



DRIPPING SPRINGS
Texas

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Contact: Lisa Sullivan
People & Communications Director
City of Dripping Springs
512-858-4725

Dripping Springs Prepares for Total Solar Eclipse

DRIPPING SPRINGS, TEXAS – March 21, 2023 – Dripping Springs is about to experience two stellar events: an annular solar eclipse in October of this year and a total solar eclipse in April of 2024!

The annular solar eclipse will take place on October 14, 2023. Dripping Springs is just on the outskirts of the totality of the annular eclipse, so residents and visitors will only experience a partial one. However, we are about a year away from a once-in-a-lifetime event happening in Dripping Springs: a total Solar Eclipse on April 8, 2024. Dripping Springs will be in the totality of the total solar eclipse and community leaders are preparing.

A total solar eclipse happens somewhere in the world every 18-months, but it only happens in the same place approximately every 375 years. The last time our area experienced a total solar eclipse was in the 1800s. There are just 13 states in the U.S. where the total solar eclipse will be visible. Texas will experience the most prolonged eclipse duration of those states. Because of this unique solar phenomenon taking place in our area, Dripping Springs and the surrounding Hill Country can expect the most significant number of visitors our community has ever encountered.

Dripping Springs will experience the total solar eclipse beginning at approximately 12:16pm on Monday, April 8, 2024. The full eclipse begins at 1:34pm and Dripping Springs will be in total darkness for 3 minutes, when the moon's disk completely blocks the sun.

In August of last year, a community eclipse committee was formed to help Dripping Springs prepare for the big events and to ensure that all areas of the City are as prepared as possible. The committee consists of city department heads including Emergency Management, Parks and Community Services, Communications and more. It also includes representatives from the Dripping Springs Visitors Bureau, Dripping Springs Chamber of Commerce, Dripping Springs Independent School District, North Hays County Fire & Rescue Department, North Hays EMS, and more. The committee has been researching what other cities have done to prepare,

including members have been attending virtual eclipse planning workshops and reading white papers from cities that have experienced eclipses before.

“This will be a historic event for Dripping Springs. We are excited about this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for our City and we are doing everything we can to ensure we are ready,” said City of Dripping Springs City Administrator, Michelle Fischer. “We want to do all we can to make sure our residents, businesses, and visitors have a positive experience.”

Educating the public is a main focus for the Eclipse Committee. One way to keep the public informed is the City of Dripping Springs has launched a section on its website dedicated to all things Eclipse related. Residents and business can go to the site for the latest from the committee, as well as ways to learn about the upcoming eclipses and how to be prepared. The website is located here, <https://www.cityofdrippingsprings.com/eclipse>. Visitors to the site can find helpful links and also sign up for an eclipse newsletter that will be sent periodically to subscribers. In the next month, there will also be information on how to get approved eclipse glasses so viewers can safely watch the eclipses. The City has also created a Dripping Springs Eclipse Facebook page for updates: <https://www.facebook.com/CODSeclipse>.

Other resources include a blog on the Destination Dripping Springs website. Visitors can find that here: <https://www.destinationdrippingsprings.com/p/aboutus/blog/solar-eclipse-2024>

The Eclipse Committee is currently seeking a sponsor(s) for the community eclipse glasses. If interested or for questions or for more information, please send an email to ECLIPSE@cityofdrippingsprings.com or call the City of Dripping Springs at 512-858-4725.

