



**PRESCOTT CREEKS**

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## **Public Restroom Collaborative to Improve Surface Water Quality**

Representatives from Prescott Creeks, the Coalition for Compassion and Justice (CCJ), the City of Prescott, the Butte Creek Restoration Council at Prescott College, and the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) recently met to discuss the importance of the Miller Creek Public Restroom to surface water quality and to the community. The public restroom was constructed in February of 2019 and opened for use in April of 2019. With major grant funding, ADEQ acknowledged that the Miller Creek Public Restroom project represents an innovative approach to water quality improvement involving a diverse group of partners.

Project Background: Downtown Prescott features multiple flowing creeks. Many of these waterways have been listed as “impaired” (polluted) for well over a decade. Miller Creek was targeted in plans by local stakeholders for a water quality improvement project. Prescott Creeks brought together CCJ, the City of Prescott, and the Butte Creek Restoration Council to install a publicly accessible restroom adjacent to Miller Creek at 531 Madison Ave. in Prescott. Grant funding for the project was secured from the ADEQ - Water Quality Improvement Grants Program with matching contributions from each partner.

CCJ ‘donated’ the property on which the publicly accessible restroom sits, and they perform day to day operation of the restroom. The City of Prescott contributed permitting and impact fees for the project and provided staff support for educational and outreach elements of the project. The Butte Creek Restoration Council monitored water quality in Miller and Butte Creeks. Water quality samples collected before and after restroom construction will assist in assessment of project effectiveness.

“Our reasons for partnering with Prescott Creeks start with creek health and extend to community health,” stated Paul Mitchell, Executive Director for CCJ when the project began. By providing a comfortable, accessible spot for the people to go to the restroom, we should achieve cleaner water in our creeks.

Prescott Creeks is a local nonprofit organization with a mission to achieve healthy watersheds and clean waters in central Arizona. Established in 1990, Prescott Creeks works in the community to find and implement practical solutions to local resource issues. Other water quality improvement projects led by Prescott Creeks include the Whipple Street Detention Basin, the Prescott Community Center Rain Gardens and Basins, and ongoing ecological restoration Watson Woods Riparian Preserve.

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