

(Photo courtesy of visit Prescott.com)

The 'World's Oldest Rodeo' in Prescott (photo above) isn't skipping a beat this year over the Fourth of July weekend. Concerts on the lawn (photo below) at the Courthouse Square also resumed in June. *Note: the photo below is old, without social distancing.*

Coming Back After COVID-19 Shutdown

Every community comes together through its history and traditions. Events throughout the City of Prescott, especially during the Summer Season are a tradition and well attended. Like all communities in our country, the stay at home order necessitated cancellation or postponement of many events.

With the City slowly coming back to life on May 15, 2020 many anticipated events are resuming or going on as scheduled, such as the rodeo and concerts on the lawn at the Courthouse Plaza. With a generous donation to the City from the Harold James Family Trust, family movie night outdoors at Ken Lindley Field began in June offering families a much needed activity during this time.

The City of Prescott and the Recreation Services Department are working diligently to provide events both old and new for all area residents and visitors

to bring our community and its traditions back. Humans have a need for social connections. Recreation is meaningful and contributes to our health, both physically and mentally. In returning to a more normal life, it's important to keep in mind that social distancing and other best practices are still important in keeping us all healthy.

Recreation Services Advisory Board

- Sherri Hanna*
- Deb Miller*
- Linda Nichols*
- Peg Travers*
- Chris Welborn*

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Joe Baynes
City of Prescott
Recreation Services Director



(Photo courtesy of visit Prescott.com)

Parks & Lakes - Services Back on Track

Although Prescott's parks were mostly open during the COVID-19 stay at home order, the departments approach needed to be modified to accommodate practices to reduce the possible transmission of the virus; closure of facilities within the parks included restrooms, ramadas, and playgrounds. Reservations for large groups attending functions within the parks and its ramadas needed to be cancelled. The recommended practices of social distancing and limiting groups to no more than ten individuals was implemented. To make the parks more available to citizens and visitors during the stay at home order, parking fees at the lakes, Peavine Sundog Trailhead, and Constellation Trails were waived.

With Governor Ducey's stay at home order expiring on May 15, 2020, Prescott Recreation Services Department instituted a next phase plan for lessening restrictions and reopening the parks' facilities, restrooms and other facilities previously closed. Parking fees were also reinstated. On Thursday, June 4, 2020 the campgrounds at Watson Lake were also reopened. The department is still recommending best practices of social distancing and limiting groups. It is important to be aware that germs can remain active on surfaces for several days, including door handles, playground equipment, picnic tables, trash cans, any

surface that can be touched.

As conditions change the Department's practices within the parks will need to adapt to the situation.

We are all looking forward to getting back to normal and a robust 2021.

During the COVID-19 shut-down Prescott's parks and lakes remained open and active. Hiking and boating at all the lakes saw increase usage.

Photos: Watson Lake left, Willow Lake below



(Photo courtesy of Nancy Nesbit)

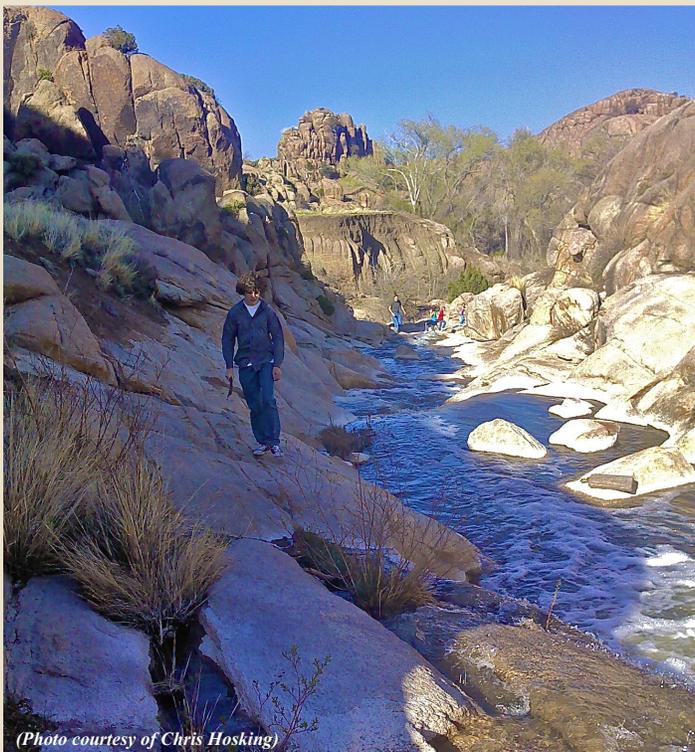


(Photo courtesy of Chris Hosking)

Trails & Natural Parklands

Trails Saw Increased Usage During Shutdown

The great outdoors is a part of Arizona's lifestyle. During the COVID-19 stay at home order, Prescott's trails remained open offering an escape from boredom and helping to relieve stress. Most of the parking lots at the trailheads were full and hikers were out en masse. Counters at the trailheads of the two most popular trail systems, Constellation and Peavine, showed a significant increase in usage for that time of year. The numbers increased substantially and rivaled those of the busiest trail season. Instead, average daily visits in April and May went from 161 to 262 on Peavine, 186 to 441 on Explorer/Watson Trails, and 144 to 210 on Constellation Trail, compared to 2019 trail counts. Because volunteers in the park were put on hold, so was the scheduled work. During this time, Chris Hosking seized the opportunity and partnered with the forest service to do work on a trail extension near Williams Peak. Work that was previously planned will resume once the Over the Hill Gang volunteers are released to return to work.



(Photo courtesy of Chris Hosking)

During the COVID-19 shut down, Prescott's shops and entertainment opportunities closed but City trails remained open. As a result, area trails saw an increase in usage of 60% to 70%.

2019 Trail Counts

In 2019, trail counters indicated that visits on the trails remains steady with a slight increase on the Cities 100 plus miles of trail. Using previous figures on trails not counted, usage continued to total just over 800,000 visits in 2019. Even with the addition of new trails, yearly trail usage continues to be steady on all City trails. A yearly comparison on two of the busiest trails with counters over five consecutive years, Constellation and Peavine, shows a steady trend of trail usage as illustrated on the chart below. Peavine Trail, the City's busiest trail, is also used to access Watson Lake's Lakeshore Trail on the west and the Storm Trails (which opened in the Spring of 2018) on the east. Both trail systems have several access locations off of Peavine.

Trail counts show that the busiest month on Peavine is October with an average of 189 visits per day. The peak hour is 10:00 a.m. 20% of all visits occur on Wednesday. The busiest month for Constellation is March with an average of 173 per day. The busiest day is Sunday with 22% of all usage and the peak hour is 11:00 a.m.

| | <u>2015</u> | <u>2016</u> | <u>*2017</u> | <u>2018</u> | <u>2019</u> |
|---------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|-------------|
| Constellation | 38,203 | 45,799 | 41,083 | 41,031 | 42,026 |
| Peavine | 59,396 | 57,662 | 53,568 | 56,458 | 58,472 |

*Figures for 2017 were distorted or down on these two trails due to 3 months of lost data on Peavine and roundabout highway construction at Constellation Trail. All other trail counts were steady or up.

Revised 2020 Calendar of Events on the Trails

| | | | |
|------------|--|----------------------------|-------------------------|
| July 4 | Gheral Brownlow Memorial Run | Walter Burcham | Brownlow Trail |
| Sep. 7 | BYU Management Society Fun Run | Carl Tenney | Brownlow Trail |
| Oct. 10 | Best Party of the Year Mountain Bike Race | Brandon Eubanks | Pioneer/Brownlow Trail |
| Oct. 17 | PMBA Mountain Bike Festival | Brook Weitkunat | Goldwater/Variou Trails |
| Oct. 24 | Janis Best Memorial Run | Walter Burcham | Peavine Trail |
| Oct. 24/25 | High School Mountain Bike Race (Youth Event) | Mike Perry | Pioneer/Brownlow Trail |
| Oct. 31 | Prescott Sixer Race | Breanna Bissel | Pioneer/Brownlow Trail |
| Dec. 12 | Santa Run | The Launch Pad Teen Center | Pioneer/Brownlow Trail |

NOTE: Due to COVID19 some of the events listed may have been cancelled or rescheduled.

Revised 2020 Calendar of Sporting Events

| | | | |
|---------------|---|-----------------------------|------------------------|
| July 4/5 | West Texas Travel League Tournament NEW | Cam Schiller | Bill Vallely Field |
| July 11/12 | NSA Don Fishel Memorial Girls Fast-Pitch Softball (Youth) | Rick Hormann | Pioneer/Heritage/BV |
| July 12-16 | Nike Baseball Camp—CANCELLED | Mike Duserville | Kuebler/Ziegler Fields |
| July 17-19 | SSUSA Men's Sr. Slow-Pitch Western St. Championships | Rick Seifman | Pioneer/Willow Creek |
| July 25-30 | Catalina Foothills Band (Youth Event) | Renee Shane Boyd | Kuebler Field |
| July 25/26 | NSA Monsoon Madness/Best of West Girls Fast-Pitch (Youth) | Rick Hormann | Pioneer/Heritage/BV |
| Jul 31-Aug. 2 | Women's Senior Summer Softball Smash | Michelle Stacy-Schroeder | Pioneer/Heritage |
| Aug. 1/2 | Senior Volleyball Tournament—CANCELLED | Patti Enders | Various Gyms |
| Aug. 8/9 | NSA Mile Hi Classic Girls Fast-Pitch Softball (Youth Event) | Rick Hormann | Pioneer/Heritage/BV |
| Aug. 15/16 | USSSA Sr. Slow-Pitch Softball Tournament | Rick Seifman | Pioneer 4 Plex |
| Aug. 22-23 | Prescott Youth Football Jamboree (Youth Event) | John Hanna | Pioneer 4 Plex |
| Sep. 5-7 | Triple Crown Youth Baseball Tournament (Youth Event) | Conrad Topp | Pioneer/Kbl/Zie/WCF |
| Sep. 12 | AYSO Soccer Games Begin (Saturdays, Sept. 12-Nov. 21) (Youth Event) | Janelle Reidl | Pioneer |
| Sep. 11-13 | Prescott Granite Mountain Games-Pickle Ball Tournament | Prescott Pickle Ball Assoc. | Pickle Ball Courts |
| Oct. 10 | Over-The-Line Tournament | Michael Lugo | Heritage Park |
| Nov. 20/21 | NJCAA Soccer Nationals NEW | Brad Clifford | Ken Lindley Field |

Field Site Codes: BV-Bill Vallely Fields, HP-Heritage Park, KL-Ken Lindley, KUB-Kuebler, PHS-Prescott High School, PP-Pioneer Park 4 Plex, WCF-Willow Creek Field, ZIEG-Brad Ziegler Field.

NOTE: Due to COVID19 some of the events listed may have been cancelled or rescheduled.

For more information on sports in Prescott contact:

Michelle Stacy-Schroeder at (928) 777-1552 or Rick Hormann at (928) 777-1557
Prescott Recreation Services Department offices: 824 E. Gurley St., Prescott, AZ 86301, (928)777-1122
Visit us online at the City website at: www.prescott-az.gov

Sports programs either began or resumed on June 1, 2020 with City league softball and Kickball starting up. The Pickle Ball courts at Pioneer Park have been open throughout the season but every other court has been closed and they will remain closed through this year's summer season. All activities at Pioneer Park



Recreation Services Department
Grace Sparkes Memorial Activity Center
(Old Armory Building)
824 E. Gurley St., Prescott, AZ 86301
Telephone (928) 777-1122
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require coordination with the County. Throughout Prescott's Parks, only outdoor sports are available this summer. Social distancing is strongly recommended, as well as other precautions such as frequent hand washing. The City is allowing scheduled tournaments to resume. Some of the event coordinators may choose to cancel their event.

All basketball leagues in the summer have been cancelled for the season. We are hopeful to resume fall volleyball in September, but at this time are not offering summer indoor sports and open gym.

All seem happy to be out and about, even if it is modified, and look forward to resuming a full schedule of activities and events in 2021.

(Newsletter contributors: Nancy Nesbit, Kelly Tolbert, Rick Hormann, and Chris Hosking)

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
You can also pick up a copy at our office at the Grace Sparkes Memorial Activity Center.