



City of Dayton continues preparation for solar eclipse

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The City of Dayton continues to prepare for a significant increase in visitors and vehicle traffic for the once-in-a-lifetime total solar eclipse on Monday, April 8, 2024. Senior City leadership and City Commissioners have been briefed about the potential impacts on the area, including traffic volume, infrastructure challenges, and preparedness efforts across all City departments.

The Dayton Fire Department will place additional emergency response resources in service on the days leading up to the eclipse to accommodate the anticipated increase in visitors at hotels, attractions, parks, etc. On the day of the eclipse, the DFD is staffing a robust amount of additional resources to ensure adequate response throughout the city in potentially high traffic congestion, as well as providing several staff members in the City's operations center and department command center.

The Dayton Police Department is increasing staffing on April 8 and will also limit patrol activities to respond only to high-priority calls for service. Calls that are determined to be a lower priority will be handled remotely through the telephone reporting unit. Dayton Police Department leadership and staff members will closely monitor traffic conditions throughout the area from the City's operations center and will coordinate with Dayton Fire, the Ohio Department of Transportation, and the Ohio State Highway Patrol to ensure adequate responses to incidents and efficient passage of area roadways.

To help alleviate potential traffic congestion, the Department of Public Works is suspending several operations on April 8, including waste collection, lot mowing, and road construction projects.

In Dayton, waste collection will be delayed by one day during the week April 8, similar to typical holidays. Public Works will also work with Dayton Police and Dayton Fire in the City's operations center on the day of the eclipse to mitigate any issues with traffic signals and roadways.

The Department of Recreation is hosting viewing parties at each of the City's three recreation centers to provide safe viewing locations away from roadways and ensure appropriate glasses are being worn by eclipse viewers.

Several other City departments are adopting modified work schedules for April 8 to decrease potential congestion in the downtown area while also ensuring adequate City services.

The City of Dayton is committed to embracing the opportunities of this once-in-a-lifetime event while also ensuring citizen safety, adequate emergency response resources, and uninterrupted core City functions.

Attachments:
City of Dayton Eclipse Tips
Public Health Dayton & Montgomery County Eclipse Guide



FOR A SAFE & ENJOYABLE SOLAR ECLIPSE

Dayton will experience a total solar eclipse on **Monday, April 8, at about 3:09 p.m.**, lasting around three minutes. Here's what's expected and suggestions for safer, enjoyable eclipse:

- **TRAFFIC/ROADS:** Heavy local & visitor traffic is expected, especially just after the eclipse. Plan accordingly. Do NOT view the eclipse from a road/highway or shoulder.
- **SCHEDULE WISELY:** Handle errands, shopping, and ATM or gas station visits well in advance.
- **WATER:** If on the road or a long walk, bring drinking water in case of delays.
- **WIRELESS DISRUPTION:** Cellular/internet service or electronic transactions such as credit/debit cards may be slow or unavailable.
- **EMERGENCY PLAN:** Create/update a home emergency kit/family plan. Go to daytonohio.gov/prepare for more.

Never view an eclipse without ISO-certified eye protection. Sunglasses aren't enough.

PREPARING FOR THE UPCOMING ECLIPSE

On Monday, April 8, 2024, people within Montgomery County as well as the surrounding Miami Valley will experience a total solar eclipse. Totality (darkness) will last 2 minutes and 42 seconds. The partial eclipse will begin at 1:53 pm, with totality arriving at 3:09 pm. It's expected that this event will bring large numbers of individuals into our area. A total solar eclipse is a rare and spectacular event. The last total solar eclipse visible in Ohio was in 1806. The next total solar eclipse in Ohio will be in the year 2099.



WHAT IS THE CONCERN?

- Large crowds are expected to show up for a once in a lifetime event.
- A prior eclipse in the USA (2017) had more than 5 million people view the event.
- Expect traffic jams that could last up to 13 hours after the eclipse.
- Rural roads may see increased traffic with drivers who are unfamiliar with local road conditions and may travel at a high rate of speed. Be mindful of children and pets.
- Possibility for cell phone & Wi-Fi to be significantly impacted based on large number of viewers.

EXPECTATIONS/PLANNING PREPARATION



Limit travel on the day of the event if possible.



Travel with water, medications, snacks, and other needed supplies should you encounter an extended delay on the roadways.



Begin the day with a fully charged mobile phone, carry extra power devices.



Fill up on gas at least the day before the eclipse.



If viewing the eclipse, use eclipse glasses that meet ISO 12312-2 standards.



Expect employees to have long delays driving to and from work, day of the event.



Maintain a small amount of cash on your person, in case credit card services go down.



Check with your kids' school on their plans for the day (early off, delayed pick-up).

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