

Solar Eclipse – Monday, April 8, 2024

Stowe Public Safety and Emergency Management are doing initial planning for the Solar Eclipse.

It is anticipated that many people will be traveling to Vermont, including Stowe, to view the solar eclipse. While it is unknown what the number will be, we are planning it to be comparable to a very busy holiday weekend.

The primary areas of concern are going to be parking, traffic and public safety emergency response.

For Vermont the times of the Solar Eclipse are:

Start of Partial: 2:13pm

Start of Totality: 3:25pm

End of Totality: 3:31pm

End of Partial: 4:38pm

The parking areas that people may use will be:

Stowe High School

Stowe Elementary School

* Town Recreation Path Parking Areas -Thompson Park, Chase Park, Lintilhac Park (Village Behind Church)

*Mayo and Polo Events parking areas

Village Area – Public Parking

Please do not park on roadways or private property.

*Visit <https://www.stowerec.org/parks-facilities/map/> to view these locations on the map.

The Stowe Pinnacle Trails will be closed, along with the parking areas. The Vermont Forest, Parks and Recreation advised the trails at Pinnacle are normally closed during this time of year and will remain closed. The parking areas for the Pinnacle Trails will be closed.

Viewing The Solar Eclipse Safely:

During a partial or total solar eclipse looking directly at the Sun is unsafe except during the brief total phase ("totality"), when the Moon entirely blocks the Sun's bright face, which happens only within the narrow path of totality. At all other times, it is safe to look directly at the Sun only through special-purpose solar filters (glasses)

Please plan accordingly.

EXPECT TRAFFIC DELAYS

From Stowe Mountain Rescue:

If you're one of the many thousands planning to visit Stowe for the eclipse, we're excited to host you. However, the prospect of you all out there in the backcountry is slightly sobering for our team. The sheer numbers involved makes us suspect that we'll receive multiple calls towards the end of the day, which is going to be a logistical challenge.

We'll need your help:

- 1/ Plan to stay in the valleys – there is plenty of open space where you can safely view the eclipse. Many of the trails to elevation will be closed in any case, as is normal for this time of year. Foot traffic is very damaging on a muddy trail so the Green Mountain Club keeps them closed until mud season is over.
- 2/ This time of year is not quite wintery enough to make you think of winter, and yet it is definitely cold enough to give you hypothermia. Wherever you end up, pack extra layers, more than you think you'll need. It will be COLD. We can't emphasize this enough!
- 3/ Whether with snow, ice or mud remains to be seen, but the trails are guaranteed to be slick. Proper boots will be essential and micro spikes may be required. Whether you're a seasoned hiker or new to this, a local or a visitor, you'll be at risk of slipping.
- 3/ Be self-sufficient. If you end up needing our help, it may be many hours before we can reach you (if we get called to multiple locations at once, the delay will be epic). Think warmth, food, water, headlamps, extra batteries. Even if you don't need this stuff, you may encounter someone who does.
- 4/ Alcohol, drugs and the backcountry are not happy bedfellows. Diminished coordination and an inhibited ability to stay warm are not going to help. We don't mean to be patronizing, but this is an easily-avoided element that can change an outcome for the worse. Please exercise restraint!
- 5/ To top it off, the roads are anticipated to have heavy traffic, which will contribute to our delayed response time.

With all that in mind, roll on 8th April! It should be an amazing spectacle.