

The Annual Fabulous Fourth

(a.k.a., City of Prescott's – Fourth of July Event at Pioneer Park)

Since the 1990s, the City of Prescott has conducted an annual family Fourth of July celebration, with generous contributions from many Prescott area businesses and organizations. Previously held at Prescott High School, the event moved to the Pioneer Park sports complex in 2004, which allowed arranging all types of rides, water slides, assorted crafts for kids to make, carnival games with cool prizes, food vendors, an area for live music, and more activities throughout the large 4-plex, for a noon to 10:00 p.m. event. This also allowed for an expanded fireworks display staged from nearby Kuebler Field. Since 2001, the event has been assembled by Becky Karcie (formerly Garvin), City of Prescott's Special Events Manager. She brings her passion to organizing the event every year. In 2005, before the attendance grew significantly, staff were able to reserve an entire softball field so that Guidance Helicopters could provide 20-minute rides, with monies going to charity.

The event has grown steadily over the years, with more attractions and fireworks added each year. One of the highlights for many attendees has been the ability to spend an entire family fun day on the grass, with a close and spectacular display of fireworks to end the day. The event has seen a variety of weather over the years, with 102 degrees one year, typical thunderstorms other years, to the cool (56 degrees) and 1-1/2 inches of rain in 2012. In recent years, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University has been a big supporter of the event in permitting parking on their campus, thereby allowing the City to run shuttles. In 2014, the event saw record visitation as Destination America recognized it as one of two major events in the country. Prescott was awarded this distinction to honor the 19 Prescott wildland firefighters who perished in 2013. Destination America's sponsorship and funding allowed more emphasis on the music (i.e., to include the Nationally-recognized band "The Wallflowers"), donated merchandise and food, and a significant increase in fireworks. Please join us this year as the annual Prescott tradition continues at Pioneer Park. Arriving early is always recommended to secure a good spot on the grass. NO pets at the event please! For more details on the event, please visit the City website at: www.prescott-az.gov



(Contributor: Eric Smith,
Fourth of July photo right, courtesy of
www.visit-prescott.com.)



Recreation Services Advisory Board

- Janelle Riedl*
- Mike King*
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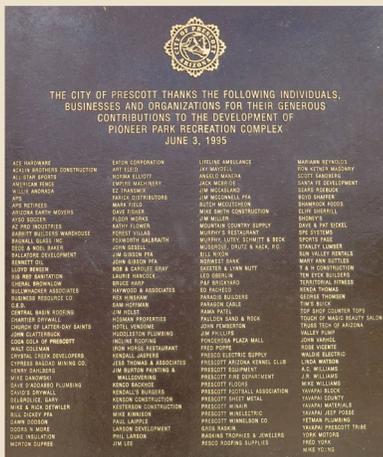
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Joe Baynes
City of Prescott
Recreation Services Director

Parks - A Community Effort on the Grandest Scale; The Original Development of Prescott's Pioneer Park Sports Complex

Prescott's Pioneer Park sports complex was completed in 1995, and is a model example of community and government working together to fulfill a vision and need for a major sports complex. Made possible via a lease of Federal lands (i.e., U.S.D.I. Bureau of Land Management) by the City of Prescott and Yavapai County through the Recreation and Public Purposes Act, the "four-plex" has filled a significant void in the community for a sports complex. Countless organizations and individuals contributed to the design and development of the facility. Please see photo of scorebooth plaque acknowledging all contributors.



(Above) The plaque at the Pioneer Park sports 4-plex recognizes the contributions made by 161 individuals, companies, and organizations.

(Below) The Arizona Cardinal's football training camp in 2005.



Funding included a Federal Land & Water Conservation Fund grant via Arizona State Parks for the ballfield lighting, fencing, and equipment rentals. Yavapai County and City of Prescott provided significant in-kind services as the required match for the grant. These services included construction surveying and equipment work by Yavapai County staff, and significant equipment work and irrigation installation by City of Prescott staff. Much funding was saved via donated materials, equipment use, and labor. Other notable sample contributions included the following: Once all grading was completed for the entire sports complex, hundreds of volunteers from the Church of Jesus Christ Latter-Day Saints hand-raked the entire area to remove all rocks. Additionally, the scorebooth/concession building was funded and constructed by Prescott Youth Football. Much of the project coordination was overseen by then City of Prescott - Park Superintendent, Gil Higgins. Former Yavapai County Supervisor Gheral Brownlow provided Yavapai County coordination. Over the last 20 years, continual upgrades by City of Prescott and Yavapai County have included high quality in-field soil, spectator shade, landscaping, upgraded utilities, expanded parking, and continual turf upgrades. These upgrades continue to add to the facility's function.

Today, the facility serves softball, soccer, youth football, and served as home for a major Arizona Cardinals annual training camp in 2005. Baseball is currently served by the neighboring Kuebler and Brad Ziegler Fields, and VIP field. The four-plex has lured other complimentary facilities such as in-line hockey, sand volleyball, and an extensive trail system. The facility has also hosted a country music festival, numerous band camps, high school sports, and the City's annual Fourth of July celebration.

(Contributor: Eric Smith, Special Projects Administrator)

(Below left) Opening ceremonies for the 2011 Girl's National Tournament.

(Below) 2013 Beat The Heat Tournament.



Lakes - Prescott's Boating Destinations

The City of Prescott is proud to manage three lakes (a.k.a. reservoirs) within its jurisdiction that are Willow, Watson, and Goldwater Lakes. Questions often arise about boating opportunities and/or restrictions, partially since Willow and Watson Lakes are managed differently than pre-1998 (i.e., before being purchased from Chino Valley Irrigation District by the City of Prescott for \$15 million via a voter-approved referendum). Historically, both lakes had unlimited horsepower at one point, even though they are of marginal surface-acre size and depth for high-speed, motorized use. The following information may assist boaters with the opportunities within the three lakes owned and managed by the City of Prescott:

Restrictions and Opportunities

Willow and Goldwater Lakes are restricted to electric motors and paddling only. Watson Lake allows unlimited horsepower, but is restricted to no-wake (i.e., generally around five mph). All three lakes provide a good boating experience, some opportunities for exploration. Boats on Prescott's lakes include sailboats, rowing teams, fishing boats, canoes, kayaks, and paddleboards. The City of Prescott provides boat ramps at all three lakes. When Watson Lake is full, some of the exploration opportunities within hidden coves is unmatched, as well as, the opportunity to view one of the largest and most diverse bird populations in Arizona. Willow Lake also offers some hidden coves, and expansive bird populations.

Concession and Success

For many years, the City of Prescott has featured canoe and kayak rentals via Prescott Outdoors at Watson & Goldwater Lakes. This concessionaire provides a valuable service as many visitors travel to these lakes without watercraft, and discover they have an opportunity to rent a canoe or kayak. In 2014, Prescott Outdoors had a record year for rentals. Rental staff are integral in providing basic instruction and safety information. Statewide publicity and media promoting Watson Lake has aided in the increase in rentals, and visitation in general. For schedule, fees, and other information, please visit Prescott Outdoors online at www.prescottoutdoors.com.

We hope you enjoy the boating opportunities offered by the City of Prescott.

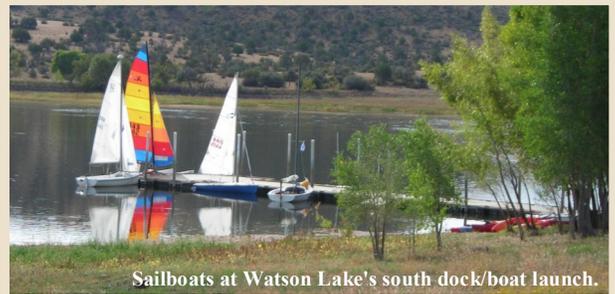
(Contributor: Eric Smith, Special Projects Administrator)

There are three other high-quality lakes in the Prescott area:

Fain Lake is managed by the Town of Prescott Valley, <http://pvaz.net/325/Parks-Facilities>.

Lynx and Granite Basin Lakes are managed by the Prescott National Forest, <http://www.fs.usda.gov/prescott>.

Please contact these agencies for additional information.



Sailboats at Watson Lake's south dock/boat launch.

Boating Safety

Safety for boaters is foremost to the City of Prescott, and the City encourages all types of boaters to seek out much information to ensure they are ready for a high quality boating experience. Any lake can present unique hazards, and Willow and Watson Lakes are not exempt with the occasional high winds. Arizona Game & Fish Department manages boating restrictions and regulations within Arizona, and strives to provide all related information on boating safety, to include applicable laws. Please visit the following links online for essential information on boating safety and regulations.

<https://azgfdportal.az.gov/Education/Boating>

<http://www.azleg.state.az.us/ArizonaRevisedStatutes.asp?Title=5>

www.discoverboating.com/beginner/safety/tips.aspx
www.safekids.org/Boating-Safety



Canoeing on Willow Lake

Goldwater Lake
Watson Lake
Willow Lake

HOURS

Summer: 6:00 am—10:00 pm (*Memorial Day
Weekend through Labor Day Weekend*)

Winter: 7:00 am—Sunset

PARKING FEE \$2.00

(Goldwater, Watson & Willow Lakes & Peavine Trail)

One Day Pass Good At All Four Locations.

Parking is free on Wednesdays.

Trails - Pioneer Park City's Expanded Role

The trails in the Pioneer Park area consist of a series of color-coded trails ranging in length from 1.68 miles to 6.08 miles. The park, as well as the City and County trails, are Federal lands (i.e., U.S.D.I. Bureau of Land Management), leased by the City of Prescott and Yavapai County (*see page two*). The majority of trails in this area are county trails. In August 2015 the City of Prescott's Recreation Services Department also took over management of the County trails.



(Photos Courtesy of Chris Hosking)

Located among Prescott's grasslands and chaparral, the trails located in and around Pioneer Park are mostly moderate in difficulty. They range from flat trails, favored by local resident walkers (including dog walkers), to small hills. The Brownlow Trails section is mostly a series of old roads and trails built by Gerald Brownlow.

Recreation Services placed trail counters at the Brownlow Trailhead in 2014 reflecting the following traffic:

Brownlow East; 18,807 annual visits
Brownlow West; 12,999 annual visits

It is anticipated that future studies using trail counters at various other locations will show a significant increase in traffic. These trails are favored by neighborhood residents for exercise, dog walking, hiking, and bicycling.

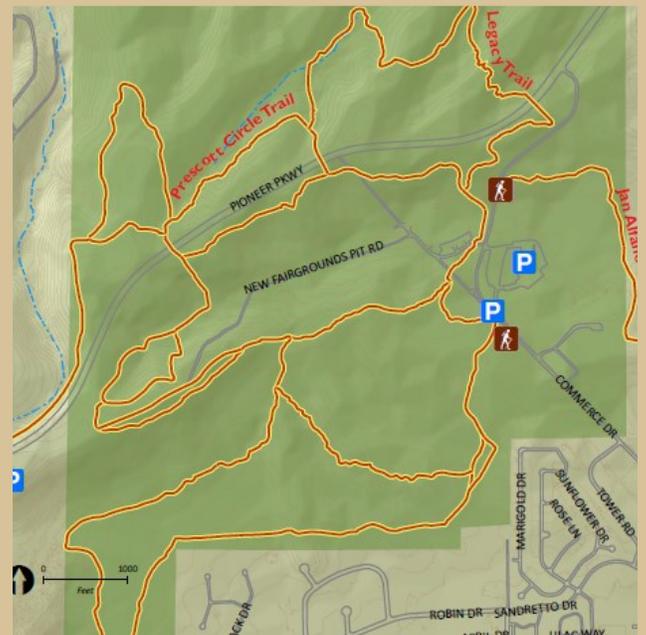


The 54-mile Prescott Circle Trail utilizes a segment of these trails along the north side of Pioneer Park. The Longview Trail connects to Williamson Valley Road to the southwest.

Popular among bicyclists, these trails have been the site for several events including NICA Interscholastic Mountain Biking, Twelve Hours at Night (8 pm to 8am), Prescott Sixer, and other "tough mudder" events.

With drainage issues on some of the old roads, the Recreation Services Department's future plans for this trail system includes adding more single-track trails for residents and events.

(Contributors: Chris Hosking and Nancy Nesbit)



Length: 9 miles
Elevations: 5220' (Low) - 5480' (High)
Activities: Walking, Hiking, Bicycling, Horseback Riding.
Access: Brownlow Trailhead, Commerce Drive (*across from Pioneer Park ball field complex.*)
All Pioneer Park parking lots.
West end of Jack Drive.
Pioneer Parkway overlook south of Commerce Dr.
All parking is free.

This and other trail maps are downloadable at:
www.prescott-az.gov/services/parks/trails/or
www.prescotttrails.com

Sports Page - Senior Women's Softball Tournament

Senior Women's Softball began as an event when Prescott's Senior Olympics began sixteen years ago. It is still held during Senior Olympics, but has developed into a popular tournament now known as ASA Women's Senior Summer Softball Smash. Although it is an unsanctioned event, it complies with the rules of various senior softball organizations.

The event is open to women of 50 years of age and older. Team levels include minimum ages of 50+, 55+, 60+, 65+ and sometimes 70+, but participants can be older without moving up into the next level.

Up until 2011, most of the teams participating were from Arizona, New Mexico, Nevada, and California. Gaining in recognition, 2012 saw teams arriving from Missouri, Michigan, and Ohio. Because there are few senior women's softball tournaments, some of the teams are mixed with players travelling from many other states.

These women are very serious about the game and most play with teams in their hometowns. For additional playing time they farm out to other teams for tournaments. A small group, they all know one another and have fun, even though they are very competitive and play hard to win. With stamina and dedication they play a couple of games each day during the tournament.

Because of the tournament's popularity, Prescott has become a destination for these women, with 20 to 26 teams participating each year.

(Contributor: Michelle Stacy-Schroeder)

For more information on Senior Olympics, or to register, contact Michelle Stacy-Schroeder at: (928) 777-1552.



Senior Olympics 2015 August 1st - 24th

Bowling - Saturday, August 8th

Location: Prescott Plaza Bowl

Golf - Tuesdays, August 4th and 11th

Location: Antelope Hills Golf Course

Horseshoes - Saturday, August 15th

Watson Lake - Mile-Hi Horseshoe Complex

Pickleball - Fri., Sat., Sun., Aug. 14th, 15th 16th

Location: Club at Prescott Lakes

Shooting

Shotgun Events - Friday, August 7th

Location: Prescott Trap & Skeet Club, Dewey

Bullseye Pistol & Metallic Silhouette Events

Wed. & Thur., Aug. 12th & 13th

Location: Prescott Sportsmen's Club, Chino Valley Shooting Facility

Swimming - Saturday, August 1st

Location: Prescott YMCA

Tennis - Sat. & Sun., August 15th & 16th

Location: Prescott High School

Track & Field - Saturday, August 15th

Location: Prescott High School

Softball (Women's) - Sat. & Sun., Aug. 8th & 9th

Location: Pioneer Park

Volleyball - Saturday, August 15th

Location: (Men's) Prescott High School

(Women's) Yavapai College

Coed Volleyball - Sunday, August 16th

Location: Prescott High School

Information regarding eligibility, age categories, registration deadlines, fees, contacts, events, times, and location addresses is available online at: www.prescott-az.gov/services/parks/sports



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 Recreation Services
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.



Our History

A.C. Williams, Prescott's First Recreation Visionary

The Recreation Services Department, which has also been called the Parks and Recreation Department, traces its origin to 1958. The first director, A.C. Williams, had his office in the stadium now known as Ken Lindley Stadium. As a native of Arizona, A.C. served as Prescott's Parks and Recreation Director for over 25 years, and planned and constructed many of the parks still enjoyed today. A.C. Williams - Granite Creek Park honors this man who contributed so much to the community.

From 1962 to 1984, A.C. also served on the Arizona State Parks Board, and was credited for establishing many of the early State Parks in Arizona.

For Prescott specifically, A.C. was instrumental in pursuing many grants, and patenting federal lands designated for recreation. He was diligent in creating large adult sports leagues for softball, basketball, and volleyball, and worked closely with the school district for sharing facilities.

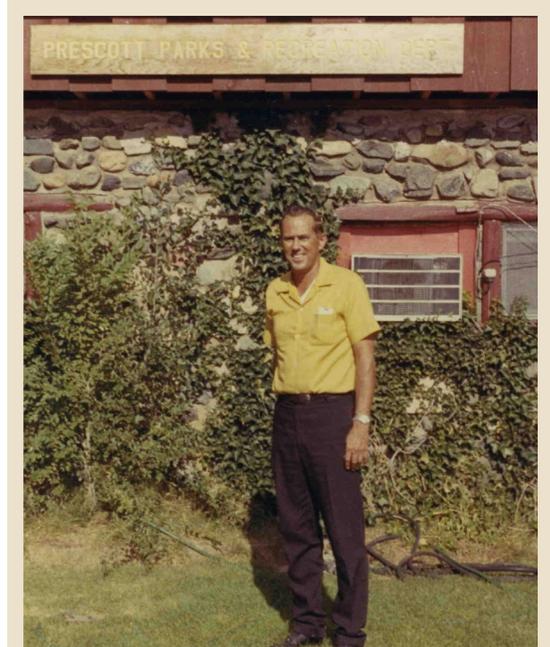
From the 1960s to 1980s, A.C.

secured Federal Land & Water Conservation Fund monies derived from off-shore oil leases, which provided much funding for Prescott's parks. These monies allowed for land purchases, and park development. Willow Creek Park was one of the first parks developed in this fashion, and Whipple Park (i.e., now Roughrider Park/Bill Vallely Fields), North Park (i.e., now Mike Fann Community Skatepark), Heritage Park (i.e., that originally featured a rodeo arena) and Granite Creek Park followed. Also in the 1970s, through A.C.'s tireless work State Lake Improvement funds allowed the initial improvements and opening of upper Goldwater Lake. In the busy summer months, A.C. employed many local area youth for summer seasonal positions.

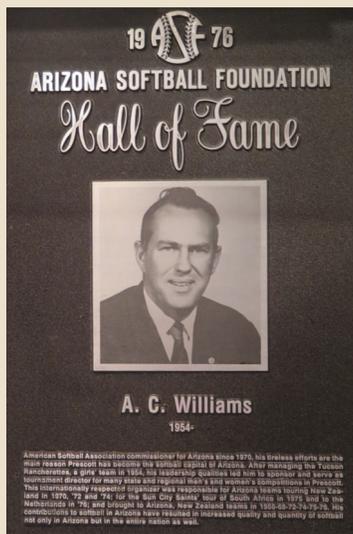
A.C. may be better known to some for his role with the Amateur Softball Association (ASA), a National organization dedicated to supporting amateur softball for all ages and abilities. He was active in various capacities with ASA from the late 1960s until 2007. As a result, A.C. was instrumental in creating Prescott's softball "capital" destination recognition, a tradition still found today. At one point, Prescott had over 240 adult softball teams, and drew large crowds to Ken Lindley Stadium for men's fast-pitch softball. Through his passion for softball, A.C. brought teams from New Zealand, China, South Africa, and Australia, and occasionally took teams out of the country to play.

A.C. passed away in 2010 at the age of 85. He left his legacy on Prescott, in Arizona, and Nationally for his ASA role. Future generations will benefit from this man's passion for the community and its recreational opportunities.

(Contributor: Eric Smith, Special Projects Administrator)



(Photo Courtesy of: Linda Williams Cates)
A.C. Williams in front of the Parks & Recreation office, circa 1968.



A.C. Williams' dedication to amateur softball and its promotion in Arizona, earned him recognition and induction into the Arizona Softball Foundation's Hall of Fame.

Considered Arizona's softball city, the Arizona ASA Hall of Fame was opened in the Grace Sparkes Memorial Activity Center (*Old Armory Building*), 824 E. Gurley St., Prescott on May 27, 2006.

Among those attending the Grand Opening were A.C. Williams and Rose Mofford, governor of Arizona from April 4, 1988 to March 6, 1991 (pictured below).

To view the museum visit the Recreation Services Department office at the Grace Sparkes Memorial Activity Center between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays.



Our Activities & Volunteers TrekAbout Hiking Club Hikers are Happier People

It is widely understood that physical activity has broad health benefits, including the reduction of depression. In the past few years, health benefits articles related to hiking have increased. Many of these articles are also focusing on hiking's mental health benefits. Unplugging the machines and exercising outdoors exposes one to a completely different environment. While a walk around the block is nice, a walk among nature helps one completely detach from regular day-to-day routines and problems.

They claim that hikers are more creative and happier people. Hiking exercises the body, clears the mind, and refreshes the soul. John Muir has been quoted as stating, "In every walk with nature, one receives far more than he seeks."

Organized over ten years ago, TrekAbout was developed by Prescott YMCA, Yavapai County Community Health Services, and Prescott Recreation Services Department, to provide an exercise resource to improve the health of area residents of all ages. Although hiking is a popular outdoor activity in Prescott, many new to the area discover the trails and hiking only after moving here. Regardless of age or experience, everyone is welcome. TrekAbout's hike leaders have commented on how quickly those new to hiking adapt and build up their stamina and speed.

Come out and join TrekAbout to make new friends while experiencing all the natural parklands and trails in the Prescott area.

(Contributor: Nancy Nesbit)

Some of the Health Benefits of Regular Physical Activity

Lowers the risk of early death, coronary heart disease, stroke, high blood pressure, type II diabetes, and some cancers.

Helps reduce and maintain weight loss, especially when combined with reduced calorie intake.

Improved cardiorespiratory and muscular fitness.

Helps prevent falls, reduces depression, and improves cognitive function in older adults.

There is moderate evidence of a lower risk of hip fracture and increased bone density, as well as improved sleep quality.



(Above) Hiking Watson Woods. (Photo Courtesy of: Nancy Nesbit)

(Below) In the Dells along Lakeshore Trail, Watson Lake. (Photo Courtesy of: Chris Hosking)



For information on TrekAbout, call (928) 777-1122, or visit the Prescott Recreation Services office in the Grace Sparkes Memorial Activity Center (Old Armory Building), at 824 E. Gurley St., Prescott, AZ 86301.

Membership is \$18.00 a year and a calendar of hikes is provided to members.

There are two hikes per week, graded on a scale of one to four (with four being the most difficult.)

Hikes are on Tuesdays (1 hour) and Thursdays (2 Hours) and begin at 7 a.m. in the summer and 8 a.m. in the winter.

Hiking boots required, carry water and all dogs must be on a leash.

Did You Know - Antelope Hills Golf Course

New Relationships and Partnerships

AMMENITIES & SERVICES

36 Holes of Great Golf
Two courses (North and South) with a view.
Open seven days a week.
Hours: 6 a.m. - 7 p.m., April thru Oct. 31st
8 a.m. - 6 p.m., Nov. thru Mar. 31st

Practice Facility

Over 10 acres of practice facility featuring driving ranges with a separate area to practice chipping and putting techniques. The Practice Facility is open the same hours as the golf course and is available for general practice and instruction.

Academy

Improve your game with one of our instructors; Ed Compton (PGA), Kim Haddow, Tom Lilley

Clubhouse

Located at the South Course, the clubhouse patio offers views of the course and Bradshaw Mountains from the patio.
Clubhouse hours: 6 a.m. - 7 p.m.
Clubhouse bar hours: 6 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Pro Shop

Hours: 6 a.m. - 7 p.m., April thru Oct. 31st
8 a.m. - 6 p.m., Nov. thru Mar. 31st
Phone: (928) 776-7888

The Manzanita Grill

(Located in the clubhouse)
Breakfast, Lunch, and Dinner
Phone: (928) 777-1888
Breakfast: 6:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
Lunch: 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Dinner (Fri.-Sat.): 3:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Centennial Center

Weddings, banquets, meetings or parties.
Accommodates groups of up to 150 people.
In house AV equipment available for presentations.
Inquiry forms are available online.

Visit the Antelope Hills Golf Course website online through the city website under services at:
www.prescott-az.gov
or www.antelopehillsgolf.com
You may also telephone us at (928) 776-7888 or visit us at 1 Perkins Dr., Prescott, AZ 86301 off State Highway 89 just south of the airport.

In 1956, with assistance from many local businesses and volunteers, the City of Prescott constructed the Antelope Hills North course to provide golfing opportunities for area residents and visitors alike. In 1992, due to the increase in play, the City added the South course. With two great golf courses Antelope Hills soon gained a reputation as the destination for many golfers from Southern Arizona to beat the summer heat.

In 2005 Antelope Hills began to experience financial pressures due to the recession, additional golf courses in the area, decreased demand, and a rise in the price of golf while average incomes declined.

After studying the City's options to make Antelope Hills self-sustaining, the City Council decided in June 2013 that a public/private partnership should be pursued. The desired partnership would be unusual in that the City wished to retain what it did best, maintenance of all facilities and grounds, while contracting out the management of all other operations including golf, The Manzanita Grill, Centennial Center, marketing, events, and all employees involved in these operations. Due to Antelope Hills' reputation for providing quality playing conditions, and the great four season golf climate, eight golf management companies submitted proposals.

On October 1, 2013 Antelope Hills' operations were transferred from a separate City entity to the Recreation Services Department. Billy Casper Golf was eventually selected for the new partnership which became official in May 2014. According to Bill Weller, General Manager, everyone involved in the partnership wants it to succeed, really cares and has a passion for Antelope Hills.

The grounds and buildings are maintained by a modest crew of nine from the Recreation Services Department. All other employees have been transferred from City employment to Billy Casper Golf. There has been a 100% retention of all transferred employees, showing the dedication of personnel and the respect Billy Casper Golf has for the City of Prescott, its employees and residents.

Antelope Hills continues to hold longstanding popular events while creating new programs, such as Women On Course. The Loyalty Program has experienced growth in membership from 200 to 1,400 people.

Registrations for the Father Son Tournament sold out in two days, bringing 525 golfers to Antelope Hills. This tournament sees generations returning to Prescott from around the country. Other

popular events, the Outhouse Open, and AIA Division III State High School Tournament, also draw visitors to Prescott. With occupancy rates for local area hotels of nearly 100%, the economic impact to the City's businesses and funds are incalculable with contributions to the general economy and in bed and sales taxes.

As Recreation Services Department Director Joe Baynes put it, these partnerships succeed when all parties are realistic and fulfill their obligations. Expectations are being met.

(Contributor: Nancy Nesbit)



Managed by Billy Casper Golf
"Provide each and every guest a fun and enjoyable experience"

Located in the clubhouse on the South Course, The Manzanita Grill serves up "fish fry" Fridays and the "prime rib special" on Saturdays.



(Photo Courtesy of: Nancy Nesbit)

One of Watson Lake's coves viewed from Prescott Peavine National Recreation Trail.

Updates and News

Trip Advisor; Top 30 Things To Do In Prescott

In Trip Advisor's list of things to do in Prescott, three areas within the Recreation Services Department were included in the top ten with Certificates of Excellence.

Number one on the list was Watson Lake. Of note was the lake's great kayaking, hiking, boulder hiking, and lake views.

Number five was the Prescott Peavine National Recreational Trail. Mentioned was the ease of the trail and great vistas.

Number seven was Goldwater Lake. It was described by one reviewer as a "cool mountain lake".

To see the complete list and reviews, visit Trip Advisor at:

http://www.tripadvisor.com/Attractions-g31323-Activities-Prescott_Arizona.html



2014 Monsoon Damage Results in Trail Improvements at Watson Lake

During the summer monsoons of 2014, the rising lake waters found several trails close to the water's edge flooded. Such was the case with a portion of Watson Lake's North Shore Trail.

Under the supervision of Recreation Services staff, Community Service workers placed large boulders along the trail's edge and then filled it in with gravel, raising the trail a couple of feet. This improvement should help maintain the trail during high water in future monsoons.

(Left) Hikers along a newly restored portion of the North Shore Trail at Watson Lake's north boat ramp.

(Photo Courtesy of: John Ziech, Grand Rapids, Michigan)



(Photo Courtesy of: Nancy Nesbit)

(Above) The completion of the 54 mile Prescott Circle Trail was celebrated with an event at Watson Lake on May 29, 2015. The Fall 2015 Newsletter will be a "special issue" about the trail, its history, and the four day hike, from May 27 through May 30, 2015 commemorating the trail's completion.



Fishing

What are those fish being stocked into Watson and Goldwater Lakes?

The fish species being stocked into Prescott's lakes are rainbow trout from Page Springs Fish Hatchery (compliments of Arizona Game & Fish Department), and larger rainbow trout

in Watson Lake only from Crowther's Freshwater Fish in Colorado (compliments of Prescott Kiwanis).

The **rainbow trout** (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*) is a trout and species of salmonid native to cold-water. Adult freshwater stream rainbow trout average between 1 and 5 lbs, while lake-dwelling and anadromous forms may reach 20 lbs. Coloration varies widely based on subspecies, forms and habitat. Adult fish are distinguished by a broad reddish stripe along the lateral line, from gills to the tail, which is most vivid in breeding males. Wild-caught and hatchery-reared forms of this species have been transplanted and introduced for food or sport in at least 45 countries and every continent except Antarctica.

Rainbow trout are predators with a varied diet and will eat nearly anything they can capture. They are not as aggressive as brown trout. Rainbow trout routinely feed on larval, pupal and adult forms of aquatic insects (i.e., typically caddisflies, stoneflies, mayflies and aquatic diptera). They also eat fish eggs and adult forms of terrestrial insects (i.e., typically ants, beetles, grasshoppers and crickets) that fall into the water. Other prey includes small fish up to one-third of their length, crayfish, and other crustaceans. As rainbow trout grow, the proportion of fish consumed increases in most populations. Some lake-dwelling forms may become planktonic feeders. Rainbows also consume decomposing flesh from carcasses of other fish.

The rainbow trout in our local lakes are compatible with the existing warm-water species also found to include bass, bluegill, crappie, and catfish. We encourage you to pursue some of the many rainbow trout being stocked.

(Contributor: Eric Smith, Special Projects Administrator, Source - Wikipedia)



Visit the Arizona Game and Fish Department online at: www.azgfd.com
AZGFD's Weekly Fishing Report is online at: www.azgfd.net/artman/publish/FishingReport/
AZGFD's Fish Stocking Schedule is online at: <http://azgfdportal.az.gov/fishing/stockschedule>

Spotlight On ... Steve Mancha



Steve Mancha
Recreation Maintenance
Supervisor

Steve Mancha began working with the Recreation Services Department at the age of 14 as a seasonal worker and will celebrate his 28th year with the City this September. As Assistant Superintendent of Lakes, he was responsible for the lakes, Community Restitution program, and City rights of way, as well as bandwagon set-up for special events. With his promotion this January to Recreation Maintenance Supervisor for Parks, Lakes, and Rights of Way, his responsibilities have expanded to also include supervision of all the parks and sports complexes.

Steve loves everything outdoors and looks forward to the challenges and opportunities his new position presents. His involvement with the lakes included not just the implementation of the 2014 Goldwater Lake expansion area, but the vision and design for this much needed expansion. His creativity helped keep costs down by implementing rock collection by Community Restitution workers for the Ceremonial Pad, as well as the boulder sign design for the Ceremonial Pad and ramadas, and rustic log borders in the parking areas.

With his passion for sports, Steve is excited about getting back into working at the sports complexes and readying them for the sports season and tournaments. He is intent upon providing nice facilities and a great experience for participants and visitors alike. Among his projects for 2016 is playground refurbishment at all the parks with new edging and surface material. Steve stated that he appreciates the staff's hard work and help with his vision for future park improvements.

Steve and his wife Shelly are Prescott natives. Their daughter Heather, also a native of Prescott, was among the first to be married in 2014 at the new Ceremonial Pad at Goldwater Lake.

Steve loves being creative and using his creativity to provide services for an enjoyable park experience for visitors.

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

Celebrate Wildflowers at the Community Nature Center

Sunday, September 13, 2015 - 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Although all the seasons in our Central Arizona Highlands have their own unique appeal, each year I happily anticipate the southwest's monsoon season. Why? Wildflowers!

The North American Monsoon is not as relentless as its Indian counterpart, but it shares some basic characteristics that give our summer rains this name. The word monsoon refers to a "wind shift," appropriate because the wind systems that influence our region change direction, and the shift brings rain! As summer approaches, Mexico and the southwestern U.S. land surfaces warm intensively and a low pressure develops. This accompanied by a high-pressure system that moves north during that time, allow moist ocean airflow from the south and southwest, and we gratefully receive the rain.

The result? We have a spectacular response of wildflowers. Unlike spring in our southwestern mountains, emerging summer flowers find warmth and dependable moisture. If some of these flowers look almost tropical to you, it is because the conditions support this expression!

At the Community Nature Center we have the perfect habitat conditions for flowers. Even though the Natural Area is less than 20 acres, there is a lot of diversity in habitats for plants to grow. There is the open sunny "grassland", rocky boulder outcrops, nooks among shrubs and trees, and the tempered, shady conditions and deeper soils by the little pond. The variety of plant species is truly remarkable. Last year's flower list totaled over 80 species at the site; the vast majority of them bloom in late summer.

Please join us on Sunday September 13 from 7:30 to 11:30 a.m. for our Third 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. The location is 1980 Williamson Valley Road - watch for a banner at the turn off. If you need additional details call Prescott Recreation Services Department at (928) 777-1122. We hope to see you!

(Contributor and flower photos: Nichole Trushell, member Friends of the Community Nature Center)



Sweet Four O'clock



Scarlet Gilia



Longleaf False Goldeneye



Birdbill Dayflower

For more information on trails and on the Plants and Animals of the Community Nature Center visit - <http://www.cityofprescott.net/services/parks/parks/index.php?id=27>



Community Nature Center
1981 Williamson Valley Rd., Prescott, AZ

Summer Hours
(Memorial Day through Labor Day)

7:00 a.m. - Sunset

Winter Hours

7:00 a.m. - Sunset

Free Parking

Mark Your Calendar

- July 4, 2015 (Saturday) Prescott's Annual 4th of July Celebration, Pioneer Park, festivities begin at noon with fireworks at 9:00 p.m.
 July 31-Aug. 2, 2015 (Friday, Saturday, Sunday) Antique Auto Club Car Show, Watson Lake 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
 July 31-Aug. 24, 2015 Prescott Senior Olympics, various venues, dates, and times.
 September 13, 2015 (Sunday) 3rd Annual Wildflower Celebration, Community Nature Center, 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. (See page 11)
 September 26, 2015 (Saturday) - National Public Lands Day, 20th Anniversary Celebration of Acker Park, Prescott, AZ
 October 10-11, 2015 (Saturday & Sunday) Prescott's Great Outdoors-Outdoor Recreation Festival & Expo, Watson Lake, 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
 October 10-11, 2015 (Saturday & Sunday) Fraternal Order of Eagles National Softball Tournament, Pioneer Park 4-Plex
 October 10-11, 2015 (Saturday & Sunday) ASA Girl's "Fall Classic" Fast-Pitch Softball Tournament, Bill Vallely/Ken Lindley/Heritage 1&2
 November 28-29, 2015 (Saturday & Sunday) NFL Flag Football Tournament, Pioneer Park 4-Plex

For the complete 2015 Calendar of Sporting Events see the Spring 2015 Newsletter, page 11, online at: www.prescott-az.gov/services/parks



Prescott's Great Outdoors Outdoor Recreation Festival & Expo October 10th & 11th, 2015, 10 am-5 pm

Join us once again at Watson Lake Park for this family-oriented event highlighting the outdoor recreational opportunities, retailers, organizations, resources, and equipment in the Quad-Cities area. This fun event is in the scenic surrounding of the Granite Dells.



Breaking news! As a major sponsor, Prescott Kiwanis is generously funding the stocked rainbow trout - fishing cove for the second year in a row.

To participate as a sponsor or vendor in this exciting event, please contact:
Eric Smith at eric.smith@prescott-az.gov
Prescott Parks & Recreation Department - (928) 777-1122



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Arizona Game and Fish Department



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



ACKER PARK 20th Birthday Party National Public Lands Day Sat., September 26, 2015 • 8:00 am - 12:00

Come celebrate Acker Park, established by citizen vote on this date in 1995. This 80 acre natural parkland has been supported by the Friends of Acker Park whose efforts led to the park's development. They sponsor this event with Unity of Prescott.

Naturalist walks begin at 8:00 a.m.
Dedication and cake at 11:00 a.m.

Acker Park, 421 S. Virginia St., Prescott, Arizona

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.