



ECLIPSE PREPARATION – RANCH AND LANDOWNERS

The upcoming eclipses provide opportunities for ranch and landowners to make their space available for related events and use. Here are some suggestions for opening your property to individual visitors or a mass gathering.

The information provided below does not, and is not intended to, constitute legal advice; all information is provided for general purposes only.

Insurance, Liability, and Security

- Review the [Texas Recreational Uses Statute](#), the [Texas Agritourism Act](#), and the [Texas Farm Animal Liability Act](#) on how you may or may not be protected from liability and hand up required signage
- Consult with your local city and county offices regarding permit requirements, fees, and the application process
 - Separate permits may be required for food and product vending
- Review insurance policy coverages, restrictions, and a need to add or increase coverage
 - Consider liability insurance protecting your property from damage and covering you should an individual injure themselves while on your land
 - Look into event cancellation insurance to help reimburse you for expenses associated with non-refundable deposits
- Erect signage and secure personal residences and structures that are off-limits to guests
- Understand that international travelers are expected in the Hill Country during the eclipses and that several countries outside the United States have [Freedom to Roam](#) rights
 - Be prepared for international visitors unfamiliar with Texas trespassing laws and the Purple Paint Law
- Inform local law enforcement and emergency services of your plan to welcome a large number of visitors on your property and obtain phone numbers, if other than 911, to call in case of an emergency and the addresses of nearby medical facilities and the types of medical emergencies they will be accepting on the day of the eclipse
- If vehicles are parking on your property, consider having on hand a small reserve of automobile fuel, jumper cables, a car jack and torque/lug wrench, an air pump, and a fire extinguisher



Area of Use, Access, and Capacity

- Identify the areas you will use for your event and parking
- Determine the maximum number of individuals your event area will support and consider using a reservation system to track and manage capacity
- Ensure your event area has an unobstructed line of sight with where the sun will be during the time of the eclipse
 - Websites like <https://www.timeanddate.com/eclipse/> and <http://xjubier.free.fr/en> can provide you with the sun's location and altitude based on your specific location
- Have clear and visible signage to direct guests accordingly
- Use markers, such as cones and tape, to identify areas for guest use, off-limit sites, and any hidden inconsistencies in the terrain
 - E.g., holes, trenches, buried equipment, material remnants, soft or unstable ground
- Establish the number of vehicles and the type of vehicles the event and parking areas can support
 - Considering oversized vehicles and towing trailers
- Clearly define vehicular ingress and egress and, when possible, separate the two, allowing for a smooth flow of traffic
- Identify any hazards or terrain that may restrict certain types of vehicles, especially taking into consideration how inclement weather the day of or a few days prior might impact access
 - E.g., vehicles must be 4WD or high clearance
- Allow ample space in parking areas for a tow truck, should it be necessary
- Plan accordingly to provide access to potable water, waste disposal, and restroom facilities, both standard and accessible

Agriculture and Wildlife

- Consider your event and parking areas and their proximity to livestock and farming and any wildlife and plant life that may pose a threat or be at risk
 - Noise, commotion, or exhaust can have negative impacts on animals and operations
 - E.g., poison ivy/oak/sumac, thorned plants, venomous animals, sensitive habitats



General Planning

- Prepare to provide a sufficient supply of safe solar glasses or safe solar cards for guests
 - All safe solar devices must demonstrate that they meet the requirements of the International Organization for Standardization (ISO 12312-2)
- Consider extending your event beyond the end of the eclipse to stagger departures and lighten the strain on traffic conditions
- Ensure your event area is illuminated appropriately for planned activities and navigational purposes that extend into the evening hours
- Familiarize yourself with other activities/events scheduled in your area and what your nearest neighbors have planned
- If you do not intend to open up your property for the eclipses, display appropriate signage at your property entrance or gate

Expectations

- High numbers of visitors/tourists to the area
 - Unexpected guests showing up on roads outside of private land or accidentally turning onto private roads and driveways
- Potential shortages of fuel, food, water, medication, and general supplies
 - Stock up in advance for personal purposes, domestic pets, and livestock
- Limited internet and cell access
 - Recommend keeping paper maps on hand and, when possible, utilizing radios for land-line-based telephones for communication
 - Consider physical currency for financial transactions
- Increased traffic following the eclipse event
 - Plan for delays in departures from events and general navigation around city centers