

Prescott Creekside E-News

January 2020

www.PrescottCreeks.org

Hello Friend,

Community support is a cornerstone of every Prescott Creeks accomplishment. Your contributions sustain important work at Watson Woods Riparian Preserve. After 25 years it is time to renew the lease agreement with the City of Prescott for future conservation of this valued community asset.

Major accomplishments to date at the Preserve include:

- Fenced the Preserve to control access
- Installed and Monitored Groundwater Wells
- Drafted & Implemented a Management Plan
- Inventoried Flora and Fauna
- Monitored Site & Project Performance
- Implemented Ecological Restoration projects
- Managed Habitat Project & Invasive Species
- Coordinated & Mitigated Public Infrastructure Projects:
 - Prescott Lakes Parkway Construction & Hwy 89 Widening
 - Unisource Natural Gas Pipeline
 - Rosser & Sundog Sewer Mains

The year 2020 is of critical importance for nature protection, controlling pollution, and riparian wildlife. New changes to the Clean Water Act threaten overall protection for Waters of the United States - especially waters in Arizona. The City of Prescott and Prescott Creeks are working together to establish long-term protection for the Preserve. A conservation easement will accompany the imminent renewal of the management lease, thereby ensuring the protection of the Preserve's conservation values for all time.



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C.R.E.W.

Volunteers currently meet Thursday afternoon to work on invasive species control and removal at Watson Woods Riparian Preserve. Work will be from 1pm until the group has had enough (usually about two hours). If you'd like to volunteer, [contact Prescott Creeks](#) to get on the mailing list with details (and possible date or time changes).

WILD & SCENIC FILM FESTIVAL

[Friends of the Verde River](#), in partnership with [Prescott Creeks](#), present the Wild and Scenic Film Festival. You are invited to experience the unique stories and adventures through amazing films that illustrate the Earth's beauty, the challenges facing our planet and the communities working to protect it. Proceeds benefit Prescott Creeks and Friends of the Verde River.



Locations & Showtimes:

Camp Verde: Sat. January 11th.
Prescott: Sat January 18th.



Future conservationist ready for work!

Additional goals for the coming year include Phase II Restoration efforts in the Preserve, Prescott Creeks' 14th presentation of the Granite Creek Cleanup, and ongoing water quality improvement projects with public and private stakeholders. The Miller Creek Public Restroom completed earlier this year is an example of creative partnerships coordinated by Prescott Creeks to ensure clean creeks.

The accomplishments and plans above represent effective planning, collaboration, and achievement of strategic goals. Donor contributions of \$23,500 will augment unfunded portions of these projects. Make a difference now for future generations with your contribution of any amount!

If you haven't already, won't you please include Prescott Creeks in your year-end tax-deductible contributions? Submit your gift securely online at the Prescott Creeks website:

www.PrescottCreeks.org/Donate

Showtimes at 3:30 and 6:30

Reserve tickets and checkout films for each showtime at:

Verde.org/Wild-Scenic

Volunteer opportunities at the Film Festival. [Contact Prescott Creeks](#) for details.

Support Creeks in many ways:



[Membership](#)



[Volunteer](#)



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You can make a difference by contributing in one of the ways above. Please visit www.PrescottCreeks.org for more info.



Prescott Creeks is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization with a mission to achieve healthy watersheds and clean waters in central Arizona for the benefit of people and wildlife through protection, restoration, education and advocacy.

[Contact Us](#) | Phone: (928) 445-5669 | Info@PrescottCreeks.org

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Prescott Creekside E-News

Mid-January 2020

www.PrescottCreeks.org

Hello Friend,

We're sending you this off-cycle Creekside E-News because we have some exciting news that we thought you'd like to know about...

We are pleased to announce that Deb Pastor came on board as Development and Communications Manager for Prescott Creeks. You may remember Deb from the Granite Creek Cleanup in 2019. She did such a great job for Prescott Creeks that we've brought her on in a full-time capacity to help generate additional support for all the mission-related work of the organization. She'll be working with the community to connect available resources with needs identified by the Prescott Creeks Board and Staff.



In addition to coordinating the Cleanup last year, Deb has volunteered for many years with Prescott Creeks, and with a variety of other nonprofits in our community. She's focused on water-related organizations in Yavapai County. As a CWAG member, Deb produced the educational panel/audience discussion as part of the Groundwater Management Act film which showed at the



PRESCOTT CREEKS
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Wild & Scenic Film Festival

Saturday January 18th, 2020



[Prescott Creeks](#), in partnership with [Friends of the Verde River](#) present the Wild and Scenic Film Festival. You are invited to experience the unique stories and adventures through amazing films that illustrate the Earth's beauty, the challenges facing our planet and the communities working to protect it. Proceeds benefit Prescott Creeks and Friends of the Verde River.

Get Tickets: Verde.org/Wild-Scenic

Advance Ticket Prices:

Child (under 12): \$5

Student: \$10

Adult: \$15

Support Creeks in many ways:

Elks Theater.

During her career, Deb has created, designed, managed, and organized collaborations in film, theater, music, the art & business worlds, photographing all of it. We're excited for her to bring these talents to the creeks. Deb's most recent successes include the 2019 Granite Creek Cleanup and the well attended 2019 Skull Valley Loop Challenge.

Contact Deb by email at DPastor@PrescottCreeks.org, or by phone at (928) 445-5669 x102.



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Prescott Creekside E-News

March 2020

www.PrescottCreeks.org

Hello Friend,

It's hard to believe it is March already! At the office we've been seeing the signs of spring all around us. Cottonwood buds are swelling with the promise of leaves and catkins, the wax current is in full leaf, and we're seeing lizards, spiders, darkling beetles, and other insects scurrying about.

We're excited to announce that in addition to [Deb Pastor](#) joining the Prescott Creeks staff in January, we've also welcomed four new members to the Prescott Creeks [Board of Directors](#). We look forward to introducing you more fully to Sandy Moss, Kristy Everson, Wendy Wonderley, and Bruce McKeeman.

Some exciting things are happening with our local creeks. We hope you will read on and be inspired to get involved this spring.

Granite Creek Cleanup 18 April 2020 | 9- Noon

It's [Granite Creek Cleanup](#) time again! This family friendly annual event has made a difference in the community since the 1980s. In our 14th year hosting this event, we're looking to do our part with both trash and debris cleanup as well as several creek stewardship projects. Pre-registration is now open at www.PrescottCreeks.org - We hope you will join us!



The Cleanup would not be possible without the support of the City of Prescott and our many event sponsors. We are pleased to again welcome [Mandalay Homes](#) as our premier sponsor in 2020.



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Stewardship Projects

During the time that Prescott Creeks has hosted the Granite Creek Cleanup, we've seen an overall downward trend in the amount of trash collected each year. This is a good thing! Ideally, we'd like to work ourselves out of the job - imagine a day when there is no trash to clean up from the creeks. Wouldn't that be wonderful?

In anticipation of this day, we've introduced a new element in the Granite Creek Cleanup. [Stewardship Projects](#). The projects compliment the Creek Cleanup in that they are designed to improve elements of our watershed and its creeks. This year we have offerings through a restoration project, a revegetation effort, firewise work, and invasive species control. If you'd like your volunteer service at the Cleanup to be a bit more focused this year, please consider signing up for one of these [Stewardship Projects](#).



If none of those are to your liking, there is still a need to pick up trash from the creeks. Either way, we hope you will join us!

As always, registered participants will receive a free tshirt, along with snacks and coffee to boost their Cleanup energy. [Contact Prescott Creeks](#) with questions about registration or sponsorship questions.

Downtown Creek Corridor

Many may not realize that Prescott Creeks was [originally founded](#) on a vision for Granite Creek in downtown Prescott. This vision evolved into part of Prescott's Greenways Trail System - a network of trails that provides an alternative travel route and immersive nature-experience in the heart of Prescott.

Over time, the Granite Creek corridor through downtown has been negatively impacted by many things. Considered "dirty" and "unsafe" by some community members, the [City of Prescott](#) pulled together a group of planning representatives to consider the issue.

The group determined that there is support for enhancing this highly valued urban greenspace while retaining its natural functions and aesthetics that are really the foundation of the area. Funding was secured and a conceptual master plan was developed for the Granite Creek corridor in the downtown area.

The plan highlights \$1.7 million in improvements that should change perceptions of the area from "dirty & unsafe" to it being viewed as a local gem! See selected plan elements at the [Prescott Creek website](#).



Press Conference



Please join Prescott Creeks to discuss the importance of the Miller Creek Public Restroom to surface water quality and the community. With major funding from the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality, this project represents an innovative approach to water quality improvement involving a diverse group of partners.

Thursday March 19th, 2020
1 - 2:30 pm
531 Madison Ave.
Prescott, AZ 86301

[Read the full Press Release here.](#)

Support Creeks in many ways:



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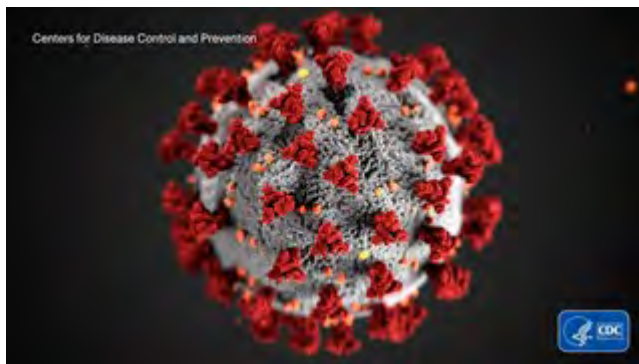
Prescott Creekside E-News

COVID-19 Mid-March 2020

www.PrescottCreeks.org

Hello Friend,

The Prescott Creekside E-News that you received on the 6th of March did not anticipate the sweeping changes that the COVID-19 crisis has brought to our world in the past two weeks. We'd like to share with you the strategy Prescott Creeks has in place for the duration of this crisis.



Overall Strategy

Prescott Creeks is following guidance from the [Center for Disease Control](#). Specifically guidance issued on [Sunday 15 March](#) has been implemented with the cancellation or rescheduling of group gatherings. The Prescott Creeks staff is working from home where practicable and all in-office or group volunteer activities have been suspended until further notice. The Prescott Creeks office will remain open by appointment only. We will continue to monitor the COVID-19 developments and guidance and adapt our procedures and strategy as appropriate.

Throughout this crisis Prescott Creeks intends to continue pursuit its mission to achieve healthy watersheds and clean waters in central Arizona for the benefit of people and wildlife through protection, restoration, education, and advocacy.

As people are largely staying at home, Prescott Creeks will be working on increasing our social media and online presence with project updates, success stories, and other mission related information.

Additionally, we will continue major efforts to renew



Press Event



The [Press Event](#) originally scheduled for 1pm on March 19th (today) **has been indefinitely cancelled**. The intent of this event was to discuss the importance of the Miller Creek Public Restroom to surface water quality and the community. With major funding from the [Arizona Department of Environmental Quality](#), this project represents an innovative approach to water quality improvement involving a diverse group of partners.

Volunteerism

As noted in the Overall Strategy to the left, all in-office or group volunteer activities have been suspended until further notice.

That being said, there are still opportunities for volunteerism with Prescott Creeks if you are interested to help during the COVID-19 crisis. Several volunteers have agreed to assist with data entry by working

the lease and establish a conservation easement for Watson Woods Riparian Preserve. Finalizing ecological restoration plans will set the stage for on-the-ground work to begin as soon as winter 2020/2021.

Granite Creek Cleanup to be Rescheduled

Due to concerns about COVID-19, Prescott Creeks is rescheduling the Granite Creek Cleanup originally set for April 18th, 2020. Pending developments with the COVID-19 crisis, Prescott Creeks will coordinate with its partners (City of Prescott, Butte Creek Restoration Council, and Over the Hill Gang) to reschedule this event and provide notification to the public. Thank you for your understanding.



Generous support from committed sponsors will carry forward to the rescheduled event. Top Sponsors include Premier sponsor [Mandalay Homes](#) along with [Unisource Energy Services](#), [MI Windows & Doors](#), and the [Yavapai-Prescott Indian Tribe](#). While the Cleanup represents an important community and civic engagement activity, Prescott Creeks believes that exercising extreme caution and following [CDC recommendations](#) is the best course of action at this uncertain time.

remotely from home. Pictures of the creeks in all their various states, artwork, or data created or gathered independently is always an important supplement to the Prescott Creeks archives. Please contact us first to discuss details.

While registration for the Cleanup is suspended until rescheduling is complete, please feel free to [sign up to volunteer](#) with Prescott Creeks and let us know how you think you might be of service.

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Follow Prescott Creeks on



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Prescott Creekside E-News

April 2020

www.PrescottCreeks.org

Hello Friend,

The recently warm days and dry conditions in the watershed, leave me with mixed emotions. I'm hesitant to put away my Wellington's because it is spring in Prescott and conditions change rapidly. Checking the rain gauge later this week may be warranted.

While gathering with friends and neighbors to compare notes on rainfall amount has been dramatically curtailed in recent weeks, Prescott Creeks has been moving ahead with project planning. And we're looking for opportunities to get outside to see the willows and their catkins.



Cleanup Rescheduled

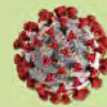
Granite Creek Cleanup
September 19th, 2020 | 9 AM - Noon
Granite Creek Park

[Granite Creek Cleanup](#) has been rescheduled for Saturday September 19th, 2020. As indicated in our [previous E-News](#), the Cleanup was rescheduled from its typical positioning in the spring due to the COVID-19 crisis. We've conferred with multiple City of Prescott departments, Butte Creek Restoration Council, and Over the Hill Gang - our project partners - and settled on the September date. Please mark you calendar and plan to join Prescott Creeks to help beautify Granite Creek and its many tributaries.



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COVID-19 Update



As with everyone else, Prescott Creeks is watching the news as the COVID-19 crisis evolves day by day. We are reacting and adjusting our practices according to the [Centers for Disease Control](#) and the [Arizona Department of Health Services](#). We are also studying the national stimulus packages for applicability to Prescott Creeks. The Prescott Creeks **office is now closed** except by appointment for essential staff and operations. Some volunteers are coordinating with staff electronically to continue work remotely or individually in the field. To keep everyone safe and healthy, please do not visit the office without first [coordinating with Prescott Creeks](#).

YouTube



Check out [Prescott Creeks on YouTube](#). We've been collecting some of our video content and posting it to our [channel](#). Plans are developing for new and current content. If you have technical ability in this area, think you can help, or find other relevant content, please let us know.

Sponsor Shout-Out

Two of our consistent annual Granite Creek Cleanup Sponsors are still open



Top Sponsors for the event include Premier sponsor [Mandalay Homes](#) along with [Unisource Energy Services](#), [Arizona Eco Development](#), [MI Windows & Doors](#), and the [Yavapai-Prescott Indian Tribe](#).

Let them know you support Prescott Creeks too!

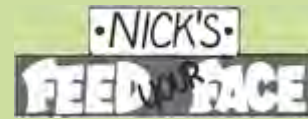
Board of Directors

Over the last handful of months Prescott Creeks has welcomed four new members to its Board of Directors. The group now stands at six members boasting a diverse set of skills and knowledge while bringing a wealth of contacts and influence to the organization. Long-time members Russell Fosha and Denise Incao received Sandy Moss onto the Board in December. Kristy Everson, Wendy Wonderley, and Bruce McKeeman officially joined the group by attending their first Board meeting by video call in March.



We're excited to introduce our new Board members to you in person sometime soon. In the interim, please get to know our them on the [Prescott Creeks website](#).

for business. Please support those who support Prescott Creeks:



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Prescott Creekside E-News

May 2020

www.PrescottCreeks.org

Hello Friend,

All of a sudden it became summer in Prescott! One day we had the heat on in the office and then the next day we were digging the air-conditioners out of winter storage. This time of year, we're always blessed with flowers blooming and the hillsides greening up - this year more so than others. In the yard at the office we've always had mariposa lilies. While I haven't seen them yet, we do have a number of beardlip penstemons (*Penstemon barbatus*) that are providing a nice show. And, just the other day, we met a garter snake down by the creek.



Virtual Granite Creek Cleanup

It's that time of year when we all want to be outside. This year has been a bit different due to COVID-19 and we've created a way for folks to get outside and lend a helping hand.

The [Virtual Granite Creek Cleanup](#) is an online campaign held throughout May (before our rescheduled Cleanup on September 19) where people can get outside and make a difference. You can help Prescott Creeks by visiting local creeks and waterways, documenting conditions, and sharing the results. Annual cleanups have yielded an average of almost 3 tons of trash and debris. Almost 6,000 volunteers collected 48.7 tons over 13 years. Can't get out in the field, but still want to be involved? [Donate to make a difference](#). [Complete the](#)



How Participate In the Virtual Granite Creek Cleanup

1. *Go Outside with Purpose & Intent*
2. *Collect Information*
3. *Collect Trash*
4. *Like, Follow, & Share on Social Media*
what you find with the following tags:
[#VirtualGraniteCreekCleanup](#)
[#PrescottCreeks](#)
5. [Submit a form found](#) on the Prescott Creeks website to document your participation

Those submitting a form or making a donation during the **Virtual Granite Creek Cleanup** will be entered to win a prize!

Full [Virtual Granite Creek Cleanup](#) details are available at the Prescott Creeks website.

#GivingTuesdayNow

[form](#) or [donate](#) on our website to be entered in a weekly drawing to win a prize.



Keeping [CDC recommendations for social and physical distancing](#) in mind (groups of 10 or less with 6 foot spacing, and masks recommended), visit local creeks and waterways during the month of May.

The [Virtual Granite Creek Cleanup](#) offers citizens and Prescott Creeks the unique opportunity to get outside during the COVID-19 crisis (that resulted in rescheduling of the Granite Creek Cleanup September 19, 2020). A major challenge for Prescott Creeks is to identify areas most in need of attention during the Cleanup event. Volunteers during the [Virtual Granite Creek Cleanup](#) can walk the creeks and document conditions with photographs, videos, narrative descriptions, and stories. Share these with Prescott Creeks through our Facebook event [Virtual Granite Creek Cleanup](#).



We chose May 5th as the kick-off day for the [Virtual Granite Creek Cleanup](#) because it coincides with [#GivingTuesdayNow](#), a global day of giving and unity created as an emergency response to the unprecedented need caused by COVID-19.

[#GivingTuesdayNow](#) is an additional day of giving and does not replace the December event planned for 2020.

Support Creeks in many ways:



[Membership](#)



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Hello Friend,

We're pleased to present to you this June edition of the Prescott Creekside E-News. Despite these troubling times, Prescott Creeks is focused on its mission to achieve healthy watersheds and clean waters in central Arizona. Connection with, stewardship of, and appreciation for our creeks are essential components of Prescott Creeks' work. May and June are interesting and busy seasons here. Rising temperatures usually result in decreased flow in the waterways and blooming flowers continue the lifecycle of native vegetation. While not a native species, we noticed the blanket flower shown below close to the Preserve entrance. You'll see them on the side of Hwy 89 north of Prescott between the Granite Creek bridge and Watson Lake.



Virtual Granite Creek Cleanup Wrap-Up

Thank you! The Virtual Granite Creek Cleanup was an online campaign in May to connect people making a difference with creeks. The Virtual Cleanup kicked off in alignment with [Giving Tuesday Now](#) on May 5. It was a leap of faith and a first for Prescott Creeks to hold a Cleanup in this manner. Since so many of our community members were already out on the trails and waterways, through the Virtual event, we urged them to help. Many responded with what they saw and what items they picked up. We even had people from other states participate! Ten participants won prizes – like Jeremy Oxley (below with Executive Director Michael Byrd) who won the Tote-Bag prize package including a mug, logo cap, and t-shirt.



STAGE II FIRE RESTRICTIONS

Effective June 3rd, 2020 at 8 a.m. until rescinded, the Central AZ Fire and Medical Authority and Prescott Fire Department Jurisdictions have implemented Stage II Fire Restrictions. Please adhere to restrictions and protect wildlife and plants in Prescott. Keep our community safe from wildfire.

Additional information available at the [Prescott Creeks website](#)

**We're NOW on
Instagram!**



Prescott Creeks began its social media presence with [Facebook](#) back in 2010. We quickly added [Twitter](#) and more recently included [Youtube](#) as a way for you to connect with Prescott Creeks. Now, we are pleased to announce Prescott Creeks is now on [Instagram](#)! If [Instagram](#) is your platform of choice join us in exploring our local creeks through photos. Your comments are welcome!



Participants said it felt great to be useful during the Pandemic, and how grounding and calming it was to engage with the waterways. As a result of the campaign awareness of Prescott Creeks has peaked, and many followers interacted on [social media](#). Check out the full list of winners at the [Prescott Creeks website](#) and view images on [social media](#) by searching using #VirtualGraniteCreekCleanup and #PrescottCreeks.

Our local creeks got the attention they deserved, despite the COVID-19 disruptions. Thank you!

Save the Date for the rescheduled event:

Granite Creek Cleanup
September 19th, 2020 | 9 AM – Noon
Granite Creek Park

Support Creeks



Membership



Volunteer



Donate

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Our Contact Information

Prescott Creeks
PO Box 3004
Prescott, AZ 86302-3004
(928) 445-5669
<http://www.PrescottCreeks.org>



Hello Friend,

As July arrives many Prescottonians are often getting a bit twitchy with the heat and lack of precipitation. This year was no exception. In addition to being cooped up at home, almost no measurable precipitation had fallen in Prescott since the end of March. Until... July 3rd when one location just south Prescott reported 1.18 inches of rain. Our rain gauge at Watson Woods Riparian Preserve only showed 0.10 inches ☺. We're hoping for additional moisture this monsoon season to wet the ground, restore some summer flows to local creeks, and reduce the fire danger that still has us under the Stage II Fire Restrictions.



Invasive Plants Fieldwork

With the onset of COVID-19 restrictions in March, much of the Prescott Creeks fieldwork came to a halt. Volunteer John Mangimeli continued working independently at Watson Woods Riparian Preserve and focused on manual removal of invasive plants. Thanks for all your efforts John! We reported in the [December 2017 Prescott Creekside E-News](#) about our work treating larger Siberian elms (*Ulmus pumila*). Treatments intended to kill the entire tree – both above and below ground – are showing results. Many of the trees that were treated (primarily by Prescott Creeks volunteer Jimmy "Beaver" Gomon) in 2017 and 2018 have died and now become "hazard trees" along Preserve trails. We're fortunate to have two crews from the [Arizona Conservation Corps](#) working in the Preserve until July 15th. While they will be treating more than half of the species on our [High Priority Noxious Weed List](#), they'll focus on removal of Siberian elms. Not only will this be important for trail-user safety, it will reduce fuel loading as related to wildfire and make way for native species.

Chainsaw work will result in intermittent and temporary closure of Preserve trails. Please observe the closure signs for safety of the Conservation Crew members and yourself.



#PurdyVerde

Much like the [Virtual Granite Creek Cleanup](#) hosted by Prescott Creeks in May, our downstream colleagues – [Friends of the Verde River](#) and the [Oak Creek Watershed Council](#) – are hosting a [Virtual Trash Pick-Up Challenge](#) for the Verde River. There are four days left in the campaign which runs from July 5th – 12th. Choose from over 10 hikeable and boatable [locations](#).

Won't you lend a hand to make the Verde River Watershed a better place for all?



Granite Creek Cleanup

September 19th, 2020



A Year of Milestones

2020 marks two important milestones for Prescott Creeks. Founded in 1990, Prescott Creeks is celebrating its 30th year of working in the community to achieve healthy watersheds and clean waters in central Arizona. In addition to a 30th anniversary, we are recognizing 25 years managing and restoring Watson Woods Riparian Preserve.



Looking back and taking stock of accomplishments is a key piece of recognizing these milestones. It has been community support from people like you and many, many partners who made it all possible. Those first two and a half decades have us looking to the future. Prescott Creeks and the City are currently in the process of renewing our 25-year lease to manage Watson Woods Riparian Preserve, exploring the feasibility of expanding the boundaries of the Preserve, and collaborating with the [City of Prescott](#), the [Central Arizona Land Trust](#), [Culp & Kelly, LLP](#), and the [US Army Corps of Engineers](#) to establish permanent protection for the Preserve through a Conservation Easement.

Watch for upcoming information about the first 30 years *and* our plans for the next 30 years of caring for creeks in central Arizona.

Prescott Creeks is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization with a mission to achieve healthy watersheds and clean waters in central Arizona for the benefit of people and wildlife through protection, restoration, education, and advocacy.

Our Contact Information

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PO Box 3004
Prescott, AZ 86302-3004
(928) 445-5669
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9 AM – Noon

Granite Creek Park

(with appropriate
adjustments
for a COVID-19
world).

Find additional information at
the [Prescott Creeks website](#).

Support Creeks



MEMBERSHIP



VOLUNTEER



DONATE

Hello Friend,

Over a month in and it seems to be a lackluster monsoon for 2020. Perversely fitting for the year... However, the beginning is not always indicative of how things end. [August and September of 2014](#) provided the third & fourth largest flows on record for Granite Creek as measured just upstream from Watson Woods Riparian Preserve. Despite cancelling this year's Granite Creek Cleanup, Prescott Creeks is hopeful. Four key volunteers are highlighted for their ongoing service and we are sharing good news about Watson Woods Riparian Preserve! We are reaching out to you, our core supporters, as well, by [asking for your help](#) to bridge the [COVID-19 funding gap](#) that is now becoming apparent.

Granite Creek Cleanup - Cancelled

At the end of July, the Prescott Creeks Board of Directors and Staff made the call to cancel the 2020 Granite Creeks Cleanup. Concerns surrounding COVID-19 were at the root of the cancellation. At the outset of the COVID-19 Crisis Prescott Creeks rescheduled the event for September with hopes that the world would be in much better shape by then. Staff worked extensively with potential participants, partners, and sponsors to adapt the event to accommodate strategies to keep everyone safe with social distancing. Ultimately uncertainty with community COVID conditions and trends over the summer led to a full cancellation of the event this year. Visit www.PrescottCreeks.org/Cleanup to view the Press Release and see a full list of Partners and Sponsors for the event. We couldn't do it without them.



Photo by: Michelle Souza

Thousands of community members have turned out for the Granite Creek Cleanup since the 1980s. In the mid-1990s, Prescott Creeks was just another participant – largely focusing efforts at the newly created Watson Woods Riparian Preserve. In 2007 organizers asked Prescott Creeks to host the event. Since that time almost 6,000 people have removed over 97,000 pounds of trash from local creeks, lakes, and trails.

Save the Date:
2021 Granite Creek Cleanup
Saturday April 17th, 2021



Unplanned Setbacks



Rescheduling the Cleanup decreased sponsorship support, yet the planning continued for the now cancelled event. Your generous contributions will make a difference in helping meet our goal of \$5,000 to overcome the financial confusion that COVID-19 has provided. Prescott Creeks is a strong and resilient organization because of your support – the key to protecting our wild places and their waterways.

DONATE

Volunteer Spotlight

We would like to recognize our lovely, dedicated, and skilled volunteer office staff, who have kept Prescott Creeks up to date and detail oriented with 1,200 hours of behind the scenes work. Our sincere thanks go out to Mary Jo Dhein, Annie Resnick, Cindy Vaughn, and Chris Brooks for their years of service, positive energy, hard work, and upbeat office attitudes. [Read more.](#)

50 Years at Watson Woods Riparian Preserve

Prescott Creeks has extended its lease for Watson Woods Riparian Preserve with the City of Prescott to the year 2045! The original lease had a 25-year term that matured on July 27th. The lease had a provision to extend for an additional 25-year term, thus continuing the collaborative effort between the City of Prescott and Prescott Creeks to protect the rare cottonwood/willow riparian forest found there.

Significant accomplishments at Watson Woods Riparian Preserve include completion of the Comprehensive Plan – the first management plan for the Preserve (1996). Coordination with the City of Prescott to construct the Prescott Lakes Parkway Bridge so that Granite Creek and its floodplain were minimally impacted (1997-2002). Creation of the Watson Woods Riparian Preserve In-Lieu Fee Program – where certain Clean Water Act permittees can buy credits to compensate for the loss of wetlands or streams in the Verde and Salt River Watersheds. Payments made to the Program result in enhancements to Granite Creek (2002-Present). Ecological restoration of Granite Creek and its floodplain (2009-2013). We're looking ahead to the next 25 years with additional restoration, more water quality improvement, better wildlife habitat, and increased opportunities for education and inspiration. [Read more about Watson Woods Riparian Preserve.](#)



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Prescott Creekside E-News

September 2020

www.PrescottCreeks.org

Hello Friend,

These last few days in Prescott have brought some sense of relief. Although the 2020 monsoon never really materialized, the 30 degree drop in temperatures was a welcomed change. Despite the lack of flow in the creeks Prescott Creeks has continued to keep focused on its mission to achieve healthy watershed and clean waters largely through preservation and education efforts. You can read below about a few of the items in our view and those supporting Prescott Creeks. Please note the opportunities to [lend your support to Prescott Creeks](#). It is through donations from people like you, that improvement to our local waterways are possible.

2020 Monsoon

[Excerpted from Aaron Burrows](#)

As of September 1st, the 2020 Monsoon season continued to be a disappointment across Yavapai County and much of the State of Arizona. Even as dry as what July 2020 was, August of this year has turned out to be even drier for many of the fifty-five monitored weather sites across Yavapai County.



There are two official National Weather Service rain gauges within the City of Prescott. Having only recorded a total of 2.08 inches of rain this July/August, the Sundog Ranch Road rain gauge saw the driest two-month period of July/August since 1978 and the third driest over the past 75 years. Only July/August in the years of 1944 and 1978 were drier. The 2.08 inches of rain received at this site through August 31st is only about 36% of the 30-year average of 5.80 inches for the two-month period of July/August. [The Prescott Creeks office – approximately ¼ mile west of the Sundog Ranch Road rain gauge recorded 0.77" during the period between June 1 and August 31, 2020.]

[Read the full assessment of the 2020 Monsoon by Aaron Burrows](#) at the Prescott Creeks website.

Hands-On Watershed Learning

In 2008, Prescott Creeks had an idea for a hands-on watershed learning tool. What we envisioned is commonly known as a stream



Help Creeks Thrive



Many of the conservation activities, community events, and on-the-ground work that connects you to Prescott Creeks have been subdued or cancelled due to COVID-19. 2020 has been a challenging year to secure support for healthy watersheds and clean waters. [With your donation](#), we can reach our \$5,000 goal to help make up some of the difference resulting from the pandemic! Thank you if you have already donated.

DONATE

Your support through the end of September will count toward the effort and [contribute to protecting and restoring](#) our creeks, rivers, wetlands, and lakes.

Sponsor Spotlight



We appreciate those who in great faith sponsored the twice [cancelled Granite Creek Cleanup](#) (due to COVID-19) and in greater support of our

table. Imagine a tilted shallow rectangular box, half filled with sand, with a hose in it to make a "river." Ours ended up being 8 feet wide by 12 feet long mounted on a trailer! We call it Rambling River.



Rambling River offers a unique teaching tool to demonstrate principles and practices that affect water quality and watershed and stream health. It helps Prescott Creeks realize its goals and objectives in outreach and education – important strategies to achieve healthy watersheds and clean waters in central Arizona. Rambling River is a tool accessible to ages 8 through 98 (based on size) and everyone reacts the same – no matter age or understanding everyone is willing to listen for about two minutes before getting hands-on constructing a dam or widening the river to see what happens!



The Arizona Department of Environmental Quality supported the vision we had for teaching people about watersheds with a grant. The grant funding covered creation/construction of Rambling River and we've operated it only several times per year to high acclaim. We've done so without formal curricula, though. It could do so much more.

A local collaborator has expressed interest in using Rambling River to teach kids, and about developing formal educational models for it. This will allow those interacting with the stream table to learn in the context of State educational standards. And this would make Rambling River more accessible to our local educators! There may be opportunities for your involvement. If you are interested in participating with Rambling River (developing curricula, presenting, helping with upkeep and maintenance, or some other way), please [reach out to Prescott Creeks](#) and we'll make sure to keep you in the loop as plans develop.

mission, subsequently turned those funds into donations. These contributions are essential to caring for our local watershed. Thank you for standing by Prescott Creeks!

2020 Cleanup Premier Sponsor: Mandalay Homes, Champion Sponsor: MI Windows & Doors, Arizona Eco Development, Major Sponsor: Salt River Project, Stewardship Sponsors: Greater Prescott Outdoors Fund, Posey Nash, Highlands Center for Natural History, Interior Logic, Supporting Sponsors: Lamb Chevrolet, Fann Contracting, Fann Environmental, Alta Vista Garden Club, Jay's Bird Barn, Bike Prescott, Country Bank-Mohave State Bank, and Cleanup Friends: Great Expectations Business Services, Prescott Audubon Society, Two Mamas' Gourmet Pizzeria, and Prescott True Value Hardware. Learn more about Fraternal Order of Eagles Aerie #3600 in the [September Sponsor Spotlight on the Prescott Creeks website](#).

Support Creeks



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Hello Friend,

Yesterday, I was fortunate to get two walks in on Granite Creek. The first at Watson Woods Riparian Preserve and the second at Granite Creek Park. While both locations showed signs of stress from the dry summer, my companions and I saw signs of hope and success. An example might be the many young cottonwoods and willows growing up into what will become habitat for American Kestrels and other native wildlife. Your appreciation of these places supports them and makes the projects described below possible. We're always excited to learn about your experiences on the creeks. Please [contact us](#) if you'd like to share. I hope you enjoy the success stories in this addition of the Creekside E-News.

Release of American Kestrels

For the last few years, [Prescott Audubon Society](#) (PAS), [AZ Game & Fish Department](#), Prescott Creeks have collaborated on a nest box program in [Watson Woods Riparian Preserve](#) for [American Kestrels](#) – a species in decline through the US. This year, an unrelated male/female kestrel pair were placed in a nest box near an unused nest box in the Preserve. The birds had been found out of their nests before they could fly proficiently and were cared for at a wildlife rehabilitation center in Phoenix. It was hoped that allowing the birds time to become familiar with a new environment, while protected in a wire-mesh enclosure, might result in their use of the nest box next spring.



The pair were fed daily by PAS volunteers before a full release on the tenth day. Upon opening the box, the female was the first to leave the box, followed several minutes later by the male. Both birds remained in the general area of release for about an hour. No sightings have been reported since the kestrels were released. Each bird has a large black band on its left leg in addition to a small aluminum band on its right leg. If seen, please alert Prescott Creeks by phone or email. [Read the full story...](#)

**84 Acres on Verde River
added to Prescott National Forest**



Thank You !

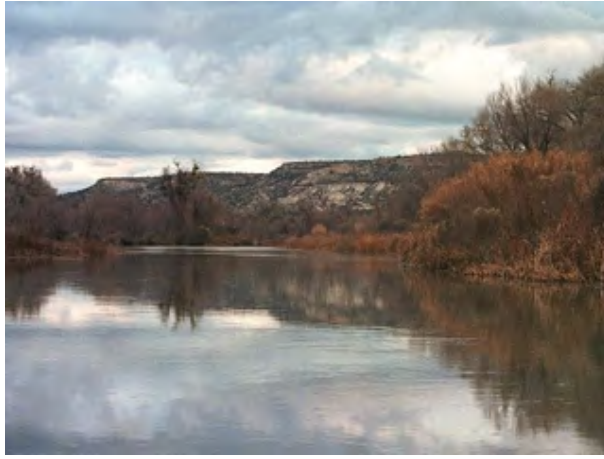
Thank you to all who donated during the recent online campaign. Local riparian ecosystems provide many benefits that may not be easily visible: water purification, nutrient recycling, flood protection, even recreation. Your help is the key to protecting our wild places, their waterways, and Prescott Creeks' ongoing conservation activities. Connecting you to rare riparian forests & the wildlife dependent upon them is how Prescott Creeks serves you. Your support equips us with the much-needed background research, social networks, know-how, and action plan to fully serve our mission.

Supporter Spotlight



[Interior Logic](#) joined Prescott Creeks as a first time Stewardship Sponsor of the 2020 [Granite Creek Cleanup](#) and converted their support to a donation when the event was cancelled due to COVID-19! Thank you. When asked why Interior Logic supports Prescott Creeks, they said: "As part of the Nation's leading interior finish company, the Prescott ILG Region prides itself on being composed of integrity, accountability, and authenticity in our daily operations. These values that we carry extend beyond our product and services, and we are proud to

Today's edition of [The Daily Courier](#) announced: [The Trust for Public Land](#) and the [U.S. Forest Service](#) announced the permanent protection of 84 acres on the upper Verde River by adding the land to the [Prescott National Forest](#), according to a release Monday morning. The property, known as the Rio Verde Ranch, lies along the Verde River, one of the last free flowing rivers in Arizona and which provides drinking water to the Phoenix area's four million residents.



The ranch contains a 2/3 mile stretch of the river near the headwaters and includes riparian forest of Fremont cottonwood and Goodding's willow, one of the most threatened forest types in the country. Most of the upper reach of the river – a 40-mile stretch that has been determined as eligible for [Wild and Scenic River](#) status – is already owned by the public as part of the Prescott National Forest. However, there are very few places for public access to the river since most of the river is rugged with deep cliffs. Read the full story at [The Daily Courier](#) or [here for additional images](#).

spend time contributing to this cause as Prescott citizens. The cleanliness and upkeep of the Prescott area is part of our livelihood and is incredibly important to us." Contact [Interior Logic](#) and let them know you also support Prescott Creeks!

Support Creeks



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Hello Friend,

If you hadn't noticed, the cottonwoods and willows are putting on quite the show along Granite Creek in Prescott. Get out to see it quickly – as the forecast calls for a change this weekend that might force leaves to the ground. We hope you enjoy this issue of the Prescott Creekside E-News with stories about positive changes your support made possible.



Water Quality & Human Dignity

Adapted from The Daily Courier

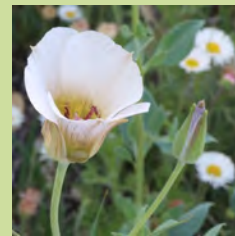
Located not far from the banks of Miller Creek in the middle of Prescott, a new grant-funded restroom has provided not just an environmental benefit, but a human-dignity aspect as well. That point was emphasized recently during a meeting between representatives of the parties involved in the 2019 installation of the restroom at the Coalition for Compassion and Justice (CCJ) shelter on Miller Valley Road. It has now been more than a year since Prescott Creeks partnered with CCJ, the City of Prescott, and the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality to install a new precast concrete public bathroom on CCJ land, just steps from Miller Creek and the Greenways Trail that runs along it.



With Prescott's creeks and lakes largely exceeding acceptable and safe levels for E. coli pollution, a primary goal of the restroom project was to improve the water quality Miller Creek. And early results indicate that that is occurring. Every day, the restrooms are used an average of 35 times. CCJ's Jessi Hans noted that along with the water-quality benefits, the restroom had improved the human aspect in the area as well. Among the goals of CCJ, she said, "Making sure people had a dignified place to use the bathroom." Since the opening of the restroom in the spring of 2019, the facility has been used nearly 14,000 times. As the restroom planning was underway, Matt Killeen, City of Prescott Environmental Coordinator, said it helped to highlight the need for more improvements along Prescott's waterways. Since then, he said, "There has been a big focus on the downtown corridor (of Granite and Miller creeks)." [Read the full story...](#)



Donors Support Community Need and Mission



Every donation, no matter how large or small, demonstrates your commitment to the Prescott Creeks mission. Amazing donors give money, they give time, expertise, and/or supportive energy - you are all so appreciated! Numerous donors have been with Prescott Creeks since the very beginning and new contributors continue to join. All the work we do is possible because of generous donors who believe in making the world a better place with Prescott Creeks. Thank you!

[DONATE](#)

Sponsor Spotlight



As wise caretakers of the land, Stewardship Sponsor the [Highlands Center for Natural History](#), Supporting Sponsors [Alta Vista Garden Club](#), [Jay's Bird Barn](#), [Bike Prescott](#), and [The Hike Shack](#), are all committed giving back to the

Important Bird Surveys – 2008 to 2020

In 2005, the [Watson-Willow Lakes Ecosystem Important Bird Area \(IBA\)](#) was designated as the first Important Bird Area in Yavapai County by a group of Arizona scientists for National Audubon Society. As a part of the ecosystem, Watson Woods Riparian Preserve was included in the IBA. In consultation with Prescott Creeks, [Prescott Audubon Society](#), volunteers have conducted surveys of the birds present in the Preserve from November 2008 – August 2020. Surveys originated as monitoring for the ecological restoration project funded by the [AZ Water Protection Fund](#) and the [AZ Department of Environmental Quality](#).



Initial findings from the restoration project (2008-2013) were compiled in the [final grant report](#), and survey results since 2011 are available in [eBird](#). Notable observations from the surveys include the mostly tropical Common Black Hawk. First observed in the Preserve in 2010, Common Black Hawks have returned every year since. Another highlight is the significant reduction in European Starlings in the Preserve. This species is a non-native and aggressive. Spring surveys have shown an increase in Lucy's Warblers – an [Arizona Game and Fish Department](#) "species of concern." The year, surveyors observed, for the first time, three Great Horned Owl nests within the Preserve! [Read the full story...](#)

community. Showing their alliance with our mission, they converted their support to a donation after the Granite Creek Cleanup was cancelled (COVID-19). Thank you! [Please visit](#) and learn the unique offerings of these longtime supporters of the Granite Creek Cleanup and see how they contribute to our community.

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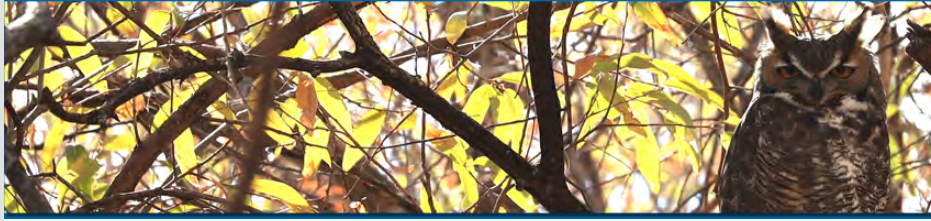




Prescott Creekside E-News

December 2020

www.PrescottCreeks.org



Hello Friend,

What a year 2020 has been! Thank you for your ongoing support in this difficult time. It ensures long term protection of our creeks and healthy waters for all.

DONATE

Have you ever walked the trails in Watson Woods Riparian Preserve? Experienced the stillness of this special forest right next to Highway 89, the majesty of the large cottonwood trees, the variety of birds, creatures, and plants? These things are rare treasures, unique to the Prescott area.

Your contributions work to restore and preserve the creeks, waterways, and surrounding natural places that add so much to our quality of life. During this season of giving, [please consider making a year-end contribution](#) to help in the work ahead.

COVID-19 created setbacks for Prescott Creeks. Our interactions with you were greatly reduced with the difficult decisions to cancel our community events such as the press conference celebrating completion of the Miller Creek Public Restroom and the annual Silent Auction associated with the Tilted Earth Festival. And, for the first time in nearly 3 decades, Prescott had to do without the Granite Creek Cleanup. Prescott Creeks did what many of you have done – it concentrated less on the outward, in-person interactions and events, and looked inward to better serve you in pursuit of a mission to achieve healthy waters and clean waters in central Arizona.

But look what was accomplished with your help...

In the last year, your contributions have enabled Prescott Creeks to:

- Secure [protection for Watson Woods Riparian Preserve](#) through the year 2045
- Advance partnership with the US Army Corps of Engineers through the In-Lieu Fee Mitigation Program
- Working with volunteers and the Arizona Conservation Corps to manage non-native plants
- Partnership with the AZ Game & Fish Department and Prescott Audubon Society to protect [American Kestrels](#)
- Transfer management of the [Miller Creek Public Restroom](#) to partner Coalition for Compassion & Justice
- Host a first-ever Virtual Granite Creek Cleanup
- Bolster personnel with new Board members and staff
- Build business support through Chamber membership
- Convert to a new database to communicate with you more effectively
- Create a [new website](#) to be more user-friendly
- Expand social media presence to broaden community reach



TAKE ACTION



DONATE

Despite a challenging 2020, the needs are still here with much work ahead. Your support will translate into restoration

of the Preserve, long term protection efforts, water quality activities, and education programs. You are invited to stop by the Preserve, to renew and develop your own relationship with its wild, diverse beauty, so close to the heart of Prescott. Seek the rejuvenating and healing power of nature and the mutually beneficial relationship between humans and the natural world. Then join Prescott Creeks in preserving it!

Thank you for including Prescott Creeks in your giving this year. Your support says that you are thankful for local creeks and the quality of life they provide.

Your [tax-deductible donation](#) will ensure that healthy waterways and accessible wild places will be a part of the landscape of our community for generations to come. [Donate securely](#) on the Prescott Creeks website.

Sincerely,



Michael Byrd
Executive Director



VOLUNTEER



MEMBERSHIP



Board of Directors



Staff

Greater Prescott Podcast

Matt Rotty of the Greater Prescott Podcast chatted with us in Watson Woods Riparian Preserve. Committed to sharing stories of Greater Prescott, Matt explored Michael Byrd's journey from the Midwest to his work with Prescott Creeks. [Learn more & listen...](#)



New Prescott Creeks Website

Thanks to Garrett and Brad at [Goliath Creations](#) you'll find a new Prescott Creeks website with a more modern feel and simpler layout. New sign-up and donation forms, and the one stop Prescott Creeks E-News archive. [Check it out here...](#)



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