

Prescott Creekside E-News

December 2025



www.PrescottCreeks.org

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Greetings,

As 2025 reaches its end, all of us at Prescott Creeks want to share a heartfelt ***Thank You.***

This year has been filled with inspiring moments — the kind that remind us how deeply the community cares for the creeks, lakes, wildlife, and open spaces that make Prescott such a special place to call home.

Because of people like you, 2025 was a year of connection, restoration, and real on-the-ground progress.

2025 Highlights Worth Celebrating

- **Granite Creek Cleanup**

More than 500 volunteers showed up this April — families, students, service clubs, long-time residents, and new neighbors working side-by-side. Together, they removed 1.69 tons of trash from our creeks, trails, parks, and lakes. It was a great turnout, and the energy was incredible.

Since the first Cleanup event under Prescott Creeks leadership in 2007, community members like you have kept over 55 tons of trash out of local waterways. What an amazing example of what you can do together!

- **Wildlife Thriving at Watson Woods Riparian Preserve**

In coordination with Prescott Audubon Society bird surveys — completed with help from dedicated volunteers — returned as a key annual monitoring activity. Wood ducks, Common Black Hawks, Belted Kingfishers, Warblers, Owls, and even nesting Bald Eagles with one fledgling made appearances. Each sighting is a reminder of how important the Preserve is for wildlife, and how far it has come thanks to long-term restoration supported by our community.

- **Growing Our Circle of Volunteers and Nature Stewards**

Through partnerships like the Arizona Master Naturalist Program, more people than ever are lending their expertise and enthusiasm. Volunteers assisted with restoration projects, wildlife monitoring, trail work, and community education. Some have even stepped into leadership roles, strengthening the organization for years to come.

- **Meaningful Progress Through the In-Lieu Fee Mitigation Program**

One of the quiet but powerful successes of this year was continued progress in the In-Lieu Fee (ILF) Mitigation Program — a federally approved program that allows Clean Water Act permittees to fund carefully planned and monitored

habitat restoration at Watson Woods Riparian Preserve as an alternative to on-site mitigation.

What this means for our community is simple:

More restored wetlands, improved stream function, healthier habitat, and better long-term care for our watershed.

In 2025, the FOREVER PRESERVED initiative made strides toward enhancing riparian areas, stabilizing degraded streambanks, and supporting native vegetation — FOREVER at Watson Woods Riparian Preserve.

• **Advancing the Preserve Conservation Easement and Joint Mgmt Plan**

Another cornerstone of this year's progress was work on the Deed of Conservation Easement and Joint Management Plan, developed in partnership with the City of Prescott. These shared documents will guide how Watson Woods Riparian Preserve is cared for — from habitat restoration and public access to wildlife protection and educational use.

Coordination of restoration priorities, refining monitoring efforts, and engaging the community in stewardship are all key components of the Joint Management Plan. This collaboration ensures the Preserve remains both a thriving natural refuge and a valued community resource.

Looking Ahead Together

As Prescott continues to grow, area creeks and riparian habitats face new pressures. But there is also tremendous opportunity — to engage more youth, to strengthen and expand large-scale restoration, and to help even more people experience the beauty and importance of our local waterways.

In 2026, we're excited to:

- Continue Watson Woods Riparian Preserve restoration, supported by ILF mitigation, grants, and community support
- Expand educational programs and volunteer training opportunities
- Strengthen watershed-wide habitat restoration and water-quality work
- Host the next Granite Creek Cleanup on April 18, 2026 (save the date!)

How You Can Make a Difference

Your support keeps this work going. Truly — it's your generosity that sustains restoration, education, and habitat protection. **If Prescott Creeks has added meaning to your year, or if you want to help preserve our creeks for future generations, we invite you to make a gift today.** Any amount helps, and every contribution strengthens the community effort that makes all of this possible.

Thank you for caring so deeply about our watershed — and for being part of this wonderful community of creek stewards.

Your tax-deductible contribution donation can be submitted securely online by clicking the red **DONATE** button below.

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With warm appreciation,



Michael Byrd
Executive Director

p.s. If you've already donated, Thank you!



Banding the 2025 Watson Lake Bald Eagle nestling with Arizona Game & Fish Department

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Upcoming Dates

Save the Dates:

Prescott City Council - Study Session

Tuesday | January 27, 2026 | 1 PM

(Changed from 10/14/2025)

Council Chambers | Prescott City Hall
201 N Montezuma St, Prescott, AZ 86301

Prescott City Council - Voting Meeting

Tuesday | February 24, 2026 | 3 PM

Council Chambers | Prescott City Hall
201 N Montezuma St, Prescott, AZ 86301

Granite Creek Cleanup

Saturday | April 18, 2026 | 8 AM

Granite Creek Park

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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