



Prescott Recreation Services Department *Quarterly Newsletter*



Winter 2024 Issue 44



The City of Prescott Animal Control officers, Shannon Gray (left) and Cara Hamer (right) are an essential component of the local government tasked with enforcing these leash laws. Their mission is to protect both pets and the community through education, enforcement, and collaboration with local animal welfare organizations.

(Photo Courtesy of: Prescott Animal Control)



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Ensuring Safe Communities: Prescott's Leash Laws and the Role of Animal Control

Prescott, Arizona, often referred to as "Everybody's Hometown", is a city known for its picturesque landscapes, friendly community, and a deep appreciation for outdoor activities. With its extensive trail system and numerous parks, it comes as no surprise that many residents are avid dog lovers. However, like any community, maintaining a balance between pet ownership and public safety is essential. This is where the City of Prescott Animal Control and leash laws come into play. Leash laws are regulations set in place by municipalities to ensure that dogs are kept under control while in public areas. These laws serve several vital purposes:

Public Safety: Unleashed dogs can pose a risk to both people and other animals. Even well-behaved dogs may become unpredictable, especially if they encounter unfamiliar surroundings or encounter other dogs with different temperaments.

Protection of Wildlife: Unleashed dogs can disturb local wildlife and ecosystems, causing damage to delicate environments and potentially disrupting the natural balance of local fauna.

Preventing Nuisance Behaviors: Uncontrolled dogs may engage in behaviors such as excessive barking, digging, or even chasing after cyclists or joggers. These behaviors can be irritating or frightening to others in the community.

Preventing Dog Fights: Even the most well-trained dogs can become aggressive or defensive when they encounter other dogs. Leash laws help prevent potentially dangerous situations from arising. (Contributor: Samara Rice, Recreation Coordinator)

Animal Control works with all animals, both domestic and wild. See page 4 for more information.

Key Responsibilities of the City of Prescott Animal Control

Education: Animal Control Officers work to educate pet owners about the importance of leash laws and responsible pet ownership. They provide resources on training, socialization, and local ordinances.

Enforcement: Animal Control Officers are responsible for ensuring compliance with the city's leash laws. This includes issuing warnings, citations, and in extreme cases, impounding animals that pose a threat to public safety.

Responding to Animal-Related Incidents: Animal Control Officers respond to reports of loose or aggressive dogs, as well as instances of neglect or cruelty. They work to mediate situations, and when necessary, take appropriate action to protect both animals and the public.

Prescott's Leash Laws

In Prescott, dogs are required to be on a leash when in public spaces, except in designated off-leash areas. The leash must be no longer than 6 feet in length, and the owner or handler must always have control over the dog. These laws apply to parks, trails, sidewalks, and any other area where the public has access. To accommodate the need of dog owners, Prescott provides designated off-leash areas where dogs can play and socialize freely. These areas are carefully selected to minimize conflicts with other park users and local wildlife. Dog owners are encouraged to use these spaces responsibly, ensuring their pets are always well-socialized and under control.

Prescott's leash laws and the work of the City of Prescott Animal Control play a critical role in maintaining a safe and harmonious community for both humans and animals. By adhering to these regulations, dog owners can enjoy the beauty of the city while respecting the rights and safety of fellow residents. Remember, a well-behaved and controlled dog, and a responsible owner is a valued member of the community. For more information, please visit: www.prescott-az.gov

For detailed information regarding liability insurance, rules, policies, and other applicable requirements on rentals contact our office at (928) 777-1121, ext. 4503.

Information regarding park facilities, activities, and rentals can be obtained through the City website at:
www.prescott-az.gov

Tennis Courts and In-line Hockey Rink

The tennis courts located at 824 E. Gurley St. and the In-line Hockey Rink and Pickleball Courts at Pioneer Park are open to the public on a first come, first served basis.

Rentals - Sports



FIELD RENTAL FEES

| <i>Field Rental Fees</i> | Individual, Team and Tournament Directors | City Sponsored 2nd Season |
|--|--|------------------------------|
| Field Rental (per field) | \$20/hr. | \$15/hr. |
| Initial Field Prep (Baseball and Softball only) per field | \$45 (per prep) | \$35 (per prep) |
| Field Prep (Soccer and Football Only, goals not provided) | \$200 | \$200 |
| Field Lights (per field) | \$25/hr. | \$20/hr. |
| Damage & Security Deposit | \$500 | N/A |
| Fence Relocation - Plastic (per field) | \$150 | \$150 |
| Rain Delay - per staff member | \$25/hr. | \$25/hr. |
| Tournament—Subsequent Prep (every 3rd game will be required) per field | \$35 | \$35 |

City of Prescott leagues and events will be scheduled before other rentals are accepted and have priority over other reservations.

For information about city sponsorship (Prescott AYSO, Prescott Little League, Prescott Girls Softball Association and Prescott Youth Football), please contact the Recreation Manager at (928) 777-1552.

GRACE SPARKES MEMORIAL ACTIVITY CENTER - Gymnasium and Conference Room



Flagstone Room

GYMNASIUM USE

| | |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Commercial Use | \$100 per hour |
| Damage and Clean-up | \$300 per event (refundable) |
| Private Use | \$50 per hour |
| Damage and Clean-up deposit required | \$200 per event (refundable) |

MEETING ROOMS

| | |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| Use of Flagstone room and/or Kitchen | \$30 per hour (in addition to gym rental fee) |
|--------------------------------------|---|

Note: Tables and chairs will be provided if available at no extra charge.

Rentals - Parks

Ramada Rentals

Ramadas in city parks can be reserved for small or large groups, for an entire day or less. A reservation ensures your group of exclusive use of the ramada, and allows staff advance notice so that we can prepare for your group's arrival. We offer a 25 percent discount to City of Prescott residents. Just provide your city water bill or Yavapai County Assessor's Office tax bill when you make your reservation to identify you as a resident of Prescott.



Ramada Rentals

**All reservations require a \$200 refundable deposit at time of reservation.
Cancellations must be done at least 72 hours in advance.**

Large Ramadas

Watson Lake Upper Ramada (Capacity 150)
(Rental includes use of Ceremonial Pad)
Full Day - \$350 (open to close) Half Day - \$200

Willow Lake Hilltop Ramada (Capacity 100)
Willow Lake Garden Ramada (Capacity 100)
Full Day - \$315 (open to close) Half Day - \$160

Goldwater Original Ramada (Capacity 100)
Goldwater Lakeview Ramada (Capacity 100)
Goldwater Garden Ramada (Capacity 100)
Goldwater Lower Lake Ramada (Capacity 75)
Full Day - \$315 (open to close) Half Day - \$160

Medium Ramadas

Granite Creek Park Ramada (Capacity 200)
Vista Park Ramada (Capacity 75)
Full Day - \$185 (open to close) Half Day - \$110

Small Ramadas

Watson Lake Lower Ramada (Capacity 40)
Flinn Park Ramada (Capacity 35)
Ken Lindley Park Ramada (Capacity 35)
Full Day \$125 - (open to close) Half Day - \$85

Other Facilities

Goldwater Lake Ceremonial Pad (Capacity 100)
Half Day (4 hours or less) \$100
Full Day (open to close) \$175

Parking Fees - A parking fee is required at Goldwater, Watson, and Willow Lakes. All reservations have the option to pre-pay for parking and receive a 50% discount. The pre-paid parking cost is \$2 per vehicle; otherwise guests will be required to pay \$3 per vehicle at the time of arrival.

Ceremonial Pad Watson Lake



Large Grass Areas - Granite Creek Park has a large grassy area that can be reserved for large picnics, weddings, etc. Advanced notice of your proposed event will allow us to control our irrigation schedules so that your event will take place uninterrupted by "controllable showers". To ensure this, a Grassy Area Special Event Application is required. Proof of Special Event approval and park rental receipt will be required to be in the possession of the applicant's authorized representative attending the event. For access to water spickets or additional electrical needs, fees will apply. Hourly Rental: \$35 per hour with a refundable clean-up and damage deposit of \$200.

Special Event Park Rentals at Watson Lake

Upon request, Watson Lake can be rented for special events and public special events. Full park reservations (Upper Ramada,

Lower Ramada and Grassy Area - only) can be reserved for a daily cost of \$800 with a \$500 refundable clean-up and damage deposit. Use of the north camping area (19 spots) will be an additional \$225 a day or all 35 camping spots for \$450 a day. Event organizer will also be responsible for vehicle parking fees for the event. Any large scale events held at Watson Lake during peak season (Memorial Day to Labor Day) may be subject to a 25% fee increase. Requests for Special Events will require a Special Event Application and approval by the Special Event Committee. (25% discount does not apply to full park rentals.)

For information on camping as well as parking fees and passes at Peavine Trail, Constellation Trail, Goldwater Lake, Watson Lake, and Willow Lake visit our website .

Telephone our office at (928) 777-1121 or go online at: <https://prescottaz.recdesk.com>

Bobcats; *Lynx rufus* or *Felis rufus*



Bobcat at Willow Lake

(Photo Courtesy of Tom Gregory)

The smallest member of the Lynx family, bobcats are common throughout Arizona at all elevations, especially in rimrock and chaparral areas, and in the outskirts of urban areas where food is readily available.

They are attracted to food, water, shelter, or the space they need to live. Residences may attract them because of the availability of:

Food: Small mammals, birds, and pets.

Water: Pools, birdbaths, fountains, and pet water dishes.

Shelter: Rooftops, attics, and spaces beneath decks or other small spaces.

Thick brush, shade, and unoccupied yards are attractive spots to rest during the day or bask in the sun. They are most active around sunset or sunrise when their prey is most active.

Although generally seen alone, they may be in groups consisting of mating pairs, siblings, or mothers with kittens. Do not feed bobcats as it may encourage them to become too comfortable around humans.

IN AN EMERGENCY:

In the rare occasion that a bobcat bites a person or appears hyperactive, there may be some health concerns (rabies).

Take the following actions:

Contact Animal Control,
Police Dispatch (928) 445-3131.

Fight back if it has attacked.

Possessions of live bobcats is illegal.

(Contributor: Nancy Nesbit with information obtained from the Arizona Game and Fish Department.)

General Information

Prey: Small mammals and birds including domestic birds and rabbits. Will also eat lizards, snakes, and small pets including house cats.

Defended Territory: One to 12 square miles.

Caching: Like mountain lions, bobcats cache their kills.

Behavior towards humans: Shy, they seldom attack humans, unless rabid.

Encounters: Make a lot of noise or spray with a garden hose. Check for kittens, and if there, consider tolerating them for a few weeks until they are large enough to leave with their mother.

Hunting: Under 1,000 per year are killed in Arizona. Hunted for pelts. Because the price of pelts has gone down the numbers hunted have dropped since a high of over 9,500 in 1980. Contact AGFD for information on hunting bobcats. They are not a "big game" animal.

Signs of Rabies: Animals may foam at the mouth, are erratic, and have hyperactive behavior. They may be fearful, paralyzed and lethargic. Kill or contain an animal that is suspected of being rabid.



Recreation Services Department
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(Old Armory Building)
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Visit us on the City website at:
www.prescott-az.gov

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.