

Updates | Special Events

Programing | Sports | Tournaments

Lakes | Parks | Trails



Recreation Services Newsletter

824 E. Gurley St. Prescott, AZ 86301



PIONEER PARK HOCKEY RINK GETS A FRESH LOOK AND MORE IMPROVEMENTS AHEAD

By Ryan Harlow - Recreation Supervisor

The Pioneer Park Hockey Rink is shining a little brighter! A recent lighting renovation has improved illumination throughout the rink, creating a brighter, more enjoyable experience for skaters, hockey players, families, and visitors who enjoy the facility after dark.

Located at 855 Commerce Drive, Prescott, AZ 86305, the Pioneer Park Hockey Rink is a popular recreational amenity within the Pioneer Park complex, providing a place for residents and visitors to stay active, practice their skills, and enjoy time outdoors.

The rink is open to the public daily from 6:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m., whenever it is not reserved for exclusive use. Whether you're practicing your slap shot, working on your skating skills, playing a pickup game, or enjoying time on the rink with family and friends, there are plenty of opportunities to get out and play.



Individuals, families, teams, and groups interested in reserving the rink for exclusive use can contact Prescott Recreation Services at 928-777-1121.

Visitors can also check the rink's current schedule and upcoming reservations online through the City of Prescott's recreation calendar:

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



The improvements don't stop with the new lighting. Recognizing the importance of the Pioneer Park Hockey Rink to the Prescott community, City of Prescott leadership has identified a complete rink resurfacing as a high priority and allocated funding for the project in this year's budget.

The planned resurfacing represents an important investment in the facility's future. A refreshed skating surface will help improve the overall experience for users, support continued recreational opportunities, and help ensure the rink remains a valuable community amenity for years to come.

A resurfacing date is currently being planned. The City will share additional information with the community once a project schedule has been finalized.

From early-morning skating sessions to evening hockey games under the lights, the Pioneer Park Hockey Rink provides a unique place for Prescott residents and visitors to get active, have fun, and enjoy the outdoors.

Whether you're working on your slap shot, practicing your crossovers, or enjoying a casual skate with friends, the Pioneer Park Skate/Hockey Rink is the place to be!

FEATURED PARK:

KAYLA'S HANDS PARK: A LEGACY OF COMPASSION AND JOY

By Sam Rice - Recreation Coordinator

Nestled within Prescott's Pioneer Park, Kayla's Hands Park is much more than a place to play. It is a living tribute to Prescott native Kayla Mueller, whose compassion, courage and dedication to helping others continue to inspire the community.

Kayla was a humanitarian and human-rights activist who dedicated her life to serving others. After graduating from Tri-City College Prep and Northern Arizona University, she traveled internationally and worked with humanitarian organizations, including efforts supporting women, children and refugees. Her commitment to helping people in need took her around the world, ultimately leading her to humanitarian work in the Middle East.

Kayla was captured while working in Syria in 2013 and died in captivity in 2015 at the age of 26. Her family and community wanted her legacy to be remembered not simply through sorrow, but through something that reflected the joy, compassion and hope she brought to others. That vision became Kayla's Hands Playground.

The playground was made possible through an incredible community effort, led by the Prescott Kiwanis Club and supported by generous donors, including the Arizona Diamondbacks and Arizona Public Service. The City of Prescott owns and maintains the playground, ensuring that Kayla's legacy remains a part of the community she called home.



Kayla was born in Prescott on August 14, 1988. Each year, her birthday offers another opportunity to remember her compassion, courage and lifelong commitment to helping others.

Today, children fill Kayla's Hands with laughter, energy and imagination. The playground provides opportunities for climbing, swinging, exploring and simply enjoying time outdoors with family and friends. Its covered play area also provides a welcoming space for families to enjoy recreation while offering protection from the Arizona sun.

There is something especially meaningful about seeing children enjoying a place created in honor of someone whose life was dedicated to helping children and people in need. Kayla's legacy lives on through every child who plays, every family who gathers and every friendship that begins at the park.

Kayla's Hands reminds us that a community can transform grief into hope and remembrance into something positive. It stands as a lasting tribute to a young woman from Prescott who believed in helping others and making the world a better place.

At Kayla's Hands, her legacy is not quiet. It can be heard every day in the laughter of children—a beautiful reminder that compassion, kindness and service can continue to make a difference for generations to come.



PROGRAMMING

EXPERIENCE, COMPETITION AND A LOVE FOR THE GAME: SENIOR SOFTBALL COMES TO PRESCOTT

By Sam Rice - Recreation Coordinator

Prescott was buzzing with excitement as senior women's softball teams from across the country (and from other countries) came together to compete in the City of Prescott Senior Softball Smash Tournament. This year's event saw teams from Maryland, Minnesota, California, Nevada and even Canada (to name a few) -a total of 39 teams competing across 5 age divisions. The tournament kicked off on Friday, July 31st and culminated with all 5 championship games being played on Sunday Aug 2nd.

From the first pitch to the final out, the tournament showcased skill, determination, teamwork and plenty of competitive spirit. Players traveled from communities near and far to enjoy several days of softball, friendship and fun while competing on Prescott's well-maintained athletic fields.



For these athletes, senior softball is about much more than winning a game. It is about staying active, maintaining lifelong friendships, challenging themselves and continuing to do something they love. The tournament provided an opportunity for players to reconnect with old teammates, meet new friends and share their passion for the sport with others who understand what it means to keep stepping up to the plate.

Behind every successful tournament is a tremendous amount of preparation, and the City of Prescott Recreation Services parks team worked hard behind the scenes to make the event possible. Field preparation, lining, maintenance, equipment setup, facility upkeep and event support required countless hours before, during and after the tournament. Their efforts helped ensure that players and spectators could focus on enjoying the competition.



The tournament also brought visitors into Prescott, creating an opportunity for participants and their families to experience the community beyond the ball fields. From Prescott's historic downtown to its parks, trails, lakes and surrounding landscapes, visitors were able to enjoy the many things that make Prescott a special destination.

Perhaps the best part of the tournament was seeing athletes continue to compete with enthusiasm, encourage their teammates and celebrate the game. Their energy serves as a reminder that age is no barrier to pursuing the things we love.



The City of Prescott was proud to welcome these incredible athletes and be part of a tournament that celebrated competition, camaraderie, perseverance and the lifelong joy of softball. Congratulations to all 39 teams for an unforgettable tournament—and thank you for bringing your passion for the game to Prescott!

PARKS | LAKES | TRAILS

BEHIND THE SCENES: OUR SUMMER SEASONAL CREW

By: Devin Dennis - Recreation Services Supervisor

Every summer, Prescott welcomes athletes and teams looking to compete, enjoy our cooler temperatures and experience our community. Behind the scenes, a dedicated group of seasonal employees helps make sure those tournaments are a success.

Each year, Recreation Services brings on approximately 10–15 seasonal staff members to support the wide variety of tournaments hosted at our facilities. From adult slow-pitch and senior softball to girls youth softball and baseball, these employees quickly become an essential part of our summer operations.

Tournament field maintenance is fast-paced work, and monsoon season makes it even more challenging. When storms roll through, our crews double down. Working alongside full-time staff, seasonal employees remove standing water, dry and repair infields, restore playing surfaces and do everything possible to get teams back on the field. Prescott has built a reputation for doing everything we can to keep tournaments moving despite challenging weather, and our seasonal crews are a major reason why.



Parks Coordinator Kyle leads the hiring and training of the crew each summer, teaching employees the skills needed to become top-notch field maintenance teams. For many high school and college-age employees, it's an opportunity to spend the summer outdoors while gaining real-world experience in teamwork, communication and problem-solving. Many enjoy the experience enough to return for several summers.

Their impact also extends beyond the ballfields. As Recreation Services continues to grow its special events, seasonal staff has become invaluable in helping make those events possible.

Many of Prescott's tournaments bring teams and families from throughout Arizona and surrounding states. Providing them with well-maintained facilities and a great experience takes a tremendous amount of work behind the scenes.

Our seasonal employees may only be with us for a few months each year, but their impact lasts far beyond the summer. They are an essential part of the team that keeps Prescott playing.

