

# The Great American Solar Eclipse Viewing Tips On Crab Orchard National Wildlife Refuge

## What is a solar eclipse?

A solar eclipse occurs when the moon passes between Earth and the sun, blocking at least part of the sun as viewed from some areas of the earth. During a total solar eclipse, the moon completely obscures the sun so that only the sun's corona is visible for a moment in time. On August 21, 2017, a total solar eclipse will be visible along a 67-mile wide path across the United States from Oregon to South Carolina. This is one of the most amazing natural sights and is worth seeing at least once in a lifetime. It goes against all of our experience to seem like night in the middle of the day. The sky becomes so dark that the stars and planets are visible, birds stop chirping because they think it is time to roost, automatic streetlights turn on, and the air gets distinctly cooler. The 2017 eclipse will reach its point of greatest duration just a few miles south of the Refuge at 1:20 pm and totality will last at most 2 minutes and 40 seconds.



## Where can I see the Eclipse on Crab Orchard National Wildlife Refuge?

The entire Refuge will fall under the path of totality for the eclipse, providing opportunities for viewing, weather permitting. The Refuge is not planning any organized public events; however visitors may view the eclipse from several recreation areas on the refuge on their own. Below is a table of all the best viewing areas on the Refuge. Pick your spot! With an influx of eclipse viewers during the already-busy season, for visitor safety the refuge may need to close certain areas.

## Best Solar Eclipse Viewing Areas

Recreation Site		Area Description	Available Parking
1	148 Wildlife Viewing Blind	Excellent viewing from the parking lot and the mowed area. No restrooms available.	13 parking spaces
2	148 Observation Deck	Excellent viewing from the parking lot and the mowed area. The area has a raised observation deck. No restrooms available	8 parking spaces
3	148 Boat Ramp	Excellent viewing from the parking lot and the mowed area. No restrooms available	25 parking spaces
4	Martha's Theater and Harmony Trail Head	Good viewing from the parking lot and the mowed area. The area has restrooms, bleacher seating, a stage and picnic tables.	50 parking spaces
5	Refuge Visitor Center	Good viewing from the parking lot	64 parking spaces
6	Wolf Creek Recreation Area	Excellent viewing from the parking lot and the mowed area. The area has restrooms, picnic tables, grills and benches.	34 parking spaces
7	Carterville Boat Ramp Old Rt. 13	Good view from mowed area and parking lot. Portable toilet on site.	20 parking spaces
8	Greenbriar Rec. Area	Good view from mowed area and parking lot. The area has restrooms, three picnic table and grills.	61 parking spaces
9	Prairie Creek Rec Area South Side New Rt. 13	Good view from mowed area and parking lot. A pavilion, portable toilet, 15 picnic tables and 5 concrete benches are available	60 parking spaces
10	Prairie Creek Rec Area North Side New Rt. 13	Good view from mowed area and parking lot. Portable toilet on site.	20 parking spaces
11	Crab Orchard Beach	Excellent viewing from the beach and the mowed area. The area also has picnic tables and restrooms.	30 parking spaces
12	Crab Orchard Marina (North Side of Marina) Spillway Rd.	Good view from mowed area and parking lot. Restrooms available.	42 parking spaces
13	Crab Orchard Marina (South Side of Marina) Spillway Rd.	Good view from mowed area and parking lot. Restrooms available	116 parking spaces
14	West End Boat Ramp Spillway Rd.	Good view from mowed area and parking lot.	74 parking spaces
15	Two Ponds Rec Area Spillway Rd.	Excellent viewing from the parking lot and mowed area. No restrooms available.	9 parking spaces
16	Devils Kitchen North Boat ramp	Excellent viewing from the parking lot. Portable toilet on site.	25 parking spaces
17	Devils Kitchen Spillway Overlook	Excellent viewing from the parking lot and the mowed area. Restrooms available.	25 parking spaces
18	Devils Kitchen Line 13 Boat Ramp Tacoma Lake Rd.	Good viewing from the parking lot and lake shore line. No restrooms available.	9 parking spaces
19	Little Grassy East Boat Ramp Grassy Rd.	Excellent viewing from the parking lot and the mowed area. Portable toilet on site.	17 parking spaces
20	Little Grassy West Boat Ramp Grassy Rd.	Excellent viewing from the parking lot and the mowed area. Portable toilet on site.	45 parking spaces

[Viewing Area Map](#)

**Be Safe:** Observing the eclipse can be dangerous to the human eye, but proper precautions can eliminate the risk. The solar eclipse should be viewed through ISO-certified eclipse viewing glasses. In addition, never look directly at the sun through a telescope, binoculars, camera lens or cell phone cameras, as these devices will not protect the eyes. August is usually hot and dry, so don't forget your water and please pack out anything you bring along. Ticks are common on the refuge visitors are encouraged to avoid walking through tall grasses, stay on trails, and check for ticks following a visit. Our region is expecting unprecedented numbers of visitors for the solar eclipse. Travel will be difficult and emergency services are going to be stretched incredibly thin. Be prepared and be smart.

## **Things you should know while you are on the Refuge?**

- All entrance and boat launching fees will be waived on August 21<sup>st</sup>, 2017.
- Camping is only permitted in designated campgrounds
- Please do not litter. Take trash (including pet waste) with you and dispose of it properly.
- Fires are allowed only in designated areas where controlled structures are provided.
- Motorized vehicle are prohibited on grassy lawn areas adjacent to the parking lots.
- All pets must be on a leash.
- Commercial Photography, videography, and other special uses will require a special permit. You need to apply for these early so there will be time to process them before the event. Call 618-997-3344 for information about getting a special use permit.
- As a courtesy to other visitors please do not set up viewing equipment or chairs in the parking lots.

Additional information on the Great American Solar Eclipse can also be found at:

[www.GreatAmericanEclipse.com](http://www.GreatAmericanEclipse.com)

[www.Eclipse2017.org](http://www.Eclipse2017.org)