

Why visit the Preserve?

Situated on 126 acres approximately 3 miles northeast of downtown Prescott, **Watson Woods is one of the largest riparian (streamside) habitats in the area.** Watson Woods is home to a remarkable wildlife population and wetland habitat that is supported by a regular water supply, Granite Creek.

BIRD-WATCHING



The Audubon Society designated Watson Woods an **“Important Bird Area.”**

EXPLORATION

The Preserve offers **2+ miles of interpretive trails**, and connects to the Peavine Nat’l Recreation Trail.

UNIQUE FOREST



The cottonwood/willow gallery forest in Watson Woods represents the **rarest riparian habitat type** in North America!

PRESERVE GUIDELINES

Watson Woods is managed to protect wildlife and wetland communities, and is open during all daylight hours. Please follow these guidelines, and enjoy!

- A \$2 donation to Prescott Creeks is suggested for each Preserve visitor for each visit.
- Groups of 10 or more must make prior arrangements with Prescott Creeks via PrescottCreeks.org or by calling (928) 445-5669.
- Trails are designed for hiking, wildlife viewing, and educational programs for all ages. Please stay on designated trails. Do not use trails when wet or muddy.
- Leave no trace! Pack it in, pack it out. There are no waste receptacles within the Preserve. Visitors must remove all trash generated during their visit.
- Respect wildlife and their habitat. Keep a discreet distance and do not feed animals.

PROHIBITED IN THE PRESERVE

(unless specifically authorized):

- Bicycles and motorized vehicles
- Hunting, fishing, and/or collecting plants or animals
- Domestic animals, including dogs and horses
- Smoking and other fires
- The use and/or possession of weapons and firearms
- Camping

GETTING TO THE PRESERVE

ROSSER STREET ENTRANCE

is located at Highway 89 and Rosser St, ~2 miles north of Highway 69, or ~1 mile south of Watson Lake.



PEAVINE ENTRANCE

is located at Prescott Lakes Parkway and Sundog Ranch Road, ~1/2 mile NE of the Rosser St. Entrance.



WWW.PRESCOTTCREEKS.ORG

WATSON WOODS RIPARIAN PRESERVE



126 ACRES OF RIPARIAN FOREST
PRESCOTT, AZ



A Living Cathedral...

HISTORY OF WATSON WOODS

PRE-1900: Watson Woods was part of a larger **1,000-acre riparian forest** that once reached 4 miles upstream into downtown Prescott. Mature cottonwoods, willows, Arizona walnut, box-elder maple, velvet ash, and chokecherry created a cathedral-like atmosphere with lush herbaceous wetland vegetation. With historic reports of year-round water flows, **Watson Woods was an oasis.**



EARLY 1900s: About 90% of this forest was **lost** due to sand and gravel mining, dumping, over-grazing, and drainage modifications, along with surrounding activities like development and excessive groundwater extraction. As recently as the 1970s, Watson Woods was home to heavy machinery and was **regarded as a wasteland.**

1995: Watson Woods Riparian Preserve **established** with an agreement between Prescott Creeks and the City of Prescott.



2009: Prescott Creeks implemented the **restoration of Watson Woods**, which was a culmination of over 10 years of planning. Granite Creek was realigned for proper sinuosity and flow, wetlands were restored, and native trees were planted. Additional restoration activities are still being planned and/or implemented, along with continued maintenance and monitoring.



PRESENT: Incredibly, the area is bouncing back, and with proper management, perhaps the “cathedral” will return to its former glory.

PRESCOTT CREEKS MISSION

To achieve **healthy watersheds and clean waters** in Central Arizona for the benefit of people and wildlife through protection, restoration, education and advocacy.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Prescott Creeks is a community-based non-profit organization supported by a passionate membership and volunteers. To participate in the preservation, restoration and celebration of Prescott’s creeks, become a member today!



Membership Information

Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____
State/Zipcode: _____
Phone: _____
Email: _____

Select your level of membership:

- \$35 - Friend \$250 - Advocate
- \$50 - Explorer \$500 - Conservator
- \$100 - Guardian \$100 - Business
- In addition to my membership dues, I am making a tax-deductible donation of \$_____ to Prescott Creeks.

Make checks payable to Prescott Creeks. Detach and return with payment to: Prescott Creeks
PO Box 3004
Prescott, AZ 86302



Or join online.



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