



STAFF REPORT
City of Dripping Springs
PO Box 384
511 Mercer Street
Dripping Springs, TX 78620

Submitted By: Lisa Sullivan, People & Communications Director

Parks Meeting Date: August 7, 2023

Agenda Item Wording: **Discuss Eclipse Display at Veterans Memorial Park.**

Agenda Item Requestor: Lisa Sullivan

Summary/Background: On April 8, 2024, the City of Dripping Springs will be in the totality of a total solar eclipse. This has not occurred here since the 1800s. Millions of people are expected to travel throughout Texas to the areas of totality. We anticipate 2-3 times the population in our city during that time.

A critical part of this event is education and safety. We are doing what we can to plan and educate our residents, businesses, and visitors: we have launched a new website, drippingeclipse.com; we have an eclipse task force that meets once a month to plan; we are creating an Eclipse Ambassador Program to help spread the word; and more.

One of the things we would like to do is create a display at Veterans Memorial Park that not only will be a way to communicate to & remind residents that this event is coming (and to prepare), but it also has an educational element with its design. The outside of the glasses will be the branding and eclipse date. The inside will have instructions on how to safely view an eclipse, what residents and businesses can expect on April 8, list our website to learn more, etc.

It will also be a focal point for tourism/visitors/residents — an Instagram place for visitors and residents to take pictures. It will be a benefit not just during the event, but all through the months leading up to it.

Please see the attached schematic. The structure will be created by the team at DSRP. They will work with Emergency Management, Building Officials and Public works to ensure it is designed and installed safely. Communications and marketing will create the graphic design, basing it off the branding of our eclipse items. We will use the company we use for car wraps and wall graphics to mount the graphics.

We would anticipate putting this up in the area circled on the map. We would be erecting this sometime in late August or September, in time for the partial annular eclipse in our area on October 14.

The picture below is a mock-up of what we're wanting to do. Exact dimensions to be determined, but estimating it to be 7' wide x 6' long.



**Commission
Recommendations:**

**Recommended
Council Actions:**

Attachments:

Next Steps/Schedule: We have gotten the OK from The Farmers Market and the Veterans. If the Parks and Recreation Commission approve, we will present to August 15 City Council. If approved by City Council, we will begin building.