



Prescott Creekside E-News

June 2021

www.PrescottCreeks.org



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Hello Friend,

Comparing creek images from June this year and last year shows a stark difference! While water was still in Granite Creek at this time last year, it is now just below the surface supporting the riparian forest and all its residents. Please read on to learn more about the importance of riparian systems to local wildlife and how Prescott Creeks is working to improve habitat conditions with volunteers and partners. Your support makes it all possible. Thank you!

For the Birds

Did you know that Watson Woods Riparian Preserve is a key component of the larger Watson and Willow Lake Important Bird Area (IBA). Riparian (streamside) areas like those at Watson Woods Riparian Preserve are unique environments. They occupy about 1/2 of 1% of Arizona's total land area, yet approximately 75% of the state wildlife species are dependent upon these habitats for all or part of their lives. [Birds are a major component](#) of this wildlife and one of the main reasons the Preserve was established.



Photo by EF Sanborn

For the past 26 years, many [bird-related activities](#) have been undertaken within the Preserve. Along with restoration, extensive monitoring has taken place with the Prescott Audubon Society. 91 surveys have been conducted by volunteers from both groups with thousands of birds counted and 156 species represented. Among these, Common Black Hawks and American Kestrels are two species that have received extra attention due to their status.

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Is It a Weed?

As a part of the Prescott Creeks mission to achieve healthy watersheds and clean waters, we invest substantial effort into managing non-native, invasive plant species. Some people call them weeds. But what is a “weed?” Are those yellow flowers that pop up in your garden a weed? Are the pink, prickly things along the trail a weed? What about the cattails that fill the ditch down the road? It all depends... We define a weed as “a plant that interferes with management objectives for a given area of land at a given point in time.”



Prescott Creeks has developed a [High-Priority Noxious Weed List](#) that helps guide work in Watson Woods Riparian Preserve and the Upper Granite Creek Watershed. The list includes nine species that interfere with management objectives in one way or another. From year-to-year, focus shifts based on which plants are thriving, recent precipitation, and the effectiveness of previous treatments. Most invasive treatments are performed by [Prescott Creeks Volunteers](#) or partner organizations.

[Read more...](#)

Partners

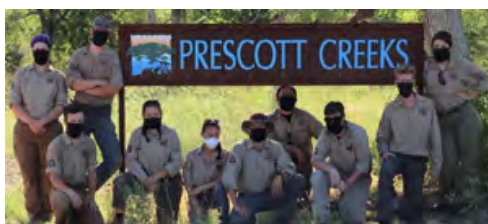
During the summer of 2020 and spring of 2021, the [Arizona Conservation Corps and GEM Environmental's GEM Corps](#) partnered with Prescott Creeks to accomplish critical conservation projects while providing young adults an opportunity to learn about land management issues and challenges. We get important work done while they train their conservation personnel in relevant leadership and field skills!

[Read more...](#)

Fire Restrictions

With the lack of precipitation and dry conditions this spring, fire concern is real and growing. On May 14th Stage I Fire Restrictions went into effect. [Stage II Fire Restrictions](#) have been announced to begin on June 11th, 2021. We're especially attentive to Fire Restrictions as Watson Woods Preserve has experienced multiple wildfires – the first of which was in 1997. We hope to avoid them in the future!

[Read more...](#)



Granite Creek Cleanup Results

It was a pleasure to work with the **484 community volunteers** who turned up at Granite Creek Park on April 17th to achieve a common goal – making Prescott and its many waterways a bit nicer for all to enjoy. The result is **1.22 tons of trash** and **12 tires** were **removed from a total of 38 different locations** around the community. Those locations were along creeks, in parks, at lakes, and on trails throughout the greater Prescott area.

Save the Date for the Cleanup next year: **April 23rd, 2022.**

[Read the more & see pictures...](#)



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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