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21 January 2025

Prescott City Council
201 N Montezuma Street
Prescott, AZ 86301

RE: West Granite Creek Park – Parking Lot Proposal

Honorable Mayor and Council Members:

We are writing to express strong opposition to the proposed plan to pave West Granite Creek Park (WGCP) for use as a parking lot. **This plan contradicts the original intent and purpose of the park, which was to serve as a car-free, natural space for the community, as established by the City Council in Resolution No. 3274 in July 2000.** This resolution created the park as a vital part of Prescott's Greenways Trail system, connecting the east and west sides of the city for pedestrians and bicyclists.

The current proposal to permanently pave WGCP would sever the Greenways Trail and irreparably damage the natural riparian habitat that has been carefully developed and maintained by Prescott Alternative Transportation (PAT) and a coalition of local organizations, residents, and concerned parents since the late 1980s. This plan not only undermines the values of community engagement and sustainability that have shaped the park's history but also poses a direct threat to the safety of pedestrians and cyclists who currently use the Greenways Trail. The presence of cars already creates a dangerous situation in WGCP, and paving the park would only exacerbate this issue.


For over three years, representatives from PAT, other nonprofits, and residents of the nearby Dexter Neighborhood have been **repeatedly assured that the parking at WGCP was temporary** and that the barriers would soon be restored to return the park to its original state. Instead, in 2023, the City completed a design to permanently pave this cherished community space, without consulting those who have been the park's most dedicated stewards and users.

There is a better way forward. **Parking needs can be accommodated with existing paved areas, such as around the Sam Hill warehouse, along the APS wall, or at Depot Marketplace, with improvements to ensure safe crossing.** These alternatives would address parking concerns while preserving the park and its role in the Greenways Trail system.

We urge you to reconsider adding to the sea of pavement surrounding WGCP and work with the coalition of local organizations and residents who have tirelessly worked to create and maintain the area. Together, we can find a solution that respects the park's intended purpose and preserves its value as a car-free natural community space for current and future generations.

Thank you for your time and consideration on this matter. We look forward to your support in protecting and restoring West Granite Creek Park.

Sincerely,



Zachary Czuprynski
Sustainability Coordinator
Green Mountain Center for Sustainability