Updates | Special Events Programing | Sports | Tournaments Lakes | Parks | Trails

Recreation Services
Newsletter

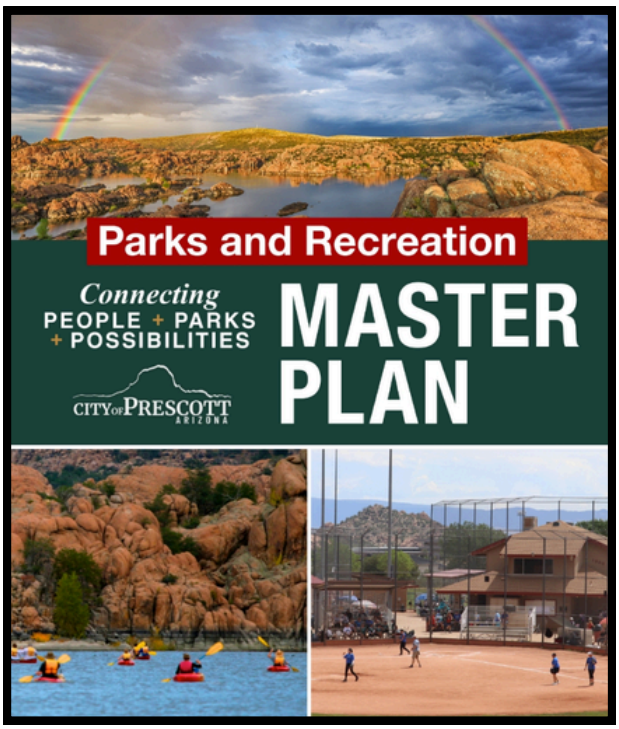
824 E. Gurley St. Prescott, AZ 86301

YOUR VOICE MATTERS!

PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN UPDATE

We are excited to announce another opportunity for your input on our Parks and Recreation Master Plan, Connecting People, Parks and Possibilities.

Following the presentation of the first draft to City Council on October 13, staff and our consultant team have been reviewing the feedback received from residents, community stakeholders, and Council members.



We want to hear from you again! This plan will help guide the future of Prescott's parks, trails, recreation facilities, programs, and services for the next ten years!

This will be our **COMMUNITY** plan, and your ideas and perspectives are instrumental in shaping it.



Here's how you can contribute:

- Review and comment on the updated draft. It will be available for public viewing from November 2-20, 2026. Access the draft by visiting the included link or scanning the QR code below.
- Join us at the City Council Study Session on December 15, 2026. The session will be open to public comment, so take the opportunity to make your voice heard!

Final considerations of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan are anticipated in January 2027. Visit the link before November 20 to have your thoughts and ideas included.

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

PARK SPOTLIGHT:

FLINN PARK: A NEIGHBORHOOD GATHERING PLACE ROOTED IN PRESCOTT'S HISTORY

By Devin Dennis- Recreation Supervisor

At 280 Josephine Street, Flinn Park offers space for an afternoon on the swings, a family picnic, or a game of catch. Behind its familiar name is a story of friendship, generosity, and a physician whose work became part of Prescott's history.

Dr. John W. Flinn had experienced tuberculosis himself before coming to Arizona. He settled in Prescott in 1902 and opened the Pamsetgaaf Sanatorium the following year. His work drew patients from across the country, contributing to Prescott's reputation as a destination for those seeking recovery in its mountain climate.

The sanatorium's unusual name reflected a treatment philosophy centered on fresh air, sunshine, comfortable accommodations, and nourishing food. Before modern antibiotics, rest and climate played a central role in tuberculosis care. Flinn's connection to the disease made that work personal.



His contributions extended beyond medicine. Flinn served as Prescott Chamber of Commerce president and on the school board, taking an active role in the community, he called home.

His legacy also lived on through a friendship. Prescott benefactor J. S. Acker specifically wished for a park to be named in honor of his friend, Dr. Flinn. Acker's generosity supported parks and children's music programs, leaving a lasting mark on Prescott's community life.



Today, Flinn Park carries that connection forward as a place for everyday recreation. The playground and swings welcome younger visitors, while nearby granite boulders add opportunities for exploration. The grassy field provides room for informal games, and the half basketball court offers another way to enjoy time outdoors.

A reservable ramada provides space for birthdays, family meals, and small gatherings. Regular care by the City's Parks Maintenance team helps keep these spaces welcoming for neighbors and visitors alike.



Whether stopping by to play or gathering with friends, visitors enjoy a neighborhood park whose name preserves a small but meaningful piece of Prescott's past.

For information about Flinn Park or ramada reservations, visit the City of Prescott Recreation Services website or call 928-777-1121.

PROGRAMMING

SAVE THE DATE!

By Ryan Harlow - Recreation Supervisor

Get ready to celebrate the upcoming holiday season at **Frost Fest: Prescott on Ice**, the City of Prescott Recreation Services Department's first-ever Christmas/Holiday event! Join us on **Saturday, December 19,** from 3–9 p.m. at **Ken Lindley Field** for an evening filled with winter fun, holiday cheer, and activities for the whole family.

This new holiday event will bring the community together for a festive celebration featuring a skate rink, live music, games, and a variety of family-friendly activities. Frost Fest is for both the young and young at heart with what is sure to be a fun-filled evening for those ready to lace up their skates, enjoy the sounds of the season, or make memories with family & friends.

Mark your calendars, bundle up, and join us as we kick off a new holiday tradition in Prescott! We look forward to celebrating with you at Frost Fest!



Curious about programming or events? Scan this QR code or visit our website at https://prescott-az.gov/rec-services/programs-sports/ to register or find out more. You can also call us at 928-777-1121 or visit the office at the Grace Sparks Memorial Activity Center, located at 824 E. Gurley St in Prescott.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS SPOTLIGHT



Learn to Skate & Roller Derby
November 4, 11, 18 | $10 per class

Mountain Biking Clinics
November 5 | Cornering Clinic | $245
November 6 | Women's Technical Toolkit | $245

Guided Fly Fishing
November 13-15 and 27-29 | $425

Winter Basketball Leagues
Registration open now | $175-$375 per team

DEPARTMENT UPDATE

SAMARA RICE: A CAREER OF SERVICE

By Ryan Harlow - Recreation Supervisor

After 12 years of dedicated service to the City of Prescott Recreation Services Department, Recreation Coordinator Samara Rice is preparing for her next chapter: retirement! In this special Q&A, Recreation Supervisor Ryan Harlow sits down with Samara to reflect on her favorite memories, the impact recreation has on the community, and the people and experiences that have made her career so meaningful. We also get a glimpse of what's next for Samara as she trades her busy work schedule for a well-deserved retirement.



How did you get started in parks and recreation, and what led you to join the City of Prescott Recreation Services Department?

As a single mom of three I always valued what our city had to offer. My kids and I spent many hours in our city parks. When we first moved here our first picnic was at Granite Creek Park, first lengthy hike was at Watson Lake and the Peavine Trail. First birthday party was Fain Park. Fishing at Goldwater Lake…and the list goes on. I was always drawn to Recreation Services, but in 2014 I decided to take the leap and apply.

When you first started with the department, what was recreation programming like, and how has it changed over the years?



Programming was primarily Adult League Sports focused. There was SNAP, Trekabout, but nothing really for youth.

Looking back on your career, what are some of your favorite memories or events that stand out the most?

Most recent was attending the APRA Conference with team members. These opportunities truly strengthen the co-worker bond. To have the opportunity to attend, learn and yet laugh and enjoy each other was most memorable. The 2026 Freedom Festival was quite memorable because it made me realize what our city staff can do when working together with other departments. Our department came together and made a spectacular event happen for over 11,500 in attendance, and had many laughs along the way.. maybe a few tears.



As you prepare for retirement, what are you most looking forward to doing with your newfound free time? Are there any trips, hobbies, adventures, or personal goals on the horizon?

I want to spend more time with my family. There are definitely travel plans. Places to go, people to see. I will also be doing some volunteer work and will remain the City of Prescott Film Commissioner for a little bit. I do plan to help out the Recreation Services team as a volunteer for as long as they will have me.

If you could share one piece of advice with the next generation of recreation professionals, or one final message with the coworkers and community members you've served, what would it be?

Be kind. It seems like such a simple statement but make it your first instinct. We truly never know what others are dealing with and what impact our actions or words may have on others.

Thank you, Sam. Enjoy your retirement!

PARKS | LAKES | TRAILS

CELEBRATING THE COMPLETION OF THE PRESCOTT CIRCLE TRAIL

By:Chris Hosking - Trails Supervisor

At long last, the Prescott Circle Trail (PCT), a collection of 58 miles of trails that encircle Prescott's downtown, is complete. The vision for the PCT was created in the 1990s when the Yavapai Trails Association (YTA) began working on alignments with the city, county, state, and Forest Service.

Today, the PCT is the backbone of 450 miles of trails connecting nearly all of Prescott's trail systems: Peavine, Watson and Willow Lakes, the Dells, Pioneer Park, Granite Mountain, Spence Basin, Thumb Butte, Copper Basin, Mt. Francis, Bean Peaks, Goldwater Lakes, Ranch, Badger, and Sundog.



In 2006, when I arrived in Prescott, my first Circle Trail work was volunteering with the Forest Service on Trail 392 by Thumb Butte, Trail 396 by Goldwater Lakes, and Trail 9415 on Wolverton Mountain. At that time, the city application with the state for easements of the Badger, Sundog, and Longview trails had become stalled, but a conversation with Mayor Kuykendall about getting approval on the fast track resulted in permission finally being granted.

In 2015, I began building the Sundog, Badger, Longview trails, while the Forest Service and Prescott Mountain Bike Alliance (PMBA), completed work on the Ranch trail. These trails connected but one mile of trail was going along Williamson Valley Road and through the Ho Kay Gan subdivision. This was not ideal, but the PCT was connected.



We had a small gathering in 2017 to celebrate that connection with early visionaries of the Circle Trail, Jan Alfano (Yavapai Trails Association) and Eric Smith (City of Prescott), as well as a large group of trail users, advocates, and builders.

In order to truly complete the Circle Trail, we looked at Stringfield Ranch which was ideal for completing the PCT in the future. We walked the alignment in 2012 as a placeholder for the future, and in 2024, development began and trail agreements were made.



By May of 2026, work began on the final two-mile segment, named the Full Circle Trail, which connects Longview Trail at Williamson Valley and Pioneer Parkway to Trail 341 in Granite Basin.

To celebrate the completion of the Circle Trail, its final segment, the tireless efforts of all volunteers including the Over The Hill Gang, and Prescott's designation as a Trail Town by the International Mountain Biking Association, a ribbon cutting will be held at 11:00 AM on November 19, 2026 at Longview Trailhead on Pioneer Parkway.

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK






A SEASON OF GRATITUDE AND CONNECTION

By Kristy Diaz - Recreation Services Director

November has a way of reminding us to slow down, reflect, and appreciate the good things in our lives. And as I reflect on the past year with Prescott Recreation Services, I find myself feeling incredibly grateful.

Grateful for the dedicated staff who show up every day with a passion for serving our community. Grateful for the volunteers, like our award-winning Over the Hill Gang, the Acker Hackers, SNAP and Dog Park clean-up volunteer groups who give so generously of their time and talents. Grateful for our community partners who help turn ideas into experiences. And especially grateful for the residents who fill our parks, explore our trails, participate in our programs, attend our events, and remind us why we do what we do.



This year has been filled with exciting accomplishments, new opportunities, meaningful conversations, and yes, a few challenges along the way! From celebrating community traditions and expanding recreational opportunities to listening to thousands of voices through our Parks and Recreation Master Plan process, one thing has become abundantly clear: Prescott is a community that cares deeply about its quality of life.

I often say that parks and recreation is about connecting people to people, people to nature, and people to community. This season of gratitude reminds me that those connections don't happen by accident. They happen because people care, participate, volunteer, collaborate, and invest in the community they love.



So, as we enter this season of Thanksgiving, I simply want to say thank you. Thank you for being part of what makes Prescott such a special place to live, work, and play.

From all of us at Recreation Services, wishing you and your families wonderful Thanksgiving filled with joy, gratitude, and connection!

See you in the parks!

Kristy Diaz, CPRP
Recreation Services Director