

Hello Friend,

If you hadn't noticed, the cottonwoods and willows are putting on quite the show along Granite Creek in Prescott. Get out to see it quickly – as the forecast calls for a change this weekend that might force leaves to the ground. We hope you enjoy this issue of the Prescott Creekside E-News with stories about positive changes your support made possible.



## **Water Quality & Human Dignity**

Adapted from The Daily Courier

Located not far from the banks of Miller Creek in the middle of Prescott, a new grant-funded restroom has provided not just an environmental benefit, but a human-dignity aspect as well. That point was emphasized recently during a meeting between representatives of the parties involved in the 2019 installation of the restroom at the Coalition for Compassion and Justice (CCJ) shelter on Miller Valley Road. It has now been more than a year since Prescott Creeks partnered with CCJ, the City of Prescott, and the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality to install a new precast concrete public bathroom on CCJ land, just steps from Miller Creek and the Greenways Trail that runs along it.

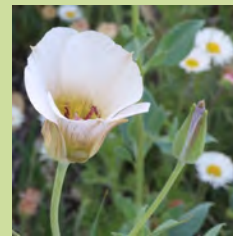


With Prescott's creeks and lakes largely exceeding acceptable and safe levels for E. coli pollution, a primary goal of the restroom project was to improve the water quality Miller Creek. And early results indicate that that is occurring. Every day, the restrooms are used an average of 35 times. CCJ's Jessi Hans noted that along with the water-quality benefits, the restroom had improved the human aspect in the area as well. Among the goals of CCJ, she said, "Making sure people had a dignified place to use the bathroom." Since the opening of the restroom in the spring of 2019, the facility has been used nearly 14,000 times. As the restroom planning was underway, Matt Killeen, City of Prescott Environmental Coordinator, said it helped to highlight the need for more improvements along Prescott's waterways. Since then, he said, "There has been a big focus on the downtown corridor (of Granite and Miller creeks)." [Read the full story...](#)



**PRESCOTT CREEKS**

## **Donors Support Community Need and Mission**



Every donation, no matter how large or small, demonstrates your commitment to the Prescott Creeks mission. Amazing donors give money, they give time, expertise, and/or supportive energy - you are all so appreciated! Numerous donors have been with Prescott Creeks since the very beginning and new contributors continue to join. All the work we do is possible because of generous donors who believe in making the world a better place with Prescott Creeks. Thank you!

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## **Sponsor Spotlight**



As wise caretakers of the land, Stewardship Sponsor the [Highlands Center for Natural History](#), Supporting Sponsors [Alta Vista Garden Club](#), [Jay's Bird Barn](#), [Bike Prescott](#), and [The Hike Shack](#), are all committed giving back to the

## Important Bird Surveys – 2008 to 2020

In 2005, the [Watson-Willow Lakes Ecosystem Important Bird Area \(IBA\)](#) was designated as the first Important Bird Area in Yavapai County by a group of Arizona scientists for National Audubon Society. As a part of the ecosystem, Watson Woods Riparian Preserve was included in the IBA. In consultation with Prescott Creeks, [Prescott Audubon Society](#), volunteers have conducted surveys of the birds present in the Preserve from November 2008 – August 2020. Surveys originated as monitoring for the ecological restoration project funded by the [AZ Water Protection Fund](#) and the [AZ Department of Environmental Quality](#).



Initial findings from the restoration project (2008-2013) were compiled in the [final grant report](#), and survey results since 2011 are available in [eBird](#). Notable observations from the surveys include the mostly tropical Common Black Hawk. First observed in the Preserve in 2010, Common Black Hawks have returned every year since. Another highlight is the significant reduction in European Starlings in the Preserve. This species is a non-native and aggressive. Spring surveys have shown an increase in Lucy's Warblers – an [Arizona Game and Fish Department](#) "species of concern." The year, surveyors observed, for the first time, three Great Horned Owl nests within the Preserve! [Read the full story...](#)

community. Showing their alliance with our mission, they converted their support to a donation after the Granite Creek Cleanup was cancelled (COVID-19). Thank you! [Please visit](#) and learn the unique offerings of these longtime supporters of the Granite Creek Cleanup and see how they contribute to our community.

### Support Creeks



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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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