

## 2024 Total Solar Eclipse Frequently Asked Questions

**Will eclipse glasses be available?** Great Parks of Hamilton County has a limited supply of eclipse glasses that will be handed out on the day of the event. They will be distributed on a first-come, first-served basis until they run out. You must be present to be handed a pair. If you want to ensure you have eclipse glasses, we will have them for sale in our gift shops (Nature's Niche) starting March 16. The gift shops are located at Miami Whitewater Forest, Glenwood Gardens, Sharon Woods, and Woodland Mound. Please check our website for the current hours of operation for the gift shop you choose to visit. <https://www.greatparks.org/shop/natures-niche-gifts-books>

These glasses should be worn while looking towards the sun from the beginning of the eclipse event, at 1:51 p.m. and leading up to the totality event at 3:08 p.m. If your viewing site is in the path of totality, safety glasses can be removed briefly at 3:08 p.m. when the moon completely covers the sun. As soon as the sun begins to appear again, the glasses should be put back on until the eclipse event completely concludes at approximately 4:24 p.m. Never look directly at the sun without proper eye protection.

If you are unable to get your hands on a pair of glasses in time for the event, you can use an indirect viewing method instead of looking directly at the sun. For more information on certified glasses and indirect methods of viewing, see the **Eye Safety for Total Solar Eclipses from NASA** section below, or visit <https://science.nasa.gov/eclipses/future-eclipses/eclipse-2024/safety/>.

**When will the park be open and what are the hours?** Visitors are encouraged to plan to arrive at their park destination as early as possible and make a day out of the event. The parks are open from dawn until dusk. The Total Solar Eclipse event at Miami Whitewater Forest will run from 11 a.m. until 4 p.m.

**Will food and drink be available, or can we bring our own picnic lunch?** Food and drink will be available for purchase, and you can pack your own as well. Alcohol cannot be brought into the park; it can only be purchased on-site.

**Will there be restrooms?** Restrooms are available at the Harbor Pavilion. Additional port-a-lets will also be available.

**Will there be any activities?** Yes, starting at 11 a.m., we will have educational stations, live animals, hikes, and yard games available. In addition, we encourage our guests to enjoy the amenities of the park throughout the day. Our boathouse will be open, and you can rent a boat, do some fishing, or hike on your own, and enjoy time together before the big event!

**Can we bring a blanket or bag chairs?** Yes, seating is very limited at the park, so guests are encouraged to bring a blanket or bag chair with them. In addition, you may want to bring other activities as well such as a book to read or a small game your family and friends love to play.

**Are there trash cans and recycling bins available at the park?** Yes, we will have both trash cans and recycling cans. We encourage our guests to pack out as much of what they bring with them to lessen the impact of the day on the park environment.

**Will there be parking?** Yes, there will be parking at the Miami Whitewater Forest harbor parking lot, including reserved parking for those with valid accessible parking passes. We encourage guests to stay at the park and not leave to get food or other items as traffic is expected to be heavy. Great Parks Rangers will be on-site directing overflow traffic if needed.

**Can we camp at the park?** Miami Whitewater Forest has a 46-site tent and RV back-in campsites which require advanced reservations. Please visit <https://www.greatparks.org/parks/miami-whitewater-forest/miami-whitewater-forest-campground> to find out more information and availability. The campground is an easy walk to the harbor which is where the event will be held.

**Can I bring my pet?** We encourage our visitors to leave their pets at home. We expect a large crowd for this event, which could be stressful for pets – and in turn, for pet owners as well. In addition, pet waste can become quite a problem in the size of the crowd that we anticipate.

**Is the harbor area and the event accessible?** The Miami Whitewater Forest harbor area, Visitor Center, and event are accessible.

**Do we need a Motor Vehicle Permit to enter the park for this event?** The Motor Vehicle Permit has been waived at Miami Whitewater Forest only for Monday, April 8, 2024.

## **Leave No Trace**

Leave No Trace is a set of seven principles that empower everyone visiting the outdoors to minimize their impact to greenspaces – with the basic concept that everyone should leave wild spaces better than they found them. Great Parks is a partner with Leave No Trace and asks that all visitors follow these guidelines during all their visits:

**Dispose of Waste Properly** – Help keep your Great Parks beautiful and the natural areas safe and healthy for plants and wildlife by planning to pack out all the waste you might create during your time at the parks – from snack wrappers to fishing lines.

**Leave What You Find** – Plant life plays an important role in a balanced ecosystem. Please do not pick flowers or plants. Stay on trails so as not to trample plants or spread seeds of invasive plants.

**Respect Wildlife** – All wildlife should be admired from a safe distance and never approached, fed, or bothered.

**Be Considerate of Others** – People visit parks for a variety of reasons, and this event will be a spectacular one if all can minimize noise (i.e., no amplified sounds), clean up after themselves, and share the space.

**Plan Ahead and Prepare** – Reading through these guidelines, the Frequently Asked Questions, and the [event's webpage](#), you will have a great start to knowing what to expect and how to plan out your day. Be sure to dress for the weather, wear sunscreen, drink plenty of water throughout the day, and we should all have a great experience!

## Eye Safety for Total Solar Eclipses from NASA

<https://science.nasa.gov/eclipses/safety/>

Here are some important safety guidelines to follow during a total solar eclipse:

- View the Sun through eclipse glasses or a handheld solar viewer during the partial eclipse phases before and after totality.
- Eclipse glasses are NOT regular sunglasses. Regular sunglasses, no matter how dark, are not safe for viewing the Sun. Safe solar viewers are thousands of times darker and ought to comply with the ISO 12312-2 international standard.
- You can view the eclipse directly without proper eye protection only when the Moon completely obscures the Sun's bright face – during the brief and spectacular period known as totality. (You'll know it's safe when you can no longer see any part of the Sun through eclipse glasses or a solar viewer.)
- As soon as you see even a little bit of the bright Sun reappear after totality, immediately put your eclipse glasses back on or use a handheld solar viewer to look at the Sun.
- Viewing any part of the bright Sun through a camera lens, binoculars, or a telescope without a special-purpose solar filter secured over the front of the optics will instantly cause severe eye injury.

## Skin Safety for Total Solar Eclipses from NASA

Even during a partial or annular eclipse, or during the partial phases of a total eclipse, the Sun will still be very bright. If you are watching an entire eclipse, you may be in direct sunlight for hours. Remember to wear sunscreen, a hat, and protective clothing to prevent skin damage.