



PRESCOTT CREEKS

Prescott's Voice for Riparian Conservation since 1990

**Preserve
Restore
Celebrate**

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You are invited to: Bringing Nature Back Watson Woods Restoration Breaks Ground

Prescott Creeks invites you to join us for the ground-breaking celebration of **Watson Woods Riparian Preserve's Restoration Project** on Friday, March 20th at 10am.

Over a decade in the making, the project is designed to improve water quality, protect riparian habitat, and provide open space for native wildlife, Prescott residents and visitors alike. The Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ), Arizona Water Protection Fund, the City of Prescott, and the public have all recognized the importance of the project by collectively contributing almost \$1.5 million in grants and donations.

The 126-acre Preserve is the remaining portion of what was once a 1,000-acre riparian gallery forest near Prescott, Arizona. This restoration project will restore the stability of the Granite Creek channel and maintain natural stream function, improve riparian habitat and water quality, and will involve community members - all important water quality improvements for Granite Creek and Watson Lake. Both Granite Creek and Watson Lake were listed as "impaired" by the Environmental Protection Agency and ADEQ.

The restoration project will include relocating four reaches of the creek and the creation of six ephemeral wetlands. Reforesting the area will include planting 15,000 cottonwood and willow trees and shrubs harvested by community volunteers during December and January. Planting of emergent vegetation in wetlands and seeding native grasses in all disturbed areas will round out the revegetation effort and long-term monitoring of the restoration work will assist with evaluation of project performance.

Parking for the event will be at the Watson Woods Riparian Preserve and Peavine Trailhead, located at 1505 Sundog Ranch Road, Prescott. The celebration will take place along the banks of Granite Creek in the Preserve with by invited dignitaries and Michael Byrd, Executive Director and Preserve Manager for Prescott Creeks.

For further information about the project or if you are interested in volunteering please contact Renee Hoover at 928-445-5669 or RHoover@PrescottCreeks.org.