

Updates | Special Events

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Recreation Services Newsletter

824 E. Gurley St. Prescott, AZ 86301

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK



PLANNING • TRADITIONS • EVOLVING

Spring is a season of momentum for Prescott Recreation Services, and we're excited to share three important updates with our community.

In April, we'll be out in the community—at events and open houses—listening, learning, and gathering your input. Stop by, say hello, and share your ideas with us at one of these upcoming events:

April 4 – Prescott Farmers Market

April 4 – Big Easter Eggstravaganza, Pioneer Park

April 6 & April 21 – Public Workshops, Adult Center

April 11 – Prescott Punisher, Pioneer Park

April 18 – Earth Day Celebration, Downtown Prescott

We'd love to connect with you and hear your thoughts about parks, recreation, and community programs.

Learn more and stay updated:

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

Planning Ahead – Parks & Recreation Master Plan

We're actively working with our consultants to develop a Parks and Recreation Master Plan that reflects the needs, values, and vision of our community. Your voice matters, and we hope you'll take part in shaping the future of Prescott's parks, trails, and recreation programs. Please visit the website using the URL below to join the conversation.
<https://engageberrydunn.mysocialpinpoint.com/city-prescott>

Subscribe to Our Newsletter

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

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

By Kristy Diaz-Trahan - Director

Celebrating Tradition – 4th of July at Pioneer Park
We're thrilled to welcome the community back to Pioneer Park for this year's 4th of July Celebration. This long-standing tradition brings friends, families, and neighbors together for an evening of live music, food, and fun. We are grateful for our Title Sponsor Findlay Auto Group and excited to be bringing back the spark to Pioneer Park.

Evolving - We're reimagining our movie program to bring more variety and value to the community. Rather than a single summer series, movies will now pop up throughout the year in different parks across Prescott, creating more opportunities for neighbors to gather and enjoy our beautiful parks together.

Our first movie night of the season will take place this June at Granite Creek Park, with the date and featured film announced in the May newsletter. These free, family-friendly events are a great way for residents of all ages to spend an evening outdoors, connect with neighbors, and enjoy fun entertainment in a welcoming community setting.

We're excited to continue growing these events with community involvement, local partnerships, and volunteer support, helping create memorable experiences in parks throughout Prescott. Stay tuned as Moonlight Movie Nights bring free family fun to neighborhoods across the city.

FEATURED PARK:

FREEDOM FESTIVAL 4TH OF JULY CELEBRATION RETURNS TO PIONEER PARK

By Samara Rice - Recreation Coordinator

The City of Prescott is excited to bring the 4th of July – 250th Anniversary Freedom Festival back to Pioneer Park on July 4th, promising a full day of celebration, entertainment, and community spirit. This FREE, family-friendly event invites residents and visitors alike to come together and celebrate Independence Day in one of Prescott's most beloved outdoor spaces. Special thanks to our Title Sponsor, Findlay Auto Group, whose generous support helps make this community celebration possible.

Pioneer Park is one of Prescott's largest and most popular outdoor recreation areas, offering scenic open space and a wide variety of activities for residents and visitors. The park features sports fields, pickleball courts, an outdoor hockey rink, walking trails, and the popular Kayla's Hands Playground, an inclusive play space for children of all abilities. Known for hosting large community events and festivals, Pioneer Park provides the perfect setting for family fun and community gatherings year-round.

Festivalgoers can enjoy an exciting lineup of live music featuring headliner bands Ponderosa Grove and The CheekTones, bringing high-energy performances that will keep the crowd dancing throughout the evening. In addition to live music, the festival will feature a variety of entertainers and performers to keep the celebration lively all day long.

Visitors can explore a vibrant selection of local vendors offering unique goods, while a wide variety of food trucks will serve up delicious options for every appetite. Adults can also relax and enjoy refreshments in the festival's beer garden while taking in the live entertainment and festive atmosphere.



Families and kids will find plenty of fun activities to enjoy. The event will include bounce houses, waterslides, a kiddie train, a mechanical bull, and games designed to keep children and families entertained for hours. Contests and raffles throughout the day will give attendees even more chances to participate and win prizes.

As the sun sets, the celebration will conclude with the highlight of the evening — a spectacular fireworks show lighting up the Prescott sky in honor of Independence Day and the nation's 250th anniversary.

With music, food, games, and fireworks, the Freedom Festival promises a day full of excitement, community pride, and patriotic celebration for all ages. Bring your family, friends, and lawn chairs and join the City of Prescott for an unforgettable Fourth of July celebration at Pioneer Park.

In addition, the City of Prescott is inviting local artists and designers to participate in a Freedom Festival T-shirt logo design contest. The winning design will be featured on the official commemorative festival t-shirts, giving one talented artist the opportunity to showcase their creativity while becoming part of this historic celebration.

Those interested in submitting a design, becoming a festival vendor, or learning about sponsorship opportunities are encouraged to contact the City of Prescott Recreation Services Department for more information. Email: Parks.Programming.Staff@Prescott-AZ.Gov

PROGRAMMING

MARCH IS MADE FOR MADNESS: 2026 CITY OF PRESCOTT WINTER BASKETBALL LEAGUES DELIVER THE DRAMA AND FUN

By Ryan Harlow - Recreation Supervisor

Last month the City wrapped up it’s 2026 winter basketball leagues and they were not without their share of buzzer-beaters, bracket busters, and edge-of-your-seat finishes—proving once again that March is the greatest month of basketball for players and fans alike.

From tightly contested matchups to stunning upsets, the end-of-season tournaments brought a surge of energy and unpredictability that kept players and fans wondering what the outcome would be until the final whistle.

After a tough regular season for all teams each division sent it’s top 4 teams into a win or go home end of season tournament in March. And with March comes the madness! Across every division, teams battled through hard-fought games that often came down to the final possession. The tournaments brought upsets, last-second heroics and plenty of smiles and heartbreak- everything that makes March basketball so special.

When the dust settled, champions emerged from the chaos. Los Mayans claimed the Monday “A” League title with a dominant tournament performance, while The Porch pulled off two upsets on their way to the Tuesday “B” League championship. On Thursday, HASK rose above the competition to secure the “B” League crown, and in the Women’s 3v3 division, Ball Stars shined brightest and outlasted their competition to take home the trophy.

It was a season defined by grit, heart, and unforgettable moments—proof that you don’t need a national stage to experience championship-level excitement and fun.



For more information go to the City of Prescott website.
<https://prescott-az.gov/rec-services/programs-sports/>
or scan the QR code.



Monday “A” League Champs- Los Mayans



Tuesday “B” League Champs- The Porch



Thursday “B” League Champs- HASK



Thursday Women’s 3 v 3 League Champs- Ball Stars

PARKS | LAKES | TRAILS

J.S. ACKER PARK: NATURE, TRAILS, AND COMMUNITY STEWARDSHIP

By Sam Rice - Recreation Coordinator

J.S. Acker Park is one of Prescott's most unique and community-driven natural spaces. Located just west of downtown on a hillside overlooking the city, the 75-acre park offers over 3-miles of scenic trails, and panoramic views that beautifully showcase the natural beauty of the Prescott area. Unlike many city parks that were developed from municipal land purchases, Acker Park has a special history rooted in private stewardship, thoughtful planning, and strong community involvement.

The land that now makes up J.S. Acker Park was originally owned by James S. Acker, a Prescott resident who valued the natural landscape and wanted to preserve the area for future generations. Acker donated the approximately 80-acre property to the City of Prescott with the intention that it will remain space for the public to enjoy. His generous gift helped protect the hillsides and views that might otherwise have been lost to development. Today, the park remains largely natural, with rustic trails lined with natural history & interpretive information about plant life that allow visitors to experience Prescott's terrain and native vegetation.

A key part of the park's ongoing care comes from the dedicated volunteers of Friends of Acker Park, a nonprofit organization formed to help preserve, maintain, and improve the park. Working closely with the City of Prescott, the group has contributed thousands of volunteer hours toward trail maintenance, signage, restoration projects, and community outreach.



Volunteers, Rich, Frank, Cody and Richard stand by a large brush pile that they removed from the park.



Friends of Acker - Tom A. uses the 'Acker Tractor' to transport brush to the mastication site, supporting park maintenance

Their efforts help ensure that the park remains safe, accessible, and environmentally protected while still maintaining its natural character. Through volunteer workdays and stewardship projects, the organization has also helped build a strong sense of community ownership of the park.

Volunteers interested in contributing should contact Thomas Atkins at tatkins1943@me.com or visit friendsofackerpark.com.

In addition to stewardship work, Friends of Acker Park organizes educational and recreational events that encourage residents to explore the park in new ways. One of the most popular activities is the Treasure Hunt, a family-friendly event that invites participants to search for hidden objects throughout the park while learning about the natural environment. These hunts have become a beloved tradition, bringing together families, hikers, and local history enthusiasts for a fun outdoor adventure.

Today, J.S. Acker Park continues to serve as a quiet natural retreat within the city. Thanks to the vision of James S. Acker and the ongoing dedication of volunteers and community members, the park remains a place where residents and visitors can connect with nature, learn about local conservation efforts, and enjoy one of Prescott's most treasured landscapes.