



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 until **4:37 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



<https://vtstateparks.blogspot.com/2024/02/total-eclipse-in-parks.html>

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]

Not Open- 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 (<https://vem.vermont.gov/vtalert>)

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 (<https://vem.vermont.gov/vtalert>)

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 [American Astronomical Society](#), 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-in-parks.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!)