



THE CITY OF  
**Fredericksburg, Texas**

## Press Release

For More Information Contact:

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### **Eclipse Task Force Hosts Monthly Meeting**

Fredericksburg, TX - Members of the Gillespie County Eclipse Task Force met on Wednesday, February 22, 2023, to discuss ongoing preparations for the two eclipse events taking place over the Hill Country within the next 14 months. The first eclipse, happening on Saturday, October 14, 2023, will be an annular eclipse, also called a “ring of fire” eclipse. The eclipse will sweep from Oregon to Texas on a 125-mile-wide path. During this eclipse, the sun will not be fully covered, and it will be necessary to use a solar filter or glasses, that correctly meets international standards (ISO 12312-2) to safely view the partial eclipse. Solar filters and glasses are widely available and cost no more than a few dollars.

The second eclipse, happening on Monday, April 8, 2024, will be a total solar eclipse and is the primary reason the Eclipse Task Force was created. Some say that the total solar eclipse will be the single largest mass travel event in recent history. Texas is a popular choice for eclipse chasers because of our historically low cloud cover. Researchers have determined that South Texas has a 30-40% chance of cloud cover on April 8<sup>th</sup> each year, and the further northeast along the path of totality you move, the higher the cloud cover rates increase. The location with the lowest chance of cloud cover is Mexico. Fredericksburg is within the path of totality (115 miles wide) and will experience approximately 4 minutes and 23 seconds of totality. Once totality takes place, it will be safe to view the eclipse without the use of solar glasses or a solar filter. During totality, the temperature will drop slightly, the wind may pick up, die down, or change direction, and animals may act in a peculiar manner.

Members of the task force include representatives from the City of Fredericksburg, Gillespie County, Hill Country Memorial Hospital, Fredericksburg & Harper Independent School Districts, Fredericksburg Convention & Visitors Bureau, Fredericksburg Chamber of Commerce, and several others. The discussions and preparations taking place include the probability of a large influx of tourists, traffic congestion, medical emergencies, and the procurement of equipment and supplies to manage the event.

Plans also include future Town Hall Meetings across the county for residents to come and learn about both eclipses and to ask questions. The first meeting will be in Fredericksburg in early May 2023. Additional meetings in both Harper (to include Doss and Tierra Linda) and Stonewall will be held as well.

**The City of Fredericksburg**

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The Eclipse Task Force will continue meeting monthly to share information and update planning efforts for the upcoming eclipse events that will impact our community. More details and information on upcoming Eclipse Town Hall Meetings will be announced in the near future. Additional information on these eclipse events can be found at [www.eclipseinfbgtx.com](http://www.eclipseinfbgtx.com).

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