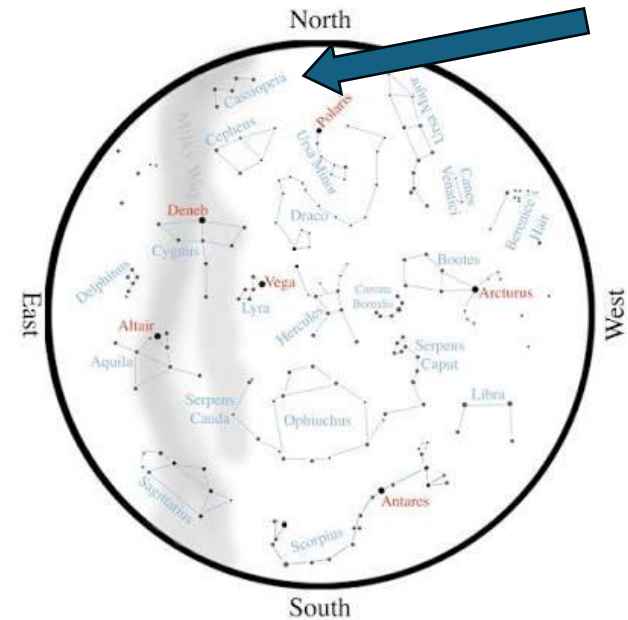


Figure 2 Star Map with Milky Way (note location of Cassiopeia, look east)

Washoe County Dark Sky Survey Guide

Bortles 5

- Milky Way more visible across the sky but not horizon to horizon
- Some definition between light and dark spots in the Milky Way overhead
- Any clouds are noticeably brighter than the sky
- About 2,000 stars visible

Bortles 4

- Milky Way reaches horizon to horizon, but lacking fine details
- Can see “light domes” on the horizon in the direction of cities/artificial light sources
- Light domes are still brighter than the brightest parts of the Milky Way
- About 2,500 stars visible

Bortles 3

- The sky is full of stars
- The Milky Way is complex from horizon to horizon
- The sky is dark overhead, but there may still be some small light domes or cloud illumination near the horizon
- About 3,500 stars visible

Bortles 2

- The Milky Way is complex and detailed
- Any clouds are not illuminated and are dark holes in the stars
- There are a lot of stars
- There are blurs and clumps of light in the sky outside of the Milky Way—these may be globular clusters or the Andromeda Galaxy
- About 4,500 stars visible

Bortles 1

- Sky full of stars
- Milky Way detailed and complex
- Dark areas in the Milky Way cast shadows on the ground
- No evidence of artificial light
- Over 5,000 stars visible



Figure 3 Light Dome



Figure 4 Detailed Milky Way

Washoe County Dark Sky Survey Guide

