

Prescott's IBA - Where and What is it?



(Photo from trail sign.)

Black-necked Stilt

The Prescott area has an enthusiastic and active community of birders. Although our lakes are man-made, over time they have attracted a large variety of birds during migration. As conditions change so do the species, however, since 1974 over 360 species have been confirmed.

What is the IBA (Important Bird Area)? It is a global effort dedicated to the designation and protection of sites that support significant bird populations. In the United States this program is conducted through the National Audubon Society. The Arizona Important Bird Areas Program is co-administered by Audubon Arizona and the Tucson Audubon Society.

Due to the efforts of the Prescott Audubon Society, with assistance from Prescott Creeks and the Arizona Game and Fish Department, in July of 2002 the Watson-Willow Lakes Ecosystem was identified as an Important Bird Area. The Arizona Important Bird Areas Program recognized it as an IBA in April of 2011. Owned by the City of Prescott, it covers approximately 1,500 acres and includes parts of Watson and Willow Lakes, as well as two miles of Granite Creek flowing through the Watson Woods Riparian Preserve into the south end of Watson Lake.

Prescott Audubon Society is the steward for Prescott's IBA and collects bird data which is posted on the Arizona IBA website. Prescott Creeks is involved in restoring the Watson Woods Riparian Preserve portion of the IBA.

One of the main criteria for the designation of this area as an IBA is the significant concentration of waterfowl and wading birds. According to Arizona IBA, in wet years waterfowl numbers can exceed 5,000 at one time.

Popular birding sites in the Prescott area also include Goldwater Lake and Lynx Lake where our national bird, the Bald Eagle, can often be spotted.

Trails in the IBA area contain signs educating our visitors about this important ecosystem and what it has to offer. Notable along the trail, on the southwest portion of Willow Lake, is Cormorant tree containing large Cormorant nests.

(Contributor: Nancy Nesbit)

BIRDING WEBSITES

Prescott Audubon Society: prescottaudubon.org

Prescott Creeks: www.prescottcreeks.org

Jay's Bird Barn: jaysbirdbarn.com

Arizona IBA: aziba.org

Arizona Game and Fish Department: www.azgfd.gov



(Photo from trail sign.)

Northern Shoveler

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

Janelle Riedl

Mike King

Ted Blake

Wayne Howell

Thomas Dwyer

Contents

Parks	Page 2
Lakes	Page 3
Trails	Page 4
Sports	Page 5
SNAP Program .	Page 6
Activities/Volunteers	Page 7
Projects	Page 8
Something New .	Page 9
Fishing/Spotlight .	Page 10
Community	Page 11
PGO Event	Page 12

Joe Baynes

City of Prescott Parks and Recreation Director

The Parks - Jim McCasland Willow Creek Park

Sitting on seven and a half acres, this community park is ideal for gatherings of family and friends. An open-leash dog park is located at the south side of the entrance to the park. The ramada sits on a small hill in close proximity to the playground area and restrooms. The volleyball court is just behind the ramada. A large, grassy open access athletic field is located directly across the parking lot.

A short drive (or walk) along the edge of the athletic field takes you to the far east end of the park. A dirt parking lot, lined with trees on the south is located here. This is where one of the trailheads to Willow Lake Loop Trail is located. Following the trail north you will pass the "Cormorant Tree". This section of the trail (both north and south) is located in the marshland area of the Watson-Willow Ecosystem IBA (Important Bird Area). Trail Maps are available at the trailhead. You may also come across the foundation ruins of the Old Kring Homestead, which was once located in this area.

Dogs are permitted in the park and on the trail but must be kept on leash. Mutt Mitts are available for owners to clean up after their dogs. Dogs may only be off leash within the confines of the dog park.

A visit to this park offers our guests many hours of enjoyment and easy walks along a diverse trail system.

(Contributor: Nancy Nesbit)

Jim McCasland

Jim McCasland served as Director of Prescott Parks and Recreation from 1986 to 2007, when he retired after working for the City for 30 years.

In 1998 he was instrumental in the purchase of Watson and Willow lakes from the CVID (Chino Valley Irrigation District) and considered the preservation of this area as one of his major accomplishments.

Shortly after his retirement the Prescott City Council voted to name Willow Creek Park after him in honor his service to the community.



(File Photos)



The medium ramada at Willow Creek Park has a capacity of 100. The amenities include picnic tables and a bar-b-que. Ideal for family and company parties, this and other ramadas are available to rent. Visit the City Parks and Recreation Rentals website at: www.cityofprescott.net/services/parks/rentals

You may also telephone us at (928) 777-1122 or visit our office at 824 E. Gurley St., Prescott, AZ 86301

Jim McCasland Willow Creek Park
3181 Willow Creek Rd., Prescott, AZ

Summer Hours
(Memorial Day through Labor Day)
7:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m.

Winter Hours
7:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m.

Free Parking

Amenities Include:

Medium Size Ramada
Restrooms
Open Access Athletic Field
Playground
Volleyball Court
Trailhead to the Willow Lake Loop Trail
Dog Park

Visit us online through the city site under city services at: www.cityofprescott.net or www.cityofprescott.net/services/parks/

Willow Lake Archaeological Site

In the fall and spring of 2002-2003, the City of Prescott sponsored an archaeological investigation at the village, during which numerous buried prehistoric houses, outdoor storage pits, and cooking pits were discovered and examined.



(File Photo)

Ruins housed in one of the ramadas.

The City created the Willow Lake Archaeological Interpretive Center to preserve this important locale and to provide park visitors with an opportunity to learn and reflect on the prehistoric heritage of the Prescott area.

The interpretive center consists of a self-guided tour with two ramadas housing a portion of the ruins.

People began to settle at this location as early as A.D. 850 with principal occupation between A.D. 900 and 1100. The village consisted of as many as 20 buildings. For preservation purposes, many of the buildings remain underground.

For additional information visit Sharlot Hall Museum to view exhibits on Prescott's prehistoric culture and the discoveries at the Willow Lake site.



(File Photo)

Interpretive Center entrance and ramadas covering ruins.

HOURS

Summer: 6:00 am—10:00 pm (*Memorial Day Weekend through Labor Day Weekend*)

Winter: 7:00 am—Sunset

PARKING FEE \$2.00

(Three Lakes & Peavine Trail)

One Day Pass Good At All Four Locations.

Parking is free on Wednesdays.

The Lakes Willow Lake Prescott's Undiscovered Jewel

The City of Prescott purchased both Willow and Watson lakes from the Chino Valley Irrigation District (CVID) in 1998. The CVID created Willow Lake in 1935, behind Willow Creek Dam. The lake was used to augment storage by the CVID from Watson Lake. Although more shallow than other City lakes, when full its surface area is the largest.

As one of the City's larger regional parks, Willow Lake Park offers the visitor a variety of experiences. It is also one of the most ecologically diverse parks within the system. Terrain includes the granite boulders of Willow Dells, marshlands included in the IBA

(Important Bird Area) of the Watson-Willow Ecosystem, scrubland, cottonwood trees at various points (including the lakeshore boat launch area), and chaparral at higher elevations along the Willow Lake Loop Trail.

Hiking, walking, picnicking, bicycling, mountain biking, boating (electric motors only), and fishing are a few of the activities visitors enjoy.

(Contributor: Nancy Nesbit)



(File Photo)

One of five small picnic ramadas overlooking Willow Lake.

AMMENITIES

Boat Launch (*no gasoline motors*)

Courtesy Dock

Five Small Picnic Ramadas

Two Large Ramadas (*available for rent*)

Two Restrooms

Archaeological Site

Multi-use Trail around the lake

For parking passes and park information visit us online through the city site under city services at: www.cityofprescott.net or www.cityofprescott.net/services/parks/

For rentals information visit us online at: www.cityofprescott.net/services/parks/rentals

You may also telephone us at (928) 777-1122 or visit us at our office located at 824 E. Gurley St., Prescott, AZ 86301

Willow Lake Area in the 1880s



(File Photo)

In 1887 the first railroad to Prescott, the Prescott & Arizona Central Railroad, crossed what is now Willow Lake. A small line of 72 miles, it ran from Prescott Junction (present day Seligman) to Prescott. Because of controversy and poor construction, it went out of business in 1893.

A portion of the rail bed remains between the Heritage Zoo area and the boat launch.

P&AC Engine #3 was featured in the television series Gunsmoke, and the movie Back To The Future III.

More information about this part of Prescott's history is posted on the information board at the parking lot located at the Willow Lake parking kiosk.

The Trails & Natural Parklands

Willow Lake Loop Trail

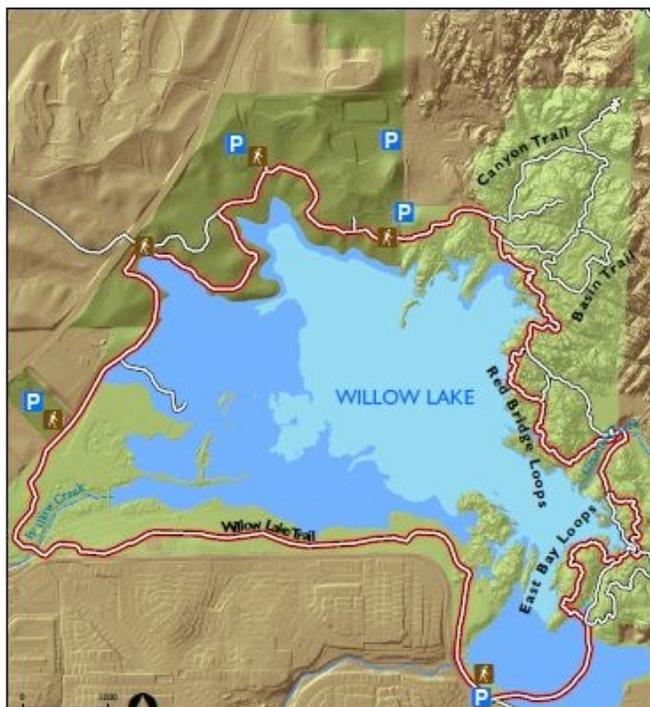
Covering a distance of 5.7 miles, the Willow Lake Loop Trail is arguably the most diverse trail in the City Parks system. Not only is the terrain diverse, so is the usage. Use includes walking, hiking, bicycling, mountain biking, bouldering, birding, and horseback riding.

The terrain includes marshlands on the south and southwest. Relatively flat and easy, walking, bicycling, horseback riding, and birding are common activities. Don't be surprised if you come across foundations of the old gun club or Kring Homestead. A portion of the old rail bed still remains from the Prescott & Arizona Central Railroad line that once crossed the lake. You'll also find Cottonwood trees in the Riparian area where birding is popular.

The northern and western sections are more challenging and ascend into the Dells. Chaparral is abundant in the northwest section. Hikers can expect technical rock hopping and steep steps. Sweeping views of the lake and surrounding area are breathtaking.



(Photo Courtesy of Chris Hosking)
Mountain Biker's View Along The Trail



Length: 5.7 miles
Elevations: 5073' (Low) - 5225' (High)
Activities: Hiking, Bicycling, Horseback Riding, Birding
Access: Willow Lake, \$2.00 parking fee. Several access points.
Jim McCasland Willow Creek Park, free parking.
Trailhead is at the far east end of the park.
Willow Lake Rd. (across from Vista Verde Estates entrance) and Britni Dr., free parking.

This and other trail maps are downloadable at the city website under city services at: www.cityofprescott.net or www.prescotttrails.com

The recently completed East Bay segment, which crosses the southeast portion of the lake, is not accessible at high water.

Whether you challenge yourself hiking the entire trail loop or take a pleasant walk along a portion of the lake, there is something for everyone to discover and explore.

City trail maps are located at the three main access locations listed. Birding signs are located in the marshlands and additional information is located near the kiosk at the Willow Lake Park entrance.

(Contributors: Chris Hosking and Nancy Nesbit)



(Photo Courtesy of Chris Hosking)

Doug Hacklander (Top) and Ed Fuller from "Over The Hill Gang" pose at a bridge they are building on the Willow Lake Loop Trail.

Sports Page

Fall Sports Are Just Around The Corner

After a busy summer filled with outdoor activities, softball leagues and tournaments, the fall sports season returns to the gyms for our adult volleyball leagues. The City of Prescott adult volleyball program services approximately 50 teams that participate in our men's, women's and co-ed leagues. The leagues range from very competitive "A" levels to our more recreational "Rec" leagues.

With over 400 participants playing Monday through Thursday evenings at multiple venues, the City's fall adult volleyball program is one of the biggest in the state. "I am so impressed by the amount of participation we get in all of our sports leagues", says the Recreation Sports Supervisor, Rick Hormann. "Whether it is our winter basketball, summer softball or fall volleyball program season, the City of Prescott always leads the state per capita with number of teams in every sport we offer".

Our upcoming volleyball program begins the week of September 16th, with registration starting up mid August through the first week of September. If you would like to enter a team in our adult volleyball program, registration information can be obtained by contacting the Recreation Supervisor, going online to our city website, or coming by the Parks and Recreation Department office, listed below, for a registration form.

If you are an individual looking to get on a team, we can list your information on our free agent list and try and help you get onto an existing team.

(Contributor: Rick Hormann)

Senior Olympics Begin August 2nd



The City of Prescott Parks and Recreation Department is pleased to present the Fifteenth Annual Prescott Senior Games. Events will be held in the Tri-City area from August 2 through August 18, 2013.

Today's seniors are more active and energetic than ever before. Individuals 50 years of age and up are now more inclined to participate in organized

activities. Many feel as though senior games provide them with a true sense of accomplishment, whether they finish first or last. They enjoy the social interactions involved and welcome the friendly competition. Seniors understand the importance of living a healthy and active lifestyle. Joining the senior games is an excellent way to either begin, maintain, or enhance one's physical and mental well being.

The "Games" are conducted to honor and recognize those who are 50 years and older and are "Young at Heart". By participating, you inspire others to join in the fun.

The Prescott Senior Olympic Games offer team events such as softball and volleyball, as well as individual events such as bowling, horseshoes, golf, shooting, swimming, and track. There is also a selection of partnered events such as racquetball, tennis, four person golf scramble and new this year, pickleball.

The Prescott Senior Games have grown in popularity since 1998 with participants coming from all over the state as well as from California, Nevada, and other states. In 2012, the softball event brought teams from Ohio, Missouri and Michigan.

For individual registration the cost is \$10 plus \$5 for each event entered. Each participant has the option to purchase a souvenir T-shirt for an additional \$10. For more information, or to register, contact Michelle at (928) 777-1552.

(Contributor: Michelle Stacy-Schroeder)



Senior Olympics

Contact Information

To enter teams or leagues telephone
(928) 777-1557 or
email: rick.hormann@prescott-az.gov

Our calendar of sporting events is available
at our Parks and Recreation Department
office located at the
Grace Sparkes Memorial Activity Center
824 E. Gurley St.
Prescott, AZ 86301
Telephone: (928) 777-1122

Visit us on the City's website under city
services at: www.cityofprescott.net
or www.cityofprescott.net/services/parks/
There are links to both adult
and youth sports.

Our Dedicated Team

Michelle Stacy-Schroeder started in the Parks and Recreation Department as a secretary in January 2007. She has been a successful tournament director of the Senior Women's Softball tournament since 2009 and now serves as a Recreation Coordinator. An eight year veteran of the United States Army, she served a one year tour in Iraq during Operation Iraqi Freedom. Michelle lives in Dewey with her husband Daniel and three children ages 15, 11, and 6. She is also an active volunteer in Little League and various youth sport organizations.



Michelle Stacy-Schroeder
Recreation Coordinator

Special Needs Activity Program

Exercise

We know that exercise is good for everybody, and our special needs citizens are no exception. Not only does it provide physical benefits, it also provides a social experience.

Workout Wednesdays are geared toward helping improve core strength and well-being. Water aerobics provide low impact exercise. Members of the SNAP Swim Team learn how to lap swim and compete in meets. In partnership with Prescott/Prescott Valley Area Special Olympics many more athletic experiences are offered to these special Prescott area citizens.



Make a Difference and Become a SNAP Volunteer!

Because SNAP is a nonprofit organization, it relies heavily on community support through donations and volunteerism.

If you would like to make a difference in the life of a special needs person, consider volunteering your time. We are currently recruiting volunteers to help us provide the many activities and programs SNAP offers.

Enthusiasm and a willingness to serve are the only requirements. Just one evening a month helping out at a dance (in the kitchen, setting up or cleaning up, serving food, or selling tickets for the dance and raffle), is invaluable and helps us to maintain and expand this valuable program and all its activities.

SNAP also offers many other activities including Bingo, crafts, sign language, exercise at the YMCA, and community service projects (i.e. participation in Granite Creek Clean Up Day.)



Workout Wednesdays

In the Wellness Room at the YMCA - Dues \$1.00

Every Wednesday
1:00 to 2:00 p.m.

Call Sherri at
777-1554 for
enrollment
information.

Swimming Schedule

Water Aerobics
at the YMCA - Dues \$1.00

Every Monday, 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.
Arrive at 12:45 p.m.

Special Olympics/SNAP Swim Team
at the YMCA - Free

Every Monday, 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.



Sherri Gates—SNAP Coordinator
City of Prescott Parks and
Recreation Department

E-mail:
sherri.gates@prescott-az.gov
Phone: (928) 777-1554
Fax: (928) 771-5843

How to Support SNAP?

Regifting Program: Donate those unused gifts in your closet. These items are used for prizes at Bingo, and as door prizes for monthly dances.

Neighbor Volunteer: Come and volunteer at activities and make a positive difference in the life of a special adult.

Sponsor Neighbor: Support dances, karaoke, and other events by underwriting the cost of snacks and beverages.

Financial Friend: Make a financial contribution to continue offering low or no-cost activities to our SNAP members.

SNAP is a non-profit organization with all donations going directly to the program. Staff salaries are paid by the City of Prescott.



(Photos Courtesy of Nancy Nesbit)

Above: **Break Time**
Right: **Building Trails**

Photos taken March 18, 2013 on the new
Granite Gardens Trail

Our Activities and Volunteers The Infamous Over The Hill Gang

Prescott National Forest used volunteers in the 1990's to build and maintain trails. Several retirees would show up and help with our National Forest trail system. In early 1999 the City of Prescott Parks and Recreation Department, led by Trails Coordinator Eric Smith, began the Peavine Trail and Mile-High Trail System. One project involved the removal of railroad ties and vegetation. On workdays, as many as 30 volunteers of all ages showed up. Many were the same group of retirees that had been working on the National Forest trails.

The Over the Hill Gang got its name around 2003, when some of the members were being interviewed by the local press. Since the group was never an official club or organization, Tony Beere identified the group as just a group of 'Over the Hill' retirees. That name seemed to stick and from then on they became the infamous 'Over the Hill Gang'.

During 2008 the City and Over the Hill Gang constructed the City trails within Prescott

Lakes. Since then several Prescott Lakes residents have 'joined the Gang' on a regular basis to help out with the City trails on Mondays. Chris Hosking, Trails and Natural Parkland Coordinator for the City of Prescott, is in charge of managing this unruly group of characters. Some of the same OHG members work on National Forest Service Trails on Thursdays.

Both the City and NFS are always looking for volunteers. The Over the Hill Gang is always looking for new members to replace the retirees after they retire again from trail building.

(Contributor: George Sheats, Volunteer Coordinator - OHG)



The Over The Hill Gang completes two to three-tenths of a mile of trail during each three hour session. Working two mornings a week they complete approximately six to 10 miles of trail per year. All ages are welcome. The size and scope of our trail system is in large part due to the hard work volunteers contribute to our city and the Prescott area in general.

To volunteer for OHG email Chris Hosking, Prescott Parks and Recreation Department at chris.hosking@prescott-az.gov or visit the Prescott Trails website at www.prescotttrails.com (click on the link at Help Build Prescott's Trails System.)



George and Karen Sheats

The Sheats', Volunteers On The Trails

George and Karen Sheats started helping on the City trails when construction began on the Prescott Lakes trails in 2008. As of 2013, the Prescott Lakes master planned community has 5 miles of trails which are all part of the City of Prescott's 'Mile High Trail System'.

Both Karen and George have continued to remain involved in trail construction related activities. During and after new City trails are constructed by the Over The Hill Gang, Karen works several days per week 'fine tuning' the completed trails. Construction leaves behind piles of debris, rocks and roots remain in the trail surfaces, tree branches hang too close to the trail, and trail slopes need fine tuning. Painting is a hands-on activity Karen enjoys. She has painted most of the pedestrian bridges in the Mile High Trail System. Included are the bridges at the Discovery Trail, Mile High Middle School, West Granite Creek Park Greenways, Centennial Trail, Willow Lake and Watson Lake, etc. Three years ago Karen painted the Boyle-DeBusk Cabin and outside decks.

George has been more involved in the planning and coordination of the trails activities. He acts as the Over The Hill Gang volunteer coordinator by maintaining contact information for around 100 volunteers, and sending out the regular and special work notices. He is also involved at the Community level as President of Yavapai Trails Association and President of Open Space Alliance. His primary goal is to see the trails connect within the communities and become convenient pedestrian travel and recreational amenities. George is also a member of Prescott's Planning and Zoning Commission and actively involved with the Prescott Lakes home association management of residential construction.

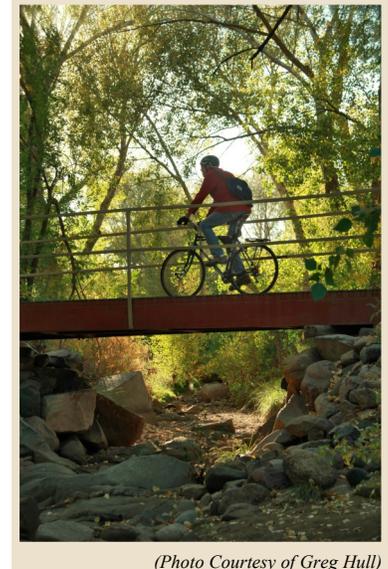
Projects - Prescott's Greenways



(Photo Courtesy of Paul Katan)



(Photo Courtesy of Chris Hosking)



(Photo Courtesy of Greg Hull)

2013 Update

Prescott's Greenways are a non-motorized recreational and transportational trail system connecting neighborhoods, parks, schools, businesses, museums and tourism destinations, and are defined as the creek corridors in Prescott's interior. The vision of improving these corridors dates to 1972 when Prescott citizens began suggesting trail-related improvements, and enhancing the downtown creeks.

Using City bed tax revenues, the Parks and Recreation Department, along with the help of Prescott Alternative Transportation, Prescott Creeks, many citizen groups, a dedicated cadre of volunteers, and the Open Space Alliance, constructed Phases I and II in 2001 and 2009. These phases included trails, bridges, benches, lights, educational signage, and formal access points. Today, both Phases I and II receive much use on a daily basis, and provide important trail connections within downtown Prescott. Landowners report no problems, and decreased camping.

The Next Steps – Phases III & IV

Due to the success of phases I and II, momentum is building to complete the next trail phases. Today, the Prescott's Greenways effort is a joint venture between Open Space Alliance of Central Yavapai County, Prescott Alternative Transportation, Yavapai Trails Association, Central Arizona Land Trust, CareScape, and the City of Prescott. Numerous other organizations, schools, and individuals continue to support the overall effort.

Phase III is planned for 2013, and provides for extension of the existing Miller Creek Trail upstream (northwest) to the Prescott Rodeo Grounds, and the nearby Centennial Trail. This proposed trail also allows access for many neighborhoods to utilize the trail to access downtown destinations, schools, and parks, thereby providing an off-street walking and bicycling opportunity under the shade canopy of Miller Creek. A grant application was recently submitted to the Bikes Belong Foundation in Boulder, CO seeking \$10,000 for trail construction materials.

Phase IV involves extending the Granite Creek Trail downstream (eastbound) from Granite Creek Park thereby connecting to Roughrider Park, Yavapai College, and the Veteran's Affairs Complex. This phase will allow northbound connections to Willow and Watson Lakes, Granite Dells, and the Prescott Peavine National Recreation Trail, and eastbound trail connections through the 69/89 Interchange via paved pathways to the Frontier Village shopping center.

(Contributor: Eric Smith, Special Projects Administrator)

Maps for Greenways and other trails are downloadable at
the city website under city services at:
www.cityofprescott.net
or www.prescotttrails.com

Something New - Granite Gardens Trails

As with other trails within the parks, the newly completed Granite Gardens trails have their own unique ambiance and beauty. Interesting features include the steps up the canyon on the 400 trail and the views from Castle Rock trail. From the road, the trail leads north through a small valley. The trails splits with one going west up to a large, sloped granite hillside with attractive mineral striations (*pictured right*). The east trail (*pictured middle right*) goes up into boulders. At about 1.75 miles, the trails may be short but they won't disappoint the visitor.

The City purchased the 35 acre Granite Gardens parcel in 2008. Formerly known as the location for the "400 Club", it once had a four acre lake. The area was restored and revegetated by Biozone, Inc.

It is anticipated that trail signs and white dots on the rocks, will be completed in mid July 2013. As funds become available, the parking area will be improved.

(Contributors: Chris Hosking and Nancy Nesbit)



(Above Right) The Over The Hill Gang works on the trails to the west of the valley.

(Right) Hiking up the east side Rockstacker Trail, which connects to the Grotto Trail.

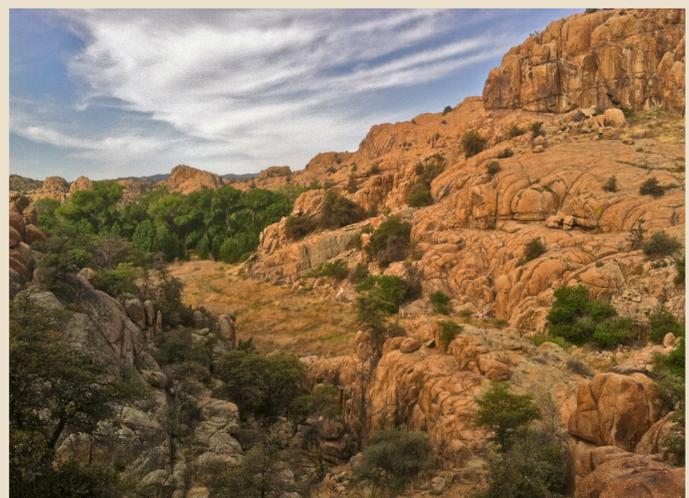
(Below) The larger parking area.

The trailhead is just up the road on the left (north).

(Bottom Right) Looking back from Rockstacker Trail toward the cottonwood trees near the parking area.

The parking area is located north of Granite Dells Rd. off Highway 89, directly across from Granite Gate Senior Living Community, on the east side of the highway. A small parking area is close to the highway. Another, larger parking area (both on the south side) is just beyond two dips in the dirt road which are susceptible to flooding in the winter and during monsoons. Just beyond the parking area the creek crosses the dirt road.

(Photos courtesy of Chris Hosking and Nancy Nesbit)





Kid's First Fish Day at Goldwater Lake

On June 8th, over 300 anglers participated in an annual event conducted by Arizona Game & Fish Department (AGFD), at no cost to the public. AGFD staff provided tackle, bait, instruction, giveaway items, and a great time for all attendees. AGFD nets the northeast cove of the lake, and fills it with rainbow trout from Page Springs Fish Hatchery, thereby increasing the chances that kids will catch their first fish. This is one of the largest attendance days of the year at Goldwater Lake, with many vehicles parked along Senator Highway. The event also happens on the same day that AGFD waives fishing license requirements statewide.



Anglers patiently await catching a trout.

(Photo Courtesy of Eric Smith)

Congratulations to AGFD on another successful event.

Visit the Arizona Game and Fish Department online at:
www.azgfd.com

(Contributor: Eric Smith, Special Projects Administrator)



A young angler proudly shows his first fish.

(Photo Courtesy of Cassandra Smith)

Spotlight On ... Eric Smith



Eric Smith
Special Projects
Administrator

A native of Arizona, Eric entered the Parks and Recreation field in 1986 (following eight years of hospital work), and graduated from Arizona State University in Recreation and Natural Resources Management.

Employers have included the U.S.D.I. National Park Service (Chiricahua and Cedar Breaks National Monuments), City of Phoenix Mountains Preserves, Arizona State Parks (11 years), and City of Prescott (14 years). Following years of park ranger positions, Eric began trails positions to include coordinator for the 812-mile Arizona National Scenic Trail, State Trails Coordinator, and Trails Coordinator for City of Prescott (before becoming Park Superintendent in 2005).

Eric is currently the Special Projects Administrator for Parks and Recreation, and serves as a project manager (i.e., to include Goldwater Lake expansion), special events, volunteer coordination, managing concessions and contracts, and planning and grants efforts.

Eric also serves on the Board of Directors of the Arizona Trail Association (the non-profit for the Arizona National Scenic Trail). He has been married for 22 years, has an eleven-year-old daughter, and enjoys many activities in the great outdoors. He dreams of someday being an old west reinactor, and returning to building furniture, Grand Canyon backpacking trips, photography, and exploring Arizona.

"Spotlight On" periodically features a different Parks and Recreation Department employee.

Community Giving Back

When visiting the parks you may see improvements of all kinds being performed by what you might assume is the City's maintenance staff. Not necessarily so. Many individuals and organizations are involved in helping with projects in our parks. We appreciate the efforts of our community volunteers. Not only do they save our City money, our parks are maintained at a level residents and visitors expect.



(Photo Courtesy of Eric Smith)

Many hands make light work.

On April 21, 2013 a group of over 90 people of all ages from the Church of Jesus Christ-Latter Day Saints came together to paint Ken Lindley field stadium. With a group this large the task was accomplished in one day.



(Photo Courtesy of Nancy Nesbit)

Veterans now serving their country at the community level.

Led by Lance Whitford, Prescott-Vets-Helping-Vets.Org held a veterans workshop to paint the small Ramada at Watson Lake. Turning the project into an event, they worked from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. on May 18, 2013.

Special Projects

The City maintains a list of needed projects that are well-suited for organized groups seeking a one-time volunteer project. These include park, lake, and trail improvement projects to benefit the users of these areas, and donations of materials (or funding for) are usually needed.

Interested in Special Projects? Please call Eric Smith at (928) 777-1590.

We're Looking for Certified Instructors



Do you teach classes for fitness or skill related activities?

The Parks and Recreation Department is making space available for certified instructors at Grace Sparkes Memorial Community Center in both the gymnasium and Flagstone Room.

For information regarding requirements and applications please contact:

Kelly Tolbert at (928) 777-1558

***Yoga - Aerobics - Zumba
Bootcamp - Knitting
Scrapbooking - or other
craft or activity.***

Department Mission

To provide safe, enjoyable, attractive parks and programs with responsive service which enhance our quality of life and preserve the natural and recreational assets of the City of Prescott. To promote tourism and its associated economic benefits through hosting events.



Mark Your Calendar!

October 12th & 13th, 2013

Join us once again at Watson Lake Park

for this family-oriented event highlighting the outdoor recreational opportunities, retailers, organizations, resources, and equipment in the Quad-Cities area. This fun event is in the scenic surrounding of the Granite Dells.

Hope to see you there!



Food
Music

Clinics

Organized
Activities

Information
Booths



Prescott Parks & Recreation
Grace Sparkes Memorial Activity Center
(Old Armory Building)

824 E. Gurley St., Prescott, AZ 86301
Telephone (928) 777-1122

Visit us on the City website under city services
at: www.cityofprescott.net

To participate as a sponsor or vendor in this exciting event,
please contact:

Eric Smith at eric.smith@prescott-az.gov or
Kelly Tolbert at kelly.tolbert@prescott-az.gov