



You Made a Difference This Year

December 2022

www.PrescottCreeks.org



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Hi Friend,

Your support this year made a difference! The Prescott Creekside E-News at the beginning of December featured a request for your support as part of our annual fundraising campaign to benefit local creeks and watersheds. *If you've already sent in your support, thank you!* You should receive a formal acknowledgment soon.

There is still time to [make your gift](#) before the end of the year. You can choose from a variety of ways for you to support Prescott Creeks - including automatic monthly donations!

Thank you for your support. It is an investment in clean water and healthy watersheds!

Your Impact:



Photo: Virginia Wertz, Volunteer

Granite Creek Cleanup - Recognition for the event came from the AZ Department of Environmental Quality for the almost 52 tons of trash and debris collected by over 7,000 volunteers (2007-2022). Record numbers participated in 2022 with a 50% increase in trash collected during the event.

Save the Date: *Saturday, April 22nd for the 2023 Granite Creek Cleanup*



Photos: Common Black Hawk (Left), Stock Image; American Kestrel (Right), Everett Sanborn, Volunteer

The outlook is good for Common Black Hawks and American Kestrels at Watson Woods Riparian Preserve.

Common Black Hawks, which are not very common in the US with only about 250 known nesting pairs, arrived in the area with their fledgling from 2021 and proceeded to produce two fledglings from their nest this summer! Another pair of Common Black Hawks was observed nesting farther upstream on Granite Creek this year. That nest produced one fledgling making three new Common Black Hawks for Prescott in 2022!

American Kestrels are our smallest falcon which is in decline throughout its North American range. While no kestrels utilized any of the nest boxes in the Preserve this year, six male/female pairs of American Kestrels were released in the area during the summer. The birds were from a wildlife rehabilitation center in Phoenix. As of the last week of the year, there have been reports of multiple American Kestrels in the Preserve and Lakes areas, as well as many reports of sightings near nest boxes in the central Arizona program.

Special thanks for Everett Sanborn for getting out in the field regularly and providing many of the wildlife photographs you see in this newsletter and on the Prescott Creeks website!



Photo: Lindsay Ledesma, Volunteer

Volunteers made a difference by managing native and non-native vegetation , monitoring birds, improving trails and fences, planting trees, documenting restoration project performance, photographing wildlife, entering data, collecting trash, and so much more. Two new volunteers, Phil Taska & Donella Sas, joined the Prescott Creeks Team this year and we're excited to have their contributions!

Your support makes it possible for these people to do their part implementing the mission of Prescott Creeks! Opportunities can be found on the [Prescott Creeks website](#).



Photos: Prescott Creeks

Citizen Science 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 nesting of sensitive birds in the watershed!

Your Support

All of this work underscores the importance of permanent protection for Watson Woods Riparian Preserve and other riparian areas!

You can help ensure these and other projects succeed in 2023. **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 calling Prescott Creeks at (928) 445-5669.

Happy Holidays and thank you again for your ongoing support!

Sincerely,



Michael Byrd
Executive Director

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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