

Fall 2019, Issue 28



## Lower Goldwater Lake Update

Design for Lower Goldwater Lake improvements is under way. We have contracted with a local engineering firm, Kelley/Wise Engineering, to complete the design and are currently at about 60% of total design.

On August 20<sup>th</sup> the first public meeting on the project was held and valuable input from the attendees was gathered. The project is proposing to construct a recreational area at Lower Goldwater Lake. Plans will include parking, fishing, restrooms, a ramada, and day use areas, along with a trail system that will encircle and connect both lakes. We are looking

to have construction documents ready by the end of the year and, pending City Council approval, expect to begin construction in the Spring of 2020 with the completion sometime in the Summer.

Goldwater Lake is a gem in the City of Prescott's park system and often is filled to capacity. This project will approximately double the available parking while opening up access to the lower scenic eight acre lake. We are extremely excited for the opportunity to open up access to our citizens and visitors and hope that many will come and enjoy this special property.

*(Contributor: Joe Baynes)*

### Recreation Services Advisory Board

*Tom Dwyer  
Sherri Hanna  
Linda Nichols  
Peg Travers  
Chris Welborn*

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**Joe Baynes**  
City of Prescott  
Recreation Services Director



## The Parks - Willow Lake; Prescott's Undiscovered Jewel

Prescott's undiscovered jewel, Willow Lake, has much to offer visitors. Rich in history, both prehistoric and recent, it includes an important archaeological site (*see page eight*), as well as a railroad (*below*). Some Tom Mix western movies were filmed here in the early 20th century. This lake is known for great bass fishing and kayakers love to explore its many coves. Some of the coves can also be reached by hikers from trails on the east side of the lake.



(Photo courtesy of: Nancy Nesbit)

### An Arizona Premier Trail

The 5.7 mile Willow Lake Loop Trail was designated an Arizona Premier Trail in 2017. Challenging at times, the trail is varied with steep rocky terrain, as well as moderate and relatively flat terrain. Hikers can also avail themselves to several side loop trails including Red Bridge Loop. (*above*)

A part of the Prescott IBA (*below*) birding is popular in this area, especially on the west and south sides. Rookeries in Cottonwood Grove are a popular nesting area for birds along their migratory path. Other activities include hiking, mountain biking, biking, and trail running. The entrance is next to the Heritage Park Zoological Sanctuary.

One of the City's larger regional parks, Willow Lake 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, scrubland, cottonwood trees, and chaparral at higher elevations. The City is currently exploring options to expand the parks potential, including a Disc Golf course and camp ground.

Contributor: Nancy Nesbit



(Trail sign photo)

### Prescott's IBA (Important Bird Area)

Identified as an important bird area in July 2002, the Arizona Important Bird Areas Program recognized the Watson-Willow Lakes Ecosystem as an IBA in April 2011. Covering about 1,500 acres, a large portion of the IBA is located at Willow Lake. Prescott Audubon Society is the steward for Prescott's IBA and collects bird data for the Arizona IBA. Since 1974, 374 bird species have been identified in Prescott. One of the main criteria for the designation of this area as an IBA is the significant concentration of water fowl and wading birds. In wet years as many as 5,000 birds are seen.

### 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](http://www.cityofprescott.net) or [www.cityofprescott.net/services/parks/](http://www.cityofprescott.net/services/parks/)

For rentals information visit us online at: [www.cityofprescott.net/services/parks/rentals](http://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

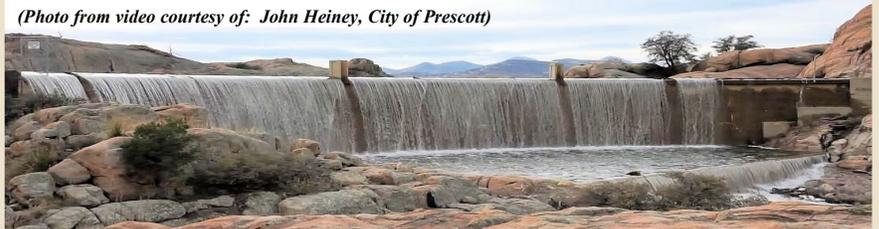
### HOURS

Summer: 6:00 am—10:00 pm  
Winter: 7:00 am—Sunset

### PARKING FEE \$3.00

(Goldwater, Watson & Willow Lakes & Peavine & Constellation Trailheads)  
One Day Pass Good At All Five Locations.  
*Parking is free on Wednesdays.*

(Photo from video courtesy of: John Heiney, City of Prescott)



### Willow Lake Dam (a.k.a. Willow Creek Dam)

To augment Watson Lake, the Willow Lake Dam was built in 1936 by the CVID, and was a great depression era U.S. PWA (Public Works Administration) project. A thin arch concrete dam, it has a separated thin arch spillway. The lengths total 297 feet with a dam height of 99 feet. Maximum storage capacity is 7,800 acre feet.

### 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

## The New Ecosa Trail

Founded in 2000, Ecosa Institute of Prescott's mission is "to restore health to the natural environment and thus the human environment through education in design." Through a donation, Ecosa acquired over forty acres of property in the Granite Dells. Ecosa partnered with the City to build a trail through the property, making it available to the public. Large metal signs were installed containing messages about Ecosa's philosophy and information about the area.

This trail is accessible from the Basin Trail in the Willow Dells area. An in-and-out trail, visitors are treated to a trek through lovely canyons that occasionally widen, and ends at Willow Creek. A couple of short areas are rated a four (on a score of 1 to 4) but the rest of the hike is rated a two to three. Two areas contain metal bridges, assisting hikers through more precarious areas.

(Contributor: Nancy Nesbit with Chris Hosking)

**For more information on the Ecosa Institute of Prescott, visit them online at: [www.guidestar.org/profile/86-0844175](http://www.guidestar.org/profile/86-0844175) and [www.ecosa.org](http://www.ecosa.org)**



(Photos Above Courtesy of: Nancy Nesbit)

(Above left) Two metal ramps help hikers navigate the trail.  
(Above middle) Mainly narrow canyons, the trail opens up at various points.

(Above right) Interpretive signs dot the trail giving information about the Ecosa development philosophy and terrain.

(Below) The trails grand opening was held on September 6, 2019. Those attending included representatives from the Ecosa Institute of Prescott, City of Prescott City Council members, Mayor, and Recreation Services personnel, and members from Over the Hill Gang (OHG).

(Photo Below Courtesy of: Bill Semplice, OHG)



**Length:** 1 mile in and out from Basin trail. Basin Trail is an additional 1.3 miles in and out from the Willow Lake boat ramp.  
**Elevation:** 5055' (Low) - 5198' (High)  
**Activities:** Hiking, Mountain Biking, Trail Running  
**Access:** Willow Lake Park boat ramp, take the Willow Dells Approach Trail to the Willow Dells trail system. The entrance to the Ecosa Trail is off the Basin Trail.  
**Parking:** Willow Lake Park, \$3.00 parking fee. (One day pass good at all five locations, Watson, Willow, and Goldwater Lakes, and Peavine and Constellation Trailheads.)

Prescott City trail maps are downloadable at:  
[www.prescotttrails.com](http://www.prescotttrails.com) or  
[www.prescott-az.gov/recreation-events/recreation-areas/trails/](http://www.prescott-az.gov/recreation-events/recreation-areas/trails/)



## Sports Page

### Adult Sports Beyond the Softball/Tournament Season

After a busy Summer filled with outdoor activities, softball leagues and tournaments, the City of Prescott Recreation Services sports programs continue to thrive indoors with Fall Adult Volleyball and Winter Adult Basketball leagues.



(File Photo)

League Basketball at GSMAC Gym

The Adult Volleyball program services approximately 60 teams that participate in the Men's, Women's and Co-Ed leagues during the Fall and again in the Spring. The leagues range from very competitive "A" levels to the more recreational "Rec" leagues. With over 400 participants playing Monday through Thursday evenings at multiple venues, the cities Fall and Spring adult volleyball program serves every level of play.

The Fall volleyball season takes place from September through November and a Spring league is offered in March that takes us up to the Summer softball season in early May. The Fall season is a nine week season with an end of season tournament to follow and the Spring

season is a shorter six week league with the same type of end of season tournament.

Once the Fall Volleyball program completes their season at the end of November, the city prepares for the upcoming Winter Basketball program that takes place from January through March. The city partners with Yavapai College, the YMCA and utilizes their own GSMAC gym to program leagues for men and women to play Monday through Thursday evenings. There are 30 to 40 teams that play in the Winter leagues with three different levels of play. Athletes range from college level "A" leagues to more recreational "C" league divisions. A smaller Summer season is offered from July through August during the busy Summer softball league and tournament season to give the basketball players a second opportunity to play.



(Photo courtesy of: Nancy Nesbit)

Volleyball at GSMAC Gym

If you would like to enter a team in any of the Adult Sports leagues, contact the Recreation Supervisor for registration information by going online to the City website at [www.prescott-az.gov](http://www.prescott-az.gov) or coming by the Recreation Services Department office at 824 East Gurley Street for a registration form.

Interested in playing, but don't have a team or are a new resident in our quad city area? The City also has a free agent list program for those who do not have a team or are new to the area looking to play. To get on the free agent list all you need to do is contact the Recreation Services Department with your name, contact

info, level of play, and evenings you are able to participate. The City will send your information out to all the teams who participate to attempt to help you join a team. (Contributor: Rick Hormann)

#### Contact Information

To enter City teams or leagues  
telephone (928) 777-1557 or  
email: [rick.hormann@prescott-az.gov](mailto: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 website at:  
[www.prescott-az.gov](http://www.prescott-az.gov)  
(Recreation & Events tab, under  
Programs and Special Events, Sports)

(Photo courtesy of: Nancy Nesbit)



#### Games of our Youth are Popular Again

New to the City of Prescott's adult sports leagues was our Adult Coed Kickball league we conducted with six teams this past summer. We are looking to build on our first year to double the program or more next summer with games being played at Ken Lindley Field. We are also looking to perhaps offer other specialty sports of our youth's past including Ultimate Frisbee, Dodgeball and Frisbee Golf leagues.

If there are other sports you would like to see the City of Prescott offer to our residents, please contact the Recreation Supervisor at [rick.hormann@prescott-az.gov](mailto:rick.hormann@prescott-az.gov)

# Special Needs Activity Program

SNAP is another City of Prescott jewel. Social, creative and educational opportunities are provided for Prescott-area adults with developmental and/or cognitive disabilities. SNAP participants are active members of their community. SNAP sponsors monthly dances, bingo, and crafts.



## SNAP Programs

**Monthly Dances** - Generally held on the third Saturday of every month, there is a themed dance from 5 to 7 p.m. Bringing at least 120 people together the dances include a light supper, a DJ that plays great music, and a photo booth.

**Bingo** - Typically held on the 1st Wednesday of every month from 6 to 7:30 p.m., Bingo offers a great opportunity for socializing. This event averaging 30 participants includes light refreshments and great prizes.

**Craft Night** - On the fourth Thursday of the month from 6 to 7 p.m., this is a creative outlet for at least 25 participants. Crafts range from making cards for special occasions, coloring, tie-dye shirt making, and the list goes on. *(Participants need to be seated by 5:45 p.m.)*

**Make a Difference and Become a SNAP Volunteer!**



SNAP volunteers (Left to right) Lynne Sansom, Sherry Gustin, Debbie Jerome and SNAP coordinator Karlyne Crewse joined in on the fun at a 60s themed dance.

*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 to help us provide the many activities 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, or serving food, is invaluable and helps us to maintain and expand this valuable program and all its activities.*

**For more information on SNAP programs contact:**

**Karlyne Crewse—SNAP Coordinator  
City of Prescott Recreation  
Services Department**

**E-mail:**

**karlyne.crewse@prescott-az.gov**

**Phone: (928) 777-1554**

**Fax: (928) 771-5843**



*(Photos courtesy of: SNAP)*

SNAP participants recently enjoyed and got into the spirit of a Hawaiian themed dance.

*These SNAP events are held at GSMAC (Grace Sparkes Memorial Activity Center, 824 E. Gurley St., Prescott. (Dances and Bingo are held in the gymnasium)*

*Please confirm activity dates on the SNAP Calendar. Occasionally dates are changed to accommodate holidays and conflicting activities.*

*Monthly Events schedules are available at the GSMAC office, or online at the City website:*

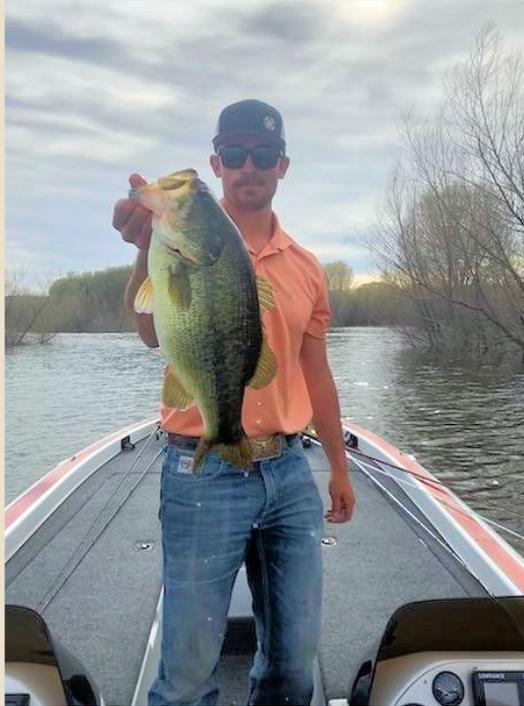
**[www.prescott-az.gov](http://www.prescott-az.gov)**

## How You Can Help 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.

**Financial Friend:** Support dances, karaoke, and other events by underwriting the cost of snacks and beverages. Make a financial contribution to continue offering low cost activities to our SNAP participants. Gift cards are always welcome and appreciated.

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



This photo of a bass caught at Willow Lake was given to the Recreation Services Department earlier this year. Unfortunately no details were provided.

## Fishing - Bass

Many sport fishing enthusiasts concentrate their efforts on fishing for bass. In recent years, local anglers have had luck fishing for bass in Prescott's lakes, especially Willow Lake. Because Willow Lake is more shallow, the water warms up earlier in the spring than the deeper lakes, Watson and Goldwater, making it favorable for bass. To beat the heat during the summer, Prescott lakes are becoming popular with anglers from Southern Arizona. The lakes are not stocked with bass which reproduce on their own. Because bass is considered a "trophy fish", anglers are encouraged to return their catches to the lakes, especially pregnant females, to ensure that Prescott's lakes remain well stocked.



Visit the Arizona Game and Fish Department online at: [www.azgfd.com](http://www.azgfd.com)

On the Fishing Page, links include:

Buy a License - Fishing Report - Fishing Forecast  
Stocking Report - Rules & Regulations

Fishing licenses can now be bought online through the Arizona Game and Fish Department website.

**Buy A License**  
& Reprint a license purchased online



Following is a list of the fish species in the City of Prescott lakes:

**Goldwater Lake:** Largemouth Bass, Crappie, Sunfish, Catfish (Channel), Bluegill, and Trout.

**Watson and Willow Lakes:** Largemouth Bass, Crappie, Sunfish, Catfish (Channel), and Bluegill.  
(Trout are also stocked in Watson Lake)

Stocking schedules at Arizona lakes, including both Goldwater and Watson Lakes, by AZGFD are available online.

## Spotlight On ... Karlyne Crewse



Karlyne Crewse  
SNAP Coordinator

Karlyne Crewse joined the SNAP program in February of 2016 as a volunteer, after "retiring" from a career in management, event planning, and interior design. In October 2018, Karlyne was hired as the SNAP Coordinator. She brings years of management skills, great organizational abilities and a love of people to her new position.

SNAP is a community of people who are extra special and Karlyne feels extra special towards all of the wonderful participants and great volunteers that join in on the monthly planned activities. Since assuming the SNAP Coordinator position, Karlyne is working hard to increase attendance at all activities by bringing fresh ideas, a sense of community involvement, and a welcoming atmosphere to all of the events. Karlyne emphasizes, "I couldn't run this program successfully without all of the wonderful volunteers that serve with a helping heart".

Karlyne grew up in Oregon and moved to Arizona in 1996. She and her husband, Bob have resided in Prescott for over five years. They have been married for 37 years and share a son, a daughter-in-law and a 1-1/2 year old grandson.

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

# Relationships

## Boys & Girls Club of Central AZ

The Boys & Girls Club of Central Arizona (BGCCAZ) is part of a nationwide movement of community based, autonomous, non-profit organizations which have been a national leader in youth development in out-of-school time. Local Clubs were created to respond to the need for a safe and educational place for kids to go after-school and in the summer, in the quad-cities area. The Clubs in Prescott and Prescott Valley provide kids with high quality development programs. They also operate the Chino Valley Teen Center in Chino Valley, AZ. In collaboration with Prescott High School, they also operate a Multimedia Program, which serves teens with high quality programs to propel them into a career in the media field.

BGCCAZ receives CDBG funds, federal grants to municipalities for moderate to low income funding, for capital improvements. 85% of program funds come through community giving, event sponsorships, and grants. Another 15% of program funding is from member dues.

*(Contributors: Nancy Nesbit with Nicole Kennedy, BGCCAZ)*

*National statistics show that after school hours from 2-7 pm pose the greatest risk for youth getting into trouble, being involved in crime, experimenting with drugs and alcohol and other risky behaviors.*

### MISSION

Our mission is to enable all young people, especially those who need us most, to reach their full potential as productive, caring, responsible citizens.

### WHAT WE DO

The Boys & Girls Club of Central Arizona offers affordable after-school and summer programs for young adults age 6-18 in Prescott and Prescott Valley. The Boys & Girls Club of Central Arizona provides award-winning programs designed to change the lives of young people in four key areas:

*Fun With a Purpose - Academic Success  
Good Character and Citizenship - Healthy Choices*



*(Photo Courtesy of: Nancy Nesbit)*

In 2007, the City of Prescott leased one of their properties located on Aubrey Street to the Boys and Girls Club of Central Arizona for the sum of \$1.00 per year. To help provide community services and activities that might not otherwise exist, the City of Prescott has entered into leases, licenses and other agreements involving City lands and Buildings with various groups. The Recreation Services Department has managed these agreements for several decades.

In March 2019, the Boys and Girls Club of Central Arizona partnered with Fiesta Bowl Charities to construct a play space for kids at their Prescott club. The non-profit organization KaBOOM contracted with BGCCAZ as facilitators to organize the installation. The play space was built by over 100 volunteers who showed up to give their time for this project. It only took one day to complete. Along with the usual slides and swings, a zip line was added as well as a Ga-ga pit (a gentle version of dodgeball using a soft, foam ball.)

The only play space in this part of Prescott, BGCCAZ gifted the facility to the City of Prescott and it is open to the public seven days a week.

*(Photo Right Courtesy of: Boys & Girls Club, Photo Below Courtesy of: Nancy Nesbit)*



### Boys & Girls Clubs of Central Arizona

**Prescott Club and Administrative Office**  
335 E. Aubrey St.  
Prescott, AZ 86303  
Phone: (928) 776-8686

**Prescott Valley Club**  
8201 E. Loos Dr.  
Prescott Valley, AZ 86314  
Phone: (928) 237-1377

**Chino Valley Teen Center**  
1527 Road 1 East  
Chino Valley, AZ 86323  
Phone: (928) 227-1971

**For more information or to make donations, visit their website at:**  
[www.bgccaz.org](http://www.bgccaz.org)



## 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.

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- Willow Lake Interpretive Center)



# Activities

## Monthly Tours of Willow Lake's Archaeological Site

### First Saturday of each Month

Consisting of over 100 members of amateur and professional archaeologists, the Yavapai Chapter of the Arizona Archaeological Society (YCAAS) has adopted and maintains the ruins at the Willow Lake Archaeological Interpretive Center. The center offers self guided tours during park hours, however the ramadas containing the ruins are kept locked. On the first Saturday of each month, from 10 a.m. to 12 noon, the ramadas are unlocked and members of the YCAAS provide tours of the ruins. Visitors are given information about the importance of this valuable archaeological site and the peoples who inhabited it. For more information on YCAAS, visit their website at:

<https://azarchsoc.wildapricot.org/Yavapai>

(Contributors: Nancy Nesbit with Warner Wise, YCAAS)

#### Willow Lake Park

Summer Hours 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. - Winter Hours 7 a.m. to Sunset  
Parking Fee \$3.00 - Parking is free on Wednesdays  
(Goldwater, Watson & Willow Lakes and Peavine & Constellation Trailheads. One day pass is good at all five locations)

(Photo left) Occasionally the tour may include a display of relics. Warner Wise (left) from the Yavapai Chapter, Arizona Archaeological Society (YCAAS) explains relics as well as specimens and gives information to visitors about ancient societies in Prescott and around Arizona during a recent tour of the pit houses. (Photo courtesy of Nancy Nesbit)

(Photo below) A view of one of the pit house ruins located under one of the two ramadas at Willow Lake. The tour includes a detailed explanation of the ruins as well as information on the Willow Lake archaeological site in general. (Photo courtesy of YCAAS)



Recreation Services Department  
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 at:  
[www.prescott-az.gov/services/parks](http://www.prescott-az.gov/services/parks)



This newsletter is a collaborative effort between City of Prescott employees and volunteers. Compilation and graphics provided by Nancy K. Nesbit, Volunteer Park Ranger.

This newsletter is available on line at:

[www.prescott-az.gov/recreation-events/recreation-services/about-recreation-services/](http://www.prescott-az.gov/recreation-events/recreation-services/about-recreation-services/)  
You can also pick up a copy at our office at the Grace Sparkes Memorial Activity Center.