Totally Ready to do Totality Again!

By Trish Erzfeld, Perry County Heritage Tourism July 2023

After Perryville, Missouri had the exciting experience of witnessing two minutes and forty seconds of totality during the total solar eclipse in 2017 there is no doubt that seven short years later we are excited to do it all over again!

On April 8, 2024, Perry County will experience four minutes and five seconds in the most eastern part of the county. Locals have already started making plans for viewing events on their lawns and at their farms for friends and family members. Acquaintances that were made and friendships that developed in 2017 are making plans to return in 2024. While there are only a few hotel rooms left and RV Camping, some local farmers will be creating primitive camping for eclipse chasers wanting to spend the night under the stars.

Located eighty miles south of St. Louis the local Perry County Taskforce has been meeting since 2022 regularly so that our city and county officials know that the police, fire, and emergency personnel are all on the same page. Our plan in 2017 allowed everything to run smoothly during the Great American Eclipse and so we are following much the same plan for 2024.

Perryville's Solarfest will be held April 6-8, 2024, giving eclipse chasers much to see and do while they are anxiously waiting for eclipse Monday. Perryville's events for the eclipse weekend are not only focused on inspiring science but to explore new and fun activities with their community. Discover some of the best natural areas in Missouri and visit historical sites and cultural museums that only Perry County has to offer. From our Cruise-In pop-up car show to day-time fireworks, hot air balloons and a mobile planetarium we will have something for all ages and interests to enjoy. Check out our sundial commemorating the 2017 and the 2024 eclipses to pass over Perry County and our giant eclipse glasses as part of our Perryville Outdoor Sculpture Exhibit. A 5K Glow Run/Walk and a Silent Disco will light up the evening with fun glow swag. On Eclipse Monday we will have a high-altitude balloon lift, solar viewing, and more. Here is our current itinerary as we will add more details as plans develop.

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