



Prescott Alternative Transportation

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08/13/2024

To Whom It May Concern,

From: Jim Knaup, President
Prescott Alternative Transportation

Re: Support for West Granite Creek Restoration Project

This letter is confirmation of our support of the community effort to restore West Granite Creek Park, and reconnect and re-establish our Greenways trail system in this area. We also agree that a paved parking lot covering a large part of this designated park and open space is inappropriate for a number of reasons.

Prescott Alternative Transportation has been working for a bicycle and pedestrian friendly transportation system in our Prescott, Arizona community for more than 27 years. Establishing our greenways trail system in this area was among our first initiatives back in 1997. Our goal at the time was to establish an off-street trail corridor to supplement our transportation system, providing bicyclists and pedestrians a safer and more pleasant way to get to downtown destinations, while avoiding dangerous conflicts with cars and traffic.

We also contributed to the West Granite Creek Park Master plan that was adopted at the turn of the century, as well as the Granite Creek Corridor plan twenty years later that improved access to, and stabilized the car free trails at the heart of the Greenways system.

We were devastated to lose our entrance and gateway to the Greenways trail system when the "Tom Pettit Pocket Park" was lost to make way for the Hilton, but we banked on assurances that the Greenways entrance would be restored and improved.

During and after the Hilton construction, the chain barrier that prohibited vehicle entry to West Granite Creek Park was frequently left open allowing construction vehicles to park and turn around in and on areas that had been painstakingly revegetated when APS turned the property over to the city. Once the splash park opened, part of the chain barrier was removed altogether, and nothing was done to discourage random parking, camping, and other activities on a public park that was once closed to such uses, while it celebrated the rich riparian beauty at the heart of our community.

Aside from trampling and obliterating the vegetation, this free-for-all parking scheme on what was designated as open space and parkland, has also completely obliterated the trails at the heart of the Greenways trail system. The trails are no longer delineated, and wayfinding is as good as a guess. The confusion extends to motorists, whose actions are completely unpredictable as they speed through the area to park willy-nilly. There is no safe refuge for pedestrians and bicyclists on what used to be car-free trails.

We stand in support of any action that will help restore this parkland, that ensures it will be managed as natural open space, and that reconnects and re-establishes the trails at the core of our Downtown Greenways Trail System. We also support re-establishing the gateway and entrance to the Greenways trail system by the obelisk on Montezuma Street.

We believe a paved parking lot in this location is completely inappropriate. The fact that this parkland is designated as open space, that the park was officially designated by City Council resolution, and that most of the area is in floodplain should stand as reason enough to quash this proposal. Furthermore, when the splash pad was envisioned, no one expressed the need to build a parking lot to go with it. It was claimed that enough parking existed in close proximity already. Those parking options still exist, and can still be further developed.

Sincerely Submitted by,
Jim Knaup, President
Prescott Alternative Transportation
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