Addison County Full Solar Eclipse April 8, 2024 Planning Discussion

ACRPC and VT Dept of Health

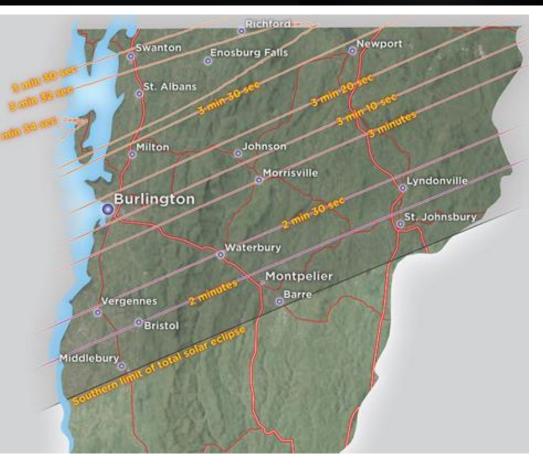
13 March 2024



Eclipse Timing- April 8, 2024

2:14 p.m. a partial solar eclipse will begin and will continue until4:37 p.m.

At **3:26 p.m**. a total eclipse will last about 2 minutes in northern Addison County.



Will be almost halfway up the sky (40° altitude) & toward the southwest (233° azimuth)

Expectations

- Expected to bring 250,000 tourists to Vermont
 - (population increase of 40%)
- Heavy traffic, especially immediately after the eclipse
- Traffic incidents and parking messes
- Influx of out-of-town/state visitors with little knowledge of road conditions
- Public Schools releasing at mid-day
- Potential for increased trail/cliff hikers and injuries
- Emergency responders stretched thin



Known Organized Events

- Solar Eclipse Viewing w/ MALT
 - Marble Works, Middlebury
- The Totally Amazing Eclipse Party
 - Middlebury Rec Park, Mary Hogan Drive
- Blueberry Hill Eclipse Weekend
 - Blueberry Hill Inn, Goshen
- New Haven Community Library
- Salisbury Free Library
- The Solar Express
 - Train from Rutland to Burlington, stopping on Middlebury Exchange Street siding from 9-11:30am

Contact information being gathered to send to local first responders and dispatch in advance. If you know of or hear about others, let us know!



Likely State Park Crowds

<u>https://vtstateparks.blogspot.com/2024/02/total-eclipse-in-parks.html</u> Park facilities closed, some toilets, some staff available

- Open State Parks
 - Branbury S.P. (Salisbury) [expect traffic on Lake Dunmore Road]
 - D.A.R S.P. (Addison) [expect traffic on Rte 17 from/to NY]
 - Mt Philo (Charlotte)- [will likely be traffic from Burlington AND along Route 7 and Route 22 from people coming from South]

<u>Not Open-</u>Gates at each of those locations will be closed:

- Kingsland Bay (Ferrisburgh),
- Button Bay
- Chimney Point state historic site(Addison)

(unable to sustain vehicle or heavy foot traffic without considerable resource damage)

Other Likely Gathering Locations

- Green Mountain National Forest
 - Mount Abraham (Lincoln)
 - Skylight Pond (Ripton)
 - Silver Lake (Leicester)
 - Blueberry Hill (Goshen)
 - Mt Horrid Cliffs (Brandon, Rte 73)
- State of Vermont
 - Snake Mountain WMA (Weybridge, Addison trail access)
- Private Land Overlooks
 - Bristol Cliffs (Bristol)
 - Buck Mountain (Waltham)
 - Breadloaf Campus (Ripton)
 - Lake Dunmore
 - Snowbowl (Hancock)
- The Knoll, Middlebury College (Cornwall)
- Chipman Hill (Middlebury)



EMD Recommendations

Review your municipal Local Emergency Management Plan (LEMP) in Advance for contact information, resources

Sign up for VT-Alerts (<u>https://vem.vermont.gov/vtalert</u>)

Note the phone number for the State Watch Officer (800-347-0488)

First Responder Recommendations



Alert your staff/volunteers (Schools will be out so some volunteers may be limited)

Be prepared to send out multiple crews

Stay informed about road closures

Sign up for VT-Alerts (<u>https://vem.vermont.gov/vtalert</u>)

Note the phone number for the State Watch Officer (800-347-0488)

Have a backup for dispatch (they'll probably want to see the eclipse too!)

Public Messaging

Protect Your Eyes!

- Looking directly at the sun, even when partially obscured, can cause permanent eye damage. The only safe way to look directly at the uneclipsed or partially eclipsed Sun is through special-purpose solar filters
- Eclipse glasses are readily available online and at local retailers. Even very dark sunglasses are not safe for viewing an eclipse. Use glasses certified by the <u>American Astronomical Society</u>, with an ISO standard of 12312-2.
- Do not look at the uneclipsed or partially eclipsed Sun through an unfiltered camera, telescope, binoculars, or other optical device. (even with eclipse glasses!)
- Always supervise children using solar filters.

If you are Driving:

- Expect heavy traffic and sudden stops by drivers.
- Be on alert for distracted pedestrians looking to the sky.
- Keep your headlights on while driving, even in the daylight.
- Do not wear eclipse glasses while driving.
- Only view the eclipse once safely parked away from the flow of traffic.

Public Messaging

- Most places will offer a good view of the eclipse as it will be almost halfway up the sky (40° altitude) and as long as you have an unobstructed view toward the southwest (233° azimuth)
- Visitors and locals are strongly encouraged to seek out eclipse viewing events in cities and towns, and avoid muddy, high-elevation trails during this muddy, seasonal transition time.

(https://www.greenmountainclub.org/2024-total-solar-eclipse-in-vermont/)

For text or email updates during the eclipse, like traffic and weather, text VTECLIPSE to 888-777

Resources

https://www.vermont.gov/eclipse

https://acrpc.org/2024-solar-eclipse/

https://vtstateparks.blogspot.com/2024/02/total-eclipse-inparks.html

VLCT Eclipse Planning Check-ins https://www.vlct.org/events/EclipsePlanning2024

- March 21
- April 4

(Have to be a VLCT/PACIF member and register in advance!)