



Prescott Creekside E-News

January 2024

www.PrescottCreeks.org

[View this email as a PDF at www.PrescottCreeks.org](http://www.PrescottCreeks.org)



Snow and ice from the 1/6-7/2024 snow storm at the wildlife pond in Watson Woods Riparian Preserve.
Image by Everett Sanborn.

Dear Friend,

Happy New Year! Thank you to everyone who sent supporting contributions at the end of December. You are the community in "Creeks Connect Community!" Winter finally showed up and has provided a bit of needed moisture (0.35" so far). Granite Creek is flowing and snow is flying and covering the ground as I write this morning. We're happy to have it after the exceptionally dry fall. Fingers crossed that it keeps coming for us at a reasonable pace.

Please read on for information about volunteer opportunities, the **FOREVER PRESERVED** campaign, and exciting conservation news.

Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service

Watson Woods Riparian Preserve | January 15th, 2024 | 9 AM to Noon

[Space is still available. Register here.](#)

Friends of the Verde River and the Prescott Creeks have partnered to coordinate a volunteer day at Watson Woods Riparian Preserve for [Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service](#). Once a sand and gravel pit, the 160 acres of unique cottonwood/willow gallery forest that make up Watson Woods along Granite Creek are being protected and restored by community members and visitors.

We invite you to join the restoration effort on January 15th.



MORE INFO

FOREVER PRESERVED - Watson Woods Riparian Preserve

Your active support makes a difference!

Prescott Creeks is seeking approval from the Prescott City Council to [FOREVER PRESERVE](#) the Watson Woods Riparian Preserve by placing it into a permanent conservation easement; and we need your help! The once 1,000 acres of habitat at Watson Woods have been lost or severely degraded due to decades of livestock grazing, illegal dumping, firewood cutting and sand/gravel extraction.

The current management lease between Prescott Creeks and the City provides short-term protection but, without a conservation easement, the Preserve is not protected in perpetuity (forever) and Prescott Creeks may lose access to millions of dollars in government funding critical to rehabilitating, managing, and protecting the Preserve; a habitat that supports healthy watersheds, outdoor education and recreation, volunteer opportunities and the return of native plants and animals.

A critical component to receiving approval from the Prescott City Council is the support of people like you! To learn more, visit the [FOREVER PRESERVED](#) page on the Prescott Creeks website.

"FOREVER PRESERVED" Informational Meeting

Date: February 17, 2024 | 2:00 to 3:00 PM

Location: Prescott Public Library | The Founders Suite A & B

Bald Eagles at Watson Lake

In December and early in the new year, Bald Eagles have been observed at Watson Lake. Eric Moore, of The Lookout, wrote in his January 4th [Daily Courier column](#):

"Last month, one of our customers captured some still shots of an eagle carrying a stick as it circled above a large cottonwood tree where its presumed mate was perched. When the eagle landed, it presented the stick to its mate. Whether this pair will actually build a nest in Watson Woods is not known, but it would certainly be historic as there are no known nesting records for Bald Eagles at this location."

Prescott Creeks is excited about the possibility of nesting eagles within the Watson Woods Riparian Preserve (see above). As Moore notes, this area would be a new location for Bald Eagle nesting. Selection of this location for a nest could be interpreted as a success story of recent conservation and restoration efforts carried out by the City of Prescott and Prescott Creeks. Prescott Creeks will continue to monitor the situation and provide updates as relevant. [Read more...](#)



Photo credit: Jeff Logan

2024 Granite Creek Cleanup

Save the Date: April 20th | 8 AM to Noon

Visit the [Granite Creek Cleanup](#) webpage to learn more about the event.

Volunteer Opportunities

Prescott Creeks relies on community volunteers to achieve its mission of healthy watersheds and clean waters in central Arizona. Do your part by sharing your talents with the watershed

by working with Prescott Creeks. Opportunities exist for one-time help or ongoing volunteering.

[Check out the current Volunteer Opportunities](#)

Ways to help range from working in the office to working in the field. Prior experience is not needed. We'll provide on the job training. All that is required is your interest and time.

[Fill out a Volunteer Application to join the team](#)



Photo credit: Prescott Creeks

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

Prescott Creeks
PO Box 3004
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(928) 445-5669
www.PrescottCreeks.org

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Prescott Creekside E-News

March 2024

www.PrescottCreeks.org



March catkins along Granite Creek. Image by Prescott Creeks.

Hello Friend,

Winter doesn't seem to be roaring at us any longer (*if it did at all this year*) and spring is peeking at us here and there if you look closely. The catkins shown above seem to be a bit early, but they are a clear indicator that spring is almost here. Look closely and you'll find the red currants in the Preserve full of green leaves and the arroyo willows with broken buds. Birds are beginning to nest, and it is nearing time for the Granite Creek Cleanup! Prescott Creeks welcomes Findlay Subaru Prescott and Pacifico Preserves back as the top sponsors for the event. Read on for details about the required Cleanup Pre-Registration and about how you can help FOREVER PRESERVE Watson Woods Riparian Preserve.

Granite Creek Cleanup

Saturday April 20, 2023
Granite Creek Park | 8 AM – Noon

8 AM to Noon

- Make a Difference
- Help Clean Up Your Community
- It's **Free!** (*in exchange for a few hours of your service to the community*)
- Cleanup T-shirt for all Participants – *Pre-Registration Required*

This annual event not only cleans up and beautifies the community, it also provides an opportunity for people to come together for a common cause and make a difference.

Required Pre-Registration is OPEN



2023 family participating in the Granite Creek Cleanup. Image by V. Wertz.

MORE INFO

Ways to be Involved in the Cleanup

Pre-Registration is required again this year. With an average of almost 500 participants each, required pre-registration helps Prescott Creeks get you to the creeks with what you need to make a difference as efficiently as possible.

Required Pre-Registration is OPEN

Many people are needed to *Help Behind the Scenes* before, during, and after the Cleanup. It's a great way to be involved for those who aren't so keen to tromp around outside getting physical.

Help Behind the Scenes

2024 Premier Cleanup Sponsor



2024 Elite Cleanup Sponsor



[Additional Sponsorships needed and opportunities are available. Learn more here.](#)

FOREVER PRESERVED - Watson Woods Riparian Preserve

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A critical component to receiving approval from the Prescott City Council is the support of people like you! To learn more, visit the [FOREVER PRESERVED](#) page on the Prescott Creeks website.



Send a Message to City Officials

Send a pre-populated message to City Officials letting them know you want them to permanently protect Watson Woods Riparian Preserve by placing it into a conservation easement.

[Send a Message](#)

Watson Woods Riparian Preserve Tours

Tuesday | March 19th | 10 AM – Noon | [RSVP Here](#)

Saturday | March 23rd | 10 AM – Noon | [RSVP Here](#)

Free FOREVER PRESERVED Presentations

Community Nature Study Series

March 20, 2024 | 12:30 to 2 PM
Highlands Center for Natural History
(1375 S Walker Rd, Prescott, AZ 86303)

[More Info](#)

OSHER Lifelong Learning Institute

Tuesday May 21, 2024 | 10 – 11 AM
In Person: Yavapai College, Prescott Campus, or ZOOM
Building 4 Room 102 - 1100 E. Sheldon, Prescott, AZ 86301

Open to OLLI members AND the public
[More Info](#)

Pickup the FOREVER PRESERVED rack card for other ways to **ACT!** and ensure that Watson Woods Riparian Preserve is preserved - FOREVER!

- Signup for Updates
- Send a Message to City Council and Officials
- Attend City Council study sessions and voting meetings
- Attend an information session hosted by Prescott Creeks
- Participate in a Preserve tour
- Volunteer
- Donate

Learn more at:

www.PrescottCreeks.org/FOREVER-PRESERVED



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.

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Granite Creek Cleanup

April 20, 2024

www.PrescottCreeks.org

Dear Friend,

It's spring and that means it is **Granite Creek Cleanup** time again! Please check out the information below and visit the Granite Creek Cleanup page of the [Prescott Creeks Website](http://www.PrescottCreeks.org) to submit your pre-registration for the 2024 Granite Creek Cleanup.

Granite Creek Cleanup

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8 AM to Noon

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Required Pre-Registration is OPEN



Tires. Always tires as part of the Granite Creek Cleanup. Image by David Cottle.

MORE INFO

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Required Pre-Registration is OPEN

Many people are needed to *Help Behind the Scenes* before, during, and after the Cleanup. It's a great way to be involved for those who aren't so keen to tromp around outside getting physical.

Help Behind the Scenes

Thank the Sponsors!

Granite Creek Cleanup would not be possible without event Sponsors. They represent a rich cross-section of businesses, NGOs, and individuals in the community.

2024 Premier Sponsor

More Than A Car Dealership.



Subaru Loves the Earth®

When asked why Findlay Subaru Prescott supports the Granite Creek Cleanup they said:
"Findlay Subaru Prescott believes in giving back to the community to make the world a better place. Our contribution to Granite Creek Cleanup will make a direct and meaningful difference while helping our wildlife habitats."

2024 Elite Cleanup Sponsor



[Additional Sponsorships needed and opportunities are available. Learn more here.](#)

Key Operational Partners:

City of Prescott



Yavapai County - GIS



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Act!

Send a Message to City Officials

Send a message to City Officials letting them know you want them to permanently protect Watson Woods Riparian Preserve by placing it into a conservation easement.

[Send a Message](#)

City Council has the ultimate YES/NO authority on whether or not a Conservation Easement will happen. Please attend the May 28th City of Prescott Council Study Session meeting to demonstrate public support for a conservation easement

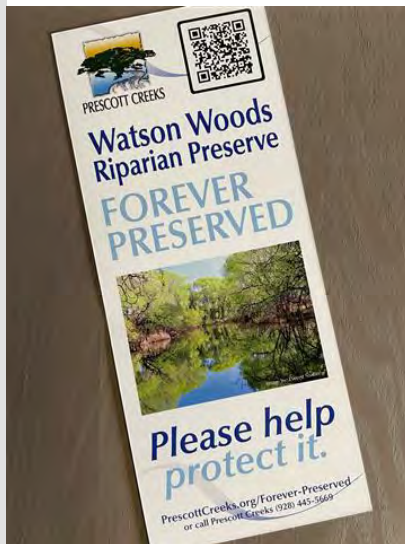
Tuesday | May 28th | 1 PM

City of Prescott – City Hall
Council Chambers, 3rd Floor
[201 N Montezuma St, Prescott, AZ 86301](#)

Free FOREVER PRESERVED Presentation

OSHER Lifelong Learning Institute
Tuesday May 21, 2024 | 10 – 11 AM
In Person: Yavapai College, Prescott Campus, or ZOOM
Building 4 Room 102 - 1100 E. Sheldon, Prescott, AZ 86301

Open to OLLI members AND the public
[More Info](#)



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- Signup for Updates
- Send a Message to City Council and Officials
- Attend City Council study sessions and voting meetings
- Attend an information session hosted by Prescott Creeks
- Participate in a Preserve tour
- Volunteer - *Help Distribute Information*
- Donate

Learn more at:
www.PrescottCreeks.org/FOREVER-PRESERVED

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You Made A Difference

2024 Granite Creek Cleanup



www.PrescottCreeks.org

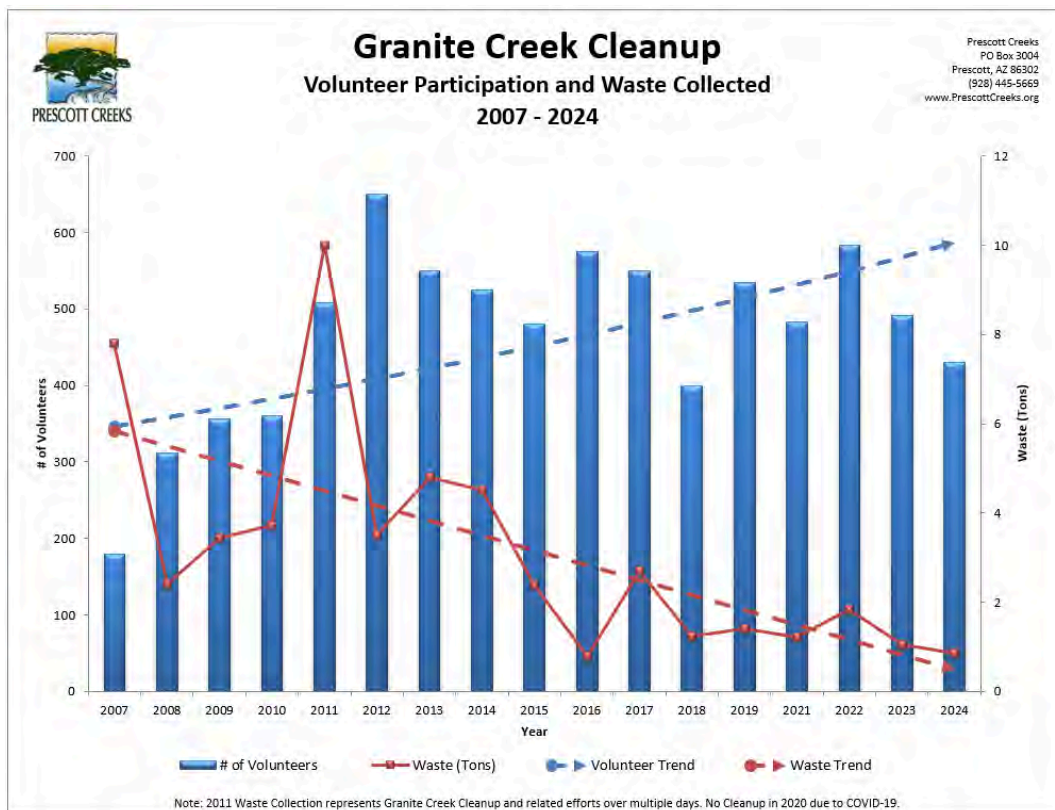
April 25th, 2024

Friend,

Over the weekend, you made a difference in the community at the Granite Creek Cleanup! Thank you.

In the afternoon on Monday, we received the tonnage for the trash that you and 430 of your friends and neighbors collected at the [Granite Creek Cleanup](#) on Saturday. The City of Prescott Solid Waste Division reported **0.85 Tons** of trash and debris was collected! That's a decrease of 19% from last year's collection total. Trash collected has now decrease two years in a row which suggests that there is less trash out there to collect!

This is no surprise for the Granite Creek Cleanup event as the 17-year trend is a decrease in trash collected - regardless of participation which is trending upward (see the chart below).



While the total trash collected does vary from year to year depending on a variety of factors, we believe that your participation makes a difference! Also, our lowest collection year was in 2016 where 0.77 Tons of trash was collected. That year, like this year, the Cleanup was preceded by winter storms, so maybe a significant amount of trash was washed downstream into the lakes and/or was inaccessible to Granite Creek Cleanup volunteers in debris piled up by large creek flows. Regardless of the reason, less trash is a good thing. Ideally, the Granite Creek Cleanup will become unnecessary!

THANK YOU!! You helped remove 1,700 pounds of trash from the community!

[Visit the Granite Creek Cleanup webpage to read more.](#)

How Did it Go? *Your Input is Important.*

Below is a link where you can provide feedback on your experience at the Cleanup. Your completion of this survey will provide Prescott Creeks with important information to help make the event better in the future. It should take 3-5 minutes of your time (depending upon how much narrative feedback you choose to include). And there's an option to be registered to win a free Prescott Creeks logo cap!

Share Your Feedback

Please forward this email to your group members.

We do not have their contact info and their feedback is important too.

-Thank you!

Save the date for next year:

**2025 Granite Creek Cleanup
Saturday April 19, 2025**

Thanks to the 2024 Granite Creek Cleanup Sponsors!

The Cleanup would not be possible without the [support of local sponsors](#) and volunteers like you. Please let them know how much you love the event and their support.

Premier Sponsor

More Than A Car Dealership.



SUBARU



Subaru Loves the Earth[®]

Elite Sponsor



Champion Sponsor



Major Sponsors



Natural Channel Design
Engineering Inc.
ncdengineeringinc.com



Foothills Bank
Division of Glacier Bank
FIB



Kimley»Horn
Expect More. Experience Better.



Stewardship Sponsors



[Click the logos above to view **ALL** the 2024 Cleanup Sponsors](#)

Operational Partners:



Solid Waste Division
Recreations Services
Public Works Department



Thank for Sharing Your Pictures!

Please keep posting and sending us your Cleanup pictures - we love to see and share them.

Check out a few of the images below that we've received and found on social media!



Photo: Findlay Subaru Prescott



Photo: E Leslie



Photo: E Sanborn



Photo: K Laquaglia



Photo: Prescott Creeks



Photo: Stan Bindell/The Daily Courier



Heartfelt thanks go out to volunteer Crystal Frost for the this year's t-shirt design!

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Ways to Get Involved & Stay in the Loop

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Prescott Creekside E-News

May 2024



www.PrescottCreeks.org



Male Wood Duck perching in Watson Woods Riparian Preserve. Image by E. Sanborn.

Greetings,

Welcome to the May Prescott Creekside E-News. It's been a busy spring so far with the Granite Creek Cleanup, work toward the perpetual protection for Watson Woods Riparian Preserve, and coordination with partners. All this is mixed in with the ongoing work of community volunteers improving riparian wildlife habitat through on-the-ground activities. Read on for a few highlights - starting with a **Call to Action** for next Tuesday afternoon.

Watson Woods Riparian Preserve - FOREVER PRESERVED



City of Prescott Council Meeting
Conservation Easement - Study Session

Tuesday, May 28, 2024, 1:00 PM

City of Prescott City Hall
201 S. Cortez St., Prescott
Council Chambers, 3rd Floor

Join Prescott Creeks at the City of Prescott Council Study Session at 1 PM on Tuesday the 28th of May (Next Tuesday!) to **show your support** for protecting Watson Woods Riparian Preserve for all time by placing it into a conservation easement. While no action from Council is anticipated, this meeting is an important milestone to final approval and additional on-the-ground restoration work in the Preserve.

For more information, [click here](#).

National River Cleanup Day

Did you know that May 18, 2024 was National River Cleanup Day? Prescott Creeks teamed up at the Whipple St. Bio-Basin with the volunteers from Jasper Prescott Valley to add to cleanup efforts from April's Granite Creek Cleanup (see below). Volunteers of all ages from Prescott Creeks and Jasper worked to collect 100 pounds of trash, inventory fence-repair needs at the site, remove 25 non-native Siberian elm trees, and remove excess brush from around a bench and interpretive sign there.



Jasper volunteers collecting trash at the Whipple Bio-Basin. Image by P. Taska.

The Whipple Bio-Basin is a "green-infrastructure" site constructed in 2014 by Prescott Creeks in coordination with the City of Prescott and with major grant funding from the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality Water Quality Improvement Grant Program.

Green-Infrastructure is a broad term for built-landscape features which rely upon natural elements such as soil, water, and plants to provide ecosystem services such as clean air, clean water, and temperature regulation. They are typically constructed in urban environments. The Whipple Bio-Basin was built specifically to address surface water concerns in the Prescott community. The Bio-Basin lies at the headwaters to the North Fork of Granite Creek, which is a tributary of Granite Creek. And Granite Creek is a headwater stream to the Verde River.

You can visit the Basin which is located on the SE corner of the intersection locally known as 4-Points (where Whipple St., Miller Valley Rd., Willow Creek Rd., and W. Iron Springs Rd. all meet). It is just to the north of the Taco Bell restaurant. Interpretive signs around the Bio-Basin provide information about the urban landscape, its impact on water quality, and the important role wetlands play in cleaning up surface water.

What better way to celebrate National River Cleanup Day? The Basin was a last minute addition to the Granite Creek Cleanup which did not get cleaned up during the event last month. We thank the folks at Jasper for offering to help!

Granite Creek Cleanup

Thanks go to the 430 volunteers who picked up trash and worked Behind-the-Scenes to make it all happen at the Granite Creek Cleanup on April 20th! 1,700 pounds of trash and debris were collected. The trend continues with decreased amounts of trash being found and increased interest in participation.

For more information from the 2024 Granite Creek Cleanup, click [here](#).

The 2025 Granite Creek Cleanup is already being planned...

SAVE the Date:
April 19th, 2025



Granite Creek Cleanup group. Image by J. Hardesty.

Thanks to the 2024 Granite Creek Cleanup Sponsors!

2024 Premier Cleanup Sponsor



2024 Elite Cleanup Sponsor



Arizona Public Service

In recognition of Arbor Day, Arizona Public Service (APS) employees gathered along Granite Creek in downtown Prescott to plant native species along the Greenway Trail. 10 volunteers from the local APS office participated in the planting of 12 shrubs.



Arizona Public Service Arbor Day Crew. Image courtesy of APS.

Species planted included:

Common Name (Scientific Name)

- Three-leaf sumac (*Rhus trilobata*)
- Golden currant (*Ribes aureum*)
- New Mexico Privet (*Forestiera pubescens*)
- Wild rose (*Rosa woodsii*)

Plantings were installed under powerlines using principles of "[Right Tree Right Place](#)" in an area left unplanted during the City of Prescott Granite Creek Revitalization Project last year.

In addition to inspiration and labor from APS, the City of Prescott, Vicente Landscaping, and Prescott Creeks all provided various levels of technical support to make the project a success.

Volunteer Opportunities

Anything Prescott Creeks has ever accomplished is thanks to the many community volunteers who have chosen to invest their time with Prescott Creeks. People like you make a difference!

For more information,
[check out the 2024 Volunteer Opportunities here.](#)

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Prescott Creekside E-News

October 2024



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Autumn in Watson Woods Riparian Preserve. Photo: B. Patrick, Prescott Creeks.

Greetings,

Autumn greetings to you from Prescott Creeks. With record highs so far dominating the month, it's a bit difficult to believe it is actually October. *'They' say it should cool off soon...* What seemed a lackluster monsoon was actually represented 96% (measured here at the Prescott Creeks office adjacent to the Watson Woods Riparian Preserve) of the official [NOAA weather station](#) precipitation measured at the Sundog Treatment Plant. Compared to last year's 57% of normal, 2024 seems reasonable. I think we got spoiled with 2021 and 2022 having monsoon moisture at nearly double the normal precipitation.

This issue of the Prescott Creekside E-News highlights a current threat to a local riparian park, features activities with partners, and introduces a new member of the Prescott Creeks Board of Directors. Please read on and learn more about what's happening with the creeks.

West Granite Creek Park Threatened - To Pave or Not to Pave?

West Granite Creek Park is under threat by a City plan to install a paved parking lot between the railroad trestle bridge and Miller Creek!



Common Sunflower (*Helianthus annuus*) at West Granite Creek Park. Photo: Prescott Creeks.

West Granite Creek Park is actually the upstream portion of Granite Creek Park - one of Prescott's oldest and most beloved parks. Few realize that it only became "West" Granite Creek Park in the late 1980s when Montezuma Street was put through to the north.

There is a plan for the City of Prescott to pave the southern end of the park for a parking lot for adjacent uses not consistent with the park or existing community-developed plans.

Prescott Creeks recently submitted a letter to the Mayor and City Council Members highlighting the history and value of the park, and encouraging the City to scrap the plan to pave the park for a parking lot. Prescott Creeks also advocates for the reallocation of funding to a new restoration effort consistent with existing plans for the park.

Your voice is also important! Elected officials need to hear from people like you who care about watersheds and their creeks.

[More information here...](#)

Update - FOREVER PRESERVED



Great Horned Owl. Photo: EF Sanborn.

During the winter and spring, Prescott Creeks launched the Watson Woods Riparian Preserve - **FOREVER PRESERVED** initiative to broaden public awareness and support for long-term protection in the form of a conservation easement for the Preserve. FOREVER PRESERVED public presentations, Preserve tours, and meetings with the Mayor and Council members preceded a formal presentation to the Council on May 28th. Positive and valuable feedback signaled that we should continue to assemble the Conservation Easement package for a later presentation to Council, and then, ideally, their approval. Throughout the summer, Prescott Creeks has been working diligently with City staff to assemble a plethora of legal documents, plans, and other documentation to complete the packet. We hope to be back in front of Council early in 2025. Signup for updates and we'll be sure to let you in-the-know.

[More information here...](#)

FOREVER PRESERVED Tour

Watson Woods Riparian Preserve – South Loop Trail

[Rosser St. Entrance: 1795 N. State Route 89, Prescott, AZ 86301](#)

Sat | October 19 | 8:00 – 10:00 AM | WWRP South Loop Trail

[More information & RSVP here...](#)



Arizona Master Naturalist

2025 Arizona Master Naturalist Program dates announced!

Virtually attend a free info session by Zoom and learn more.



Arizona Thistle (*Cirsium arizonicum*). Photo: P. Taska, AZ Master Naturalist.

Master Naturalists are certified volunteers who are passionate about nature and are eager to share their knowledge with others.

If you are interested in the ecology and natural history of the area, would like to learn more, and would like to invest your time in working with others of a similar mind, you can develop your skills and leadership through participation in the 2025 Arizona Master Naturalist Course.

Master Naturalists currently volunteer with Prescott Creeks on the Board of Directors, in the office, and work on restoration projects in the Preserve.

[More information here...](#)

Welcome Tom Lynott

Meet Tom Lynott! After volunteering with Prescott Creeks for several years, Tom joined the Board of Directors in January 2024. His son, Max, is currently working on a Scout Eagle Project that will benefit the Watson Woods Riparian Preserve when it is completed.



Tom Lynott collecting data. Photo: T. Stephens.

Tom received his Bachelor's degree in Environmental Science with an emphasis in GIS from the Oregon Institute of Technology in 2003 and a Masters of Environmental Management from Portland State University in 2006.

[Learn more about Tom here...](#)

Volunteer Opportunities

The many community volunteers who have chosen to invest their time with Prescott Creeks are directly responsible for any accomplishment Prescott Creeks can claim. Join the team!

For more information,
[check out the 2024 Volunteer Opportunities here.](#)

Granite Creek Cleanup

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[More information here...](#)

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December 2024



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Image: Manifesting winter.... Photo by: Prescott Creeks

Greetings,

Happy New Year!

This issue of the Prescott Creekside E-News represents some final thoughts for the year behind, and a forward look as we head into 2025. Below you'll find an appeal for your support and multiple opportunities to do your part by getting involved. Whether it is making a contribution, learning more, getting in the dirt or water, or helping behind the scenes in the office, you can make a difference for creeks and their watersheds by working together with Prescott Creeks.

Because of You, Prescott Creeks Can

Thank you! Your support helps protect threatened creeks, restore riparian habitat critical to native wildlife, control pollution, and improve water quality in central Arizona. None of this is possible without the on-going support of engaged members of our community – like you! Your support is essential to the success of all Prescott Creeks' efforts and your financial contributions are needed to advance important work in 2025 – like the Prescott City Council's final approval of the conservation easement for the Preserve. The management lease between Prescott Creeks and the City provides short-term protection for the Preserve, but without a conservation easement, it is not protected in perpetuity (forever).



After visiting Watson Woods Riparian Preserve in the spring of 2024, a local 1st grade class wrote letters, like the one above, in support of the FOREVER PRESERVED initiative!

Prescott Creeks receives no financial support from the City of Prescott for management of Watson Woods Riparian Preserve or Granite Creeks Cleanup.

Your **tax-deductible contribution** is essential to protecting the many benefits that local creeks and their riparian habitat provide to our community. Your generous gift **toward the Prescott Creeks goal of \$24,000** will help ensure our local watersheds are healthy and our waters are clean! We're nearly there! Please make a difference by donating today.

Thank you!

[Read the full 2024 Appeal Letter...](#)

Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service - January 2025

For a second year in a row, Friends of the Verde River and Prescott Creeks are working together to control invasive species in the Granite Creek and Verde River Watersheds by hosting a service project at Watson Woods Riparian Preserve. The group below treated 55 acres (nearly half!) of the Preserve in January of 2024.



2024 MLK Day of Service Group. Photo by: Jim Hardesty

Monday January 20th, 2025
9 AM - Noon
Watson Woods Riparian Preserve

Volunteers will assist with invasive species removal throughout the Preserve. Special focus will be on removal of tamarisk regrowth from previous treatments in 2016 and 2024.

[Learn more and register here...](#)

AZ Master Naturalist - 2025 Class

Master Naturalists are certified volunteers who are passionate about nature and are eager to share their knowledge with others.

If you are interested in ecology and natural history of the Arizona Central Highlands, would like to learn more, and would like to invest your time in working with others of a similar mind, you can develop your skills and leadership through participation in the 2025 Arizona Central Highlands Master Naturalist Program.



AZ Master Naturalist Activities in the field. Photo by: Prescott Creeks

2025 AZ Master Naturalist classes are set to begin on Tuesday January 7th, 2025. Space is still available for interested parties.

[Additional Information can be found here...](#)

Volunteer Spotlight - Annie Resnick

It is with appreciation and sadness that we announce Annie Resnick's 'retirement' as a regular Prescott Creeks volunteer. If you ever stopped by the Prescott Creeks office on a Friday morning, you likely were greeted by Annie as you came in the door. Annie volunteered with Prescott Creeks nearly every Friday for the last 7 years and logged almost 1,000 hours of service. Her primary duties were administrative with a strong focus on data management in our member/donor/volunteer database.



Annie Resnick

We thank Annie for all of her service working in sometimes adverse conditions - Her first day volunteering was shortly after the 2017 office fire when Prescott Creeks was operating on folding tables and a single laptop computer in an unheated warehouse! Annie's contributions to process and procedure will be lasting and her attention to detail will be missed.

[See Annie's Volunteer biography here...](#)

If administrative work is what you love to do, please see the Volunteer Opportunities article below and consider submitting a volunteer application.

Watershed Protection - Your Public Comment Matters

Public input is a critical part of protecting watersheds. While the Prescott Creeks mission is to achieve healthy watersheds and clean waters in central Arizona, we could not do it without community input and support. We regularly ask for input on projects led by Prescott Creeks (Forever Preserved, the APS powerline proposed in the Preserve), but other projects benefit from public comment (the West Granite Creek Park - Parking Lot) and the two below. These comments help shape policy and projects ultimately protecting watersheds!



Yavapai County is coordinating the **Granite Creek Upper Verde River Watershed Plan** and Prescott National Forest and the Bureau of Land Management are coordinating the potential mineral withdraw of 3,700 acres of National Forest lands in the **Hassayampa River Watershed**. Both projects held public meetings in December 2024 and are soliciting public comments. Now is the time to make your voice heard.

[Learn more about the projects and how to comment here...](#)

Volunteer Opportunities

In addition to the need for administrative help (as noted under the Volunteer Spotlight above), check out the 2025 Volunteer Opportunities with Prescott Creeks.

Volunteers investing their time with Prescott Creeks are directly responsible for any accomplishment Prescott Creeks can claim. Join the team!

[Volunteer Opportunity information can be found here.](#)

Granite Creek Cleanup

Save the Date:
Saturday, April 19th, 2025

Required Pre-Registration available beginning in February
[Contact Prescott Creeks here to inquire about Cleanup sponsorship.](#)

[More information here...](#)

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

Prescott Creeks
PO Box 3004
Prescott, AZ 86302-3004
(928) 445-5669
www.PrescottCreeks.org

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