

# Eclipse 2017 Safety and Parking at Rock Bridge Memorial State Park

## Ahead of Time – Come Prepared:

**Certified Eclipse Glasses are a Must:** Make sure you have a pair of certified eclipse glasses (should have an ISO number) for each person in your group and acquire glasses well in advance. It will damage eyes if you look at even a slither of sun shining as the eclipse progresses prior to and after the total eclipse and the total eclipse lasts for only 2.5 minutes. Examine your eclipse glasses and if damaged, replace them. Keep them on for the entire time that you are looking toward the sun. Viewing the partial eclipse through an unfiltered camera, binoculars, or any other device can damage the device and do damage to your eyes. For more information, see “How to View the 2017 Solar Eclipse Safely” flyer or go to [eclipse.aas.org](http://eclipse.aas.org) or [eclipse2017.nasa.gov](http://eclipse2017.nasa.gov). Eclipse glasses can be purchased at the park office for only \$1 though supplies are extremely limited, so we advise that visitors get their eclipse glasses well in advance.

## Safety-

**Bring and Wear:** Bring plenty to drink and some food because you may be out longer than you anticipate and it will likely be hot. You may want to wear a hat and cool clothing. Viewing areas are mowed grass; chairs will not be provided, so bring lawn chairs or a blanket to sit on. Bring with you any medications you might possibly need because emergency response might be delayed due to traffic and the distances and remote nature of the park. Sun screen and insect repellent are **strongly recommended**.

**Arrive Early:** Due to anticipated traffic and high attendance, we recommend that you arrive several hours in advance of the eclipse which begins about 11:45 p.m., is in totality at about 1:15 p.m. and finishes around 2:45 p.m. You do not want to be stuck driving or in an unsafe viewing location during the total eclipse!

**Be Aware of Your Surroundings:** Drivers - Be very careful, patient, and watch for pedestrians and children. Park only in designated parking places and signed overflow parking. Walkers – Avoid walking in roadways if possible and be alert and watchful. Cross Highway 163 only at designated locations, and make sure your children are always nearby. When it suddenly becomes dark, you don't want to be near the edge of a bluff or at other precarious locations where there is a drop-off or poor footing.

**Pets:** If you plan to bring any pets with you to the eclipse, make sure that they are on a leash according to park rules and not near other people and their dogs. Even the best behaved pets can get a little freaked out during such events. You may want to consider leaving your pet at home for this park visit.

## Parking and Viewing Instructions

**Parking is not permitted on park roads and along Highway 163. It is also prohibited to drive on park trails.**

The four main viewing areas are listed below in order from greatest amount of parking available to the least. Signs will direct you to parking and viewing areas. Staff and volunteers will be posted at each area. Please refer to attached maps as well as the following descriptions:

**High Ridge Trail:** Parking will be available in the Devil's Icebox Trailhead (DI) parking lot, the park's largest parking lot and also in the Gans Creek Wild Area parking lot. A path from the Devil's Icebox Trailhead parking lot to the High Ridge Trail will be clearly marked in the grass along the entrance road and will involve crossing Highway 163. A park ranger will be stationed there and "Caution Pedestrians" signs will advise motorists. A portable toilet will be available at the High Ridge Trailhead and four vault toilets are available at the Devil's Icebox Trailhead. The viewing areas are two mowed circular areas on the ridge within the prairie restoration area as well as the mowed trails. This is the highest vantage point in the park.

**Picnic Area:** There will be several parking areas in the picnic area. This is our primary ADA accessible viewing area. ADA parking spaces will be available near the Gilbert Shelter and playground. There will be two main parking areas that will be clearly marked and will have staff directing traffic. They are a field between the brick building and playground and a field south of the log cabin. Flushable toilets are available near the Gilbert Shelter and in the office. **Parking is not permitted on park roads or in the viewing areas.** The viewing areas are "the big circle" between the roads near the Gilbert Shelter and near the Hickam log cabin.

**Grassland Trail:** The Grassland parking lot will be available, although there is space for only a few vehicles. Extra designated parking will be available all along the right side (north) of Rock Bridge Lane (assuming you turned onto the road from Highway 163). Parking is not permitted on the opposite (south) side of the road. It is the East/West section of Rock Bridge Lane (about 1 mile) that will be signed for parking. A portable toilet will be available at the Grassland Trailhead. The trail in the Grassland is mowed about 18 ft. wide, so the viewing area is anywhere along the length of the 2 mile trail that is without trees.

**Karst Trail:** The Karst Trailhead parking lot will be available for parking, although there is space for only a few vehicles. Extra designated parking for about 30 vehicles will be provided in a mowed field off Highway 163 just west of the big park sign and east of Bonne Femme Church Road/sign for Shooting Star Trailhead. A portable toilet will be available in the extra designated parking lot. The viewing areas are two mowed circular areas out in the middle of the prairie restoration area as well as along mowed trails.