

WATERSHED IMPROVEMENT PLAN DEVELOPMENT

Goals and Methods

The goal of the Granite Creek Watershed Improvement Plan is to improve water quality in local creeks and lakes so that all water bodies meet state water quality standards. Project objectives include: 1) identifying primary sources of nutrients and *E. coli* bacteria in the watershed, and 2) developing a plan to reduce the pollutant concentrations entering surface waters. This document, a Watershed Improvement Plan for the Upper Granite Creek Watershed, is the final product. The plan establishes a list of priority water quality improvement and education projects (BMPs) that can be implemented by individuals and jurisdictional entities to achieve the desired result of reducing the nutrient and bacteria concentrations in our surface waters. The plan also includes a financial survey which examines a diversity of funding mechanisms for BMP implementation to bolster the value of the plan by making it self-sustaining.

Primary methods to meet objectives included identifying gaps in the data, monitoring to fill those gaps, analysis, and BMP identification through multi-stakeholder collaboration. Through broad stakeholder involvement, reaching mutually-agreed upon recommendations and support for the Plan is more plausible.

Work Plan

The chief components of the Watershed Improvement Planning process include:

1. Existing data compilation
2. Water quality monitoring
3. Physical survey
4. Social survey
5. BMP identification and prioritization
6. Financial survey
7. Watershed Improvement Plan
8. Project implementation



Above: The WIC at a monthly meeting in 2010.

Watershed Improvement Council

The Granite Creek Watershed Improvement Council (WIC) was formed to administer the planning process (Phase I) and on-the-ground implementation project (Phase II). The group’s purpose statement is “The Granite Creek Watershed Improvement Council is working to improve watershed health and water quality in local streams and lakes through a community planning effort.”

The WIC was formed in June of 2008 with the intent of coordinating and communicating efforts to understand and improve water quality in the Upper Granite Creek Watershed, specifically as it relates to the impairment listings of Granite Creek and Watson Lake. The WIC represents the

diverse interests and stakeholders within the watershed: the City of Prescott, Yavapai County, Prescott National Forest, the Yavapai-Prescott Indian tribe, and ADOT. Citizens, business, and property owners were invited to attend and represent the public interest in the watershed. The primary organizations represented in the WIC are shown in **Table 3**.

Table 3: Watershed Improvement Council Representatives and Member Organizations

Name	Title	Organization	Website
Amanda Richardson	Watershed Program Coordinator	Prescott Creeks	www.PrescottCreeks.org
Max Wahlberg	Image Analyst, Regional Riparian Mapping Project	U.S. Forest Service, Southwestern Region	www.fs.fed.us/r3
Greg Olsen	Hydrologist	Prescott National Forest	www.fs.fed.us/r3/prescott/
Greg Toth	Drainage Engineer/Environmental Coordinator	City of Prescott	www.cityofprescott.net
Steve Gushue	GIS Specialist	City of Prescott	www.cityofprescott.net
Ron Bell	Stormwater Quality Program Coordinator	Yavapai County Flood Control District	www.co.yavapai.az.us
Jeff Whitham	GIS Programmer Analyst	Yavapai County	www.co.yavapai.az.us
Chuck Budinger	Prescott District Environmental Coordinator	Arizona Department of Transportation	www.azdot.gov/highways/districts/prescott

Technical Resources

The WIC receives technical guidance and support from ADEQ in addition to the University of Arizona’s Master Watershed Stewards (MWS) and Nonpoint Education for Municipal Officials (NEMO) programs.

Community Involvement

The Watershed Improvement Planning was designed to be a community-driven process, therefore, involving and educating the citizens of Prescott was essential to the success of the



Above: Creek Crew volunteers participate in a watershed field survey.

WIP. The Creek Crew is the primary avenue for community involvement. The Creek Crew is comprised of citizen volunteers who assist the WIC through the collection of physical and chemical data that is the basis for the recommendations contained in this document.

Creek Crew volunteers receive training and participate in water quality monitoring and boots-on-the ground activities, such as the

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watershed field survey. These activities, and interpretations of the data collected through these activities, are detailed in Chapter 2.

Throughout the course of the planning process, WIC members have spoken to various community groups, organizations, and students about the project, its goals, and its findings. Several news articles were published in The Daily Courier about the project. The WIC also operate a website (www.GraniteCreekWatershed.org) to share news and information about the project. Additionally, a Watershed Residents' Survey was mailed to every household within the project area. The survey and its findings are discussed in Chapter 2.