

# The Great American Solar Eclipse Viewing Tips

## What is a solar eclipse?

A solar eclipse occurs when the moon passes between Earth and the sun, blocking at least part of the sun as viewed from some areas of the earth. During a total solar eclipse, the moon completely obscures the sun so that only the sun's corona is visible for a moment in time. On Monday, April 8, 2024, a total solar eclipse will be visible along a 115-mile wide path across the United States from Texas to Maine. This is one of the most amazing natural sights and is worth seeing at least once in a lifetime. It goes against all of our experience to seem like night in the middle of the day. The sky becomes so dark that the stars and planets are visible, birds stop chirping because they think it is time to roost, automatic streetlights turn on, and the air gets distinctly cooler. For the upcoming eclipse, totality will last up to 4 minutes, 08 seconds on the Refuge. Partial eclipse will begin at 12:42 pm with maximum totality at 2:01 pm.

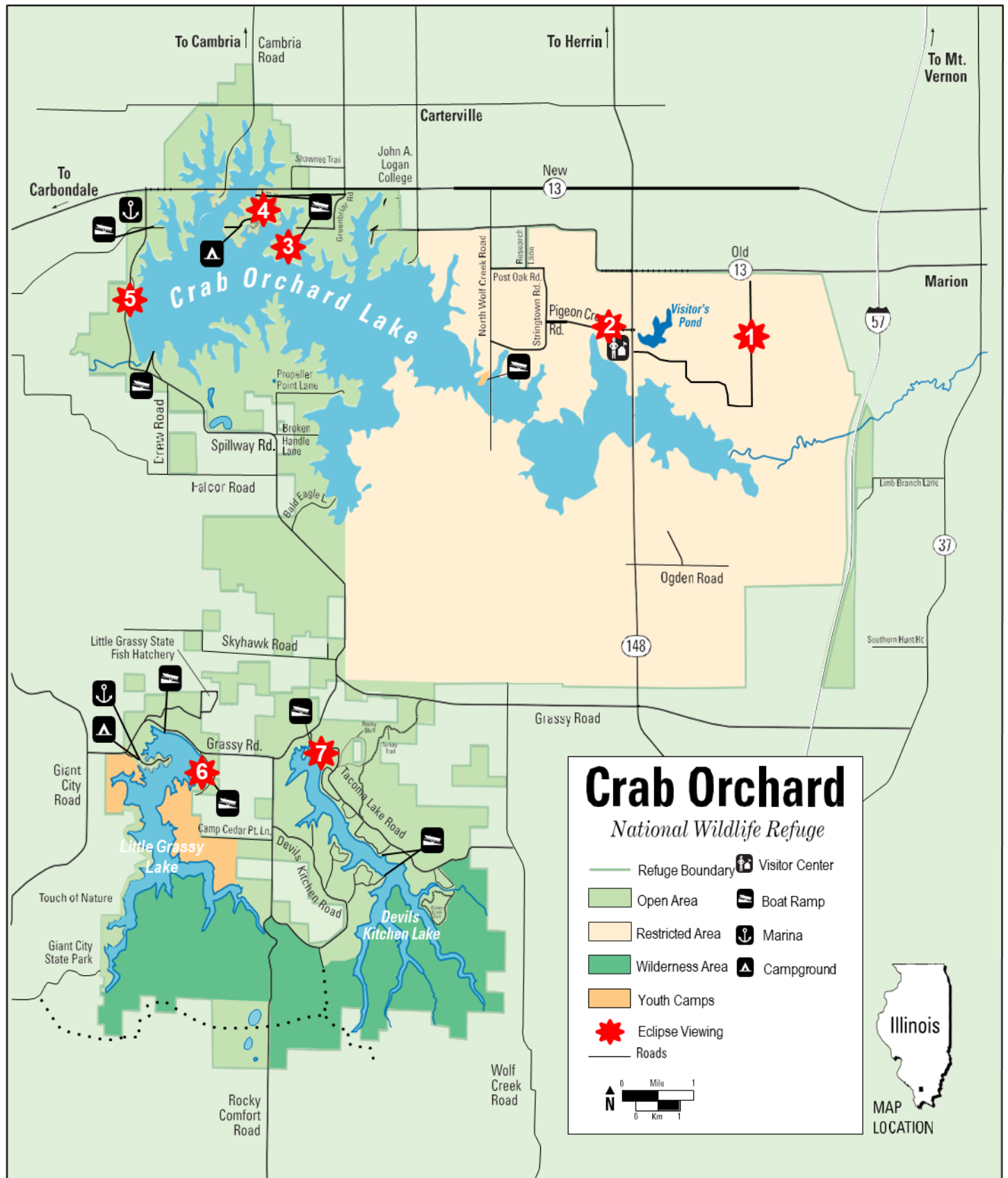
## Where can I see the Eclipse on Crab Orchard National Wildlife Refuge?

The entire Refuge will fall under the path of totality for the eclipse, providing opportunities for viewing, weather permitting. The Refuge is not planning any organized public events; however visitors may view the eclipse from several recreation areas on the refuge on their own. Below is a map and table of all the best viewing areas on the Refuge. Pick your spot! Bring your own lawn chairs or picnic blankets as you like! Food service will be available in some areas. With an influx of eclipse viewers during the already-busy season, for visitor safety the refuge will need to close certain areas.

### Best Solar Eclipse Viewing Areas

Recreation Site		Area Description	Available Parking
1	Area Six Bunker	Excellent viewing from a 250 area field with parking, restrooms, and food available. This area also is one of Crab Orchard NWR's many historical areas. The area has seventy earth-covered, concrete-walled bunkers that were used to store munitions during World War II. Rangers will be available to show and discuss the history of the area.	600 parking spaces
2	Martha's Theater and Harmony Trail Head	Good viewing from the parking lot and the mowed area. The area has restrooms, bleacher seating, and picnic tables.	50 parking spaces
3	Greenbriar Rec. Area	Good view from mowed area, boat launch and parking lot. The area has restrooms, three picnic table and grills.	61 parking spaces
4	Prairie Creek Rec Area South Side New Rt. 13	Excellent view from mowed area and parking lot. A pavilion, portable toilet, 15 picnic tables and 5 concrete benches are available.	60 parking spaces
	Crab Orchard Beach	Excellent viewing from the beach and the mowed area. The area also has picnic tables and restrooms.	30 parking spaces
5	West End Boat Ramp Spillway Rd.	Good view from mowed area and parking lot.	74 parking spaces
6	Little Grassy West Boat Ramp Grassy Rd.	Excellent viewing from the parking lot and the mowed area. Portable toilet on site.	45 parking spaces
7	Devils Kitchen Spillway Overlook	Excellent viewing from the parking lot and the mowed area. Restrooms available.	50 parking spaces

# April 8, 2024 Solar Eclipse Viewing Areas



**Be Safe:** Observing the eclipse can be dangerous to the human eye, but proper precautions can eliminate the risk. The solar eclipse should be viewed through ISO-certified eclipse viewing glasses. In addition, never look directly at the sun through a telescope, binoculars, camera lens or cell phone cameras, as these devices will not protect the eyes. August is usually hot and dry, so don't forget your water and please pack out anything you bring along. Ticks are common on the refuge visitors are encouraged to avoid walking through tall grasses, stay on trails, and check for ticks following a visit. Our region is expecting unprecedented numbers of visitors for the solar eclipse. Travel will be difficult and emergency services are going to be stretched incredibly thin. Be prepared and be smart.

## **Things you should know while you are on the Refuge?**

- All entrance and boat launching fees will be waived on April 8, 2024.
- Area Six viewing area will closed at 4:00pm.
- Camping is only permitted in designated campgrounds
- Please do not litter. Take trash (including pet waste) with you and dispose of it properly.
- Fires are allowed only in designated areas where controlled structures are provided.
- Motorized vehicle are prohibited on grassy lawn areas adjacent to the parking lots.
- All pets must be on a leash.
- As a courtesy to other visitors please do not set up viewing equipment or chairs in the parking lots.