



Prescott Creekside E-News

January 2021

www.PrescottCreeks.org



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Hello Friend,

We hope that 2021 is treating you well so far! The unpredictability and 'adventure' of last year seems to be carrying forward and adding uncertainty for everyone in different ways. While learning to adapt and be flexible, Prescott Creeks is staying the course with its mission to achieve healthy watersheds and clean waters. Thanks for being a key part of such important work!

Granite Creek Cleanup

Save the Date:
Saturday April 17th, 2021

Granite Creek Cleanup is a "GO" for 2021! In contrast to last year when the Cleanup was rescheduled and then cancelled due to the ongoing pandemic, Prescott Creeks is committed to bring a COVID-Safe Cleanup to the community. This annual event not only cleans up and beautifies the community, but it provides an opportunity for people to come together for a common cause and make a difference.

In an effort to make the Cleanup 'COVID-Safe', the event will require Pre-Registration and check-in and materials distribution with feature contactless curbside service in Granite Creek Park, along with facemasks, physical distancing and limited group sizes.



Detailed information will be posted to the [Prescott Creeks website](http://www.PrescottCreeks.org) soon. Pre-Registration should open in February.

Wild & Scenic Film Festival

Enjoy an evening of entertainment and connect with others as we screen films that feature the people, places, wildlife, and initiatives making a splash in modern conservation today. Watch and learn about the threats and challenges, as well as the triumphs and joys, of habitat restoration, river conservation, environmental protection, and more.



When: January 30, 2021. Virtual lobby opens at 5:30pm MST, films begin at 6:00pm MST.

Where: Online!

Info: General Admission [Tickets are \\$20](#). All proceeds benefit Friends of the Verde River.

Thank you!

Prescott Creeks would like to express sincere thanks to everyone who donated to the fall fundraising campaign. Community support protects nature, controls pollution, and conserves wildlife right here where we all live, work, and play. Thank you!



Wildlife Imagery

You may have noticed the fantastic wildlife imagery featured recently on Prescott Creeks social media. Much of it has come courtesy of Everett Sanborn – a community volunteer who is quite handy with his camera. [Check out more of his images here.](#)



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Hello Friend,

The landscape was parched and now it is saturated! It never ceases to amaze me how quickly conditions can change. Note the buds on the willows starting to swell and change color - a promise of spring. In this issue of the Prescott Creekside E-News we share information for the 2021 Cleanup (Pre-Registration REQUIRED this year), exciting improvements and planning associated with Granite Creek downtown, thanks to our supporters, and a story about our journey from our old website to the new one.

Granite Creek Cleanup - COVID-adapted

Granite Creek Cleanup is happening in 2021!

April 17th, 2021

Granite Creek Park | 8 AM - Noon

Pre-Registration Required

In contrast to last year when the Cleanup was rescheduled and then cancelled due to the ongoing pandemic, Prescott Creeks is committed to bring a COVID-Safe Cleanup to the community. This annual event not only cleans up and beautifies the community, but it provides an opportunity for people to come together (physically distanced, of course) for a common cause and to make a difference.



COVID-Safe Adaptations

- [Pre-Registration Required](#)
- Dispersed Outdoor Locations
- Physical Distancing
- Limited Group Size
(20 people maximum)
- Drive Up Contactless Sign-In
(Sorry - No day-of walk ins)
- Masks Provided for Participants



[Pre-Register Now](#)

Our decision to move forward with the Cleanup did not come lightly. After much discussion and consultation with our partners, we believe the Cleanup can be conducted safely in the context of COVID. Please [contact Prescott Creeks](#) with questions, or [Pre-Register now](#) to join.

Downtown Greenway Corridor

In a press release earlier this week, City of Prescott Mayor Greg Mengarelli, referred to the [Granite Creek Corridor as "One of the jewels of Prescott..."](#) The area holds a long history and early planning for it in the 1980s was the impetus for incorporation of Prescott Creeks Preservation Association in 1990. In March last year, we shared with you the good news that the City of Prescott had recently approved a Master Plan for Granite Creek in the downtown area. Less than a year later the City is poised to move forward with on-the-ground work. Issues identified include: Water quality impairment, Exposed utility crossings, Stream channel incising, Invasive Trees, Mature trees in the creek channel. The initial phase of the project is expected to begin this summer and continue for about one year.



Council Members Goode & Rusing walk Granite Creek contemplating improvements

Concurrent with the direct creek improvements, a Steering Committee of interested stakeholders (including Prescott Creeks) will consider economic development opportunities associated with the creek. The first meeting of the group was yesterday when we gathered and went on a walking tour of the project area which reaches from Aubrey Street to Sheldon St. and from Montezuma St. to McCormick St. [Read the full story....](#)

Sponsor Spotlight

We try to recognize those who have made a difference with event sponsorship here.

User Experience Helps Watersheds

A fragile Prescott Creeks website was unacceptable because we're dedicated to

Please see some of the key sponsors not yet recognized who committed to the Granite Creek Cleanup in 2020 before it was canceled. Please let them know you support Prescott Creeks too! [See Sponsors here...](#)

delivering up to date content, events, and other information that people need, at the time they need it. Sound familiar? That is what a good website always does. But what could we do? [Find out here...](#)



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Hello Friend,

The sun is shining through my window a bit earlier each morning, calling me out to begin the day. Longer days allow us all to enjoy the outdoors a bit more and the spring equinox is a little more than a week away! Granite Creek Cleanup marks Spring for Prescott Creeks. Below you'll find information about the Cleanup and the Sponsors who make it possible for the community to gather annually and do their part in making the creeks a little bit better. Please read on for important information about the Cleanup. Click through the links to learn more.

Granite Creek Cleanup

Pre-Registration is a "Must"

In an effort to continue the springtime ritual of celebrating local waterways and natural places, the Granite Creek Cleanup received a number of modifications to address life during the pandemic. Primary among those modifications is the [requirement](#) for ALL participants to [PRE-REGISTER for the 2021 Cleanup](#). Once pre-registered, Prescott Creeks will send registrants confirmation email. If you don't receive the email (after checking your SPAM/Junk folder) something went wrong - please try again or [contact](#) Prescott Creeks. During the week before the **April 17th** event, registrants will be emailed information about the DRIVE-UP CONTACTLESS sign-in process and other event details. Pre-Registration will close at noon on **Monday, March 29th** to allow Prescott Creeks to order event T-shirts and prepare materials for volunteer participants.

[Pre-Register Now](#)

With recent headlines indicating an easing of COVID related restrictions, Prescott Creeks will continue with the drive-up contactless sign-in, dispersed outdoor cleanup locations, limited group size (20 people), and masks provided for all participants. This will allow everyone to do their part safely!



Dates to Know:

Granite Creek Cleanup: Saturday April 17th, 2021 | 8 AM - Noon

Pre-Registration Closes: Monday March 29th | Noon

Sponsorship Deadline: Monday March 22nd | 5PM

[Contact Prescott Creeks by email](#) or phone (928-445-5669) for help with Pre-Registration.

2021 Cleanup Sponsors

Sponsors make this event possible! They represent a rich cross-section of businesses in Prescott ranging from sandwich shops to public utilities, from home builders to other non-for-profit organizations, from civic groups to schools. Even individuals have sponsored the Cleanup! We couldn't do it without them! Please let them know that you support Prescott Creeks, too!

Premier Cleanup Sponsor



We'd like to welcome Premier Sponsor [Findlay Subaru Prescott!](#) Here's what they said when we asked why they support the Granite Creek Cleanup:

"Findlay Subaru Prescott is a family owned business. We believe in the community and in giving back. Subaru is an Eco-friendly company with a zero waste manufacturing plant. Our Subaru dealership has earned the Green Dealership award for our Energy Efficiency, Water Conservation, Recycling, Waste Management, Community Involvement."

Champion Sponsors



Major Sponsors



Sponsorships are still available. [Get more information here](#), or by calling Prescott Creeks at (928) 445-5669.

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Hello Friend,

When the tulips appear in the office yard we know spring has fully sprung! That rich red against the dry grass and blue skies is hard to miss. We're excited to provide an update about changes with Granite Cleanup this year and note that multiple records are being broken before the event has even taken place! The community anticipation from all involved is palpable. We're not quite ready yet, but we will be.

Granite Creek Cleanup - Update

As suggested above, the response to the Granite Creek Cleanup in 2021 has been very strong. Both [Sponsorship](#) and [Pre-Registration](#) broke all previous one-year records! Thank you to each of our sponsors, operational partners, and all of our pre-registrants.

Pre-Registration:

Pre-registration closed on March 31st with 461 people in 91 groups. The 13-year average overall participation for the Granite Creek Cleanup is currently 460 people! Wow!!

Given the interest this year, a 2nd Round of [Pre-Registration](#) has been opened to allow additional people interested in participating, to register for the event. Note that 2nd Round pre-registrants will receive a t-shirt from a previous year – while supplies last. 2nd Round Pre-Registration will **close at noon on Tuesday April 13th**.

[Registration Re-Opened](#)



What to Expect on April 17th:

The Cleanup will be a different experience for participants this year. In addition to the required pre-registration, sign-in at Granite Creek Park will feature a Drive-Up Contactless process designed to expedite giving participants their materials in a COVID-safe manner and then getting them off to their cleanup location sooner.

As in years past, Pre-Registrants will receive an email from Prescott Creeks during the week prior to the event. This year, this email will contain important information about where your group has been assigned and include links to additional critical information such as: maps to cleanup locations and trash drop-off locations.

Please note that this year the event is not designed to accommodate Walk-On participants on the day of the event. If community members do decide to participate at the last minute, they will be supplied with trash bags and guideline information only. T-shirts are only available to Pre-Registrants (while supplies last).

We're super excited for the Cleanup next week and look forward to seeing all of our registered participants there! Let's see if we can break previous trash cleanup one-year records too. [Learn more here...](#)

City of Prescott - Spring Bulk Item Collection

The City of Prescott is currently conducting its Spring Bulk Item Cleanup Event during the month of April 2021. The effort is to assist residential utility customers with disposal of bulky items that do not fit into a regular trash or recycle cart. Bulky items include but are not limited to large household items such as mattresses, furniture, BBQ grills, bikes, yard waste and appliances.

City crews will pass through each neighborhood one time only. Each Cleanup Week route will begin on Monday and be completed by Friday of that week, as noted in the schedule on the City website.



Place all items on the curb by 6:00 a.m. on the Monday of your Spring Bulk Item Clean Up Week.

Any and all items left at or near the curb could be thrown away as part of the event collection. Please move any items away from the curb that you don't wish to be picked up to avoid any confusion or unwanted disposal. [Read more...](#)

Earth Week – Family Birding

Prescott Creeks is honored that the Granite Creek Cleanup is positioned to kick off the activities in Prescott & Flagstaff.

Join the fun in this inaugural Family Birding Earth Week! Witness and learn about the beauty of your local birds, spend quality time with loved ones, and be entered in a raffle for a chance to win awesome prizes! It's easy, fun, free, accessible; all you need to do is go outside and pay attention to our neighbors, the birds! You can do this in your own backyard, a city park, the woods, the lakes... anywhere. You can just take a one



The event is led by Educational Expeditions and a collaboration among over 7 non-for-

hour walk one day of the week, or you can go out every day!

profits and businesses and schools in the area. [Find out more here...](#)

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Hello Friend,

Comparing creek images from June this year and last year shows a stark difference! While water was still in Granite Creek at this time last year, it is now just below the surface supporting the riparian forest and all its residents. Please read on to learn more about the importance of riparian systems to local wildlife and how Prescott Creeks is working to improve habitat conditions with volunteers and partners. Your support makes it all possible. Thank you!

For the Birds

Did you know that Watson Woods Riparian Preserve is a key component of the larger Watson and Willow Lake Important Bird Area (IBA). Riparian (streamside) areas like those at Watson Woods Riparian Preserve are unique environments. They occupy about 1/2 of 1% of Arizona's total land area, yet approximately 75% of the state wildlife species are dependent upon these habitats for all or part of their lives. [Birds are a major component](#) of this wildlife and one of the main reasons the Preserve was established.



Photo by EF Sanborn

For the past 26 years, many [bird-related activities](#) have been undertaken within the Preserve. Along with restoration, extensive monitoring has taken place with the Prescott Audubon Society. 91 surveys have been conducted by volunteers from both groups with thousands of birds counted and 156 species represented. Among these, Common Black Hawks and American Kestrels are two species that have received extra attention due to their status.

[Read more...](#)

Is It a Weed?

As a part of the Prescott Creeks mission to achieve healthy watersheds and clean waters, we invest substantial effort into managing non-native, invasive plant species. Some people call them weeds. But what is a “weed?” Are those yellow flowers that pop up in your garden a weed? Are the pink, prickly things along the trail a weed? What about the cattails that fill the ditch down the road? It all depends... We define a weed as “a plant that interferes with management objectives for a given area of land at a given point in time.”



Prescott Creeks has developed a [High-Priority Noxious Weed List](#) that helps guide work in Watson Woods Riparian Preserve and the Upper Granite Creek Watershed. The list includes nine species that interfere with management objectives in one way or another. From year-to-year, focus shifts based on which plants are thriving, recent precipitation, and the effectiveness of previous treatments. Most invasive treatments are performed by [Prescott Creeks Volunteers](#) or partner organizations.

[Read more...](#)

Partners

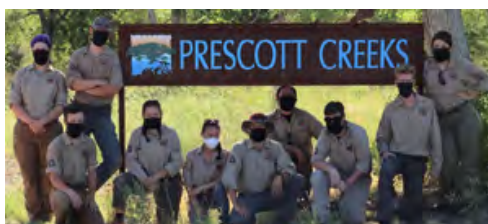
During the summer of 2020 and spring of 2021, the [Arizona Conservation Corps and GEM Environmental's GEM Corps](#) partnered with Prescott Creeks to accomplish critical conservation projects while providing young adults an opportunity to learn about land management issues and challenges. We get important work done while they train their conservation personnel in relevant leadership and field skills!

[Read more...](#)

Fire Restrictions

With the lack of precipitation and dry conditions this spring, fire concern is real and growing. On May 14th Stage I Fire Restrictions went into effect. [Stage II Fire Restrictions](#) have been announced to begin on June 11th, 2021. We're especially attentive to Fire Restrictions as Watson Woods Preserve has experienced multiple wildfires – the first of which was in 1997. We hope to avoid them in the future!

[Read more...](#)



Granite Creek Cleanup Results

It was a pleasure to work with the **484 community volunteers** who turned up at Granite Creek Park on April 17th to achieve a common goal – making Prescott and its many waterways a bit nicer for all to enjoy. The result is **1.22 tons of trash** and **12 tires** were **removed from** a total of **38 different locations** around the community. Those locations were along creeks, in parks, at lakes, and on trails throughout the greater Prescott area.

Save the Date for the Cleanup next year: **April 23rd, 2022.**

[Read the more & see pictures...](#)



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2021 Year End (30 December)

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Hello Friend,

At the end of each year, we take stock of what you've helped Prescott Creeks accomplish, who key players were that made it happen, and look forward to what next year's priorities are. Generous community support has protected creeks, controlled pollution, and conserved wildlife in the Prescott area and the Granite Creek Watershed since 1990.

We also ask for your support to keep it all going. If you have already responded with a gift, **Thank you!** If you have not, [please consider making a donation now to Prescott Creeks.](#)

You make the difference!

2021 was another distinctive year for Prescott Creeks. While "COVID-consciousness" was pervasive throughout, on-the-ground work continued at Watson Woods Riparian Preserve. Community volunteers made it all possible.

Highlights of successes your support made possible include: A return of the Granite Creek Cleanup, Bird conservation progress; New partnerships; and a return to volunteerism!



"We love the cleanup. My dad and I used to do it when I was in middle school. I've done it with my kids for years now and last year with the kids and my parents. It's a whole family event."

- Hilary H.

Watson Woods Riparian Preserve Video Showcase

In cooperation with the City of Prescott and the Prescott Chamber of Commerce, Prescott Creeks is [pleased to present a video](#) showcasing Watson Woods Riparian Preserve.

Join Michael Byrd, Prescott Creeks Executive Director, and others in this approximately 7 minute video to learn about Watson Woods Riparian Preserve - a rare and threatened cottonwood/willow forest being protected and restored! Prescott Creeks and the Preserve are supported by the community. [You can help ensure this area is protected for all time.](#)



Volunteer Opportunities

Volunteerism increased by over 230% in 2021 with a diversity of activities involving data management, planning, bird monitoring, invasive species treatments, trash cleanup, trail maintenance, and more. In 2022 there will be more [opportunities for you to lend a hand](#) in the conservation work with Prescott Creeks. Opportunities exist in the field (with physical work where you're guaranteed to get dirty!) and in the office (in a more behind-the-scenes capacity). There's something to suit most interests and abilities. The main pre-requisite is a desire to help. Below, check out the following ways you can take action



Ongoing Volunteer Opportunities:

Just show up and lend a hand

- **Monthly Conservation Projects**
1st* Saturday of each month. 10 AM – Noon
(*Next Opportunity: January 8th, 2022 due to the New Year Holiday)
- **Weekly Conservation Projects**
Thursdays 10 AM – Noon
(Times may vary depending on season or weather - Call to confirm)

Other Volunteer Opportunities:

Structured Volunteer Positions

- **Administrative Assistant** - Help in the office with data entry, file management, and special projects

- **Social Media Assistant** - Community outreach and engagement raising awareness via social media
- **Website/Database Tech** - Assist with nerdy technical stuff that is outside our areas of expertise
- **Handy-Helper** - Help with small repair jobs, maintenance tasks, and other construction-like projects in the office and in the field

Visit the [Prescott Creeks website](#) for additional information or to [apply](#).

Bird Conservation



Common Black Hawks nested in Watson Woods Riparian Preserve with one fledgling after a several year absence (presumably due to drought). American Kestrels also are being seen in the Preserve. And, we observed our first special status (Threatened) species since completion of the ecological restoration work conducted between 2008 and 2013. [Read more...](#)

Granite Creek Cleanup



Granite Creek Cleanup is scheduled for 2022! We're hoping to trend back toward "normal" with the inclusion of special projects (like tree planting, stream restoration, trail building) in addition to trash pickup, while retaining some of the last year's positive adaptations resulting from COVID.

Save the Date: [Saturday April 23rd, 2022](#)

Community Support Protects Creeks

With your donations we plan to secure at least \$25,000 to support these and other projects. Please click through to [securely make your year-end tax-deductible contribution](#) in support of Prescott Creeks. *Thank you for all your support!*

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