

Embrace and Reclaim the Night with Lights Out Fairfax

Dark skies have been increasingly obscured by the glow of artificial light. This surge in light pollution affects stargazing as well as the delicate balance of nature.. Light pollution is caused by inappropriate or excessive use of artificial light and holds environmental consequences for humans, wildlife and our climate. The remedy lies in understanding and curbing light pollution through responsible outdoor lighting practices.

With nearly 10% of Fairfax County covered by parks situated in diverse environments, adopting dark sky-friendly lighting becomes paramount for ecologically sensitive areas. Light trespass and pollution impact wildlife by disrupting migrating bird navigation and hindering nocturnal animals' ability to hunt and feed.

There are ways to make an impact and reclaim the night in your community. Join the movement with Lights Out Fairfax on March 23 from 8:30 to 9:30 p.m. Discover One Dark Hour by turning off outdoor lights. Engage your family, friends and neighbors in this powerful connection with the natural world. Help protect our dark skies and explore the impact of light pollution during International Dark Sky Week from April 15 through April 22. Understand the economic benefits of dark sky conservation and its effects on human health, safety and the environment.

Learn about outdoor lighting requirements and contribute to the cause by visiting the Dark Skies webpage at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/topics/dark-skies.



COUNTDOWN TO CELESTIAL WONDER: THE GREAT AMERICAN ECLIPSE OF 2024



Prepare to be enchanted as the celestial dance between the sun and moon unfolds in the Great American Eclipse on April 8, 2024. This extraordinary event promises a longer and more mesmerizing spectacle than its predecessor in 2017, captivating the hearts of millions of spectators.

Whether you are a seasoned eclipse watcher or a first-timer, the 2024 Great American Eclipse is a must-see, offering the chance to stand in the moon's shadow, witnessing the sun's corona against a darkened sky – an unforgettable experience.

This cosmic spectacle will grace the Washington, D.C. area, marking the last total solar eclipse visible from the contiguous United States until 2044. As part of the Great North American Eclipse, the moon's shadow will traverse Mexico, the United States and Canada, retracing the path of the 2017 eclipse.

Join the Fairfax County Park Authority in celebrating this wonder. Enjoy games and activities that will unveil the marvels of the eclipse and experience the magic at various parks. Events will be held starting on March 25 at Turner Farm Park and continue on April 8 at Historic Huntley, Ellanor C. Lawrence Park and Burke Lake Park. To secure your spot for an unforgettable journey or for more information, visit page 134.

Please note: spectators should only gaze at the eclipse with proper eye protection.