



Eclipse Extravaganza

Discover the Magic of Two Solar Eclipses



- Burke Lake Park**
12-2 p.m., \$10
- Historic Huntley**
11:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m., \$10
- Sully Historic Site**
12-2 p.m., \$10
- Turner Farm Park**
Observatory
viewing only
no activities,
11:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m., \$6

Mark your calendars and prepare for multiple breathtaking celestial events this October and again in April 2024, as two rare solar eclipses grace the skies. Nature's grand show, the solar eclipse, occurs when the Moon passes between the Earth and the Sun, casting a mesmerizing shadow on our planet. The upcoming eclipses will take place on October 14, 2023, and April 8, 2024, as this extraordinary astronomical occurrence takes center stage two times within six months.

This fall, an annular eclipse also known as a Ring of Fire eclipse will take place on October 14, 2023. The annular eclipse takes place when the moon is at its farthest point from earth and so it appears smaller than the sun and does not completely cover the sun leaving a ring around the edge. Virginia is not in the direct path of the moon's shadow, so we will only see a partial eclipse. It will look like 30% of the sun is missing.

The Fairfax County Park Authority has prepared for extraordinary eclipse viewings throughout the county on October 14. Join our experts to view the partial annular solar eclipse. At noon, watch as the moon partially eclipses the sun as they both travel across the sky. A limited number of eclipse viewing glasses and sun spotting scopes will be available to view the eclipse. As we await the eclipse and after it has passed, enjoy various themed games, activities and demonstrations. Participants should bring portable chairs and blankets.

During the afternoon of April 8, 2024, a total eclipse will be viewable from North America. Next April will be far more dramatic with more than 85% of the sun covered. During a total eclipse, the moon aligns itself perfectly with the sun, momentarily blocking its radiant glow. As a result, an eerie twilight descends, revealing the sun's delicate corona, like a shimmering crown for scientists to study not visible to the naked eye. These rare spectacles captivate both seasoned astronomers and curious sky gazers alike.

Observing a solar eclipse requires taking precautions to protect your eyes. Never look directly at the sun without proper eye protection, such as certified solar eclipse glasses or handheld viewers. These protective measures shield your eyes from harmful ultraviolet rays and ensure a safe and enjoyable experience.

We will release our viewing opportunities for the April 2024 eclipse in the spring edition of ParkTakes.

The October solar eclipse promises to be awe-inspiring. Whether you find yourself at one of our viewing sessions or you are viewing at home, be sure to mark your calendars and prepare for an extraordinary encounter with the wonders of the universe. Remember to prioritize safety and enjoy the show!

The Eclipse Extravaganza is sponsored by the Fairfax County Park Foundation. For more information, visit www.FairfaxParkFoundation.org.



For more information about the event or to register, visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/astronomy.