



Recreation Services Newsletter

824 E. Gurley St. Prescott, AZ 86301

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK



Welcome to Our New Parks & Recreation Monthly Newsletter!

I'm excited to introduce this new monthly Recreation Services newsletter—a fresh way for us to stay connected with our community and keep you informed about the places and programs that bring us together. For those I haven't met yet, my name is Kristy Diaz-Trahan, and I have the privilege of serving as your Recreation Services Director. I believe parks and recreation are more than amenities—they're essential to community wellness, connection, and quality of life. From trails and parks to programs, events, and shared spaces, what we do touches people of all ages and stages.

This newsletter will be a regular communication tool designed to keep you in the know. Each month, we'll highlight upcoming programs and special events, share updates on park and facility improvements, and flag any changes that may impact your visit. We'll also feature special places within our system, celebrate the people behind the work, and occasionally take a look back at the history that shaped Parks and Recreation in our community. Our goal is simple: clear, helpful, and meaningful communication that helps you make the most of our parks, programs, and spaces. I'm glad you're here, and I look forward to sharing this journey with you—one month at a time.

NEED TO KNOW:

The City of Prescott Recreation Services Team has been diligently working to provide the safest and cleanest location for your fur friends. They have been painting, updating, refreshing equipment, moving dirt, and thoroughly cleaning the area in preparation for the installation of new turf. The delay is the arrival of the turf itself. Fingers crossed it arrives within the next few weeks and that weather conditions allow for installation. Once complete, these upgrades will offer improved play areas for both pets and their owners, creating a more enjoyable dog park experience. Reopening is anticipated for early 2026.



MASTER PLAN IN THE MAKING

The City of Prescott Recreation Services Department is developing a comprehensive new Master Plan to shape the future of our parks, trails, lakes, and recreation programs. This plan will guide community growth, sustainability, and outdoor enjoyment. Follow us for updates and announcements when the plan is completed.

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Stay connected, subscribe now for monthly news, and event updates.
<https://prescott-az.gov/rec-services/contact/>

Stay updated on current activities & Special Events:
<https://prescott-az.gov/rec-services/special-events/>



FEATURED PARK: GOLDWATER LAKE A PRESCOTT TREASURE ROOTED IN HISTORY

Nestled among the spectacular ponderosa pines just a mere four miles south of downtown Prescott, Goldwater Lake is one of the city's most cherished recreation destinations. The lake's history dates back to the early 1930s, when the City of Prescott Arizona constructed a dam on Bannon Creek to create a reservoir that would serve as part of the community's water supply system. Over time, as the city's water infrastructure evolved, the lake transitioned from a utilitarian resource to a very popular outdoor recreation site.

Goldwater Lake was named in honor of Morris Goldwater, a longtime Prescott resident mayor, businessman, and civic leader, and the uncle of U.S. Senator Barry Goldwater. Morris Goldwater played a key role in developing Prescott's municipal services and was deeply committed to community progress, making the lake's name a fitting tribute to his legacy.

Today, Goldwater Lake offers a peaceful, family-friendly setting for both residents and visitors. The park features picnic ramadas, playgrounds, sand volleyball courts, and hiking trails that connect to the wider Prescott trail system. Anglers enjoy trout, bass, and catfish fishing, while kayakers and canoeists can take advantage of the calm waters—limited to non-motorized or electric-powered boats.

Though swimming is not permitted, the lake's serene forest surroundings and convenient access make it an ideal place for picnics, small gatherings, and outdoor recreation. Managed by the City of Prescott Recreation Services Department, Goldwater Lake remains a symbol of the city's balance between preservation, history, and outdoor enjoyment.



PROGRAMMING

MEN'S, WOMEN'S & CO-REC SPRING VOLLEYBALL LEAGUES

Get ready to bump, set, and spike your way into spring! Early registration for Men's, Women's, and Co-Rec Spring Volleyball Leagues runs from December 15 through February 6, with regular registration open until February 13. Don't miss early registration savings—leagues fill fast!

Whether you're a seasoned player or just looking to stay active and have fun, these leagues offer exciting competition and a great sense of community. If you do not have a team together you can sign up as a free agent by contacting the Recreation Services Department at 928-777-1121.



Grab your friends, coworkers, or family and register your team today. Leagues start the week of March 9th. Spectators are welcome—come cheer on local teams and enjoy the energy of Prescott recreation!

Register online at <https://prescottaz.recdesk.com/Community/Home> or contact the Recreation Services Department at 928-777-1121.

RECREATION SERVICES SNAP - GEARING UP FOR 2026

The Special Needs Activity Program (S.N.A.P.) in Prescott, Arizona, serves adults ages 18 and older, providing inclusive opportunities for social connection, creativity, and community engagement. Designed to support individual interests and abilities, S.N.A.P. reflects the City of Prescott Recreation Services Department's commitment to accessibility, inclusion, and community enrichment. The program continues to positively impact participants while strengthening the fabric of the Prescott community.

S.N.A.P. offers a variety of engaging monthly events. Craft Night, held on the fourth Wednesday of each month from 6:00–7:00 PM, encourages creative expression through hands-on art projects in a relaxed, supportive environment. Bingo Night, typically on the first Wednesday of the month from 6:00–7:15 PM, provides an energetic evening of games, prizes, and social interaction while fostering friendly competition. Themed Dance Nights, usually held on the third Saturday of each month from 5:00–7:00 PM, are lively and popular events featuring music, dancing, and monthly themes that create a fun, welcoming atmosphere.



2025 SNAP Christmas Dance

All S.N.A.P. events take place at the Grace Sparkes Memorial Activity Center, located at 824 E. Gurley Street in Prescott. This accessible and inviting facility allows participants to come together and enjoy meaningful recreational experiences.

The program is made possible through the generosity of volunteers, community partners, and local businesses, along with the dedicated coordination of S.N.A.P. Coordinator Karlyne Crewse. As a nonprofit program, S.N.A.P. relies heavily on donations and volunteer support. Those interested in volunteering or donating items such as food, bingo prizes, or door prizes are encouraged to contact Karlyne Crewse at (928) 777-1121 ext. 4507 or via email at Karlyne.Crewse@prescottaz.gov.

PARKS | LAKES | TRAILS

PRESCOTT TRAILS, NATURAL PARKLANDS, AND FORESTRY: A YEAR IN REVIEW



The City of Prescott's Trails and Natural Parklands Division continues to play a vital role in preserving and enhancing the community's outdoor recreation system. The Division currently manages 146 miles of trails across 5,500 acres of Natural Parkland, welcoming more than 1 million visits each year from residents and tourists to the Mile High Trail System. This success is made possible through strong community involvement, with City staff facilitating more than 10,000 volunteer hours annually to help build, maintain, and protect trails and parklands.

In 2025, the Division celebrated numerous accomplishments. Crews completed 1.8 miles of Bean Peaks Gravity Mountain Bike Trails (Phase 2a) through a partnership with the Prescott National Forest and the Prescott Mountain Bike Alliance and began the first 2.1-miles of the Glassford Hill Trail from the Peavine Trail. Additional highlights include the completion of 4.4 miles of new Dells trails—Splash, Source, Glide, Rumble, Silverback, and N by NW—in partnership with the Over the Hill Gang, along with 6.7 miles of trail maintenance and reroutes on Turley, Constellation, and Willow Dells Trails. The city also partnered with Yavapai County to add parking at the Pioneer Parkway North Trailhead.

Beyond trail development, the Division made significant strides in land stewardship and forestry efforts. Crews completed 120 acres of fuels mitigation at Constellation and Goldwater Lakes, removed hazardous trees at Stricklin Park and Granite Creek Park, and cleared invasive plants at Willow Lake Natural Parkland. The City's chipping program served 627 customers, processing 650 cubic yards (over 111 tons) of trees and brush. Additional achievements included 123 hours of trail maintenance with Youth Corps, the release of the 15th edition of the Prescott Trails and Recreation Map (32,000 copies), and dedication ceremonies honoring Elisabeth Creek and Elisabeth Rufner. Together, these efforts reflect Prescott's ongoing commitment to outdoor recreation, safety, and environmental stewardship.



Antelope Hills Golf Course in Prescott offers year-round golfing across two championship 18-hole courses—the North Course by Lawrence Hughes and the South Course by Gary Panks. With a driving range, practice greens, and the Manzanita Grill, it's a full-service destination for golfers of all levels. Its mild, high-country climate allows play throughout the year.

Looking ahead to 2026, Antelope Hills will host a variety of tournaments, including club championships, charity outings, and junior events, drawing players from across the region. Whether you're competing or relaxing with friends, Antelope Hills remains Prescott's premier golf experience for recreation and community connection.
www.antelopehillsgolf.com