



Recreation Services Newsletter

824 E. Gurley St. Prescott, AZ 86301

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK



PLANNING OUR PARKS FUTURE TOGETHER *By Kristy Diaz-Trahan - Director*

Prescott's parks and recreation system is something special. Whether it's a morning walk on a trail, cheering at a youth game, enjoying a community event, or simply relaxing in one of our beautiful parks, these spaces bring us together.

That's why I'm excited to share that we are launching a 10-year Parks and Recreation Master Plan focused on connecting people, parks and possibilities.

A master plan is more than a document. It is a roadmap that guides how we care for what we have and how we plan for what comes next. Over the next decade, this plan will help shape decisions about parks, trails, recreation programs, facilities, maintenance priorities, and future investments.

Most importantly, this will be a community-driven plan. Your experiences matter. Your ideas matter. The way you use our parks — or hope to use them in the future — matters. We want to understand what is working well, where we can improve, and what opportunities we should be planning for as Prescott continues to grow and evolve.

Over the coming months, you will have several ways to participate, including community meetings and an online survey. I encourage you to take a few minutes to share your thoughts. Your input will directly influence the direction we take.

We have created a dedicated Master Plan website where you can learn more about the process, find meeting dates, complete the survey, and follow project updates. Please visit the website using the URL below or scan the QR code in this newsletter to join the conversation.

<https://engageberrydunn.mysocialpinpoint.com/city-prescott>

The future of Prescott's parks and recreation system is something we will build together. I look forward to hearing from you as we continue connecting people, parks and possibilities for the next generation



Subscribe to Our Newsletter

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

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





FEATURED PARK:

WILLOW CREEK PARK
INVESTING IN A FIELD THAT SERVES A GROWING COMMUNITY *By Devin Dennis - Parks Supervisor*

The recent renovations to the ballfield at Willow Creek Park represent a thoughtful reinvestment in one of Prescott's long-serving neighborhood recreation spaces. The project focused on improving safety, functionality, and long-term performance, while expanding the field's ability to support a wider range of recreational use.

Over many years of consistent play, the field experienced natural wear that affected surface conditions, drainage, and supporting infrastructure. While the field continued to serve the community, these limitations reduced its ability to comfortably host a variety of organized activities. When planning the renovation, the goal was to modernize the field in a way that would increase flexibility and reliability, ensuring it could support both informal use and scheduled play across multiple age groups.

A major component of the project was the installation of approximately 10,000 square feet of new sod along the infield lip, restoring turf continuity and improving transitions between playing surfaces. This work enhances both safety and aesthetics, while helping to reduce erosion and maintenance challenges in high-wear areas.

The field's irrigation system was completely replaced, providing more consistent coverage, improved water efficiency, and better control over turf health. The new system allows staff to more effectively maintain the field throughout the season, helping it recover faster from use and weather events.

Additional improvements included a brand-new scoreboard, supporting organized play and improving the overall experience for players and spectators, as well as new fencing and gates to enhance durability, safety, and site control. Together, these upgrades bring the field up to modern standards while preserving its role as a welcoming, community-focused facility.

These improvements build on a long history of recreation at Willow Creek Park. Longtime residents recall playing softball on the field as early as the 1980s, and the site has served as a neighborhood gathering place for decades. The park is now known as Jim McCasland Willow Creek Park, honoring Jim McCasland, who was the parks and recreation director for more than two decades, retiring in 2007. Under his leadership practical, accessible recreation spaces designed to serve the community over time were emphasized.

Today's renovations continue that tradition—strengthening an existing field so it can better serve a variety of user groups, accommodate evolving programming needs, and remain a reliable recreational asset for years to come.



PROGRAMMING

PLAY BALL! *By Ryan Harlow - Recreation Supervisor*

March in Prescott doesn't just bring longer days and the first brave blooms of spring. Around here, it brings the unmistakable rhythm of bats cracking, gloves popping, and cleats churning up fresh infield dirt. It brings the start of the Little League and PGSA (Prescott Girls Softball Association) seasons. It brings that two-word anthem every young baseball or softball player waits all winter to hear: Play ball!

As the calendar flips to March, dugouts fill with nervous excitement. Jerseys, still crisp from their first wash, stretch across proud shoulders. Parents juggle lawn chairs, sunflower seeds, and schedules that somehow expand to fit practices, games, and the occasional post-game ice cream celebration.

Little League baseball and PGSA softball are volunteer run organizations that provide priceless experiences for Prescott families. This is where fundamentals are built, friendships are formed, and confidence grows one inning at a time. One could not possibly say enough good things about the dedication and hard work all these volunteers-board members, coaches and parents, put in to provide such an amazing experience for the children in the community. It's truly a team effort, and you can see it in action each and every week throughout the Spring.



Both leagues offer more than just competition. They are classrooms without walls—places where life lessons are learned and character is built. Players learn teamwork when a relay throw saves a run, and leadership when they cheer just as loudly for a teammate's success as their own. They discover resilience in the truth that you can't win every game, but if you give your best effort, you never truly lose. Coaches become mentors, teammates become friends, and the fields become second homes. Little League and PGSA aren't just about wins and losses—they're about shared moments, growing skills, and the joy of being part of something bigger than yourself.

So, as March arrives and the fields fill once again, we celebrate more than the start of games. We celebrate opportunity. We celebrate teamwork. We celebrate the spirit of sport that brings our community together. Play ball!

2026 EGGCELLENT EGGVENTURE - BRING YOUR EGG GAME



The 2026 City of Prescott Egg-cellent Egg-venture will be held April 4 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at Pioneer Park. Hosted by City of Prescott Recreation Services, this free, family-friendly event offers a fun-filled morning of springtime celebration.

The day begins at 9:00 a.m. with a delicious pancake breakfast prepared by staff. At 10:00 a.m., children can participate in age-group egg hunts, giving everyone a chance to join in the egg-citement.

Families can also enjoy interactive games and activities throughout the park, with opportunities to win prizes and create special memories. The Easter Bunny will be on hand for photos and friendly greetings.

Gather your family and friends and hop over to Pioneer Park for a festive and egg-citing community event! For more information on this on all City of Prescott events - <https://prescott-az.gov/rec-services/special-events/>

PARKS | LAKES | TRAILS

FORESTRY *By Chris Gibbons - Forestry Supervisor*

The City of Prescott Forestry Crew plays a vital role in maintaining and enhancing the natural beauty, safety, and sustainability of public spaces throughout Prescott. Their work spans city parks, lakes, trails, and urban neighborhoods, ensuring that residents and visitors alike can enjoy healthy, thriving landscapes year-round.

In Prescott's parks, the Forestry Crew focuses on tree health and public safety. They routinely inspect trees for signs of disease, insect infestation, and structural instability. Hazardous limbs are pruned, and when necessary, unsafe trees are carefully removed to protect park visitors.

The Forestry crew has utilized grant funding in order to perform work such as an invasive species removal project at Willow lake targeting trees like Siberian Elm and Tamarisk that can crowd out native plants and disrupt ecosystems, while encouraging the growth of native grasses and trees that stabilize soil and provide habitat for birds and other wildlife. Their work supports both recreational use and environmental conservation.



On Prescott's extensive trail system, the Forestry Crew clears fallen trees and overgrown brush to keep pathways safe and accessible. They reduce wildfire risk by thinning dense vegetation and removing deadwood, especially in forested areas. This fuels reduction work is critical in protecting homes, open spaces, and natural resources from potential fire threats.

One of the Forestry Crew's most visible services is its residential brush chipping program — a practical tool that empowers homeowners to take part in wildfire mitigation. Residents who clear defensible space around their homes can schedule curbside chipping service year round. The Forestry Crew collects and chips properly stacked brush, helping property owners dispose of vegetation safely and efficiently.

NEED TO KNOW:

Effective February 26, 2026, the City of Prescott increased the daily parking pass fee from \$3 to \$5.

Revenue from the increase helps ensure the continued care and improvement of Prescott's parks. As the cost-of-living rises, so do expenses for materials, equipment, utilities, and staffing required to maintain clean, safe, and enjoyable park facilities. The additional funding will support ongoing maintenance, repairs, and enhancements to amenities, helping preserve the quality and accessibility of city parks for residents and visitors alike.

Discounted options include 10 visits for \$20, 40 visits for \$60, and an annual pass for \$100, which can be purchased online. Veterans receive 25% off the annual pass at the Recreation Services office, 824 E. Gurley Street. Once printed at a kiosk, your pass may be used at any city park for unlimited visits the same day. Wednesday remains free parking at all locations. Enjoy all of Prescott's scenic beauty!