



PRESCOTT CREEKS

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Photo: Woodhouse's Toad (*Bufo woodhousii*) found along Granite Creek during the monsoon.

Dear Friend,

I'd like to start this letter by saying: *Thank you!*

The support of donors like you is the key to protecting threatened riparian areas, restoring wildlife habitats, and improving polluted surface water quality throughout the Granite Creek Watershed and central Arizona. You made a difference this year.

Major projects like ecological restoration and water quality improvements are typically funded by restricted grants and contracts. They usually require matching funds of up to 50% of the project value – so your donations are essential to securing funding. Once built, the major project funds “dry up.” Communities rely on these projects and features for their ecosystem services (clean water, nature protection, wildlife habitat, pollution control), recreational opportunities, and simple peace of mind. Your volunteer time and **especially your cash contributions** are essential to the ongoing management, maintenance, and monitoring of these projects so that they remain safe and healthy resources serving future generations of the community.

Examples of progress you made possible this year include:

- Granite Creek Cleanup – The event saw record numbers of participants working together to achieve a common goal AND the Cleanup was recognized as a Copper member of the *Voluntary Environmental Stewardship Program* by the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality. Planning is already underway for an even better Cleanup event in 2023.
- Volunteers – Volunteers at large, from the Master Naturalist Program, and many partner organizations were engaged throughout the year at Watson Woods Riparian Preserve to plant new trees, remove non-native species, manage trail usage, monitor wildlife, and demonstrate success of past projects with photographic monitoring.
- Citizen Science Programs – These programs improved knowledge and understanding of native plants, precipitation, and wildlife in the area. Phenology monitoring tracked seasonal lifecycles of vegetation, rain gauge monitoring showed this monsoon as the 4th wettest, and NestWatch, a developing program, documented three Common Black Hawk fledglings in the watershed!

Your investment in Prescott Creeks and the types of projects above provides a strong foundation and is a catalyst for new opportunities.

2023 looks bright! With your ongoing support, Prescott Creeks will continue working with its community partners to achieve healthy watersheds and clean waters in central Arizona. Restoration work that began this fall on Granite Creek downtown is scheduled for completion in the spring. Prescott Creeks will revegetate a reach of Miller Creek in cooperation with neighborhood volunteers and the City Public Works Department. *And...* in the Preserve's 28th year, we anticipate expansion of Watson Woods Riparian Preserve along with in-perpetuity protection through the establishment of a conservation easement.

You can help ensure these projects succeed. **Your gift will help Prescott Creeks secure at least \$24,000** of the unfunded portion of these projects. Won't you help Prescott Creeks bridge the gap? Your tax-deductible donation can be made securely online at www.Prescottcreeks.org/Donate or by using the enclosed envelope.

Sincerely,


Michael Byrd
Executive Director

*THANKS FOR
YOUR SUPPORT!*