

Fall 2024, Issue 47



**Nancy Nesbit, Volunteer Park Ranger and Quarterly Newsletter Editor, 2012 - 2024.**



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## **With Deep Appreciation and Gratitude**

For the past twelve years, The Recreation Services Department has published a quarterly newsletter, full of information on new trails, employee highlights, programming updates and general information for the residents of Prescott and visitors alike. And for those twelve years, it has been a work of love for one dedicated volunteer! Nancy Nesbit, began her time with Recreation Services in 2012, having moved to Prescott from Santa Maria, California in 2006.

She began as a volunteer Park Ranger and between Ranger Patrols, taking pictures of Prescott parks, trails and open space, Nancy volunteered to take on the task of creating and publishing a newsletter that could promote the local lakes, trails and parks in a positive light. She not only served as editor of the newsletter, but she also was the main contributor and writer, working diligently with other staff members.

As the landscape of the Recreation Services Department changes, so does technology and the release of information to our readers, residents and visitors. Nancy has made the decision to end her volunteer duties on the newsletter to make more time for gardening and spending quality time with her husband of 47 years, Robert.

The Recreation Services Department Administration and staff would sincerely like to thank Nancy for her time, dedication, attention to detail and years of selfless service to the department. More importantly, we want to thank her for her time as a volunteer, helping to promote the beauty of Prescott and being an advocate for the Prescott Recreation Services Department for the past twelve years! You are appreciated!

*(Contributor: Michelle Stacy-Schroeder)*





# Trails & Natural Parklands

## Bean Peaks, a First in Arizona

Located just three miles south of downtown Prescott, at an altitude of 6468 feet in the Prescott National Forest near the White Spark Campground, Bean Peaks is the first large scale gravity flow trail system in Arizona. Gravity flow trails are mountain bike-optimized, one-way trails that are machine-built with berms, jumps, and other fun features. With completion of Phase 1, the descent on this one-way trail is 620 feet. When Phase 3 is completed, the total overall descent will be 850 feet. According to Ximena Florez, Board President of the Prescott Mountain Bike Alliance, "The trail system will offer a safe and exciting rollercoaster-like experience that can be enjoyed by mountain bikers of many different levels and ages." The trails are designed to include adaptive bikes - for instance, recumbent hand-pedaled bikes - making these trails accessible to riders with special needs.

Prescott is the home to hundreds of miles of trails that connect the city to the surrounding Prescott National Forest. The trails, coupled with an active and engaged community, have helped grow the popularity of mountain biking among riders of all ages in the area as well as a destination for visitors.

*(Contributor Nancy Nesbit with information provided by Chris Hosking, PMBA and IMBA)*

Bean Peaks Gravity Flow Trail System will eventually cover an estimate 17 miles of new trail in the forest. The first portion consisting of 9.2 miles of trail had its Grand Opening and Ribbon Cutting on May 31, 2024. Described as a downhill-optimized trail, it offers mountain bikers a rollercoaster like ride on a bike and is a first of its kind in Arizona. The top photo on the left shows a dozer constructing the trail.

*(Photos on pages 2 and 3 courtesy of: Chris Hosking and Scott Bideau)*





# Bean Peaks Gravity Flow Trail System Partnerships & The Community Made It Happen

After years of planning, public comment periods, and collaboration, the Bean peaks Gravity Flow Trail System received final approval from the U.S. Forest Service in July 2023. The project is a joint initiative of the Prescott National Forest Service, the Prescott Mountain Bike Alliance (PMBA), the City of Prescott, and the International Mountain Bicycling Association (IMBA).

Half of the \$25,000.00 required for the initial planning of the project was raised by PMBA, and were matched by IMBA. The first phase (completed in May 2024) was budgeted at \$350,000.00 PMBA raised these funds through community outreach efforts and events. PMBA's fund raising efforts are ongoing to complete the final two phases of the project. Additional funds have also been receive through grants from Arizona State Parks.

The City of Prescott Recreation Services Department constructed the trails with the assistance of Over The Hill Gang volunteers. PMBA and their volunteers will be coordinating annual maintenance of the trails.

*(Contributor Nancy Nesbit with information provided by Chris Hosking, PMBA and IMBA)*

Details for the Bean Peaks project and on the fundraising campaign can be found online at:

<https://beanpeaks.prescottmtb.com>

PMBA's crowdfunding site for donations is located at:

[pmba.rallyup.com/senditforbeanpeaks](https://pmba.rallyup.com/senditforbeanpeaks).

To donate by check, make it payable to PMBA, and mail it to: PMBA/Bean Peaks,  
PO Box 3027,  
Prescott, AZ 86303.



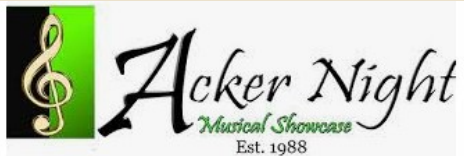


## Prescott 2024 Fall Special Events

Date	Event	Location	Website
Oct. 5/6	Fallfest in the Park Arts & Craft Faire	Courthouse Plaza	<a href="https://prescott.org">https://prescott.org</a>
Oct. 6	Dogtoberfest	Watson Lake	<a href="https://prescottdog.com">https://prescottdog.com</a>
Oct. 10-12	The Big Sting Country Music Festival	Watson Lake	<a href="https://thebigsting.com">https://thebigsting.com</a>
Nov. 11	Prescott Veterans Day Parade	Downtown	<a href="https://prescott-az.gov">https://prescott-az.gov</a>
Nov. 30	Prescott Holiday Light Parade	Downtown	<a href="https://prescottdowntown.com">https://prescottdowntown.com</a>
Dec. 7	Prescott Christmas Parade and Courthouse Lighting	Courthouse Plaza	<a href="https://prescott.org">https://prescott.org</a>
Dec. 13	Acker Night Musical Showcase	Downtown	<a href="https://ackernight.com">https://ackernight.com</a>
Dec. 31	Whiskey Row Boot Drop	Whiskey Row	<a href="https://bootdrop.com">https://bootdrop.com</a>

Dubbed Arizona's Christmas City, there are many events in the Prescott area to enjoy and celebrate during the season. Among the favorites are the Christmas Parade in the afternoon followed by the Courthouse Lighting in the evening which are always held on the first Saturday in December.

The following Friday evening is the Acker Night Musical Showcase. Many downtown businesses remain open and feature various musical groups. Tip jars are provided to collect funds for musical opportunities for children.



**Recreation Services Department**  
Grace Sparkes Memorial Activity Center  
(Old Armory Building)  
824 E. Gurley St., Prescott, AZ 86301  
Telephone (928) 777-1121  
Visit us on the City website at:  
[www.prescott-az.gov](http://www.prescott-az.gov)

## Mission Statement

To preserve, protect and enhance the parklands, public open spaces, trails and lakes of the City of Prescott for the benefit of its citizens and the ecological health of the region.

To maintain leisure services system that is responsive to and directed by the diverse and changing needs of the community we serve.

To plan for the future growth and expansion of park facilities, lake properties, open spaces, trails, and recreation programs.

To construct, operate and maintain parks, recreation facilities, and trails in a safe, aesthetically pleasing and efficient manner.

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

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