

Prescott Creekside E-News

June 2026



www.PrescottCreeks.org

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Greetings,

Welcome to the June issue of the Prescott Creekside E-News. Below you will find information celebrating successes for local riparian areas, noting ways that you can be involved, and highlighting critical information regarding fire restrictions. Thank you for your ongoing support for healthy watersheds and clean waters in central Arizona. We couldn't do it without you!

Bald Eagles – A Success Story for Prescott, AZ

For the past three years Bald eagles have been active at Watson Lake in Prescott, AZ. Two eaglets have now fledged from the nest there. The City of Prescott Recreation Services personnel were proactive in the placement of signage to educate the public about the eagle nesting and prohibiting off trail activities which has likely contributed to the successes.

Interestingly, the nest tree that the eagles selected was fully visible from the Peavine Trail and human activity from the Trail did not appear to disturb the birds. Prior to leaf-out the nest and eagles were easily spotted and visible to the naked eye. Once leaves were fully developed on the nest tree the eagles enjoyed significantly more privacy from curious observers.



Fledged 2026 Watson Lake eaglet. Photo E. Sanborn.

Arizona Game and Fish Department (AZGFD) manages bald eagle populations in the state by implementing conservation strategies – in part by coordinating with conservation partners like Prescott Creeks. We have been fortunate to participate with AZGFD and others in banding the 2025 and 2026 eaglets at Watson Lake! Banding is an important research technique where scientists temporarily capture the eaglet, fit it with uniquely numbered aluminum or colored leg bands, and record data other relevant data – including various measurements, weight, and sex of the bird.



2026 Watson Lake eaglet weighs in at 3.15 kilograms. Photo: M. Icenogle.

The conceptual and conservation value of bald eagles is powerful!

These birds represent an important success story for the community. They can be viewed as an economic engine for the community with direct financial benefits from outdoor recreation fees, guided eco-tours, retail sales of gear and specialized equipment, and food and lodging.

[Learn More](#)

2026 Spring Migration IBA Surveys Complete

By: Leslie Loomis, Prescott Creeks Volunteer & IBA Survey Coordinator

A very big thank you to all the volunteers who helped to gather data and make these days fun! The data we gathered helps Prescott Creeks in making management decisions for the Preserve. It also helps in the bigger picture because this data goes to eBird, so it is available for scientists and researchers all over the world to do studies and make management decisions on a larger scale.

On two Sundays in May, three teams surveyed along Granite Creek upstream from Watson Lake. Forty-four bird species were identified on 5/3 and forty-two were counted on 5/17. Species seen included nesting Anna's Hummingbirds, a tiny Bridled Titmouse eating a relatively huge caterpillar, and a Common Black Hawk. Lazuli Buntings were seen only on 5/3, and Blue Grosbeaks were seen only on 5/17.



Violet-green swallow. Photo: L. Loomis.

To see photos and more information on these results, see the trip reports on eBird for each day. See the total species on one page or click on the "3 checklists" box to see photos and details for each team. You do not need an eBird account to see these lists.

Links to the May 3 and 17 trip reports can be found on the [Prescott Creeks website](#).



Northern Yellow Warbler. Photo: Sue Noonan

The fall migration survey dates have been set for **August 30th** and **September 13th**, both Sundays, at 6:30 am. Save the dates and look for sign-up information coming out around July 1 in the Prescott Audubon newsletter or in emails from Prescott Creeks.

Keep an eye on future [Prescott Audubon Society](#) newsletters and the [Prescott Creekside E-Newsletter](#) for updates. If you're interested in helping, please sign up quickly!

[Learn More](#)

Re-Restoration of West Granite Creek Park – 2026 Update

In 2024 we reported that West Granite Creek Park was under threat by a City plan to install a paved parking lot between the railroad trestle bridge and Miller Creek. Since then much has happened to protect the park!

In March and April of 2026 alone, community **volunteers invested almost 400 hours** working together with City staff to improve soils, plant initial vegetation, build trails and fences, monitor and maintain the project, as well as engaging and educating the community about the project – AGAIN

"AGAIN" in that current efforts are actually a "re-restoration" of the area. The Park area was restored in an effort supported by the City of Prescott and paid for by Arizona Public Service Company (APS) over 25 years ago!



5/2/2026 Celebration at West Granite Creek Park. Photo: P.A.T.

Leaders need to hear from you!

Prescott Creeks submitted a letter to the Prescott City Council earlier this week affirming the historic and current plans for the park. We encourage you to send a message to Prescott's elected officials.

Click the "Learn More" button below for the full story and for instructions on how to send Council an email expressing your support for the continued re-restoration of the park.

[Learn More](#)

2026 Stage 1 Fire Restrictions

STAGE 1 FIRE RESTRICTIONS

EFFECTIVE MAY 21, 2026

According to the Prescott Daily Courier 5/20/26 article "Stage 1 restrictions ban the fires, campfires and outdoor stoves outside of developed campsites or picnic areas. Smoking outside of an enclosed vehicle or building is prohibited. Welding, using a torch, metal cutting or grinding implement is also prohibited."

Of particular concern for Prescott Creeks is the Watson Woods Riparian Preserve – which has experienced multiple wildfires during the past 30 years.

[Learn More](#)

Granite Creek Cleanup - Recap



Granite Creek Cleanup. Photo: Dignity Health - YRMC.

431 of your friends and neighbors collected at the [Granite Creek Cleanup](#) on Saturday April 18th. The City of Prescott Solid Waste Division reported **1.32 Tons** of trash and debris was collected ! This is no surprise for the Granite Creek Cleanup event as the 19-year trend is a decrease in trash collected - regardless of participation which is trending upward.

Thank you to our top sponsors: UniSource Energy Services, Yavapai-Prescott Indian Tribe, Findlay Subaru Prescott. [See all Cleanup sponsors here.](#)

By the numbers:

- 1.32 Tons of trash collected (2,640 pounds)
- 0 Tires
- 431 Overall Participants
- 391 Pre-Registrants
 - 3 Walk-On Participants
 - 8 No Shows
 - 37 Behind the Scenes Volunteers!

Save the Date:
2027 Granite Creek Cleanup
April 17th, 2027

[Learn More](#)

Make a Difference - Volunteer with Prescott Creeks

Nothing of much value happens in this world without the meaningful contributions of community volunteers. Any accomplishment Prescott Creeks can claim in its 36-year history is the result of countless hours of volunteer investment.

[Learn More](#)

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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