

Open Space & Outdoor Recreation

The City of Prescott's Recreation Services Department is continually striving to improve on two major outcomes: number one is to sustain and build upon the quality of life our community enjoys, the second is to bolster the local economy through visitation/tourism. While these goals may seem to be different, they have a lot in common, and the department is always looking at ways to provide services and amenities that benefit both purposes.

Since the early 1990s the City of Prescott has been acquiring open space through donations, easements, license agreements, conservation easements and fee simple purchases. These acquisitions have allowed for preservation while creating outdoor recreation opportunities. Over the last 10-15 years the City and its dedicated volunteers have worked diligently to expand the public trails to link the open space and trails systems together for a great resident and visitor experience. A good example of this is the Prescott Circle Trail, which links the Goldwater Lake, Brownlow, Willow Dells and Watson Lake trail systems together.

Improvements to our outdoor recreation infrastructure create opportunities for activities such as hiking, biking, birding, geo-caching, climbing, orienteering, horseback riding and picnicking, adding to the overall quality of life, with a variety of options for our citizens to enjoy. These recreational amenities, coupled with a vibrant downtown offering events, dining, and retail services, is why people from outside the area are increasingly choosing Prescott as the destination for a weekend getaway or an extended stay. Trail counters on Prescott's Mile High trail system show that we are generating approximately 800,000 visits per year and are increasing usage by about 9% annually. According to a recently completed visitor study compiled by Northern Arizona University, 40% of the visitors surveyed came to Prescott to hike trails. The spending associated with this visitation on things like, food, lodging, gas and merchandise, helps produce direct sales tax revenue to the City, which we rely on to support not only quality of life but essential public safety services like police, fire, and emergency medical response.

We are fortunate to live in an area so conducive to outdoor recreation, with our temperate four season climate and the diversity in topography. Take the opportunity to get out and play; it is right out your backdoor!

(Contributor: Joe Baynes, Recreation Services Director)

Recreation Services Advisory Board

*Ted Blake
Tom Dwyer
Linda Nichols
Peg Travers
Chris Welborn*

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Joe Baynes
City of Prescott
Recreation Services Director

Where is Our Open Space

Open space is located in many different areas throughout Prescott. It includes areas within the parks and lakes, along the trails and creeks (including the Greenways Trail system in town), and even in many subdivisions such as the new Granite Dells Estates subdivision located north of town (see page 3).

(Top photo, courtesy of Chris Hosking) Willow Creek behind Willow Dam along the Willow Lake Loop trail.

(Photo right, courtesy of Nancy Nesbit) Cottonwood Peninsula Spur Trail at Willow Lake.



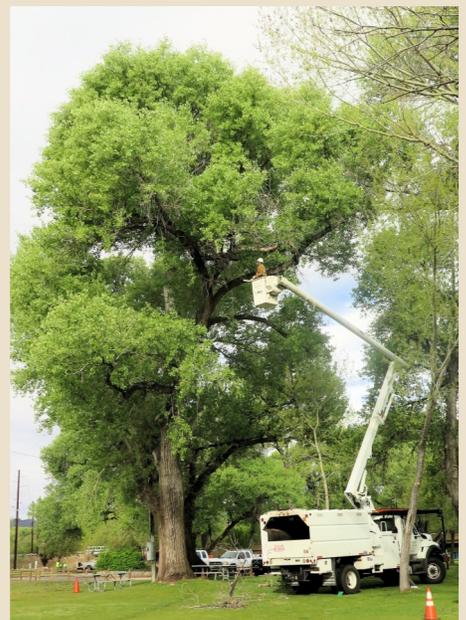
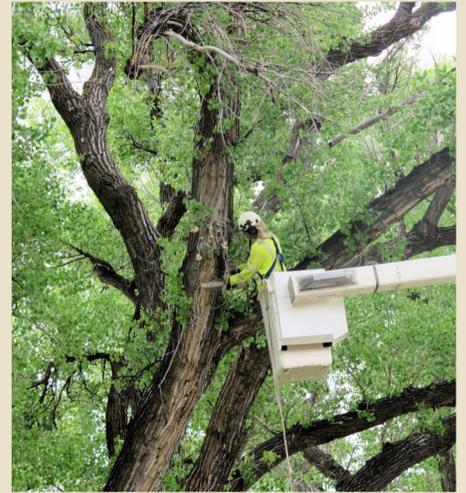
The Parks & Lakes - APS Helps Out At Granite Creek Park

Ramon Ortega of APS (Arizona Public Services Co.) and Steve Mancha, Prescott Recreation Services Department Recreation Maintenance Supervisor, were discussing the state of the trees at Granite Creek Park and how best to tackle the job. Ramon offered that a special Arbor Day project bringing together APS and Recreation Services Department personnel was the way to go. At 7:30 a.m., on April 29, 2016 crews from APS, Mowbray's Tree Service (*APS contractors*), Prescott Community Service workers, and Recreation Services maintenance workers (*including landscaping*) met at the park and work began. Clearing out dead wood from the tree canopy was the main goal, keeping the park safe for users as well as keeping the trees and canopy healthy. Equipment brought in to complete the task included four large bucket trucks from APS and Mowbray's, a backhoe and dump truck from Prescott Recreation Services Department, as well as chain saws and hand tools.

As part of the community, APS has contributed to the Prescott area in various ways. In recent years they have been involved in several projects within the City's parks.

Originally leased to the City, APS generously donated land for the newly renovated Willow Creek Dog Park in 2014. APS also contributed to Brad Ziegler Field at Pioneer Park, provided by the Arizona Diamondbacks Foundation, which was dedicated on May 16, 2014. This year they donated \$20,000.00 to the Kayla's Hands playground project at Pioneer Park (*see page seven*). APS's involvement within our parks has greatly benefitted all Prescott residents and visitors.

(Contributor: Nancy Nesbit)



(Photos top and bottom right) APS and Mowbray's Tree Service workers were lifted up into the tree canopy to remove dead wood using chain saws.

(Photo left) Large limbs were lowered by rope from the canopy.

(Photo middle right) The large limbs were loaded into a dump truck using a backhoe by Recreation Services personnel.

(Bottom left) A red maple tree is planted by Recreation Services Department landscapers. APS personnel planted two other red maples. All three trees were donated by APS as part of the project.



Granite Creek Park
554 N 6th St., Prescott, AZ

Summer Hours
(Memorial Day through Labor Day)
6:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m.

Winter Hours
8:00 a.m. - Sunset

Free Parking

Amenities Include:

Medium Size Ramada
Restrooms
Large Grassy Area
Playground
Volleyball Court
Horseshoe pit
Pump Bike Track
Access to Greenways Trails

Visit us online through the City website at:
www.prescott-az.gov/services/parks/

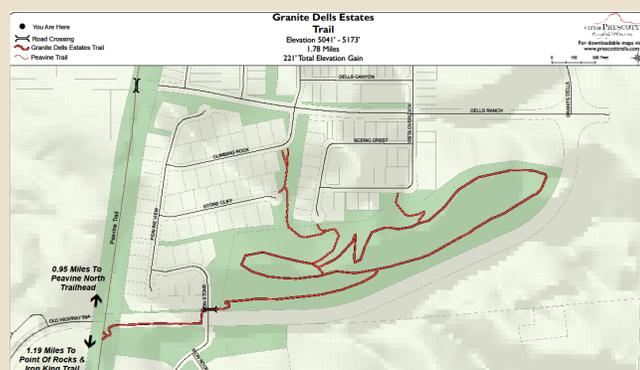
Trails & Natural Parklands

New Trail at Granite Dells Estates Subdivision Completed

As a part of the Planned Area Development process (PAD), subdivisions are required to set aside approximately 30% of the development as open space. At the end of March 2016, 1.9 miles of new trail, as well as signage, was completed at the new Granite Dells Estates subdivision. The trails were designed and constructed with a mini excavator by Chris Hosking, Trails and Natural Parklands Coordinator for Prescott Recreation Services Department, with the Over the Hill Gang buffing out the trails, brush and rockwork. Open to the public, access to the trail is located on the east side of the Prescott Peavine National Recreation Trail approximately one mile south of the north parking area near Highway 89A. Although the timing has not yet been set, there are plans for over three additional miles of a "back bone" trail through the subdivision connecting the Peavine Trail and Iron King Trail.

Trails are a main feature of many subdivisions. With its ever expanding trail system, the City of Prescott endeavors to connect as many trail systems together as possible to maximize outdoor recreational opportunities. Public trails such as this benefit the entire community.

(Contributors: Nancy Nesbit with Chris Hosking)



Length: 1.9 miles

Activities: Hiking, Bicycling, Dog Walking

Access: North Peavine Trail parking off Highway 89A

Maps for all Prescott City trails are available and downloadable online at:

www.prescotttrails.com or
www.prescott-az.gov/services/parks/trails



(Photo Courtesy of Chris Hosking)

Willow Dells Subdivision Trail

Neighborhood trails offer local residents a natural environment to walk dogs, hike, run, and bicycle. These trails often connect to a park or other trail networks, enhancing the residents' experience and providing easy access to environments beyond the subdivision. Arizona is known for its outdoor lifestyle, as is Prescott.

New Prescott Circle Trail Videos Now Online



The City of Prescott's Prescott Circle Trail video is located on the Recreation Services trails page online at:
<http://www.prescott-az.gov/services/parks/trails/circle.php>



A video of the April 2016 Whiskey Basin Trail Runs/Prescott Circle Trail is available on the Aravaipa Running website at:
<http://www.aravaiparunning.com/whiskey-basin/>



(Photo courtesy of Nancy Nesbit)

To save water and cut down on maintenance, much of the landscaping at the sports facilities and parks is now being upgraded using hardscaping. Boulders and rock were recently placed at Kuebler Field (above photo) to help control weeds.



in grassy areas and fields to promote a healthier environment for sod and watering efficiency. Multiple parks that were high in organic matter were recently dethatched, taking up the clippings from the soil for better water penetration and a deeper root system. Soil tests are done once a year to determine fertilization and aeration needs. General aeration takes place twice a year, in the spring and fall. Once a month slice aeration is done to open up the soil for nutrients and oxygen, as well as to keep down compaction. Water saving heads continue to be installed at various locations. These adjustments will result in significant savings in water usage.

Maintenance at the ballfields also included re-leveling the infields and adding a new soil mix. Bases were re-measured and squared. Pitching mounds were raised, and bases were leveled and replaced where needed. Edging was installed in areas where the grass and dirt meet.

(Contributor: Nancy Nesbit with Jason Olson)

With 13 fields in the 5 sports complexes, changing light bulbs is quite a chore. APS (Arizona Public Services Co.) frequently lends a helping hand. *(Photo left, courtesy of Steve Mancha)* Once a year APS services our sports facilities, free of charge, at Pioneer Park, Heritage Park, Ken Lindley Field, Bill Vallely, and Prescott High School. As their way of giving back, APS likes to support local communities and youth sports. *(See also page 2)*

Contact Information

To enter City teams or leagues
telephone (928) 777-1557
or email:
rick.hormann@prescott-az.gov

Our calendar of sporting events is
available at our Parks and Recreation
Department office located at the
Grace Sparkes Memorial Activity
Center 824 E. Gurley St.
Prescott, AZ 86301
Telephone: (928) 777-1122

Visit us on the City's website at:
www.prescott-az.gov/services/parks/
There are links to both adult
and youth sports.



Pioneer Park 4-Plex

Sports Page Maintenance Of Our Fields

Visitors to City of Prescott parks often comment on how well maintained the facilities are. The Recreation Services Department's maintenance crew takes great pride in their work to make sure the parks and fields are ready for the busy summer season that brings many events and sports tournaments to Prescott.

Always looking for more efficient, cost effective, and water wise ways to help with maintenance is an ongoing effort. When Jason Olson (*see page six*) was hired full-time as maintenance coordinator, many of the maintenance processes were formalized and incorporated into a new agronomic program. Included is consistent aeration of the soil

Our Activities and Volunteers

New Volunteer Group Organized for Dog Park

For about seven years, dog park user Brooke Wolterstorff could frequently be found at the old dog park taking out the trash cans. Occasionally another dog park user would lend a helping hand. A week prior to the new park's Grand Opening on December 10, 2014, the first "friends" meeting to organize an "official" volunteer group to help maintain the park took place. The new group was formed under the Recreation Services Department with Kelly Tolbert as their volunteer coordinator. Brooke is now even more active than before as "leader of the group". Those visiting the dog park every Monday morning between 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. are often surprised that it is closed since the park seems to be in use by other dog owners and their dogs. Those at the park are the new volunteers lending a hand. Their participation in helping to keep the park clean is appreciated, especially since visits to the park have more than tripled since the renovation.

(Contributor: Nancy Nesbit)

To volunteer for the group contact Kelly Tolbert at (928) 777-1558

Prior to the renovation, the old dog park was averaging 175 visits per day. Immediately after the newly renovated Willow Creek Beneful Dog Park, Sirens & Hydrants, reopened visits to the park zoomed up to 600 per day.



(Photo top right) Dog Park volunteer leader Brooke Wolterstorff (left) with fellow volunteer Gwen Cox.

(Photo left) Recreation Services Department workers Paul Carlson and Doug Tyree are among the employees that service the Dog Park on the first Monday of each month.

(Bottom photo) A group shot of some of the volunteers and dogs that meet every Monday morning from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. to clean and help maintain the Park. Kelly Tolbert (front left) is their Recreation Services Department coordinator.



Dog Park Rules

- Clean up after your dog.
City code 2-1-51A
- Dog(s) must be on leash until inside fenced area.
- Watch your dogs at all times. Discourage barking and digging. If your dog digs a hole, fill it in.
- No aggressive dog or dogs that have attacked or bitten.
 - No dogs in heat. Closely monitor un-neutered males.
- You are responsible for any injury or Damage caused by your dog.
- Dogs must be licensed and immunized.
- Dog owner must be in park with dog at all times.
 - No food allowed in Park.
- Bring children at your own risk. Children under ten must be accompanied by an adult.
- No glass containers allowed in Park.
- Leave Park in better condition than you found it.
- No commercial use permitted.
- Prescott Police Animal Control
928-445-3131

Willow Creek "Beneful" Dog Park
3181 Willow Creek Rd., Prescott, AZ

Summer Hours
(Memorial Day through Labor Day)
5:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m.

Winter Hours
7:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m.

CLOSED Mondays. 8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.
for maintenance

Free Parking

Visit us online through the City website at:
www.prescott-az.gov/services/parks/



(Photo courtesy of AGFD website)

Gila Trout, *Oncorhynchus Gilae*

The body of the Gila trout is iridescent gold on the sides that blend to darker copper on the gill plates. Spots on the body are small and profuse, generally occurring above the lateral line and extending onto the head, dorsal fin, and caudal fin. Dorsal, anal and pelvic fins have a whitish to yellowish tip that may extend along the leading edge of the pelvic fins. A faint salmon-pink band is present on adults, particularly during spawning season when the normally white belly may be streaked with yellow or reddish orange.

Fishing Report

Gila Trout Now at Goldwater Lake

This year, the Arizona Game and Fish Department (AZGFD) introduced the endangered Gila trout to Goldwater Lake as part of its efforts to increase the species throughout Arizona. Along with the Apache trout, Arizona's state fish, the Gila trout is one of Arizona's two native species (both endangered). The Gila trout can also be found in New Mexico. More information is available online through AZGFD at:

http://www.gf.state.az.us/w_c/gila_recovery.shtml

Trout from AGFD hatcheries were also stocked at Goldwater Lake in time for the June 4th Kids First Fish Day. Bluegill and bass were moved from Granite Basin Lake to Goldwater earlier this year. With increasing numbers of sunfish at the lake, the bass should help balance out the lake's fish species. Due to warm water during the summer at Watson Lake the only trout stocked during this period is at Goldwater (see schedule below).

(Contributor: Nancy Nesbit, Gila Trout information obtained from the AZGFD website.)



For information on licenses and general information on fishing and hunting visit the Arizona Game and Fish Department main website at: www.azgfd.com

For information on fishing in Prescott and Prescott Valley visit the AGFD website at: http://www.azgfd.gov/h_f/fishPrescott.shtml

2016 Summer Trout Stocking Schedule, weeks of:

	July	August	September
Goldwater Lake:	4, 18	8	5

The trout stocking schedule dates listed represent the Monday of the week the stocking will occur.

These schedules are tentative and subject to change due to weather conditions at the sites.

Consult the Weekly Fishing Report before you go at: www.azgfd.net/artman/publish/FishingReport/

Spotlight On ... Jason Olson



Jason Olson
Maintenance
Coordinator

Jason Olson was hired full time as a Maintenance Coordinator in January 2015. He previously worked for Prescott Recreation Services for seven years as a seasonal worker between 1999 and 2007. His prior experience in the field included two years as the Parks and Sports Facilities Crew Leader for the City of Peoria, Recreation Services Department at Pioneer Community Park, a new facility which opened in 2013.

Although born in Scottsdale, Jason grew up in Chino Valley and played baseball in high school. He continued his baseball carrier as an outfielder for Yavapai College in 1998-1999. He then traveled to Savannah, GA where he attended Armstrong Atlantic State University and played Division 2 baseball. Jason's professional baseball career included ten years in the minor leagues with both the Los Angeles Dodgers and Anaheim Angels as a right-handed, relief pitcher.

Through both his love of baseball and his work history, he has extensive knowledge of soils. Although originally a Geology major, Jason completed his Bachelor's of Science Degree in Environmental Science with a minor in History through the University of Phoenix.

His hobbies include hunting and fishing. Jason is married to wife Kristyne, a local attorney. He and his wife have five cats and three dogs. Jason helps coach varsity baseball at Prescott High School. He is also Head Coach for Badger Baseball; eighth graders who will be entering Prescott High School as freshmen.

"Spotlight On" will be featuring a different Recreation Services Department employee each newsletter.

Partnerships

Community Involvement Since 1924 - Kiwanis Club of Prescott

One of the oldest service organizations in Arizona, Kiwanis Club of Prescott received their charter on May 20, 1924. The club raises funds to provide services, facilities, and events for local children. The first president of the club, R.O. Barrett, stated, "This is a club that will live up to the Kiwanis motto, "We Build." Through the years, City of Prescott Recreation facilities have benefited from the club's "building". The Kiwanis Club often partners with various public and private entities to provide their services. They recently partnered with the Mueller family to raise funds for a much needed playground at Pioneer Park, Kayla's Hands.

(Contributor: Nancy Nesbit)

(Photo top right) Probably the largest fund raising event in Prescott, the 68th Annual Kiwanis Auction was held from March 28th through April 8th. The annual event is aired on public access television and is the organizations major fundraiser.

(Photos below left and right) Groundbreaking for Kayla's Hands Playground was held on May 4, 2016. It is anticipated that it should be completed in July 2016. Look for an update in the Fall 2016 Newsletter. This much needed facility at the City of Prescott's Pioneer Park is the most recent example of one of the many projects Kiwanis Club of Prescott has helped provide to area children in our parks.

(Photos from Prescott Kiwanis Facebook page)



Kiwanis Club of Prescott

P.O. Box 1020
Prescott, AZ 86302
(928) 445-8700

Donations can be made at:
www.prescottkiwanis.com



Kiwanis is a global organization of volunteers dedicated to  improving the world one child and one community at a time.



(Photos Courtesy of Nancy Nesbit)

In recent years, the Kiwanis Club of Prescott has continued to be involved in providing experiences for kids within Prescott's parks. They generously provided funding to stock trout in the north cove boat ramp at Watson Lake for the kids fishing event in both the 2014 and 2015 Prescott Great Outdoors (photo left). On May 2, 2013, they presented the City of Prescott with a generous gift of \$8,452.49 for new playground equipment at Goldwater Lake at the original playground site. With matching funds from the Prescott Parks and Recreation Department, old playground equipment was completely removed and replaced (photo right).

Recreation Services Department Pays Tribute to Dewey Nelson

On Saturday, May 28, 2016 a private ceremony was held at Ken Lindley Field dedicating a plaque honoring Dewey Nelson, who passed away on March 24, 2015. Dewey worked as the groundskeeper for the City of Prescott's Recreation Services Department for 40 years and was highly respected and admired.



(Photos Courtesy of Rick Hormann)

Attending the dedication were members of Dewey's family (above photo) as well as invited guests including Joe Baynes, Director, Prescott Recreation Services Department, who dedicated the plaque, Jim McCasland, former Prescott Parks and Recreation Director, Mike Pantalione, Yavapai College Soccer Coach, and many friends and former coworkers.

DEWEY BING NELSON JR. FEBRUARY 16, 1946-MARCH 24, 2015



Dewey retired as the groundskeeper for the City of Prescott Recreation Services Department. He devoted 40 years of service from the early 1970's through April 2012 and was greatly respected. Dewey was a big part of the fabric of our community and he set the standard for the way we treat our guests.

Dewey had tremendous passion for Ken Lindley Field. His attention to detail taking care of the field for the residents of Prescott during local activities and for National Softball and Soccer tournaments was unparalleled. Dewey passed down his standard for excellence to his fellow employees over the years throughout his tenure that continues today.

2016 Prescott Senior Games

Senior Golf Tournaments

Men's & Women's 4-Person Scramble
Tuesday, August 2, 2016
Antelope Hills South Course
Individual Golf Tournament
Tuesday, August 9, 2016
Antelope Hills Golf Course

ASA Women's Senior Summer Softball Smash

August 5-7, 2016
Pioneer Park Four-Plex
and Heritage Park

Senior Volleyball Tournaments

Saturday, August 13, 2016
Men's at Prescott High School
Women's at Yavapai College
Sunday, August 14, 2016
Coed at Prescott High School

For Information on Times, Age Brackets, Fees, Deadlines, and Registrations Forms call the Recreation Services Department office at (928) 777-1552 or visit us online at: www.prescott-az.gov/parks/sports and click on the "Senior Olympics" link.



Recreation Services Department
Grace Sparkes Memorial Activity Center
(Old Armory Building)
824 E. Gurley St., Prescott, AZ 86301
Telephone (928) 777-1122
Visit us on the City website at:
www.prescott-az.gov/services/parks

Celebrate Wildflowers Community Nature Center Saturday, September 10, 2016 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Join us for our Fourth Annual Wildflower Celebration. Local biologists plus the Naturalists from the Highlands Center for Natural History will identify and share the flowers' stories with you.



Walks start about every 30 minutes, and last about one hour. There is no fee; just come have fun! Trails are not difficult, but some stretches are dirt with slope.



Community Nature Center
1981 Williamson Valley Rd.,
Prescott, AZ
Hours 7:00 a.m. - Sunset
Free Parking

This newsletter is a collaborative effort between City of Prescott employees and volunteers. Compilation and graphics provided by Nancy K. Nesbit, Volunteer Park Ranger. This newsletter is available on line at: www.prescott-az.gov/services/parks You can also pick up a copy at our office at the Grace Sparkes Memorial Activity Center.