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Recreation Services Newsletter

824 E. Gurley St. Prescott, AZ 86301

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK



February is shaping up to be a special month for Prescott and for Arizona. In 2026, our nation celebrates its 250th anniversary, and we are honored that a Liberty Bell replica will be touring Arizona—with its very first stop right here in Prescott on February 14. Even better, that same day marks Arizona's 114th birthday. As a fourth-generation Arizonan, I feel a deep sense of pride calling this state home and celebrating our rich history, independence, and the communities that make Arizona such a remarkable place to live.

From a Parks and Recreation perspective, we're also excited to continue looking forward. By the end of the month, we will be launching a new Parks and Recreation Master Plan webpage—an important step in shaping the next 10 years of parks, programs, and facilities for our community. Be sure to follow us on Facebook, where we'll announce the launch and share ways you can stay involved.

As we move through the new year, I encourage you to keep getting outside, keep moving, and keep tackling those New Year's resolutions. We are incredibly fortunate to enjoy world-class parks, trails, and facilities right here in Prescott. I hope to see you out on the trails, enjoying all that makes our community such a special place.

— Kristy Diaz-Trahan

For more information and updates on AZ 250th Anniversary - www.experienceprescott.com

Subscribe to Our Newsletter

Stay connected, subscribe now for monthly news, and event updates.

<https://prescott-az.gov/rec-services/contact/>

NEED TO KNOW:

The City of Prescott has introduced a streamlined process for citizens to apply for special event permits, making planning community events easier and more efficient. This new system offers a clearer, step-by-step online application that helps organizers navigate requirements, submit necessary documents, and track their permit status in one place. By simplifying submissions and improving transparency, the city aims to reduce wait times and support more local events.

Whether you're planning a block party, fundraiser, or festival, this updated permitting process empowers residents to bring their ideas to life with greater ease and confidence.

There will be some learning along the way, but we are here to help. Call 928-777-1121 or email special.events@prescott-az.gov

Apply for permit:
<https://prescott-az.gov/rec-services/special-events/>

PARKING PASS

Apply for a City of Prescott parking pass online or in person through Recreation Services. Annual passes are available for Goldwater, Watson, and Willow Lake, Peavine, and Constellation Trails. Three options to choose from to make park visits easier and more affordable.

<https://prescott-az.gov/rec-services/parking-passes/>



FEATURED PARK: WATSON LAKE: A CENTURY OF HISTORY AND SCENIC RECREATION

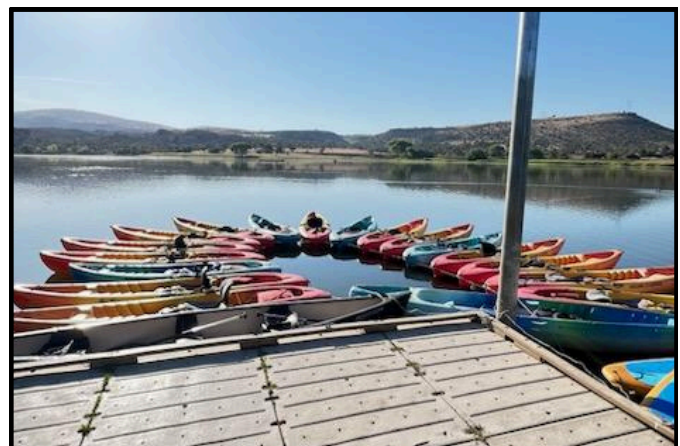
Watson Lake is one of Prescott, Arizona's most recognizable natural landmarks, known for its striking granite rock formations and outdoor recreation opportunities. Located about four miles north of downtown Prescott along Highway 89, the lake sits within the Granite Dells, a landscape shaped over millions of years by erosion and weathering.

The lake was created in 1915 with the construction of the Granite Creek Dam. Its original purpose was practical rather than recreational: to store irrigation water for agricultural projects in Chino Valley. The project was backed by outside investors, and the lake was named in honor of Watson, an early supporter associated with the Hassayampa Alfalfa Company. Although the irrigation effort ultimately failed due to water loss in unlined canals, the reservoir remained and gradually became valued for its scenic and recreational appeal.

In 1997, the City of Prescott purchased Watson Lake and the surrounding land to preserve it as public open space and develop it for recreation. Today, Watson Lake Park is a popular destination for both residents and visitors.

Amenities include kayaking and canoeing, fishing, hiking and biking trails, rock climbing, disc golf, bocce ball courts, picnic areas, and seasonal camping. Swimming is not permitted, but the lake supports a variety of fish species and is a favorite spot for birdwatching, especially near the adjacent Watson Woods Riparian Preserve.

Watson Lake consistently ranks among Prescott's most visited outdoor attractions, drawing thousands each year for its unique combination of history, recreation, and dramatic high-desert scenery



PROGRAMMING

TIME TO HIT THE DUSTY DIAMONDS! ADULT SOFTBALL REGISTRATION IS OPEN!

Grab your glove and dust off the cleats, softball league registration is officially OPEN, and this season is going to be an absolute banger!

Whether you're a seasoned slugger chasing championships or someone who just loves a good summer night under the lights, there's a league for everybody and every skill level.

Leagues are filled on a first-come, first-served basis so if a division fills before the April 10th registration deadline, additional teams will be placed on a waitlist, so waiting could mean watching from the stands.

Don't risk it. Sign up now and lock in your team! No matter your experience, there's a spot for you at the plate.

Season kicks off in May, bringing warm evenings, big hits, friendly rivalries, and plenty of reasons to celebrate after the final out.



Build your team. Choose your league. Beat the rush. We're offering:

- Men's, Women's, and Co-Rec leagues
- Competitive divisions
- Recreational divisions

Early Registration Deadline: March 27th

- Fee: \$350

Regular Registration: After March 27th

- Fee: \$375

Register online at:

<https://prescottaz.recdesk.com/Community/Home>

or contact the Recreation Services at 928-777-1121.

2026 TREKABOUT: STEP INTO A HEALTHIER NEW YEAR

Trekabout is stepping into 2026 with energy, fresh air, and fantastic views! The year kicked off with several enjoyable hikes, including a special 5-mile Saturday trek around the stunning Watson Lake. Designed to keep participants active while soaking in Prescott's natural beauty, Trekabout is all about getting outside, moving your body, and discovering the incredible trail system right in our backyard.

Hikers enjoy a rotating variety of scenic trails throughout the year, ensuring every outing feels like a new adventure. Trekabout meets twice weekly. Tuesdays feature relaxed 1-hour hikes, perfect for enjoying the scenery, while Thursdays offer more adventurous 2-hour hikes for those looking to explore a little farther. Occasional Saturday hikes add an extra dose of weekend fun.

The \$20 annual Trekabout fee covers participation for the entire year, making it easy to stay active and engaged with the community. Registration is simple and available online through RecDesk or in person at Recreation Services, 824 E. Gurley Street.



What to Bring (and How to Have a Great Hike!)

Pack for fun and comfort—your future self will thank you! Bring comfortable hiking shoes, plenty of water, sun protection, and weather-appropriate clothing.

Optional extras include snacks, trekking poles, and a small backpack to carry your essentials.

For a safe and enjoyable adventure, hike at a pace that feels good, stay with the group, and follow your hike leader's guidance. Keep an eye out for uneven terrain, wildlife, and changing weather—then take breaks as needed to catch your breath, snap a photo, or just soak in the scenery.

Join Trekabout in 2026 and experience Prescott the best way possible—outside, on the trail, and one step at a time.

<https://prescott-az.gov/rec-services/programs-sports/trekabout-hiking/>

PARKS | LAKES | TRAILS

WILLOW CREEK DOG PARK IMPROVEMENTS

We're excited to announce the re-opening of the dog park, and it's looking better than ever.

After a period of significant improvements and upgrades, the park has been refreshed with both dogs and their humans in mind—creating a space that's safer, cleaner, more functional, and more welcoming for everyone who visits.

One of the most noticeable upgrades is the brand-new turf. Designed to be durable, low-maintenance, and comfortable for paws of all sizes, the new surface provides a cleaner and more enjoyable play experience. Improved drainage helps reduce standing water and mud after storms, keeping the park healthier and more pleasant year-round. A new concrete border now surrounds the turf, helping contain the surface, improve edge durability, and maintain a clean, finished look throughout the play areas.

The park's misting system has also been completely overhauled and is once again fully functional. This upgrade included new valves, a new controller, new activation switches, and all new wiring. These improvements provide more reliable operation and better control, ensuring dogs can cool off safely and effectively during the warmer months.

To improve visibility and safety during early morning and evening hours, new solar lighting has been installed at both the park entrance and the main ramada. These additions enhance sightlines, improve wayfinding, and help create a more welcoming environment during lower-light conditions.

Several concrete improvements were completed throughout the park as well. New concrete pads were installed at misting areas and hose bib locations to improve durability and drainage. A larger concrete pad was added at the main entrance to better handle foot traffic and improve accessibility. These upgrades help reduce erosion, standing water, and long-term maintenance needs.



Fencing was also upgraded with additional precautions for dog containment, reinforcing the safety of the play areas and providing greater peace of mind for park users. In front of the park, landscaping received a full overhaul, improving curb appeal and creating a more inviting first impression. As part of this effort, four new trees were planted, adding shade, visual interest, and long-term environmental benefits to the space.

The re-opening of the dog park is about more than physical improvements—it's about community. Dog parks are social spaces where neighbors connect, friendships form, and dogs get the exercise and enrichment they need. This refreshed park encourages responsible play, positive interactions, and pride in a shared community asset.

As we welcome everyone back, we encourage all visitors to continue practicing good dog park etiquette by supervising pets, cleaning up after them, and being mindful of others in the space. These small actions help keep the park safe and enjoyable for all.

Whether you're a regular visitor or stopping by for the first time, we invite you to come enjoy the updates and celebrate the re-opening with your four-legged companions. This project reflects our ongoing commitment to providing safe, welcoming, and well-maintained parks for the Prescott community—one wagging tail at a time.

ANTELOPE HILLS GOLF COURSE

The golf course will be heating things up with its annual Chili Open Golf Tournament on Saturday, February 21st! This popular event combines friendly competition with great food and fun on the course. The \$60 entry fee includes a full round of golf, cart rental, range balls, and access to delicious chili along with food and drink specials throughout the day. It's a great way to enjoy the course and connect with fellow golfers. Check the Antelope Hills Golf Course calendar for registration details and updates.

<https://www.antelopehillsgolf.com/events/>

www.prescott-az.gov