



# St. Charles County Government

Department of Parks and Recreation  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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## Partial Solar Eclipse Viewing at Klondike Park on May 20

*St. Charles County, Missouri* –The St. Charles County Parks Department is teaming up with the Astronomical Society of Eastern Missouri (ASEM) to host a public viewing of a partial solar eclipse on Sunday, May 20, at Klondike Park, 4600 Highway 94 South in Augusta. Beginning at 7:25 p.m., for about an hour, the moon will obscure approximately 52 percent of the sun by sunset. Participants will have to walk up a fairly steep paved trail to get to the lookout bluff where the viewing area will take place, and are encouraged to bring a flashlight for the walk back down.

An annular solar eclipse occurs when the Moon's apparent diameter is smaller than the Sun, causing the sun to look like an annulus (ring), blocking most of the Sun's light. An annular eclipse appears as a partial eclipse over a region thousands of kilometers wide.

Weather permitting, members of the ASEM will bring solar scopes to the top of the lookout bluff for the public to view. They will also provide 50 pair of special “eclipse glasses” for the public to use during the event. Looking at the partial solar eclipse with the bare eye can cause severe damage to the eye. Unfavorable weather conditions may obstruct the view of the partial solar eclipse, causing the event to be canceled.

The annular phase will be visible from the Chinese coast, the south of Japan, and the western part of the United States and Canada. It will be the first central eclipse of the 21<sup>st</sup> century in the continental USA and the first annual eclipse since the solar eclipse of May 10, 1994.

Anyone interested in attending this public viewing of the partial solar eclipse should register by calling the St Charles County Parks Department at 636.949.7535. If unfavorable weather conditions exist on the day of the event, contact the St. Charles County Parks Closure/Cancellation Hotline at 636.949.7475 for an update. Also check the ASEM Web site at [www.asemonline.org](http://www.asemonline.org).

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