

*As Doniphan County gears up for the Total Solar Eclipse in the Heartland on Aug. 21, 2017, the office of Economic Development will be providing informative articles weekly to the public to be prepared for this rare and spectacular event.*

For the first time since 1918, a total solar eclipse will be passing over the transcontinental United States of America from coast to coast on Aug. 21, 2017! The path of the eclipse is only 70 miles wide. If you are in the eclipse path at all, you will experience a total solar eclipse. However, the closer you are to the centerline of the eclipse path, the longer the total solar eclipse will last.

Lucky for us, the center path of totality will be slicing through the middle of Doniphan County, KS! The cities of Highland, Troy, Wathena and Elwood are almost precisely on the center path and the entire county will easily be able to view the entire total solar eclipse that day.

**So what is a solar eclipse?** A solar eclipse is the lineup of the sun, moon, and earth. When the moon passes directly between the sun and earth, the moon blocks the visibility of the sun and casts a shadow on earth. Before the total solar eclipse, the moon will start lining up with the sun and that is called a partial eclipse. However, when the sun, moon and earth are directly lined up and you can't see the sun at all, it is called totality, which usually lasts a only few minutes or less.

The partial eclipse will start at 11:40 a.m. throughout the entire Doniphan County area, but be ready earlier so you don't miss a second. Totality will begin at approximately 1:05 p.m. and last for an entire 2 minutes and 38 seconds. After that, it goes back to being a partial eclipse again and will end or look normal again by 2:35 p.m.

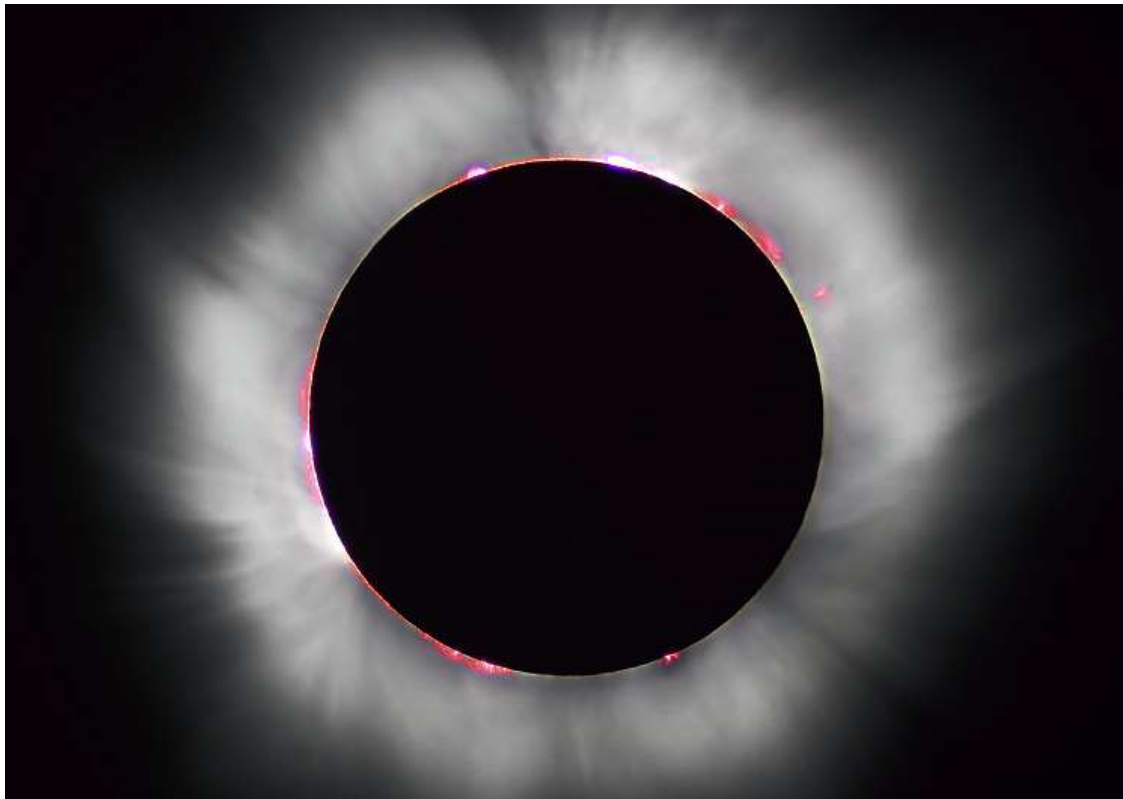
**What should you expect during a partial solar eclipse and totality?** Since no more than two total solar eclipses can occur in a year combined with the variations of the moon's orbit and the short viewing time, this is one of nature's rarest events. The August eclipse will be the first total solar eclipse to go through the U.S. since 1979 when one drifted through the northwest corner of the country. It's the first to cross the continent from ocean to ocean since 1918. It's also the first eclipse visible from ONLY the United States since before 1776. Expect all communities across the country within this 70 miles radius of the eclipse to have a major influx of visitors.

According to [nationaleclipse.com](http://nationaleclipse.com), most people who have seen a total solar eclipse have described it as the most spectacular natural event they have ever witnessed. It starts as the moon slowly obscures more and more of the sun. When just a small sliver of light remains, you'll see "Baily's beads," caused by the last rays of sunlight streaming through the lunar valleys. Next is a giant diamond ring in the sky. And then the soft wisps of the solar corona surrounding a huge hold where the sun used to be. You might notice a temperature drop, birds flying home to their nests and a very eerie feeling in the air. You're standing in a strange twilight, while a sunset glows on the horizon all around you. Finally, totality comes to an end as the events occur in reverse order.

**Stay turned in the following weeks as we talk about the county's safety plans, multiple city's events during the eclipse weekend, best practices to accommodate incoming visitors and more. You can always find more information at [www.dpcountyks.com](http://www.dpcountyks.com) or at [www.facebook.com/eclipseintheheartland/](https://www.facebook.com/eclipseintheheartland/)**



(Graphic created by Kylee Luckeroth)



Picture taken by Luc Viatour ([www.lucnix.be](http://www.lucnix.be))