# Creek Care

## YOUR Stewardship GUIDE
to the
## Granite Creek Watershed

PRESCOTT CREEKS

**A water quality primer for residents**

*Enhance your property while protecting local creeks and lakes!*

# It's Your WATERSHED

***We all play a role*** in protecting our precious water resources.

Most of Prescott lies in the Granite Creek Watershed, named for Granite Creek, which flows through downtown Prescott and fills Watson Lake. Our many local waterways contribute to the beauty of this region, enhance our quality of life, and attract visitors. Whether we live or work in town or in the surrounding rural environs, many of our daily activities can affect surface water quality. This guide offers practical tips on creek-friendly practices that will help keep our creeks, lakes, and community healthy—starting at your home or business.




PRESCOTT CREEKS
www.PrescottCreeks.org
PO Box 3004
Prescott, AZ 86302
928.445.5669


**PRESCOTT'S VOICE FOR RIPARIAN CONSERVATION**

Prescott Creeks is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization with the mission to promote, protect and celebrate the ecological integrity of riparian systems and associated wetlands in the central Arizona watersheds through conservation, restoration and education.

*All photos courtesy of Walt Anderson*
www.geolobo.com

# WATERSHED Awareness

**Get to know the Granite Creek Watershed**

## A WATERSHED IS THE AREA OF LAND THAT CATCHES RAIN AND SNOWMELT, WHICH DRAINS INTO A GIVEN BODY OF WATER

The Granite Creek Watershed is a special place rich in history and natural wonders. From the forested mountains to the Granite Dells and the grasslands beyond, the watershed provides habitat for countless species of plants and animals in addition to providing humans with an assortment of recreational opportunities.

Today, many people come to the area to enjoy the surrounding natural beauty and quality of life, but humans were first drawn to the area because of the water supplied by local creeks: first the Yavapai people, then the gold miners, ranchers, and military men. Prescott still celebrates its frontier roots but is now a modern city facing urban challenges. As residents of a growing metropolitan area, it is more important than ever for all of us to take measures to protect our watershed.

## DID YOU KNOW?

- The Granite Creek Watershed is approximately 350 square miles in size and is part of the larger Verde River Watershed.
- Granite Creek originates near the boundary of the Bradshaw and Sierra Prieta mountain ranges and flows for 38 miles to the Verde River, 13.4 miles of which are considered "impaired" for water quality.
- Major tributaries: Banning Creek, Manzanita Creek, Aspen Creek, Butte Creek, Miller Creek, North Fork Granite Creek, Government Wash, Slaughterhouse Gulch, and Willow Creek.
- Our lakes are actually reservoirs (man-made): Watson Lake, Willow Lake, and Upper and Lower Goldwater Lakes.
- Our creeks are intermittent, meaning that they flow only for a portion of the year.
- Water released from Willow and Watson Lakes into Granite Creek is used to recharge groundwater near the Prescott Regional Airport.

**The Prescott National Forest was originally the Prescott Forest Reserve. It received protection status in 1898 in response to the community's need to protect its watershed and domestic water supply. It was the second forest reserve established in Arizona.**

**While Prescott's water supply no longer comes from surface water, much of the groundwater we depend upon is recharged by water flowing in local creeks. The need to protect our watershed remains.**

# CREEK STEWARDSHIP

Our creeks are ribbons of life providing wildlife habitat, water supply, floodwater pathways, recreational opportunities and more. Simple changes to practices in and around your home or business can help restore the health of our local waterways. Caring for a creek and the adjacent riparian vegetation on your property—and helping your neighbors to do the same—can provide many benefits:

- Enhance aesthetics of your home and business
- Boost property values
- Avoid losses from flooding and erosion
- Preserve downstream water quality
- Protect habitat for birds and wildlife

## Our Creeks are not thruways

***Riparian habitat and streambanks are sensitive to disturbance. Driving through or across a creek can damage plants, cause erosion, soil compaction, degrade aquatic habitat, and pollute the water.***



# WATER QUALITY *Why Care?*

**Water quality in Granite Creek and Watson and Willow Lakes is a public concern. We've learned that nutrients (like nitrates and phosphates) and bacteria are two of the main pollutants impacting water quality. Our day-to-day activities can contribute sediment, pet waste, lawn clippings, fertilizers, pesticides, detergents and other pollutants that can wash into our creeks and lakes.**

**When it rains or snows, runoff from roofs, streets, lawns, parking lots and other impervious (hard) surfaces carries pollutants from those surfaces into the nearest waterway. Just imagine all of the sediment, grease, oil, trash, bacteria, and chemicals on the ground washing into our creeks and lakes! Although runoff from the built environment is unavoidable, we can work together to reduce these pollutants from entering our creeks. Small-scale efforts at home can make a difference.**

## Riparian [ri-pair-ee-*uh*n]:

The green zone along creeks and lakes where plants are grealy influenced by the presence of water and periodic flooding. Riparian areas are vital to the health of the watershed—they make up 0.4% of the land area in Arizona, yet 60 to 75% of Arizona's wildlife species are dependent on riparian habitats to sustain their populations.

# WATER QUALITY

## Common sources of water pollution

**Pollutant:** Sediment (soil, sand, silt and clay). While creeks naturally move sediment, excessive sediment can be a problem.

**Source:** Disturbed soil, erosion, construction sites, bare stream banks, lack of a natural stream buffer.

**Effects:** Cloudy water, degraded fish habitat, reduced dissolved oxygen levels, transported toxic chemicals.

**Pollutant:** Nutrients (nitrogen, phosphorus, organics).

**Source:** Pet waste, livestock manure, excess fertilizers, decomposing leaf and lawn clippings, treated effluent.

**Effects:** Growth of algae and aquatic plants that may crowd out aquatic life, reduced water clarity, and possibly reduced dissolved oxygen levels

**Pollutant:** *Escherichia coli (E. coli)* bacteria.

**Source:** Pet waste, livestock manure, wildlife, waterfowl, garbage, failed septic systems, sanitary sewer overflows or leaks, humans (recreation, poor sanitation while recreating or camping).

**Effects:** Contaminated waters unsafe for swimming, wading, or drinking.

**Pollutant:** Toxic chemicals (motor oil, antifreeze, pesticides, heavy metals).

**Source:** Leaky vehicles, tire and brake pad wear, industrial detergents, household cleaners, improper use or disposal of chemicals and paint.

**Effects:** Aquatic life threatened or killed, potential harm to people who eat contaminated fish and shellfish, possibly contaminated groundwater.



# WATER QUALITY

## Storm Sewer vs. Sanitary Sewer

### Only Rain goes down the Drain!

Sanitary sewer systems carry the water that flows down a sink or toilet in a home or business to a wastewater treatment plant. The storm drain system, on the other hand, is designed to carry rainwater or snowmelt from streets and driveways to prevent flooding. This water is directed, untreated, to the nearest waterway. This stormwater ultimately ends up in Watson Lake via Granite Creek or Willow Lake via Willow Creek.

We're all connected in a watershed. Whether or not you live close to a water body, water always flows downhill. Activities around your home or business and runoff from your property will end up in a downstream waterbody.

### What Can You Do?

**CLEAN UP AND PROPERLY DISPOSE OF THE FOLLOWING:**

- Yard waste (leaves, brush, etc.)
- Fertilizers & pesticides
- Pet waste
- Cigarette butts & other trash
- Used motor oil, antifreeze & other automotive fluids
- Paint, detergents & other chemicals
- Expired or unused prescription medications

***To find local recycling centers, visit***

**Earth911.com**

### Take Action!

**To report spills or dumping contact:**

**ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY** • ***Emergency Response Hotline:***
**(602) 771-2330 or (800) 234-5677** *Toll Free*

**CITY OF PRESCOTT** • ***Illicit Discharge:*** **(928) 777-1140** *(business hours, from 7:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.)*
**(928) 445-5357** *(non-business hours)*

**YAVAPAI COUNTY** • ***Emergency Management Department:*** **(928) 771-3321**

**PRESCOTT CREEKS** • ***Online Incident Report Form:***
***www.PrescottCreeks.org/incident-report***

# HOME/BUSINESS SITE:

**LOWER YOUR WATER BILL AND BENEFIT YOUR COMMUNITY THROUGH LONG-TERM WATER AND ENERGY SAVINGS, REDUCED SOIL EROSION, AND REDUCED WATER POLLUTION!**

*Did you know?* **One inch** of rain on a **1,000 sq. ft.** roof can yield roughly **600 gallons** of water!

Rainwater harvesting is the practice of capturing, diverting, and storing rainwater for plant irrigation and other uses. **Active** harvesting systems have transport and storage capacity for use at a later time. **Passive** harvesting systems rely on micro-topography to direct water towards depressions in the landscape where water will infiltrate the soil and benefit landscape plants.

| Active Systems | Passive Systems |
|---|---|
| **COMPONENTS** | |
| Rain barrels (50 -100 gal); cisterns (100 + gal) | Berms, basins, rain gardens, vegetated swales |
| **BENEFITS** | |
| Many potential uses for the water | Less expensive than active systems; soil has far greater storage capacity than a tank |
| **GETTING STARTED** | |
| Purchase or make a rain barrel out of a food-grade drum and hose spigot | Direct water from roofs, driveways, and walkways to vegetated basins or rain gardens |
| Position barrel under a roof downspout | Choose native plants that require little water but can handle periods of inundation |
| **TIPS** | |
| Plan for overflow; direct towards outdoor vegetation | Installation is slightly more work than a comparable area of lawn, but maintenance is low once plants mature |
| Use screens and other strategies to prevent mosquito breeding | Conduct a soil test to determine whether a site is suitable |



# Rainwater Harvesting

## Active

## Passive

# HOME/BUSINESS SITE:
## Impervious Surfaces, Drainage and Runoff

Vegetation in a watershed acts like a sponge to slow and absorb water when it rains and snows. When vegetation is replaced with impervious surfaces like streets, parking lots, and rooftops, less water soaks into the ground and, instead, flows directly into our creeks. The increased runoff may result in flooding, streambank erosion, sedimentation, and water pollution.

A reduction in natural areas for water to soak in results in diminished groundwater recharge and lower base flow in our creeks.

### Get soft on hardscapes

Whether you are building a new home or business or simply updating your outdoor spaces, here are some things you can do:

- Avoid paving surfaces unless absolutely necessary. Consider permeable alternatives to pavement.
- Instead of pavement, use bricks or blocks set in sand, gravel, or wood chips.
- Install gravel trenches along sidewalks and driveways to collect rainwater.
- Direct roof downspouts away from paved areas and towards shrubs or trees. Use a rain barrel to collect the water; then use it to water your garden or outdoor landscaping.

Steep slopes are common in the Granite Creek Watershed and can increase the erosive force of runoff and cause drainage problems.

- Slow and filter runoff and let it percolate back into the soil by using straw bale or log barriers, rock ditches, retaining walls, or slope-stepping around your home or business.
- Stabilize eroding soils and unstable slopes by spreading wood chips, mill bark, or straw mulch on bare ground and by planting native shrubs, grasses, ground cover, and trees.

### *Too much of a good thing*

**Impervious surfaces reduce the water storage capacity of a watershed. When water can't be stored, we end up having too much when it rains (flooding) and not enough when it doesn't rain (drought).**

### Take Action!

**Growing a Rain Garden:**
***YOUR PERSONAL CONTRIBUTION TO CLEANER WATER***

**Rain Gardens: A how-to manual for homeowners**
***http://dnr.wi.gov/runoff/pdf/rg/rgmanual.pdf***



# HOME/BUSINESS SITE:
## Septic systems

When operating properly, septic systems remove many pollutants and provide some measure of protection for human health and for the environment. However, even properly functioning septic systems have the potential to impact nearby surface waters and groundwater.

### Caring for your drain field

- Good vegetative cover is important for drain field function and maintenance.
- To avoid damage from tree roots, plant only grass over and near the drain field.
- Divert surface water runoff from roofs, driveways, downspouts, etc. away from your drain field.
- Do not drive or park vehicles on your drain field.

### Inspect regularly

- Every 3 years to determine if your system is working properly or needs to be serviced.

### Get pumped

- Every 3-5 years is recommended.

### Flush responsibly

- Wastewater should enter into the system as evenly as possible throughout the day/week.
- Avoid antibacterial products that will harm the bacterial action in the tank.
- Avoid harsh cleaners, bleach, soaps, or detergents.
- Don't dispose of paint, medication, or chemicals through your septic system.

***With some care and consideration for your septic tank, it should serve your household well for many years.***

### *Ask about this when buying a home*

**The Arizona Department of Environmental Quality estimates that about 18% of homes in Arizona use a septic system for wastewater disposal. Each of these homes is required to have a valid Aquifer Protection Permit.**
*See page 20 for contact information.*

**Pumping the septic tank is the single most important thing that can be done to maintain and extend the life of the system!**

# Upper Granite Creek Watershed

SIERRA PRIETA MOUNTAINS

Granite Creek
Aspen Creek
Butte Creek
Miller Creek
Willow Creek
Manzanita Creek
GOLDWATER LAKES
BRADSHAW MOUNTAINS
Banning Creek
THUMB BUTTE
Government Canyon
COURTHOUSE SQUARE
North Fork Granite Creek
FORT WHIPPLE/ VA HOSPITAL
BADGER "P" MOUNTAIN
Slaughterhouse Gulch
Granite Creek
WATSON LAKE
WILLOW LAKE

## POLLUTION Pathways

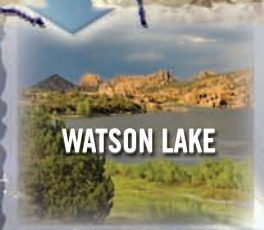
HOUSEHOLD OR BUSINESS POLLUTANTS: *Oil, Trash, Yard Waste, Fertilizer, Bacteria*

## Verde River

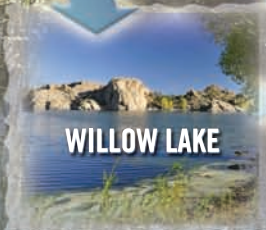

STREET GUTTER


STORM DRAIN


GRANITE CREEK


WATSON LAKE


WILLOW CREEK


WILLOW LAKE

# Creek-friendly LANDSCAPING

## Riparian vegetation: Ribbons of life

The vegetation along a creek or lake is known as the riparian buffer zone. Riparian buffers are part of a healthy, functioning waterway and provide many important benefits. They are biologically rich, providing homes to birds, shrubs, flowers, trees, waterfowl, and other creatures.

By maintaining a healthy riparian buffer, you can enhance the aesthetics of your home or business and increase your property value. Maintaining native vegetation will also

- Protect property from bank erosion and flooding
- Reduce the need for fertilizers and pesticides
- Reduce landscape maintenance requirements
- Conserve water

### Native vegetation

Native riparian vegetation is uniquely adapted to the climate, hydrology, and geography of the region. Native species provide food and habitat for birds and wildlife, as well as protect streambanks and water quality. Unlike their exotic counterparts, native species generally require less long-term maintenance to grow healthy and strong. Check with University of Arizona Cooperative Extension's Yavapai County office to be sure you're selecting plants appropriate for your specific property. Select native, low water use, or drought-tolerant plants. *See a table of native plants on page 13.*

## Riparian Benefits

***Riparian buffers provide many social, economic, and environmental benefits. Riparian buffers:***

- ***Filter out toxic pollutants***
- ***Reduce erosion and stabilize stream banks***
- ***Regulate flood flows***
- ***Increase water storage and groundwater recharge***
- ***Provide habitat for wildlife***
- ***Provide cool, shady places for recreation***



## Streambanks

Natural, undisturbed creeks support communities of native plants that shade and stabilize the streambanks. In parts of the Granite Creek Watershed, natural riparian areas have been replaced with mowed lawns, non-native species, and homes. While a grass lawn is pretty, its shallow roots won't prevent soil erosion. Healthy streambanks need undisturbed native vegetation.

### SOME TIPS TO ON HOW TO PROTECT RIPARIAN VEGETATION

- Restore native plants
- Control and remove non-native species
- Fence livestock away from streambanks
- Avoid mowing grass and do not disturb natural debris like leaves and twigs
- Keep your feet, vehicle, or bike on designated roads and paths

## Plant Toolbox

1. Arizona Cooperative Extension's Yavapai County office: **(928) 445-6590**
2. Yavapai County Native and Naturalized Plants database: ***cals.arizona.edu/yavapaiplants/***
3. Low Water Use, Drought-Tolerant Plant List for the Prescott Active Management Area: ***AZwater.gov.***
4. West Yavapai County Weed Management Area: **(928) 445-6590 x 224**

## Native Plants of the Central Arizona Highlands

### GRASSES

| | |
|---|---|
| Western Wheatgrass | *Pascopyrum smithii* |
| Blue Threeawn | *Aristida purpurea* |
| Squirreltail | *Elymus elymoides* |
| Griffiths Blue Grama | *Bouteloua gracilis* |
| Sideoats Grama | *Bouteloua curtipendula* |

### GROUNDCOVER

| | |
|---|---|
| Western Yarrow | *Achillea millefolium* |
| White Sagebrush | *Artemisia ludoviciana* |
| Desert Globemallow | *Sphaeralcea ambigua* |
| Firecracker Penstemon | *Penstemon eatonii* |
| Sorrel Buckwheat | *Eriogonum polycladon* |
| Silvery Lupine | *Lupinus argenteus* |

### SHRUBS

| | |
|---|---|
| Desert Ceanothus | *Ceanothus greggii* |
| Texas Mulberry | *Morus microphylla* |
| Desert Broom | *Baccharis californicus* |
| New Mexico Locust | *Robinia neomexicana* |
| Roundleaf Snowberry | *Symphoricarpos oreophilus* |

### TREES

| | |
|---|---|
| Fremont Cottonwood | *Populus fremontii* |
| Alligator Juniper | *Juniperus deppeana* |
| Red Willow | *Salix laevigata* |
| Black Cherry | *Prunus serotina* |
| Velvet Ash | *Fraxinus velutina* |
| Arizona White Oak | *Quercus arizonica* |

# Creek-friendly LANDSCAPING

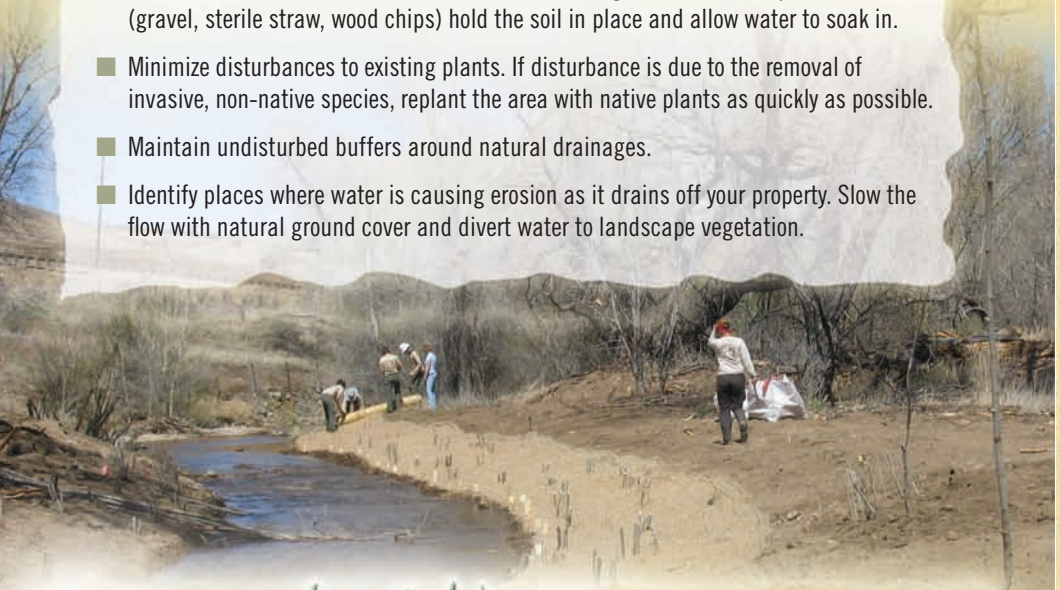
## Reducing EROSION

Some streambank erosion is natural. However, large areas of erosion can significantly degrade the habitat quality within the stream and threaten nearby properties.

In times of flooding, a well-vegetated streambank is your property's best protection from bank erosion. The plants growing there are uniquely adapted to survive flood conditions, provide erosion protection at high flows, and recover quickly when flood waters subside. The roots of riparian trees, especially willows, stabilize streambanks by holding the soil together with their roots.

### To reduce erosion:

- Protect bare soil surfaces. Native trees, shrubs and grasses, cover crops, or mulch (gravel, sterile straw, wood chips) hold the soil in place and allow water to soak in.
- Minimize disturbances to existing plants. If disturbance is due to the removal of invasive, non-native species, replant the area with native plants as quickly as possible.
- Maintain undisturbed buffers around natural drainages.
- Identify places where water is causing erosion as it drains off your property. Slow the flow with natural ground cover and divert water to landscape vegetation.



## Be a good neighbor

*Concrete-lined channels and rip-rap (rock armor) do not solve the problem of erosion. Rather, these techniques actually transfer the erosive force of floodwaters to your downstream neighbors!*



## Yard & pasture maintenance

Fertilizers and pesticides applied to your lawn, garden, crops, or pasture will seep into groundwater and contaminate our creeks. Think about children, pets and wildlife before using pesticides and fertilizers around your home or business. Excessive pesticide use may pollute streams, eliminate natural predators, encourage resistance to pesticides, and kill beneficial insects, earthworms and other organisms. Consider reducing the size of your lawn and landscaping with native plants that are well-suited to cope with local conditions and require minimal maintenance.

- Use organic compost and soil amendments.
- Learn about and use non-toxic approaches to pest and weed management. These methods integrate biological, mechanical, and chemical methods that are less toxic to humans, pets, and wildlife.
- Avoid applications of pesticides, herbicides, and chemical fertilizers near waterways and only spot-treat elsewhere.
- Place leaves, lawn clippings, or pruning debris in your compost pile or properly dispose of them to keep them from washing into creeks or storm drains. These materials may be organic, but they provide nutrients that promote algae blooms downstream and may clog storm drains.
- Overwatering is a common mistake that wastes precious water, money, time, and effort. It may also wash pollutants and soil from your lawn and garden into our creeks. More plants die from over-watering than under-watering!


### Did you know?

**On average, at least 50% of water consumed by households is from outdoor use.**

**To learn how to tap into outdoor water savings, call the City of Prescott Water Smart program: (928) 777-1130 or go to http://www.cityofprescott.net/services/water/conservation.php**

# Continuous CARE

## Vehicle MAINTENANCE

Even in small concentrations, automotive products, such as gasoline, motor oil, antifreeze, battery acid, and metals, can contaminate water. Well-maintained vehicles are less likely to pollute our creeks. Here are a few tips to keep your motor—and our creeks—running clean.

- Regularly maintain your vehicle and repair leaks.
- Always take used oil, batteries and other fluids to a repair shop for proper disposal.
- Never allow oil or other toxins to run off into the ground, street gutters or storm drains. Use absorbent materials, such as cat litter, to clean up driveway spills and dispose of properly.

### Car washing

When a car is washed on paved surfaces like a driveway or parking lot, the soap, automotive fluids, oil, and roadway dirt that get washed from the car go straight into nearby storm drains. Water in storm drains flows directly to our creeks and lakes.

- Even "biodegradable" soaps are harmful to aquatic life and water quality. Take your car to commercial car washes that recycle water and properly dispose of detergents.
- For washing at home, use soaps that are free of phosphate or chlorine and use soap sparingly.
- Wash your car on gravel or a vegetated area, or where the soapy water will soak into the ground and not go straight to a ditch or storm drain.

### Recycle used **motor oil**, **antifreeze**, and/or **car batteries** at:

1. **City of Prescott Transfer Station**
2. **Prescott True Value**
3. **Bennett Oil**
4. **Eco 3 Oil Change**
5. **Walmart Tire and Lube Express**
6. **Autozone**
7. **Checker-O'Reilly Auto Parts**



## Dumped DEBRIS

### Did you know?

**In 2011, 10 TONS of waste was collected from our local creeks, lakes, and trails as part of Prescott Creek's annual Granite Creek Cleanup?**

Unfortunately, some people still treat our local waterways as dumping grounds. If left in our creeks, dumped debris and waste could threaten water quality or create drainage and flooding problems.

- Remove dumped debris from creeks
- Do not deposit yard waste in or near a creek. Compost your yard waste or dispose of it during the City of Prescott Annual Cleanups.
- Get involved. Participate in local neighborhood cleanup events.
- Take advantage of City of Prescott Annual Cleanups to clear your home or business of refuse.

### Code Violation

Talk to your neighbor first, but if the problem persists, contact City of Prescott Code Enforcement Complaint Line at **928-777-1207**. Or Yavapai County Land Use Unit Violation Hotline at **928-771-3464**.

# Continuous CARE

## Livestock & PETS

Backyard livestock and pets enhance our lives and communities by providing companionship, leisure, and fresh, local food products. But waste from our favorite animals can add excess nutrients and bacterial pollution to water, which decreases water quality and can cause human health problems. Pets and livestock can also trample streambanks, damage plants, and cause erosion.

**How we care for our animals can help minimize negative impacts to land and water.**

- Fence animals and livestock away from the sensitive creek and riparian area.
- Keep manure piles at least 100 feet away from creeks or washes.
- Manage animal waste by collecting and composting it. Note: dog waste compost and fresh manure should never be applied to actively growing food crops.
- Avoid over-grazing, soil compaction, and soil erosion.
- Plant and maintain riparian vegetation between pastures and waterways to help filter and minimize nutrient-rich runoff.

Whether in your **yard**, around **town**, or on the **trails**,

*pet waste is your responsibility.*

1. **Bring a bag**
2. **Pick it up**
3. **Dispose of it properly (garbage bin, toilet, or compost pile)**
4. **Never wash it into gutters or storm drains**



# Household CHEMICALS

To prevent toxic chemicals from getting into our waterways and groundwater, try to reduce the amount of hazardous materials used or stored in and around your home or business.

- Consider using biodegradable cleaning products, such as oxidized bleaches, borax, vinegar, and baking soda.
- Read product labels before you buy, and then choose the least hazardous.
- Heed label warnings.
- Buy only the amount you will use.
- Store toxic products safely away from contact with water.
- Dispose of leftovers and the container according to package instructions.

## Got pills?

Studies have found that pharmaceuticals and personal care products are present in groundwater and surface waters, raising concerns over the long-term consequences to human health.

Proper disposal will help reduce our exposure to these chemicals and can help reduce the amount found in our waters. Don't flush them down the toilet or dump them down the drain!

## Prescott, Prescott Valley, and Chino Valley

**Police Departments will accept prescription medications during regular business hours. Empty medications into a clear plastic bag before drop off. Call ahead for more details.**

# Creek Care HELP, PERMITS, RESOURCES

If you're planning any of the activities listed below, contact the city or county where you live to find out what type of permit you will need.

- Modify a river, stream, creek, or wetland
- Grade, clear, excavate, or do any activity that may cause soil erosion
- Build a permanent structure or home addition
- Develop property
- Construct, modify or connect to the public sanitary sewer or storm drain systems
- Perform any earth-moving activity within a stream channel

## Permits

- US Army Corps of Engineers :
  - Section 404 Dredge & Fill Program: (602) 640-5385
- Arizona Dept. of Environmental Quality: (602) 771-2300, AZ Toll Free: (800) 234-5677
  - Section 401 State Water Quality Certification: (602) 207-4697
  - Reclaimed Water (Graywater) Permits: (602) 771-4464
  - Onsite Septic System Notice of Transfer: (602) 771-4677
  - Onsite Septic Tank Inspection: (602) 771-4677
  - Aquifer Protection Permits: (602) 771-4683
- Yavapai County
  - Development Services: (928) 771-3214
  - Customer Service & Permitting: (928) 771-3214
    - Building/Zoning Clearance Permits
  - Environmental Services: (928) 771-3465
    - Septic System Permit
    - Well Applications
  - Flood Control District: (928) 771-3197
  - Floodplain Unit Development Permit Variance-Flood Control (to deviate from Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance)
- City of Prescott
  - Title XVI Drainage and Grading Permit
  - City Code Ch.16-2: Drainage Regulations
    - Section 12: Watercourse Protection
    - Section 13: Notification of Spills

## Creek Care Resources

- University of Arizona Cooperative Extension Yavapai County: (928) 445-6590
  - Master Watershed Steward Program: (928) 445-6590
  - Master Gardener Program: (928) 445-6590 x 224
  - West Yavapai Weed Management Area: (928) 445-6590 x 224
- City of Prescott
  - Water Smart Water Conservation: (928) 777-1130 water.smart@prescott-az.gov
- Rainwater Harvesting for Drylands and Beyond, Brad Lancaster
  - Vol. 1: *Guiding Principles to Welcome Rain Into Your Life and Landscape*
  - Vol. 2: *Water Harvesting Earthworks*
  - Vol. 3: *Roof Catchment and Cistern Systems*
- New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services
  - *Do-It-Yourself Stormwater Solutions for Your Home* (available on the web)
- *Grow Green: Landscaping for Clean Water.* City of Austin, Texas http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/growgreen/
- *Slow the Flow—Make your Landscape Act like a Sponge.* http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/stormfilm/



# The Goal:

## A clean and healthy WATERSHED

*Our local waterways are an important community asset. You can do your part by helping to keep our creeks clean and healthy—and by encouraging your neighbors to do the same. A little creek care can go a long way.*

**Together** *we are the* **solution.**

*Funded by a grant from the United States Environmental Protection Agency and the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality and by contributions from the City of Prescott.*

# CreekCare

PRESCOTT CREEKS

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