



Prescott Creekside E-News

January 2024

www.PrescottCreeks.org

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Snow and ice from the 1/6-7/2024 snow storm at the wildlife pond in Watson Woods Riparian Preserve.
Image by Everett Sanborn.

Dear Friend,

Happy New Year! Thank you to everyone who sent supporting contributions at the end of December. You are the community in "Creeks Connect Community!" Winter finally showed up and has provided a bit of needed moisture (0.35" so far). Granite Creek is flowing and snow is flying and covering the ground as I write this morning. We're happy to have it after the exceptionally dry fall. Fingers crossed that it keeps coming for us at a reasonable pace.

Please read on for information about volunteer opportunities, the **FOREVER PRESERVED** campaign, and exciting conservation news.

Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service

Watson Woods Riparian Preserve | January 15th, 2024 | 9 AM to Noon

[Space is still available. Register here.](#)

Friends of the Verde River and the Prescott Creeks have partnered to coordinate a volunteer day at Watson Woods Riparian Preserve for [Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service](#). Once a sand and gravel pit, the 160 acres of unique cottonwood/willow gallery forest that make up Watson Woods along Granite Creek are being protected and restored by community members and visitors.

We invite you to join the restoration effort on January 15th.



MORE INFO

FOREVER PRESERVED - Watson Woods Riparian Preserve

Your active support makes a difference!

Prescott Creeks is seeking approval from the Prescott City Council to [FOREVER PRESERVE](#) the Watson Woods Riparian Preserve by placing it into a permanent conservation easement; and we need your help! The once 1,000 acres of habitat at Watson Woods have been lost or severely degraded due to decades of livestock grazing, illegal dumping, firewood cutting and sand/gravel extraction.

The current management lease between Prescott Creeks and the City provides short-term protection but, without a conservation easement, the Preserve is not protected in perpetuity (forever) and Prescott Creeks may lose access to millions of dollars in government funding critical to rehabilitating, managing, and protecting the Preserve; a habitat that supports healthy watersheds, outdoor education and recreation, volunteer opportunities and the return of native plants and animals.

A critical component to receiving approval from the Prescott City Council is the support of people like you! To learn more, visit the [FOREVER PRESERVED](#) page on the Prescott Creeks website.

"FOREVER PRESERVED" Informational Meeting

Date: February 17, 2024 | 2:00 to 3:00 PM

Location: Prescott Public Library | The Founders Suite A & B

Bald Eagles at Watson Lake

In December and early in the new year, Bald Eagles have been observed at Watson Lake. Eric Moore, of The Lookout, wrote in his January 4th [Daily Courier column](#):

"Last month, one of our customers captured some still shots of an eagle carrying a stick as it circled above a large cottonwood tree where its presumed mate was perched. When the eagle landed, it presented the stick to its mate. Whether this pair will actually build a nest in Watson Woods is not known, but it would certainly be historic as there are no known nesting records for Bald Eagles at this location."

Prescott Creeks is excited about the possibility of nesting eagles within the Watson Woods Riparian Preserve (see above). As Moore notes, this area would be a new location for Bald Eagle nesting. Selection of this location for a nest could be interpreted as a success story of recent conservation and restoration efforts carried out by the City of Prescott and Prescott Creeks. Prescott Creeks will continue to monitor the situation and provide updates as relevant. [Read more...](#)



Photo credit: Jeff Logan

2024 Granite Creek Cleanup

Save the Date: April 20th | 8 AM to Noon

Visit the [Granite Creek Cleanup](#) webpage to learn more about the event.

Volunteer Opportunities

Prescott Creeks relies on community volunteers to achieve its mission of healthy watersheds and clean waters in central Arizona. Do your part by sharing your talents with the watershed

by working with Prescott Creeks. Opportunities exist for one-time help or ongoing volunteering.

[Check out the current Volunteer Opportunities](#)

Ways to help range from working in the office to working in the field. Prior experience is not needed. We'll provide on the job training. All that is required is your interest and time.

[Fill out a Volunteer Application to join the team](#)



Photo credit: Prescott Creeks

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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