



Shawnee National Forest | March 2024



Solar Eclipse

Most of southern Illinois and the Shawnee National Forest is within the path of totality. Although much of the Shawnee is covered in forests, there are many open areas that provide excellent locations for viewing the eclipse.

The information provided will help you plan your visit to view the solar eclipse on the Shawnee National Forest.

Know Before You Go

- Plan ahead and prepare for your visit. Planning ahead and following the rules set forth by the Shawnee National Forest is a great way to have a safe and enjoyable trip.
- Cell service may be limited or non-existent in parts of the Shawnee.
- Expect large crowds, delays, traffic backups and impacts on highways.
- Obtain a map or visitor information.
- Pets allowed, on a leash.
- Secure your vehicle – Don't leave valuables in plain site.
- Ticks and other insects are abundant. Insect repellent is recommended.
- Poison ivy is widespread. Remember: three leaves - leave it be.
- Help keep the forest free of tree-killing pests by not moving firewood. "Buy it where you burn it".

Learn more at www.dontmovefirewood.org



Forest Map/Trail Maps



Forest Rules & Regulations

Outdoor Safety

- Stay hydrated, carry snacks with you, dress for the weather, wear sturdy shoes when hiking or camping.
- Rock surfaces are often wet and slippery; Use extreme caution, Stay on designated trails.
- High bluffs are found throughout the Shawnee; Do not venture out near bluff edges; Enjoy waterfalls from a safe viewing point.
- Venomous snakes inhabit southern Illinois; Watch your step when hiking.
- Fire restrictions may be in place; Check our Facebook page for the latest information.
- To report suspicious or illegal activity, call or text our law enforcement Tip Line: (618) 201-3364
- Call 911 for emergency.

Forest Roads

County roads and Forest Service roads are usually unpaved and narrow. Parking is allowed along Forest Service roads, but drivers should not block traffic or cause resource damage – Don't park on soft shoulders. Vehicles blocking roads will be towed at the owner's expense. Detailed road maps are available for free on our website or at any Forest office.

Camping

No Reservations Accepted – All camping is first come – first serve.

Developed Campgrounds	Fee	# of campsites	
Johnson Creek Recreation Area	\$10	20	No potable water
Turkey Bayou Campground	free	19	No water
Pine Hills Campground	\$10	13	No water
Bell Smith Springs Recreation Area	\$15	21	Water
Lake Glendale Recreation Area	\$15	60	Water, showers, electric (36 sites)
Garden of the Gods Recreation Area	\$10	12	Water
Pounds Hollow Recreation Area	\$10	54	Water, electric (13 sites)
Camp Cadiz Campground	\$10	8	Water
Tower Rock Campground	free	4	No water

Instructions for paying campsite fees are located at the entrance of the campground. Campgrounds are patrolled regularly. Dogs are welcome on a leash. Quiet hours are from 10:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m. Weapons, firearms and fireworks are not to be discharged in campgrounds or picnic areas.

Dispersed Camping

In addition to developed campgrounds, dispersed camping is allowed across most of the Shawnee National Forest. Some general forest areas have been improved for visitor comfort during the eclipse event and to protect natural resources. There is no fee for primitive camping in general forest areas, however visitors are limited to camping a maximum of 14 continuous days. Campers need to be self-sufficient at the dispersed camping areas; there are no picnic tables, fire rings/grills or water. The sites have been mowed, graveled and a porta-potty and dumpster will be provided for the eclipse event.



Scan the QR Code to find a Campground or Viewing Location:

Eclipse Safety

Use proper eye protection when viewing the eclipse. For more information about the proper safety while viewing the eclipse, visit NASA's safety website: www.nasa.gov/content/eye-safety-during-a-total-solar-eclipse.

Other Viewing Locations & Events:

Southern Illinois Eclipse Crossroads of America: www.eclipse.siu.edu

Southern Illinois Eclipse: www.southernillinoiseclipse.com

Illinois State Parks Eclipse Website: www.dnr.illinois.gov/recreation/totalsolareclipse

Enjoy Illinois Tourism: www.enjoyillinois.com/travel-illinois/your-2024-illinois-solar-eclipse-guide

Other Forest Activities:

- Hiking
- Bicycling
- Kayaking
- Fishing
- Bird Watching