



Prescott Creekside E-News

October 2022

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Hello Friend,

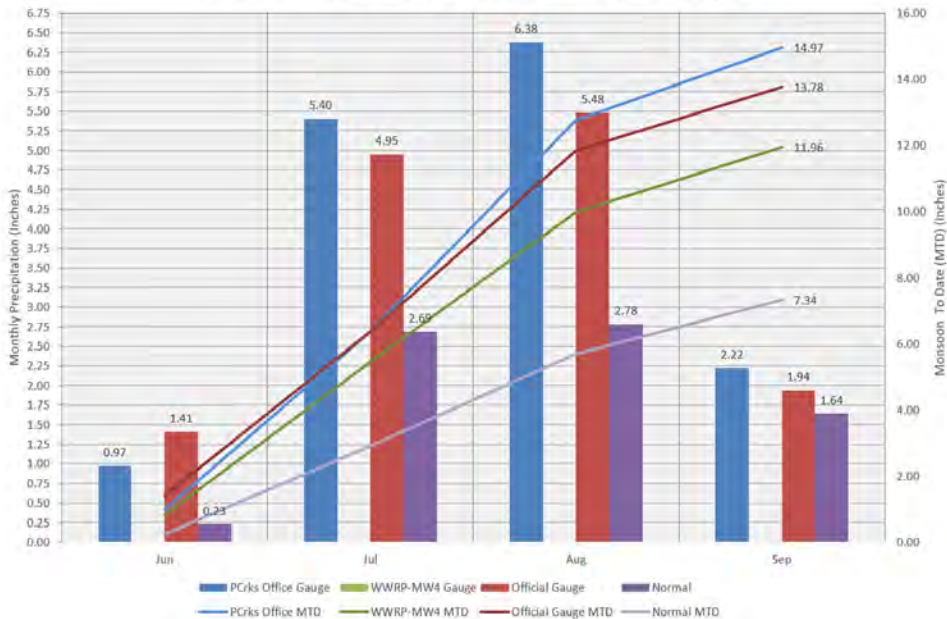
This morning I spoke to a college-level *Natural History and Ecology of the Southwest* class and found myself excited by their thirst for knowledge about local watersheds and riparian areas. The students' questions were relevant and aligned with much of the content in the E-Newsletter below. They were curious about how water arrives in and travels through the watershed. They wanted to know how Prescott Creeks assesses project performance and they were interested to know about activities in which they could get involved to make a difference. Read on and you also will learn about these things.

As always, thank you for your support of Prescott Creeks!

2022 Monsoon Season Wrap Up

According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association (NOAA) office in Flagstaff the Monsoon Season in Northern Arizona officially runs from June 15th to September 30th each year. However, we don't typically begin receiving monsoon moisture until the beginning of July. NOAA also indicates that that much of the Northern Arizona area receives 40-50% of its annual precipitation during the Monsoon Season. To date in 2022, Prescott has received almost 84% of its precipitation during the Monsoon. See the chart below for more information about precipitation at three different rain gauges during the Monsoon.

2022 - Monsoon Precipitation at Watson Woods Riparian Preserve, Prescott Creeks Office, & NOAA Official Rain Gauges



Using the official Sundog gauge total of 13.78" sets 2022 as the 5th wettest monsoon on record, while using the unofficial Office total of 14.97" as the 4th wettest. This is good for our watersheds and their riparian areas! [Read more...](#)

Master Naturalist Class

What is a "Master Naturalist" you say? In short, a Master Naturalist is a certified volunteer who is passionate about nature and is eager to share their knowledge with others. If you are interested in ecology and natural history of the Arizona Central Highlands, would like to learn more, and would like to invest your time in working with others of a similar mind, you can develop your skills and leadership through participation in the 2023 Arizona Central Highlands Master Naturalist Course.



Info Sessions to Learn More:

- Thursday November 3rd
- Thursday December 1st.

Course dates are from January 3rd through April 25th, and cost is \$525.

[Resister for More Info and Read more...](#)

Change Over Time – Photographic Monitoring Results

Photographs are indispensable tools to qualitatively document and assess change in any environment. Simply put, they show change over time in a very relatable form. While photographic monitoring alone is not a complete monitoring program to assess project performance and change, they are an important "tool" we have in our "toolbox" for keeping track of what is happening out on the ground.

Formal photographic monitoring at Watson Woods Riparian Preserve was initiated in 1997 as part of our first vegetation characterization. Other Photographic monitoring points were later established in about 2005 that feature images from both within the Preserve, along the boundary, and from high points that area around the site. In 2009, additional photo-points were set up specifically to monitor and assess the \$1.5 million ecological restoration project which took place from 2009 to 2013. These photo-points are periodically visited to collect current images and assess change. Below is an example of how these photos can show change over time!



SEPTEMBER 2009 - GRANITE CREEK



SEPTEMBER 2022 - GRANITE CREEK

These photographs show changes within the Preserve that all suggest the ecological restoration project is trending in desired directions. For more information and interpretation of the photos above, [Read more...](#)

Breaking News:

Miller Creek Revegetation Project

Last week on the 25th of October, the Prescott City Council authorized funding that will, among other things, allow for the revegetation of the creek and its banks with native vegetation. Prescott Creeks will lead this effort with the City of Prescott, Fann Contracting, and community members. The project will feature multiple opportunities for community involvement. [Read more...](#)



Granite Creek Master Plan Improvements Project

Set to begin the week of October 31st, 2022, the project consists of improvements to the trail corridor that parallels Granite Creek between Aubrey Street and Granite Creek Park. Improvements will be made to the trail and to the creek channel riparian habitat. [Read more...](#)

Granite Creek Master Plan Improvements Project

FALL 2022

The City of Prescott and their contractor, Asphalt Paving & Supply, are set to begin the Granite Creek Master Plan Improvements Project the week of October 31, 2022. The project consists of improvements to the trail corridor that parallels Granite Creek between Aubrey Street and Granite Creek Park. Trail improvements consist of new lighting, signage, enhanced access points and a compact surface providing safe access for all users. In addition to trail improvements, the project includes cleaning and pruning vegetation in the creek bed, and constructing erosion and flood mitigation measures throughout the corridor. The work in the creek will improve flow and aesthetics while maintaining the creek's natural riparian habitat.



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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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