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Prescott Creekside E-News

August 2018

www.PrescottCreeks.org

Hello Friend,

After a prolonged period of nearly no precipitation, July brought the summer monsoons that we've come to expect. Coming out of the driest winter and spring on record, the monsoon has been blessing. Both rainfall and streamflow varied during the month of July with no flows at the beginning of the month and a high flow of almost 2,700 cubic feet per second measured at the [USGS gauge at the Yavape Connector](#). That's enough flow to get out of the banks of Granite Creek in Watson Woods Riparian Preserve. Cottonwoods and willows along with wildlife of all types and sizes are taking advantage of this moisture and it's great to see!



Preserve Entrance at the Peavine Trail

Sometimes the summer monsoon comes so fast and with so much volume that it can cause trouble. That is exactly what happened on Wednesday, July 18th at about 3pm when the Sundog Waste Water Treatment Plant recorded 3.1 inches of rain in about an hour and a half. The drainage that Prescott Lakes Parkway traverses to the east of the Preserve sent an unprecedented amount of water downstream. Unofficially classified as a 200-year event, stormwater infrastructure adjacent to the Preserve and Peavine Trail was [inundated and ultimately failed](#). A bridge on the old railway was washed out and the railbed was eroded away until it was the same level as the floodplain floor in the Preserve.



Welcome Denise Incao



Please help us welcome Denise Incao to the Prescott Creeks Board of Directors. Denise is an accomplished artist and educator who has worked with Prescott Creeks at Watson Woods Riparian Preserve. Through her affiliations with both Prescott and Yavapai Colleges, Denise pioneered curriculum development for an Art in Nature workshop series that helps participants learn about the natural resources the Preserve seeks to protect.

Businesses Supporter Spotlight



Prescott Creeks and the City are coordinating on best strategies to restore the area. Top priorities for the City are reopening the Peavine Trail (a temporary bypass is open) and corrective measures for the stormwater detention basin. Detailed consideration is being given to restoration of wetlands in the Preserve that were filled in with sediment from the trail erosion.

Granite Creek Downtown

Creation of a trail along Granite Creek was the project around which Prescott Creeks Preservation Association formed 28 years ago. Locals now know the trail as part of the Prescott Greenways Trail System. It's 2.5 miles encompass reaches of Granite and Miller Creeks. The trail has been upgraded from an originally simple footpath to a multi-use trail for recreation and transportation.



A recent [Daily Courier article](#) about the trail began with the words "foreboding, seedy, inhospitable." Like many community assets, this creek trail has seen ups and downs with available funding for promotion, expansion, and maintenance. The article goes on to state that a



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new effort is under way to change those negative perceptions. While the City of Prescott is at the helm, businesses along the creek, private citizens, and several not-for-profit organizations - including Prescott Creeks - are all collaborating to "revitalize" the corridor. We'll keep you posted as the project takes more shape.



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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