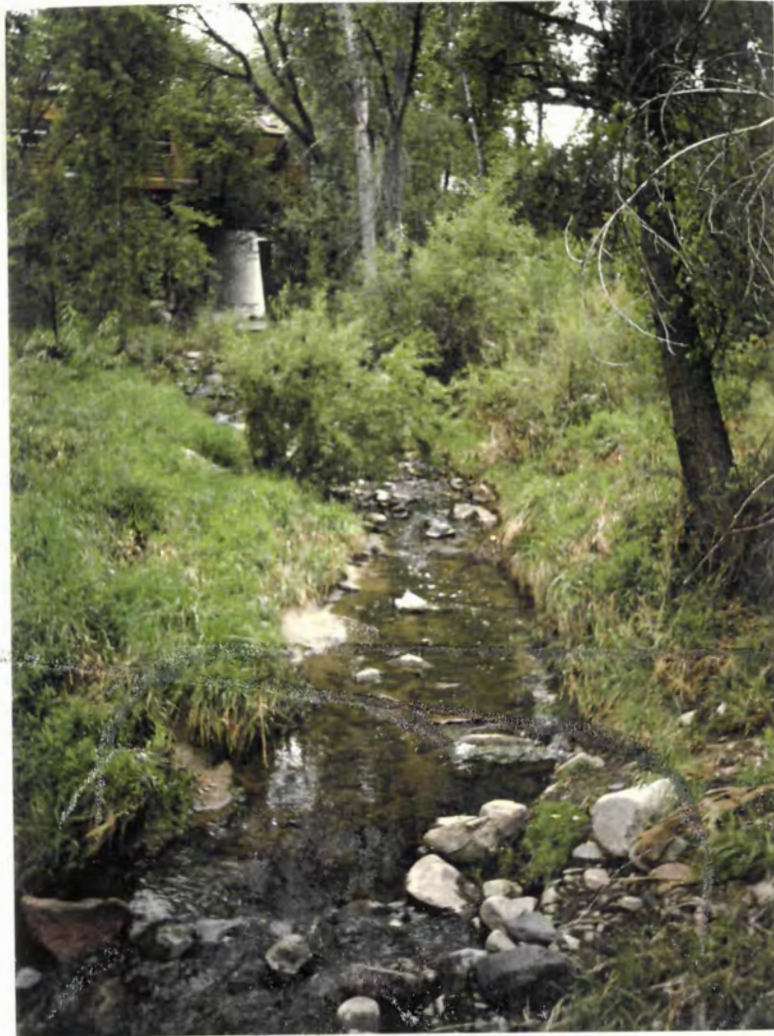


MASTER PLAN

FOR

WEST GRANITE CREEK PARK



CITY OF PRESCOTT



JULY 2000
FINAL DOCUMENT

Contributors

to the
West Granite Creek Park – Master Plan

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RESOLUTION NO. 3274

A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PRESCOTT, YAVAPAI COUNTY, ARIZONA, ADOPTING A COUNCIL POLICY REGARDING THE FUTURE USE AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE WESTERLY PORTION OF GRANITE CREEK PARK, AND ADOPTING THE WEST GRANITE CREEK PARK PLAN.

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Prescott wishes to adopt a policy regarding the future use and development of the western portion of Granite Creek Park; and

WHEREAS, the City Planning and Zoning Commission has recommended approval of the West Granite Creek Park Plan as a guiding document for the future use and development of that portion of Granite Creek Park.

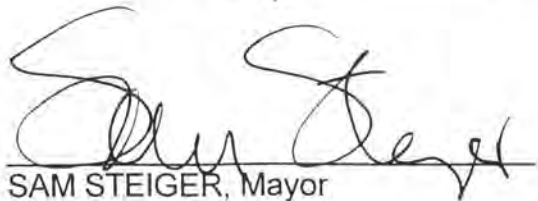
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PRESCOTT AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. THAT, the City Council hereby accepts and adopts the West Granite Creek Park Plan, attached hereto as Exhibit "A".

SECTION 2. THAT, it is the intent of the City Council that in making decisions regarding the future uses and development of that portion of the Park, the Planning and Zoning Commission and the City Council shall take into consideration the recommendations contained in the attached Plan.

SECTION 3. THAT, this Resolution shall become a part of the Council Policy Booklet.

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED by the Mayor and Council of the City of Prescott, Arizona, this 25th day of JULY, 2000.


SAM STEIGER, Mayor

ATTEST:


MARIE L. WATSON, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:


JOHN R. MOFFITT, City Attorney

WEST GRANITE CREEK PARK

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Introduction

This document represents a comprehensive citizen planning effort for an area known as West Granite Creek Park. West Granite Creek Park is located in downtown Prescott at the confluence of Miller and Granite Creeks. This Plan and Site Plan (Appendix A) capture a six-month planning effort, combined with additional proposals prepared prior to the beginning of the planning process. Additionally, the planning process included a four-week public review and comment process (early March 2000 to early April 2000) that included displays for public viewing in the Prescott Public Library and a scheduled open house (see public comments in Appendix B).

Planning Area

The area defined as "West Granite Creek Park" (see Appendices C & D) encompasses the confluence of Miller and Granite Creeks, and is predominately in a natural setting. It is bordered on the east by the La Guardia Bridge (Montezuma Street), on the north by the Dexter (Prospect Park) Neighborhood, on the west by the Arizona Public Service Company (APS) substation and operations/maintenance yard and Lincoln Avenue, and on the south by the historical alignment of the Atchison, Topeka, & Santa Fe Railroad and the Millstone Bistro and Bakery (formerly Malarkey's).

Most of the land is within existing City ownership, however, a small portion is in private ownership (i.e., APS, Warren Zager, Prescott College). These private landowners have greatly contributed to the development of this master plan.

For the sake of continuity, and because areas outside the planning area affect or are affected by the West Granite Creek Park, peripheral greenways are addressed in less detail in Chapter 5.

Limitations and Parameters

Certain limitations and parameters dictate what types of uses can occur within the planning area to include the following:

1. This area is classified as a Special Flood Hazard Zone by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). This designation strictly limits development within the floodplain, specifically any type of structure or improvement that could become clogged with debris during high runoff and cause flooding (thus dictating the designs of creek crossings).

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2. The majority of the city-owned (park) property within the planning area was purchased using Federal Land and Water Conservation Funds (LWCF). LWCF restrictions state that "Outdoor recreation and support facilities may be located in primary or potential tourist market areas, provided their primary purpose is for public outdoor recreation as opposed to entertainment or economic development, and provided they do not create unfair competition within the private sector" (SOURCE: LWCF restrictions – Section 660.5.3F).
3. This area is also overseen by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) whom administers the Clean Water Act (Section 401 & 404). ACOE is primarily concerned that developments do not impact the riparian integrity of the area and cause the discharge of sediment (or any other materials) into the creeks. All creek crossings are subject to the approval of ACOE.

Purpose for the Plan

A comprehensive master plan for West Granite Creek Park is overdue. For decades, many Prescott residents have shown interest, pride, and stewardship in the downtown Prescott creeks. See Appendix E for background information and press clippings. In contrast, the downtown Prescott creeks, and the planning area specifically, have also suffered significant resource degradation. Therefore, this plan provides the blueprint for the enhancement of this special area, while also serving as a model (pilot) for other Prescott greenways.

It is important to note that the existing "social" trails and creek crossings are not adequately serving the needs of the area residents. There are many hazards along the existing trails.



Current hazardous creek crossing

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Additionally, when the creeks are flowing significantly, the creek crossings are dangerous and unusable. The result is Dexter (Prospect Park) Neighborhood residents being unable to access directly the necessary services of downtown Prescott.



Current unsafe sewer line crossing being used to cross Granite Creek

This plan addresses the need for suitable trails and creek crossings that will provide adequate connections year-round. This plan also furthers the objectives of Prescott's Mile-High Trail System and Prescott Bicycle and Pedestrian Transportation System – Phase I. A summary of the current trails situation along Prescott's Creeks is found in Appendix F.

While the park will have trail connections to the existing Granite Creek Park, West Granite Creek Park is not intended to be a duplication of the existing park.

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Visions for the Planning Area

The first meeting of the planning team involved a discussion of various "visions" that planning team members have for the planning area. Many planning team members and city staff have closely monitored this site through the 1990s, and have excellent ideas for its enhancement. These include the following:

1. Consider neighborhood and citywide transportation (non-motorized trail connections).
2. Look at trails extending along creeks, upstream and downstream of the planning area. The West Granite Creek Park - Master Plan can serve as a pilot for future creek/greenway trail plans.
3. The potential exists for returning confluence/park area to a model riparian example with minimal development in the floodplain.
4. Look at adequate lighting and other public safety issues. Provide a safe environment at night.
5. Look at the potential to showcase what native vegetation should be/look like, and include educational opportunities.
6. Encourage ongoing cooperation and partnerships between residents, public, and private sectors. Tap into as many organizations as possible.
7. Re-establish ingress/egress (a.k.a. "Gateways") to and from the site.

Goal:

To develop a comprehensive master plan and steps for implementation for West Granite Creek Park.

Objective:

To return the confluence of Miller and Granite Creek (West Granite Creek Park) to an ideal riparian setting with limited park improvements.

Objective:

To establish educational and limited recreational (i.e. trail-related) passive use opportunities, with connections to neighborhoods, businesses, parks, schools, and other Prescott greenways.

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Sample Greenway Trail (Colorado)

Benefits of West Granite Creek Park

Implementation of West Granite Creek Park will have a positive effect on the area, and this is based on the following. Specific benefits will include:

1. The area will be ecologically restored.
2. The area will accommodate increased pedestrians and bicyclists, and contribute to the overall vision of Prescott's Mile-High Trail System of connecting schools, parks, businesses, and neighborhoods.
3. By introducing increased recreation (a human presence), police patrols, and lighting, the area will become less appealing for illegitimate purposes and homelessness.
4. By recruiting neighborhood youth for some of the implementation (e.g., tree planting, trail construction, etc.), youth will learn job skills, teamwork, and camaraderie.

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5. Reduced resource degradation thereby ensuring less dumping, cleaner creeks, and thriving wildlife and vegetative species.
6. Increased neighborhood pride.
7. A place near downtown Prescott that affords opportunities for escape and solitude from day-to-day life.
8. Improved transportation for the Dexter Neighborhood residents.

As more efforts to enhance Prescott's creeks/greenways are underway, a variety of benefits can be found (information extracted from the 1999 Prescott Open Space Plan). Greenways play an important role in the quality of life in Prescott, as well as, throughout the country. Many benefits can be attained by preserving greenways within a community to include the following:

Environmental:

Greenways provide many environmental benefits. These include preservation of wildlife habitat, and maintaining a diversity of vegetative and wildlife species. By preventing continuous development within an area, many vegetative and wildlife species can thrive. In addition, an absence of vehicles and development within a greenway leads to improved air and water quality, less congestion and noise, thus maintaining a more "primitive" setting. Greenways can serve as a travelway for some wildlife species.

Visual:

Of all the benefits of greenways, the visual benefits can be the most noticeable. The visual benefits are directly related to the aesthetics that maintain or increase tourism, and attract new residents, thus providing economic benefits.

Economic:

Many national studies demonstrate that parks, greenways, trails, and open space increase nearby property values. In turn, increased property values can increase local tax revenues and help offset greenway acquisition costs. Spending by local residents on greenway-related activities helps support recreation-related businesses and employment (where recreation is permitted within the greenway). Greenways can often be a tourist attraction thereby generating expenditures on lodging, food, and recreation-oriented services. Greenways improve the overall appeal of a community to prospective tourists and residents, as well as, augmenting valuable remaining watersheds in public ownership.

Recreational/Social:

Greenways can provide a variety of recreational opportunities depending on what is determined appropriate (through a detailed planning process) for a specific greenway.

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Recreational opportunities within a greenway can include a trail system, nature study, bird watching, photography, and escaping the pressures of everyday life. These recreational benefits have links to improved health and fitness.

As the population of the Prescott area increases, more individuals will be seeking the above-mentioned recreational opportunities.

Educational:

Open space presents unlimited educational opportunities, especially if significant biological and cultural resources are found within it. These educational opportunities can be for persons of all ages and abilities, and will ultimately generate more stewards and appreciation for the resource. As increased urbanization is inevitable, greenways educate youth about the importance of balancing development with open space.

Trails:

Trail corridors can often be characterized as linear corridors of open space. Easements for trails can protect a corridor of a predetermined width from development. Since trails attract recreationists that typically have an appreciation for greenways, trail users can become greenway advocates, especially if it protects their ability to recreate. In a 1998 survey contracted by Arizona State Parks as a part of the Trails 2000 Plan development (which involved randomly surveying almost 10,000 individuals statewide), 98% of the respondents ranked "Observing the Scenic Beauty" as their top ranked motivation for using trails.

All of the mentioned benefits to greenways are linked to neighborhood quality of life. Adjacent landowners and area residents can benefit in one or many ways from nearby greenways.

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Chapter 1: History and Existing Conditions

As of mid-2000, West Granite Creek Park was in a state of transition. In 1998-99, large cleanup efforts, some vegetation removal, and additional security by Prescott Police Department greatly improved the site. A major cleanup of contaminated soil in 1999-2000, combined with ecological restoration, partially restored the site to its pre-euroamerican appearance. This chapter identifies existing conditions and current operation of the site.

APS Cleanup

APS conducted a major cleanup of approximately 5.7 acres in attempt to remove soil and groundwater contamination left behind by a manufactured gas plant (operated by a corporate predecessor of APS) that operated from 1909 to 1949. The plant made synthetic gas for domestic heating and lighting. The process used a variety of petroleum fuels, and generated several by-products (e.g., tars, lampblack, oils, and purifier wastes). Contaminants from these by-products include polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons, lead, metals, sulfur, and ferric ferrocyanide.

APS began environmental studies on the site in 1993, and collected samples from many locations. APS is conducting the cleanup under Arizona Department of Environmental Quality's Voluntary Remediation Program.

Through late-2000, all contaminated soil was removed from the site, and replaced with clean soil excavated from the perimeter of Willow Lake (thereby allowing a deeper lake for future fish habitat). Ecological restoration will take place by Riparia, and local riparian restoration consultant.

Benefits to West Granite Creek Park as a result of the cleanup include the following:

1. Removal of contaminants in the area
2. Relocation of utilities that traverse the riparian area
3. Removal of non-native vegetation (e.g., Siberian Elm, Tree of Heaven, etc.), and replacement with native species (e.g, Cottonwood, Willow, etc.)
4. Removal/grading of filled areas, and restoring topography to a more natural creek confluence
5. Creek restoration on Miller Creek
6. Removal of asphalt and concrete that has been dumped in the area
7. Allow for future land exchanges that will bring more of the area into "public" ownership thereby providing additional educational and recreational opportunities
8. APS has also expressed interest in assisting (i.e., through equipment, donations, etc.) with future enhancements to the park site.

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The Dexter (Prospect Park) Neighborhood

The Dexter (Prospect Park) Neighborhood has a significant connection to West Granite Creek Park, and neighborhood residents take much pride in this confluence of two creeks. The park is not only a recreation area for the residents, it acts as a link in the transportation network especially for pedestrians and bicyclists.

West Granite Creek Park separates the Dexter (Prospect Park) Neighborhood and acts as a buffer from more intensive commercial and industrial uses. The neighborhood consists primarily of Residence B-MH (RBMH) zoning which allows both single and multi-family dwellings as well as the use of one manufactured or mobile home on a lot. Other zoning designations in the area include Flood Plain Conservation District (FPC), Industrial A (IA) and Business B (BB). The residents of this neighborhood have a large stake in the development of West Granite Creek Park area, not just as a benefit for themselves, but for the entire community.

A neighborhood plan for the Dexter (Prospect Park) Neighborhood is also being developed in 2000. This plan addresses a much larger area than the residences adjacent to West Granite Creek Park. The neighborhood boundaries will include areas north of Sheldon, south of Whipple, east of Miller Valley and west of the Yavapai Reservation. The City of Prescott General Plan (1997) advocates for the development of neighborhood area plans. These neighborhood plans are meant to translate the general plan goals and policies into a detailed plan for a specific part of the community, in close cooperation with neighbors. The topics addressed in the neighborhood plan include but are not limited to land use, circulation and quality of life elements.

The Dexter (Prospect Park) Neighborhood has an extensive history. A 1902 map in City Hall 23 lots platted in this area. Three subdivisions (Bashford Addition, Murphy's Fifth, and Dameron Park Addition) were platted as early as 1909, and each run along either Miller or Granite Creek. The Bashford Addition subdivision platted in 1924 created the lots closest to the Granite Creek Park area. This subdivision plat shows two streets that dead end at Granite Creek, Madison and Meany Street. However, only Madison Street was completed the full length, Meany Street ends just past Short Street at a large outcropping of granite boulders. Because Meany Street was intended to extend further there are two residential lots that have Meany Street addresses but no frontage. These lots currently have access off of a dirt road that runs through Granite Creek Park. Sonora Street, which is not shown on the Bashford plat map, is not a dedicated street past Campbell Avenue and provides limited access to the southern most lots along Miller Creek across APS property.

The development of West Granite Creek Park area has three significant impacts on the existing neighborhood and its residents. Park boundaries, property maintenance issues, and neighborhood access all need to be addressed.

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The definition and marking of city-owned boundaries (identified in the phases of implementation) is important for several reasons including law enforcement, protection of private property owners, vehicular traffic, and encroachment issues. Property maintenance and cleanup are on-going efforts with residents and city staff, which will need to continue with the development of West Granite Creek Park. West Granite Creek Park also provides an important transportation link between the neighborhood and commercial areas nearby, as well as providing primary vehicular access to certain residences.

Property encroachment issues will prove to be a difficult challenge for the full implementation of the park, and solutions may vary on a case-to-case basis depending on their circumstances. The City of Prescott Code Enforcement Officer has identified several properties in the area that encroach on the park, or require park access to reach their property. Two such properties are dependent upon vehicular access through the park, and three properties have structures that have been built over their property lines and into the park boundaries. It is suggested that at some point negotiations occur with the encroachment property owners to discuss the possibility of incorporating their land into the park. The acquiring of these encroachment properties would expand the boundaries of the park creating a solid formation of city parkland.

One possible solution is that properties within the park or located closest to the park be exchanged with other city property in the area, and involve Habitat for Humanity to rebuild homes for the affected property owners. Encroachment issues also exist on APS property that is proposed to be transferred to City ownership (see section on land exchanges). Encroachment issues should ideally be addressed before the City takes ownership of this property.

Property maintenance issues include trash, garbage, debris, abandoned vehicles, and buildings. A more serious property maintenance problem is improperly maintained sewage yard lines resulting in the disposal of raw sewage into the park, thus creating a potential community health hazard. The Community Services Division of the Police Department has worked with other city departments including the Fire Department, Neighborhood Services, Public Works, and Environmental Services, as well as, APS to clean up the neighborhood areas adjacent to West Granite Creek Park. Neighborhood involvement in these clean up efforts is on a voluntary basis and many residents have taken advantage of the assistance. These properties have both a physical and visual effect on all the future users of West Granite Creek Park.

The City Code Enforcement Officer and city staff will seek direction from City Council on these challenging and delicate issues.

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History & Resource Inventory/Description

Land Ownership:

The majority of the land addressed within this master plan is owned by the City of Prescott. Portions of the area are owned by APS, Prescott College, and Warren Zager (Empty restaurant – formerly Millstone Bistro and Bakery, Casey Jones, and Malarkeys). Appendix B depicts the land currently owned by the City of Prescott. Surrounding land uses are residential and commercial.

Contact made with adjacent property owners:

APS, Prescott College, and Warren Zager are all part of the citizen planning team for this master plan.

Historic & Cultural Resources:

From a few mining camps in the 1860s, Prescott has developed along Granite Creek. For West Granite Creek Park (confluence of Miller and Granite Creeks) specifically, historical resources include the dam on Miller Creek, the abandoned AT&SF railroad trestle over Granite Creek, Sam Hill Warehouse (formerly Sam Hill Hardware Company), remnants of a house foundation, and remnants of a dam along Miller Creek (that was constructed in 1884 as a municipal water supply).

Before the existing Granite Creek Park was created, there was a community of up to 50 low-income, make-shift homes for many decades. To many Prescott residents, Granite Creek was known as "Long Beach", and an area where many squatters and beggars called home. By the 1960s, many families had called "Long Beach" their home for over two generations, and some had received a "quiet title" to the land by occupying it for years. In the late 1960s and early 1970s, citizens and city employees cleaned up the area and relocated the families and squatters that lived in the area. Around this same time, the City began assuming ownership of the area known today as West Granite Creek Park.

Annually monsoons bring torrential rainfall, and during these heavy rains, Granite Creek's flow varies dramatically. On August 19, 1963, a major flood occurred that caused \$400,000 worth of damage in the City of Prescott. The flow of Granite Creek was a staggering 6,600 cubic feet per second. The adjacent homeowners and business owners were the most affected.

Vegetation:

There are at least thirty-five different species of vegetation, some native, and others non-native. The age of the vegetation varies considerably, some are yearlings, some are saplings, and some of the large Fremont Cottonwoods and Bonplained Willows are estimated to be over 100 years old. There are many species of vegetation that are non-native to the area, including the Siberian Elms and Tree of Heaven. Most of the herbaceous plants are non-native. These non-native plants are prone to be invasive plants, and flourish in disturbed areas.

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The following vegetation species are the more dominant vegetation species found in West Granite Creek Park:

Macrophyllous Deciduous Trees:

Box Elder Maple; *Acer negundo* (Native)
Fremont Cottonwood; *Populus fremontii* (Native)
Narrowleaf Cottonwood; *Populus angustifolia* (Native)
Bonplaned Willow; *Salix bonplanndiana* (Native)
Arizona Walnut; *Jugland major* (Native)
Velvet Ash; *Fraxinus velutina* (Native)
Siberian Elm; *Ulmus pumila* (Non-native)
Tree of Heaven; *Ailanthus altissima* (Non-native)

Macrophyllous Deciduous Shrubs:

Arroyo Willow; *Salix lasiomepis* (Native)

Herbacious Plants:

Woolly Mullein; *Verbascum thapsus* (Non-native)
Ragweed; Ambrosia
White Sweet Clover; *Melilotus olba* (Non-native)
Black Eye Susan; *Rudbeckia hirta* (Non-native)
Common Sunflower; *Helianthus annus*
Alfalfa; *Medicago sative*
Desert Globemallow; *Sphaeralcea ambigua*
Western Yarrow; *Achillea millefolium*
Musk Thistle; *Carduus nutons*
Spreading Fleabane; *Ergeon divergens*
Chia; *Salvia columbariae*

Macrophyllous Deciduous Vines:

Virginia Creeper; *Pathenocissus vitacea*

Woody vines:

Poison Ivy; *Toxicodendron radicans*
Arizona Grape; *Vitis arizonica*

Gramminoids:

Side oats; *gramma*

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Wildlife:

The wildlife in this area has been dramatically affected by the urban development that has occurred in the last century, and some species have adapted well. Bird species have been inventoried and include the following:

Birds

Turkey Vulture
Red Tail hawk
Killdeer
Morning Dove
Northern Flicker
Casins Kingbird
Northern Roughwinged Swallow
Scrub Jay
Common Raven
Bewicks Wren
Solitary Vireo
Yellow Warbler
Yellow Rumped Warbler
Blue Grosbeak
Blackheaded Grosbeak
Lazuli Bunting
House Finch
American Goldfinch
Lesser Goldfinch
House Sparrow

Geomorphology:

Granite and Miller Creeks enter the West Granite Creek Park (WGCP) from the south and west, respectively. Near the center of WGCP, Granite Creek confluence's with Miller Creek and continues as Granite Creek and tracks towards the northeast through the rest of Granite Creek Park. Granite and Miller Creeks can be characterized as being moderately entrenched with a moderate gradient; riffle dominated channel with infrequently spaced pools. Deeper entrenchment into alluvium occurs along sections of both creeks where either bedrock is not at the surface or where manmade structures are not in place. Entrenched sections have high instability, such as grade control problems and bank erosion. Inactive secondary channels occur at the northern end of WGCP and are only active during large flooding events. Both creeks have been heavily modified by human enterprise during the last 150 years.

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Geology:

Granite Creek, entering from the south, is situated upon Quaternary gravels just south of the park's southern boundary. Near the railroad trestle over-passing granite creek, granitic substrates/bedrock (Prescott Granodiorite) appears along the creek's western side. Granite creek's eastern side is bounded by Quaternary Alluvium. The Quaternary alluvium is the depositional remnant of Granite and Miller creeks' channel prior to direct channel impacts.

Miller Creek, which enters West Granite Creek Park from the west, is situated atop of Prescott Granodiorite. Much of Miller Creek's channel is situated upon shallow lenses of sandy alluvium deposited upon granite or is entrenched into the granite itself, which appears at the surface for short lengths.

Below the confluence of Miller and Granite Creeks the channel has been forced to the northwest by La Guardia Bridge. The channel is constrained by exposed bedrock (Prescott Granodiorite), which terminates along its northwestern side. The southeastern side of the channel is bounded by Quaternary alluvium and the abutments of La Guardia Bridge.

Hydrology:

The headwaters of Granite Creek are located at approximately 6000 feet in elevation south of Prescott, and the creek flows in a northerly direction (eventually flowing into the Verde River). The entire Granite Creek watershed surrounds the City of Prescott and has a drainage area of 41 square miles. The watershed includes the northern slopes of the Bradshaw Mountains, and eastern slopes of the Sierra Prieta Mountains.

Bannon Creek, Manzanita Creek, Aspen Creek, and other unnamed creeks flow into Granite Creek upstream of West Granite Creek Park. The flow of Granite Creek is partially regulated by the two Goldwater Reservoirs on Bannon Creek.

Butte Creek (formerly known as Potts Creeks) flows into Miller Creek at the Lincoln Avenue crossing and western boundary of the planning area. The confluence of Miller and Granite Creeks is within West Granite Creek Park.

The North Fork of Granite Creek flows into Granite Creek downstream (between Sixth Street and the Yavapai-Prescott Reservation Boundary) of West Granite Creek Park, and potentially affects and/or benefits from future greenway endeavors. Another unnamed creek, which flows north paralleling Virginia Street, also flows into Granite Creek in the same general location.

The stream channel and flow of Granite Creek has been altered dramatically over the last century. One major alteration of Granite Creek occurred when the Atchison, Topeka, & Santa Fe Railroad (originally known as the Santa Fe, Prescott, & Phoenix Railroad) was completed in 1893. Encroachment into the flood plain (i.e., narrowing of the stream channel) has also occurred. Late 1800s photographs depict a wide riparian area along Granite Creek through downtown Prescott.

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A dam was constructed on Miller Creek in 1884 for a municipal water supply. Remnants of the dam are visible today within the planning area near the APS substation. In the last several decades, many other alterations have been made, including construction of the La Guardia Bridge (Montezuma-Whipple connector) over Granite Creek. Following construction of the bridge, the flood plain near the Santa Fe railroad station was altered dramatically to prevent major floods from damaging the new shopping center (known today as Depot Marketplace). Other alterations of the course and flow of Granite and Miller Creeks include sewer lines (with concrete abutments), check wells, and urban trash.

Topography:

The topography of this area is in a constant state of erosion. Parts of the area are flat, while other areas have steep inclines. The topography is going to change with the APS cleanup and associated grading.

Soils:

The soils adjacent to the creeks are approximately 93% sand. Soils outside of the creek flows have a higher clay content.

Climate:

Prescott averages over 18 inches of precipitation annually. The receives most of its precipitation during the winter storms and summer thunderstorms. The power of Granite Creek moves air as well as water, creating a cold air trough. The microclimate of West Granite Creek Park stays cool even during the hottest months of the year. This natural microclimate is being affected by urban development.

Access and Transportation:

Most of the existing access points are non-motorized and for the most part, only nearby residents commute through the unimproved part of Granite Creek Park. Currently, there is no motorized access except from the north end of Granite Street, which is going to be eliminated as a public vehicular entrance.

There are several narrow "social" trails that have been created by daily use of pedestrians. These "social" trails allowed the planning team to observe use patterns in the area.

Relationship of West Granite Creek Park to existing transportation corridors:

To the east of the area is the busy intersection of Montezuma and Sheldon Streets. Montezuma Street connects to Whipple Street thereby providing in important linkage between the hospital, YMCA, High School, and surrounding neighborhood to the downtown area. Sheldon Street serves as Highway 89 through Prescott. South of West Granite Creek Park, Willis Street (and its associated connectors) provides the linkage between Prescott College and fairgrounds to downtown.

WEST GRANITE CREEK PARK

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Future Transportation Plans:

West Granite Creek Park and its peripheral greenways provide the important trail connections for alternate (non-motorized) transportation. This includes safely connecting the Dexter (Prospect Park) Neighborhood to downtown, and safely connecting Yavapai College to downtown, Prescott College, and other important destinations. These trail connections will complement Prescott's Mile-High Trail System and Prescott Bicycle & Pedestrian Transportation System - Phase I. A trail along Granite Creek was identified as important within the 1996 City Trails Plan and Prescott Bicycle Planning Guide. Lighting, an emergency cellular phone, trails designed for areas prone to flooding, and durable creek crossings will make this more feasible than ever.

Political Subdivision & Regulating Jurisdictions:

The City of Prescott, the Mayor and City Council, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (in charge of 401 & 404 permitting for any improvement within floodways) have a major role in regulating West Granite Creek Park.

Public/Private Infrastructure:

- A) Existing utilities: water, sanitary sewer, electrical, cable, telephone, natural gas, storm sewer
- B) Future Utility Plans: The future utility plans, expansions, and additions are minimal due to the fact that the area is in a flood plain.

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Chapter 2: Creating a Park

The definition of a park can mean different things to different people. For the West Granite Creek Park specifically, the term "park" implies a place for passive recreation, education, escape, solitude, and exploration.

Site Plan:

A site plan is found in Appendix A. The site plan captures the ideas of the planning team for West Granite Creek Park, and corresponds with the information provided in this chapter.

Revegetation Effort:

Riparia, a Prescott riparian ecological restoration consulting firm, is contracted by APS to design and coordinate the revegetation effort within the APS cleanup boundaries. Riparia will reestablish native riparian vegetation.

Improvements & Associated Preliminary Costs

The site plan illustrates locations of the improvements that are proposed for West Granite Creek Park. While park development will be minimal, this master plan calls for trails, associated creek crossings, and other features. A main consideration for all improvements to West Granite Creek Park is that all improvements are low maintenance, vandal resistant, and less vulnerable to flood damage. To accomplish this task, it is important to look at new and emerging technologies, some of which have already proven to accomplish the above.

The funding of these improvements will be accomplished through grants, donations, city funds, and fundraising efforts. Not all improvements will take place initially.

NOTE: The first fundraiser (first in a series) titled "Prescott's Downtown Greenways" was held April 1 at the new Millstone Bistro and Bakery (see Appendix G). The event generated over \$14,000 for initial needs of West Granite Creek Park, and Prescott Alternative Transportation served as the non-profit recipient of the donations. The funds are secured in an interest-bearing account. Additionally, \$2,500 has been secured for low water crossings through a Yavapai County Community Foundation grant.

Please see "Chapter 3 - Phases of Implementation" for chronology of activities.

WEST GRANITE CREEK PARK

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Trails:

All proposed trails within West Granite Creek Park are considered Category #5 "Creek Trails" according to the 1999 addendum to the 1996 City Trails Plan (see Appendix H). Category #5 trails are the most costly because they are subject to extreme forces of nature. To counter this, creek trails are elevated where needed, reinforced with streambank stabilization (e.g., rip-rap) and gabion structures, have culverts underneath where needed, and are compacted to allow for a variety of non-motorized uses. New soil stabilizers, such as Marlock, add needed strength to creek trails. Longitudinal grades on all trails should remain less than five percent. Outsloping should be three to five percent. Every effort will be made to design barrier-free trails where feasible.

The Granite Creek Trail, which is part of the Prescott Bicycle and Transportation System - Phase I, is designed to ultimately connect many different parts of Prescott. Due to its potential high volume, a minimum width of eight feet (and up to ten feet where feasible) and adequate sight distances are required. Where the Granite Creek Trail merges with the existing Granite Creek Park jogging path, it is important to continue the counter-clockwise travel along the park trail until the park trail can be widened to accommodate two-way travel.

Other West Granite Creek Park trails will need to be a minimum of four-to-six feet wide to accommodate the many bicyclists in the area. Trails will also be used as a management tool to discourage cross-county travel and resource impacts. Trail locations and development standards are subject to approval from U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Section 401 & 404 permit process), and compliance with FEMA Special Flood Hazard Zone restrictions (separate Federal oversight requirements).

All trail junctions will be signed with directional signage. Trail access points will be signed with trail user educational information.

Total Cost: \$5,200

Bridges:

This master plan recommends four different bicycle/pedestrian bridges, all of which serve a specific need, and where use patterns show many pedestrians and bicyclists are attempting to cross the creeks. Since many people traverse West Granite Creek Park on a daily basis, the bridges will allow neighborhood residents to make connections even when Granite and Miller Creeks are at peak flow.

One bridge design suggested entails a pivot on one end of the bridge. Should a large amount of debris and water be traveling downstream (as has been witnessed) and depositing up against a bridge, the bridge could swing to one side allowing the debris to pass. This would prevent the loss of a bridge, and the bridge could be brought (swung) back into place after the flow subsides. Additionally, the elimination of handrails could prevent the bridges from being clogged with debris.

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The bridges are to be located in the following locations: **(#1)** East of the La Guardia Bridge and downstream of the confluence of two creeks (where use patterns show many pedestrians are attempting to cross); **(#2)** over Miller Creek at the east end of Sonora Street (near existing sewer line crossing); **(#3)** over Miller Creek just east of the Lincoln Avenue (wet) crossing (and previous location of a pedestrian bridge); **(#4)** and over Granite Creek near the Montezuma/Sheldon intersection (existing sewer line crossing near the restaurant).

A consultant will be contracted for engineering of bridges and associated approaches/abutments, and riprap and gabions will be used for added durability. Bridge locations and development standards are subject to approval from U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Section 401 & 404 permit process), and compliance with FEMA Special Flood Hazard Zone restrictions.

Quantity: 4 Cost (each): Varies (see below)

- **Bridge #1** will likely be steel due to the longer span and elevation required, and is estimated at \$28,000.
- **Bridge #2** will likely be wood construction and is estimated at \$6,000.
- **Bridge #3**, which City of Prescott - Public Works Department has attached a \$111,000 amount, will likely be implemented as a part of the Dexter (Prospect Park) Neighborhood Plan using different funds from this project. The cost associated with this bridge includes the extensive sidewalk/approach work necessary to make the bridge ADA accessible.
- **Bridge #4** FEMA Special Flood Hazard Zone restrictions may not allow a new span, and therefore, will be studied further. In the interim, a temporary bridge will be developed (at no cost) through an Eagle Scout project.

Low Water Crossings:

Partial funding already has been secured for two low water crossings through a Yavapai County Community Foundation grant. One is proposed along Miller Creek near its confluence with Granite Creek, and the other is proposed along Granite Creek downstream of the confluence of Miller and Granite Creeks (under the LaGuardia Bridge). These two creek crossings will be a series of side-by-side culverts secured in place with concrete. These will include attractive stone masonry, and nearby revegetation to "soften" the appearance. These two crossings are not intended to duplicate the four bridges, but instead, provide increased connectivity and direct routing for trails (specifically the Prescott Bicycle and Pedestrian Transportation System - Phase I). They will be usable most of the year except during periods of high runoff, at which time the creeks would flow over the top of the low water crossings. Signs will be posted educating trail users to not use the crossings during high runoff, but to instead detour to the bridges.

Design and engineering is critical to determine a design that resists scouring and erosion, especially if the concrete is underwater for lengthy periods of time. Low water crossing locations and development standards are subject to approval from U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Section 401 & 404 permit process), and compliance with FEMA Special Flood Hazard Zone restrictions.

Quantity: 2

Cost (total): \$9,000

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Sample Trail Bridge



Sample Low Water Crossing

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Photovoltaic Security Lighting:

This type of lighting is becoming more common in areas where extending electricity is neither feasible nor economical. This type of lighting will avoid placing electric utilities in a floodway. The photovoltaic cells are at the top of the light, and are charged by sunlight even under a canopy of trees. Bulbs that project light downward (to not impact nesting birds) will be protected from vandalism with a wire mesh or high-impact plastic. Poles will be secured with a concrete pedestal. Timers will be researched as per recommendation from Prescott Police Department. This type of lighting will also promote an alternative energy source.

Quantity: To be determined

Cost (total): \$8,000

Emergency Cellular Telephone:

This type of emergency telephone is becoming more common in areas where extending electricity and telephone lines is neither feasible nor economical. These vandal-resistant telephones have a cellular communication line linked to a 911 emergency dispatch. The telephone has a blue light on top making it easy for a park user to find at night. If the telephone is activated, a strobe light activates allowing police and emergency medical services to respond easily. A photovoltaic cell on top of the unit provides the electricity.

Quantity: 1

Cost (total): \$4,000

Benches:

Benches have been suggested to provide places to rest, read, socialize, and enjoy the park. Benches are available in a variety of materials, to include steel. Benches need to include a center armrest to prevent sleeping by homeless individuals. Benches will be secured by chain to trees, or anchored by chain (cemented) into the ground.

Quantity: To be determined

Cost (total): \$5,000

Park Entrance Signs (Gateways):

As with all city-managed parks, park entrance signs at main access points provide the visitor with a good first impression. The same design (made from recycled plastic) used already throughout the City will be used.

Quantity: 3

Cost (total): \$3,000

Informational Kiosks (Gateways):

Informational kiosks, such as the one found at the Peavine (Rails-to-Trails) Trailhead, provide important information to park and trail users. This information can include park rules and regulations, safety information, information on other city parks, and other pertinent information.

Quantity: 3

Cost (total): \$2,400

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As a part of the Gateway (entrance) concept, the adjacent land owner (Warren Zager) is proposing an entrance piece at the gateway near the Montezuma/Sheldon intersection that could have significant educational value. This would entail a biological "living machine" that would take water from the creek, use natural process to filter and cleanse the creek water, and discharge back into the creek. The piece could be visually exciting, sculptural, and kinetic, and could rely on wind and solar power. Further research on this concept will be explored.

Interpretive Stations:

The possibilities for interpretive stations (which are different from the informational kiosks) are limitless, and will provide excellent educational opportunities to interpret flora, fauna, history, geology, and possibly a memorial to those that died in the park. Materials that are vandal resistant will be a high priority. Excellent opportunities exist to involve many of the groups and organizations found in the Roles and Responsibilities Section for the development of the stations.

Quantity: To be determined

Cost (total): \$6,000

Neighborhood Garden:

Residents of the Dexter (Prospect Park) Neighborhood have proposed a small neighborhood garden. The concept is similar to the proposed neighborhood garden at Willow Lake, and designed to serve residents who desire to grow produce, but may not have an area to do such (e.g., persons living in apartments, etc.).

Quantity: 1

Cost: \$3,000

Small Playground Area:

A small playground area near Sonora Street would provide a recreational opportunity for the Dexter (Prospect Park) Neighborhood children, and since it would be near a developed area, would not impact the "natural" character of West Granite Creek Park. As with the neighborhood garden, this concept will be further defined over time, and will be largely dependent upon leadership, coordination, and participation of Dexter (Prospect Park) Neighborhood residents.

Quantity: 1

Cost: \$5,000

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Summary of Improvement Costs for West Granite Creek Park and Total Amount

The following items are identified on the site plan, and represent "total build-out" of West Granite Creek Park. Costs are estimates, and subject to change. Final materials to be used (and respective costs) will be determined by monies available for implementation. Refer to "Phases of Implementation" for timeline on items.

| IMPROVEMENT | QTY | TOTAL EST. COST |
|--|-------------------|----------------------------------|
| All proposed trails & tread stabilization (trail widths vary) | 3,525 linear feet | \$5,200 |
| Steel Trail Bridge over Granite Creek (#1) (and abutments) (east of La Guardia Bridge - longer span) | 1 | \$28,000 |
| Wood Trail Bridge over Miller Creek (#2) (and abutments) (for Neighborhood to Downtown Connector Trail) | 1 | \$6,000 |
| Trail Bridge over Miller Creek (#3) (east of Lincoln Street) (and associated sidewalks/ramps/approaches - being addressed within Dexter Neighborhood Plan) | 1 | \$111,000* |
| Wood Trail Bridge (#4) over Granite Creek (and abutments) (for Neighborhood to Downtown Connector Trail - sewer line crossing) | 1 | No cost (Eagle Scout Project) |
| Low Water Crossings (Miller and Granite Creeks) | 2 | \$9,000 |
| Photovoltaic Area (Security) Lighting | TBD | \$8,000 |
| Emergency Cellular Telephone | 1 | \$4,000 |
| Park Benches | TBD | \$5,000 |
| Park Entrance (gateway) Signs | 3 | \$3,000 |
| Informational Kiosks | 3 | \$2,400 |
| Interpretive (Education) Stations | TBD | \$6,000 |

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| | | |
|---------------------------|---|---------|
| Small Neighborhood Garden | 1 | \$3,000 |
| Small Playground Area | 1 | \$5,000 |

TOTAL ESTIMATED LONG-RANGE "BUILD-OUT" COSTS \$195,600.00

* Bridge #3 is a Prescott Public Works project, and being coordinated through the Public Works budget.

Potential Land Exchanges

1. Restaurant Property:

Additional parking is desired for the Millstone Bistro and Bakery (the building formerly known as Malarkey's) adjacent to Montezuma Street and Granite Creek. The restaurant does not currently have exclusive parking, but instead, its patrons use public (city) parking areas. When these public parking areas are full due to other downtown events, or used by employees of nearby businesses, the restaurant is left with no parking for its patrons. A portion of the park property exists immediately to the north of the existing public parking area that was used for parking when Malarkey's was operating. The area would provided needed parking for the restaurant.

The City purchased the property with Federal Land & Water Conservation Funds, and therefore cannot sell it. The City can, however, trade it for creek and/or recreational property of equal value (through a conversion process regulated by the National Park Service). The area desired by the restaurant is a maximum of 1.5 acres, and if used for future restaurant parking, would not have an impact on the vision for West Granite Creek Park if another complimentary riparian area could be acquired. The owner of the restaurant desires to contract an appraiser to determine the value of the 1.5 acres.

For an ideal land exchange to transpire, there are two parcels of land that the City is interested in acquiring that lie along Granite Creek downstream of the existing Granite Creek Park and Sixth Street, and these could be exchanged for the desired property along Montezuma Street. These parcels, if can be purchased, will be of value in protecting and enhancing approximately five acres along Granite Creek, and increasing potential for a trail connection to Roughrider Park and Yavapai College. Jim Fann, owner of the majority of the subject property along Granite Creek, is interested in selling for such an endeavor. The owner of the restaurant would need to make the necessary purchase, and offer as an exchange for the desired 1.5 acres adjacent to the restaurant.

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2. East end of APS Yard:

APS currently occupies City-owned property at the east end of their operations yard that serves no purpose for West Granite Creek Park. APS would like to offer for exchange for this property, a significant stretch of Miller Creek. The portion of Miller Creek that APS would offer for the exchange would serve the public need by bringing the property into public ownership, providing recreational and educational opportunities, and providing an important trail connection from West Granite Creek Park to Grove Avenue/Miller Valley Road.

3. West end of the APS yard:

There is a 40' x 60' island that APS would like to include in a future land exchange. More information regarding this parcel will become available at a future date.

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Chapter 3

Phases of Implementation

The enhancement of West Granite Creek Park will occur in phases according to availability of funding, permitting requirements, seasons, staff and equipment availability, and other factors. The following phases represent various actions and the "ideal" phase in which each action and/or improvement should occur. The various actions will be a cooperative venture between many groups, organizations, and governmental agencies.

West Granite Creek Park - Phase I: Early 2000 to APS project completion (late-2000)

Action and/or Improvement:

1. Implement April 1 fundraiser for West Granite Creek Park and Prescott's Downtown Greenways.
2. Resurvey park boundaries and secure (i.e., cement in place) visible steel posts at intervals (within sight distance of each other).
3. Begin planning community and neighborhood work days (City, APS, Riparia).
4. Begin 401 & 404 (Clean Water Act) permit process with U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for trails and creek crossings (as required by law).
5. Explore grant sources that could provide funding for improvements.
6. Begin process for land exchanges with APS (i.e., transfer small city-owned parcel within APS yard to APS, and acquire significant stretch of Miller Creek in exchange - see section on potential land exchanges).
7. Begin potential land exchange process (open space adjacent to Montezuma Street) that will benefit the park, restaurant, and protect additional stretches of Granite Creek.
8. Begin specific site design for all trails.
9. Begin specific designs of creek crossings.
10. Begin trail development outside of APS cleanup boundaries.
11. Re-establish riparian vegetation (Riparia).

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West Granite Creek Park - Phase II: late-2000 through late-2001

Action and/or Improvement:

1. Design and development of Lincoln Avenue pedestrian/bike bridge as a part of the Dexter (Prospect Park) Neighborhood Plan process and implementation.
2. Complete permit process with U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for creek crossings.
3. Design and development of all permanent trails and creek crossings as funding permits.
4. Design, development, and installation of all area (security) lighting as funding permits.
5. Begin design and development of educational/interpretive opportunities as funding permits.
6. Complete all land exchanges to benefit the park, and restore additional sections of creeks.
7. Schedule and implement regular community and neighborhood work days.
8. Monitor revegetated areas.
9. Monitor volume and types of recreational uses.
10. Negotiate trail easements to continue Granite Creek Trail upstream (west side of creek) to Willis Street (for connectivity to existing Granite Creek Riverwalk Trail).
11. Raise public awareness of the transportational, recreational, and educational opportunities.

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West Granite Creek Park - Phase III. 2002-2010

Action and/or Improvement:

1. Design and develop bridge over Granite Creek east of La Guardia Bridge (connection to developed Granite Creek Park) as funding permits.
2. Continue to seek funding for emergency cellular telephone, benches, interpretive stations, neighborhood garden, small playground area, and park entrance signs and "gateways".
3. Monitor volume and types of recreational uses.
4. Perform trail and creek crossing maintenance as necessary.
5. Complete design and development of educational/interpretive opportunities.
6. Monitor revegetated areas.
7. If lot/home owners along northern boundaries of park desire to sell, purchase properties using Open Space/Streets 1% sales tax, and expand park acreage.
8. Use success of West Granite Creek Park implementation to implement more greenway/trail projects along peripheral greenways.

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Chapter 4: Management

Given the recent history of the area known as West Granite Creek Park, proactive management, safety, and security are foremost in importance. The improvements and amenities identified within this plan will attract a large number of park users to the area. The City and partners in this endeavor need to ensure a safe, enjoyable, and well-managed resource. This will be accomplished in the following manner:

Patrols:

Patrols will provide security, prevention of dumping, vandalism prevention, emergency medical response, evacuation in the event of a flood, and providing information to the user public. Prescott Police Department will continue patrols as currently being conducted. Future Park Rangers will also patrol the park. As with the Prescott Peavine Trail, frequent trail users will ideally monitor use and conditions, and report observations to city staff.

Emergency Medical Services (EMS) & Police Response:

EMS and police will be able to access the park from various access points in order to adequately respond to any incidents that may occur. These access points include the north end of Granite Street, end ends of Sonora and Madison Street, from the proposed gateway entrance near Montezuma Street and restaurant building, and from the existing Granite Creek Park.

Operation and Maintenance of Improvements and Park

Trails:

Trail management will be accomplished similar to other City trails. Trails will be inspected weekly, and cyclical maintenance will be accomplished as needed. Vegetation will be minimally pruned to ensure adequate sight distance for trail users. After periods of high runoff, the trail tread will be closely inspected to monitor and repair (through patching, etc.) any hazards in the trail surface. Trail junction signs will be inspected and replaced as needed. Hazard trees and limbs over trails (e.g, overhanging limbs on mature cottonwoods) will be identified and corrected. Compatibility with the existing "jogging" path within the existing Granite Creek Park (with a counter-clockwise flow) will be enforced until such time that the existing jogging path can be improved to accommodate two-way traffic.

Trails will be used as a management tool to "channel" park users and discourage cross-country travel.

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Bridges:

Bridges will be inspected to ensure safety for park users at all times, especially after periods of high runoff. Any debris will be removed from bridges. Abutments and approaches will be inspected for any undercutting/undermining.

Low Water Crossings:

The culverts within the low water crossings will need periodic removal of debris to avoid clogging. Removal of sand from the concrete surface will also be necessary to maintain a smooth surface.

Boundary Markers:

Periodic inspection of markers (and potential replacement) will be necessary since these could be prone to vandalism. Line of sight is essential for these markers so that Prescott Police Department and Park Rangers can easily identify park boundaries.

Security Lighting:

Security lighting will need regular inspection to ensure it is working properly.

Garbage & Litter:

Current staffing within the Parks and Recreation Department does not allow for the daily maintenance associated with most city parks, such as emptying garbage containers. As with the Prescott Peavine Trail, a "pack-it-in, pack-it-out" practice may be needed. This could include providing small dispensers with garbage bags. Periodic litter removal from city staff, partners in this endeavor, volunteers, and neighborhood residents will be necessary.

Graffiti:

Monitoring and removal of graffiti will be a continuation of an on-going effort with "Graffiti Busters" and the Tri-City Area Gang Prevention Task Force.

Pets:

Due to the potentially high volume of trail users within the park, pets on the trails will need to be leashed to avoid potentially serious accidents (e.g., a loose pet in the travelway of a bicyclist). Regarding pet waste, pet waste "baggie" dispensers will ideally be placed at strategic locations to encourage pet owners to pickup after their pet and reduce the volume of pet waste.

Other Improvements:

All other improvements identified with Chapter 2 will need periodic inspection.

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Personnel (paid and volunteer)

Operations and maintenance of West Granite Creek Park will be accomplished as a cooperative venture between different entities (many of which are identified in the "Roles and Responsibilities" section). The following are a sample of options available for development and operations/maintenance:

Neighborhood Residents:

Neighborhood residents will be integral in the ongoing operations and maintenance through patrols, cleanups, maintenance, and monitoring. Excellent potential exists to engage neighborhood youth to learn job skills, stewardship, teamwork, and cooperation.

City Volunteers:

The City Trails Program has established a dependable cadre of trail volunteers that move around the City working on a variety of trail projects. These volunteers will be utilized at West Granite Creek Park.

Community Service Workers:

Three different sources of community service labor are available, and include the following: Prescott Police Department's Community Service Program; Yavapai County Adult Probation Program; and Yavapai County Juvenile Probation Program. All three sources have been used extensively for park and trail-related projects. These programs can be assigned "less-rewarding" tasks that may not be ideal or stimulating for volunteers.

Parks and Recreation Staff:

Extensive trail, park, and natural resource-related knowledge and skills are found within the City's Parks and Recreation Department. The City Trails Coordinator will provide expertise for the design and construction of trails, and many Parks and Recreation staff are heavy equipment operators.

Students:

Excellent potential exists to engage elementary, middle and high school, and college students in a variety of tasks from initial implementation through long-term stewardship. This potential will be further defined through the phases of development.

Clubs and Organizations:

Many clubs and organizations are identified in "Roles and Responsibilities" will ideally have a long-term investment in West Granite Creek Park, specifically those that were involved with this master plan development. This potential will be further defined through the phases of development.

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Roles and Responsibilities

The successful implementation of this master plan is contingent upon the continuing partnership that brought this plan to fruition. Many of the following organizations and groups contributed the following roles and responsibilities and are committed to making the West Granite Creek Park a success, while others were identified as having expertise beneficial to the successful implementation and operation of West Granite Creek Park.

City of Prescott:

- Seek/obtain approval of plan
- Public Safety
- Maintenance
- Overall coordination process
- Keeping communication open between affected parties
- Grant writing
- Coordination w/other government agencies
- Implementation
- Insure quality of life for all people
- Responsible for liability

Open Space Alliance:

- Communication
- Grant writing
- Riparian ecology and planning expertise
- Assisting w/seeking and obtaining City Council approval
- Public Awareness
- Public Education (newsletter/web site)

Prescott Creeks Preservation Association:

- Riparian ecology and restoration expertise
- Communication (education and public events)
- Public awareness
- Grant writing
- Cleanups
- Coordination of volunteers

'Wild west' show draws fire from park planners

By CINDY BARKS
The Daily Courier

PRESCOTT - For six months, a citizens' committee has worked to come up with a master plan for the undeveloped West Granite Creek Park.

And members of the committee made it clear to the Prescott Planning and Zoning Commission this week that they like the plan the way it currently stands - and that is without a "wild west" show on a portion of the park land.

Several dozen master plan supporters filled the room Thursday morning, when the Planning and Zoning Commission met for its regular study session.

Among the items on the agenda was a review of the West Granite Creek master plan, a 37-page document that recommends passive uses for the four or five acres of mostly primitive land near the confluence of Miller and Granite creeks on the west side of the LaGuardia Bridge on Montezuma Street.

The plan got rave reviews from the commission and from the audience, while the idea to add a wild west show in the area did not fare so well.

Although the commissioners did not take a vote at the study session, they got a

taste of the overriding sentiment in the room, when Sue Knaup, committee member and Prescott Alternative Transportation director, called for a show of hands from the audience about the addition of a wild west show in the Granite Creek Park area.

Most of the people at the meeting indicated support for the plan as the committee originally proposed it, without an amphitheater for a wild west show.

The idea for conducting wild west shows on the west side of Granite Creek Park reportedly surfaced during the March open house that the committee conducted to get comments from the public about the draft plan.

It came up again at Thursday's commission meeting, when the supporters suggested an addition to the master plan that would allow for a number of outdoor performances to showcase traditional western skills relating to cattle ranching, mining, and logging.

Ben Hansen, the editor of the Daily Courier, said the newspaper has committed to being the media sponsor for six outdoor performances of old west skills. He said the old west shows could become a tourist draw for the area.

Hansen and fellow supporter Beau

Hickory maintained that the old west shows could fit in well with what the committee has planned for the West Granite Creek area. "This would detract nothing from what the committee has accomplished," Hansen said.

Hickory said he first broached the idea for the shows with the city about two years ago. Original plans for the shows at another downtown location fell through, he said, because of concerns about having trained animals in the area.

Hickory said the shows would require a "very limited amount of development" in the park area.

But that was more than the master plan supporters were willing to consider. Prior to the meeting, the Prescott Alternative Transportation organization had sent out notices to its members, urging attendance at Thursday's session.

The notice stated that "there is increased momentum" for the wild west show idea. It added that wild west shows would be "completely contrary to everything the West Granite Creek Park Master Plan strives for."

Knaup repeated those concerns Thursday, when she responded to the idea that Hansen and Hickory presented.

She said the master plan committee had

broad representation from the community, along with support from the surrounding neighborhood and many of the area businesses. "I'm sure all of these would be very upset if the plan was torpedoed by a crazy scheme like the wild west show," Knaup said. "What they are talking about would require large destruction of this area."

When Knaup asked for a show of hands from the audience, Zant urged her to tone down her comments. "You've got a commission in favor of what you're doing; don't overkill it," he said.

Although city officials did not oppose the idea of a wild west show in Prescott, they questioned the appropriateness of the location at the West Granite Creek Park.

Eric Smith, trails and open space coordinator for the city, pointed out that the city purchased the park land with Land and Water Conservation money, which precludes any type of business endeavor from locating there. The area is also in the floodplain, which would strictly limit the type of development. Smith said.

And Ramona Mattix, assistant community development director for the city, said the city is currently going out for proposals for an equestrian center - either at the existing rodeo grounds off Fair Street, or at

Pioneer Park. "The wild west show is a great idea, but I don't know if the purchase requirements on the land would allow for it," Mattix said. "(The equestrian center) would be an excellent shot for it."

Hickory, however, said the West Granite Creek Park location would allow visitors arriving in tour buses to visit the downtown and walk to the wild west show. He doubted that visitors would walk to the equestrian center.

The commission likely will vote on the park master plan at its next meeting on July 13. After that, it will go to the Prescott City Council for final consideration.

The plan advocates a gradual clean-up and improvement of the park land. The improvements would include a number of foot bridges over the creeks, security lighting, re-establishment of some of the native vegetation, and multi-use trails.

From the outset, the commissioners appeared supportive of the plan, which they said would clean up an area that has been an trouble spot in the community for years.

"As rough and dirty as it is right now, with just a bit of attention, it could end up being something we could all be proud of," said Commissioner Robert Lightfoot.

WEST GRANITE CREEK PARK

◆ MASTER PLAN ◆

Neighborhood Residents and Prescott Residents:

Watch dog group

Public support & use

Providing information on circulation and neighborhood /downtown access

Provide history and continuity

Influence

Involve youth, build stewardship

Implementation (e.g., tree plantings, trails, bridges, etc.)

Primary users

Business Owners:

Sponsorship

Adopt-a-creek (Stewardship for stretches of creek)

Financial support

Political support

Bed tax (1/2 of bed tax goes to Parks & Recreation)

New business ideas

Point of destination/promote creeks

Chamber of Commerce:

Possibly form a coalition of creek business owners

Downtown partnership

Students:

Independent studies (group)

Research/Senior Projects

Engineering Projects

Yavapai College students research trail connections

Riparian ecology and planning expertise

Library resources

Ongoing environmental mentoring

Graphic Arts/Visuals

Public school system - increase involvement

Improve access of information for students

Public art/interpretations

Work study programs

WEST GRANITE CREEK PARK

◆ MASTER PLAN ◆

Prescott Alternative Transportation & Prescott Bicycle Advisory Committee:

- Communication
- Grant writing
- Trail Expertise
- Monitor trends in bicycling
- Contact with local and national organizations
- Encourage bike rentals
- Public awareness
- Education
- Promotion/Connection to community development
- Political influence
- Liaison to other trail groups & projects
- Long term maintenance volunteers

Audubon Society:

- Expertise
- Stewards of Butte Creek (Stricklin Park)

Keep Prescott Beautiful:

- Litter Lifters - Organize future cleanups

Scouts:

- Eagle Scout & Service Projects

Church Groups:

- Volunteer Efforts

Civic Groups:

- Volunteer Efforts

Yavapai Trails Association:

- Trail expertise and volunteers

Arizona Public Service Company:

- Clean up efforts
- Community involvement
- Ongoing monitoring\maintenance

Highlands Center:

- Education programs

Sharlot Hall Museum:

- Schedule events & Historical and exhibit expertise

WEST GRANITE CREEK PARK

◆ MASTER PLAN ◆

Chapter 5: Peripheral Greenways

Some of Prescott's creeks (greenways) that are located immediately upstream and downstream of West Granite Creek Park have been identified by local residents as having significant scenic, biological, and recreational values. We can trace this interest in Prescott's greenways to the early 1980s. The following information represents brief descriptions of these peripheral greenways, some of the potential they contain, and any pertinent activities related to this endeavor. See Appendix I for map of peripheral greenways.

GRANITE CREEK (upstream)

GRANITE CREEK (Between the former railroad corridor and Willis Street)

This section is located immediately south of the planning area for West Granite Creek Park, and upstream along Granite Creek. Most of this section of creek is in private ownership, and provides excellent potential for connecting the existing Granite Creek Riverwalk Trail (Willis to Goodwin). One parcel along this segment is owned by the Pulmonary Foundation (Dr. Howard Kravetz), whom would like very much to work with the city in establishing a small pocket park and trail connection. Trail easements would likely be necessary to complete this trail segment.

GRANITE CREEK (Between Willis Street and Goodwin Street)

This section of Granite Creek and existing trail (which is on the west side of the creek), was established as the Granite Creek Riverwalk Trail in the early 1990s, and receives considerable use. The City has a 40-foot easement for this two-block section of creek. It is currently being studied further in the Granite Creek Vision Plan being conducted by Urban Design Studio in California (that was presented to City Council on April 25, 2000). This consultant was contracted by Prescott Downtown Partnership and City of Prescott through a grant from the Arizona Mainstream Foundation.

Staff and interested public provided information to Urban Design Studio on ideas and potential for this section of Granite Creek. Excellent potential exists to enhance this section of Granite Creek further with trail and safety improvements that could include a trail on the west side of the creek (existing location), an elevated boardwalk on the east side of the creek, lighting, and a mid-block pedestrian bridge ultimately connecting Whiskey Row to Sharlot Hall Museum.

WEST GRANITE CREEK PARK

◆ MASTER PLAN ◆

GRANITE CREEK (Between Carleton Street and White Spar)

The Granite Creek Vision Plan may also address the future potential for Granite Creek south of Carleton Street, specifically as it relates to Mile-High Middle School (whom owns most of this portion of Granite Creek). Prescott Unified School District would like to improve access to the creek, and provide more educational opportunities for students. Excellent potential exists to extend the Granite Creek Riverwalk Trail upstream.

GRANITE CREEK (Upstream of Forest Hylands)

While this section of Granite Creek is considerably further upstream, increased public interest, interested and willing sellers, open space acquisition funds, and the excellent condition of the riparian area, presents excellent potential for a future "White Spar Riparian Preserve."

GRANITE CREEK (downstream)

GRANITE CREEK (Sixth Street to Yavapai-Prescott Indian Reservation Boundary)

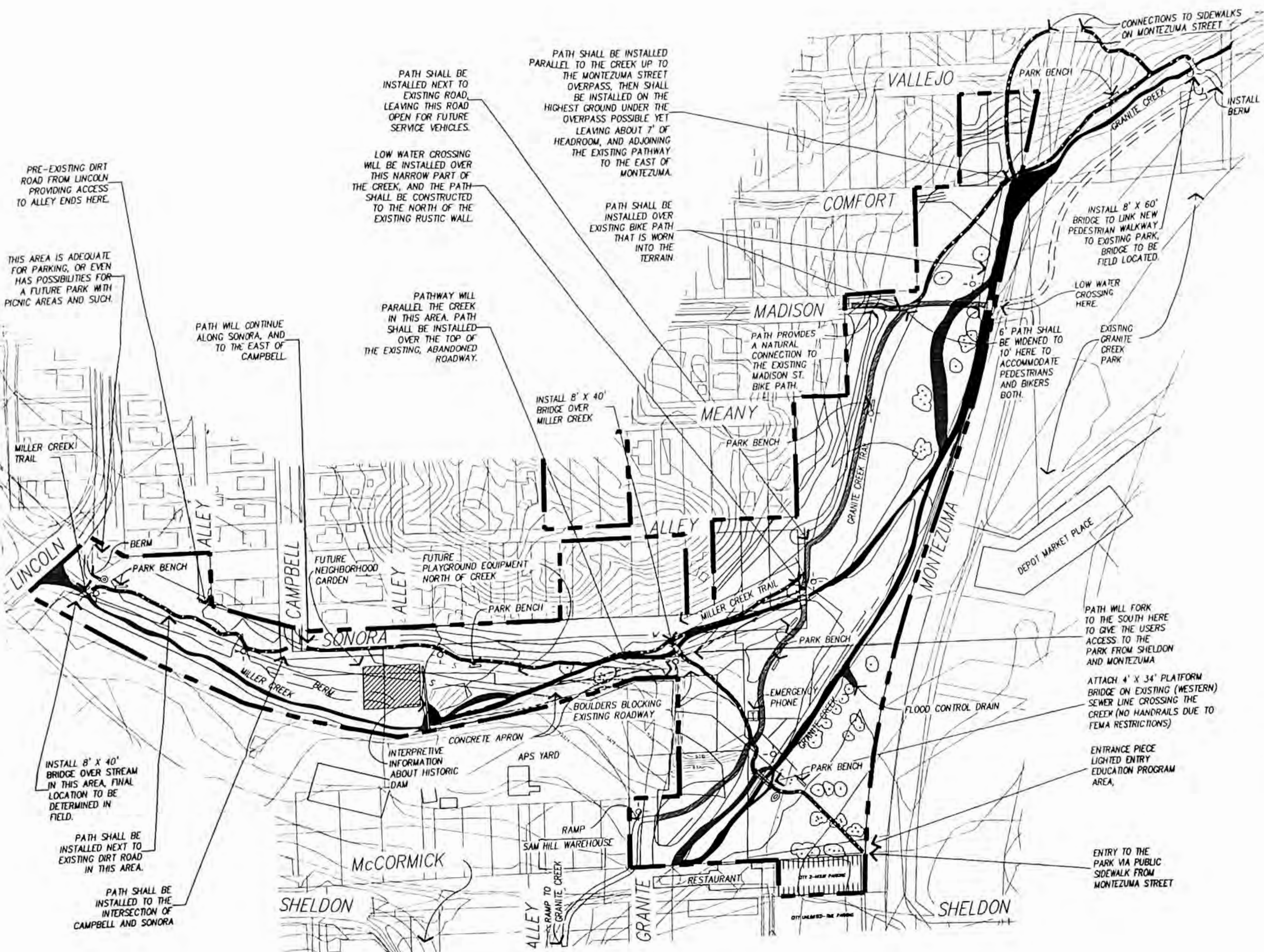
Just downstream of the existing (developed) Granite Creek Park, lies one of the most pristine greenways remaining in Prescott. This large, triangular riparian area encompasses the confluence of the North Fork of Granite Creek with the main fork of Granite Creek. Most of the area is owned by Jim Fann, whom has expressed an interest in selling (referred to earlier in section on land exchanges). The area could also provide a partial trail linkage for connecting downtown Prescott to Roughrider Park/Yavapai College, and possibly someday to the abandoned AT&SF Railroad Corridor on tribal land.

MILLER CREEK (upstream)

MILLER CREEK (Lincoln Avenue to Miller Valley Road)

Upstream of Lincoln Avenue and the western boundaries of West Granite Creek Park, lies a section of Miller Creek that contains significant potential for restoration, and trail and educational opportunities. This section is entirely privately owned. Numerous "social" trails suggest a high volume of pedestrian traffic between the neighborhood and businesses along Miller Valley Road.

Additional peripheral greenways, such as, Butte Creek west of Grove/Miller Valley Road, are also complimentary to West Granite Creek Park and will be studied further in the future.



WEST GRANITE CREEK PARK
 GRANITE CREEK & MONTEZUMA STREET
 PRESCOTT, ARIZONA

T. BARNABAS KANE
 Landscape Architect
 SITE PLANNING • DESIGN • RESTORATION
 115-B East Goodwin Street - Prescott, Arizona 86303
 520-445-3515 • Fax: 520-445-9515 • tkb@northlink.com



KEY

| | |
|--|-------------------------------|
| | PROJECT BOUNDARY |
| | APS GRADING LIMITS |
| | NEW CREEK TRAILS 4' - 6' WIDE |
| | NEW MULTI-USE TRAIL 10' WIDE |
| | EXISTING PARK TRAIL |
| | PRIMARY CHANNEL |
| | SECONDARY CHANNEL |
| | LIGHT INSTALLATION |
| | BRIDGE INSTALLATION |
| | LOW WATER CROSSING |
| | PARK BENCH |
| | EMERGENCY TELEPHONE |

REVISIONS:
 08/09/00

DATE: 11/23/99
 DRAWN BY: PF
 CHECKED BY: TKK
 JOB NUMBER: 9972

L1.0
 1.1

WEST GRANITE CREEK PARK MASTER PLAN
 SCALE 1"=100'

Public Comments On the West Granite Creek Park - Master Plan

The following comments were submitted during the public review period. The comments were reviewed by the planning team, and some minor changes to the Plan were made. Some comments/proposals, such as #10 that requests a large event area for wild west shows and other events, were determined to be incompatible for the location and not consistent with the vision for the area.

1. Suggestion of a garden on the city land adjacent to Meany Street (3 lots 50 by 180)(Lots of sunlight).

2. I really like what is proposed in this plan and really hope it can be implemented in its entirety. I've lived in the neighborhood north of this area for over fourteen years and see this plan as being such a wonderful improvement for the area and the town. I know it will be met much with acceptance and will be used and enjoyed by many!

3. As someone who lives in the neighborhood near this proposed park site, I'm very pleased to see the amount of land that you want to convert to parkland. Following the creek from Montezuma to Lincoln will open up pedestrian use, bike use for schools, shopping, visiting in downtown Prescott. It looks like it will be visible from Montezuma, so it will keep that "park like setting" promised by Albertson's years ago. (I'm still not done feeling upset about the way raw land so prominent in town was gouged for parking).

All in all- I support your spending tax dollars, making as much land exchange as possible, making the park as long and wide as possible. Our neighborhood is at the fringe of being gouged up for four plexes- I hope that this extended park will attract non-4 plex investors, and clean up a questionable safe area of town. Keep the neighborhood garden in your plan!! It's a wonderful idea!!! Would it be possible to extend this idea to other lots to be converted to community gardens in the older neighborhoods in town? Like the Miller Valley area? It's a community-building concept, not to mention the possibility for real beauty.

Thanks for your efforts on the town's behalf.

4. I like the plan.

A. I hope that you design the riverside trails so that people cannot junk the area with old appliances and rusted cars again.

B. I think homeless should be allowed to sleep there.

- C. I think that the free 911 phone is a good idea.
- D. I don't think that lights should be needed.
- E. I think that the concrete bridge design is a good and should be rebuilt easily if flooded out.
- F. I think a nature trail with native plants identified would be neat and educational plus giving respect for Prescott species.
- G. On flat wall of big concrete bridge, put a mural of soft green plants.
Note: Fantastic photo!!
Good Work!!
Delighted that this work is going forward!!
- H. Don't "groom" the area too much - leave it natural for native grasses, wildflowers, and wildlife.
- I. Put "woody" garbage cans every 30 feet - with a volunteer club to monitor.

6. Great! Please work to get kids and young people from the neighborhood involved. They will be the caretakers of the future.

7. Looks Great! I especially like the attention to riparian restoration and monitoring. As an avid walker, I truly appreciate the effort and thought that has gone into this tremendous project.

Feel free to contact me via phone, mail, or e-mail for any volunteering that you may need in the future.

8. I really love this plan!! The trails system is truly exciting. I would love to see the neighborhood garden in place, and to see youth from the neighborhood working as youth corps to do trail building and landscaping, and maintenance. I support this plan 100%.

9. Looks like an ambitious and worthwhile venture. Planning and development needs more publicity. It is a little disappointing to see few citizens attending these planning review open houses outside of environmental activists. How about Granite Creek east of 6th St. to the reservation? Any long range plans for this beautiful riparian area?

10. The currently untouched section of Granite Creek Park is one of the last jewels of Prescott.

Because the area has a history of criminal activity which creates a hazard to public safety... its potential should be carefully considered and planned so as to create a recreational area that can be a safe place for residents and visitors alike.

The master plan should incorporate a circular use corridor that would facilitate a variety of issues. First and foremost, it would allow law enforcement to easily access the area for regular control, as well as well as allowing maintenance crews to enter and exit easily.

This corridor should be surfaced with natural materials to allow recreational use as well. It could incorporate a slightly widened segment with elevated seating on one side, suitable for a portable stage and outdoor theatrical uses. Other activities could take place, such as low speed contest for mountain bikes, carriage driving competitions, and foot and wheelchair races.

Nature trails should also be integrated into the plan throughout, with seating at various intervals. These trails should consist of self-guided "educational botanical walk"; natural vegetation, cactus, grasses and wildflowers would be identified with informational plaques to educate the visitor.

The area could eventually hold a variety of small, quality educational and entertainment activities such as outdoor theater, cowboy music and poetry, gatherings, archery contest, fiestas, gold rush days, Western and Indian shows, timber industry exhibitions and competitions, dog shows... the list is endless.

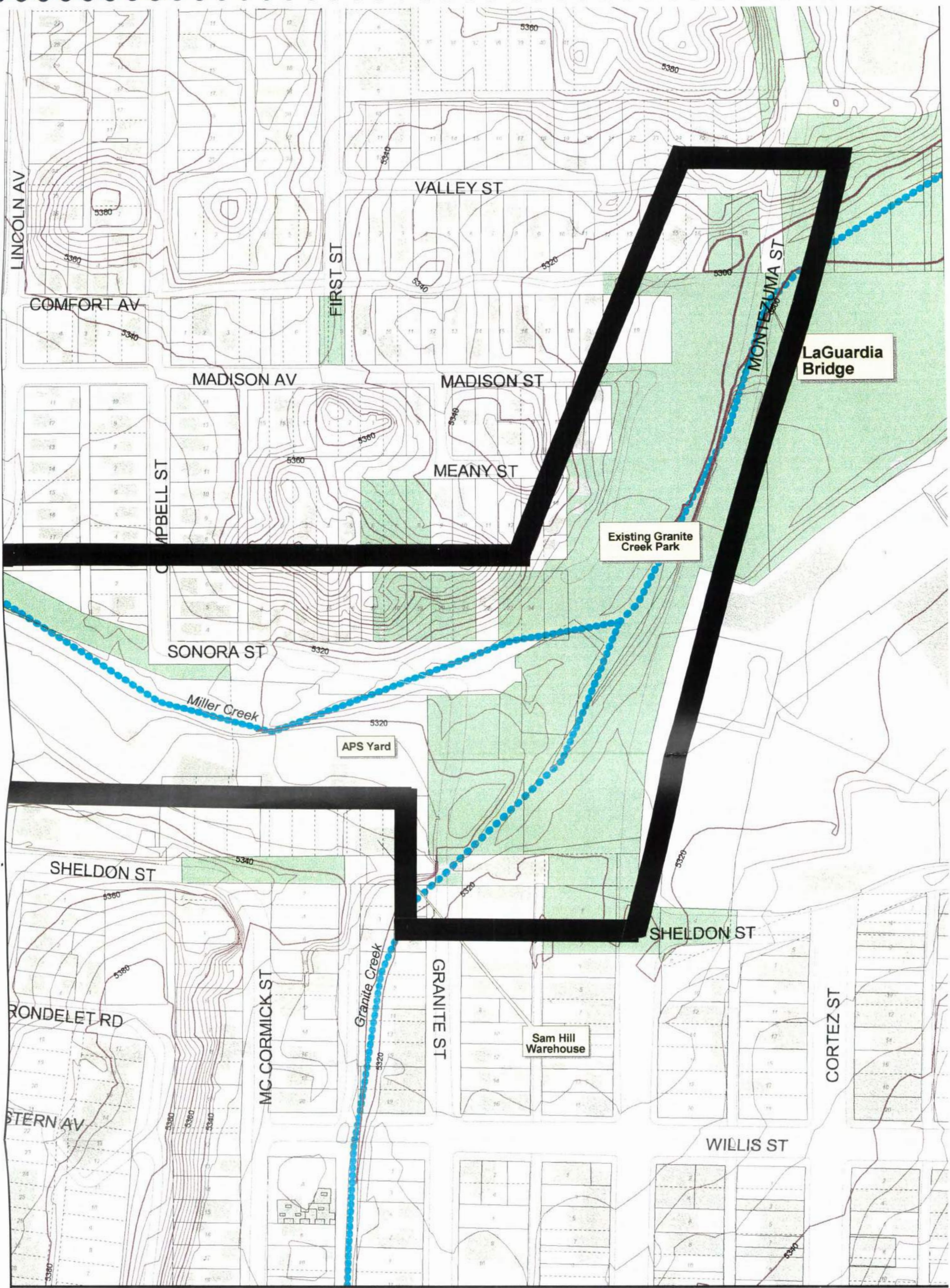
Again, careful planning for optimum potential for all is key. A facility that is accessible to law enforcement, combined with frequent, well managed activities will discourage undesirables from frequenting the area, making for increased public safety; something that current and future low activity uses fail to address.

This area of Granite Creek Park could also provide an added, unexpected benefit... economic growth for Prescott.

A careful plan for this space that will include a wide variety of uses will solve problems other than that of safety. It would give Prescott a badly needed, centrally located, recreational center that will replace the rodeo, race track, fair grounds which is about to lose due to relocation.

It would also solve another problem created unknowingly by the city fathers. Since the installation of the new planter boxes downtown, tour buses can no longer negotiate traffic easily. Having a recreational activity center in this portion of Granite Creek Park will allow those buses to easily park in the Albertson's shopping center parking lot... tourist can cross over the street safely at the stoplight to view the activities and enjoy the park... and then its just a short stroll up the street to the downtown are where they will be more than happy to spend their vacation dollars (then go away!).

Current activities on the courthouse plaza merely compete with local businesses for the dollar spent. A recreational facility that fulfills the needs of all the people will not create retail competition for the shopkeepers of Prescott; it will attract locals and visitors alike... encouraging them to spend their dollars with local businesses.



City of Prescott West Granite Creek Park Master Plan

Reference GRANITEPLAN.apr 11-16-1999 LAYOUT2

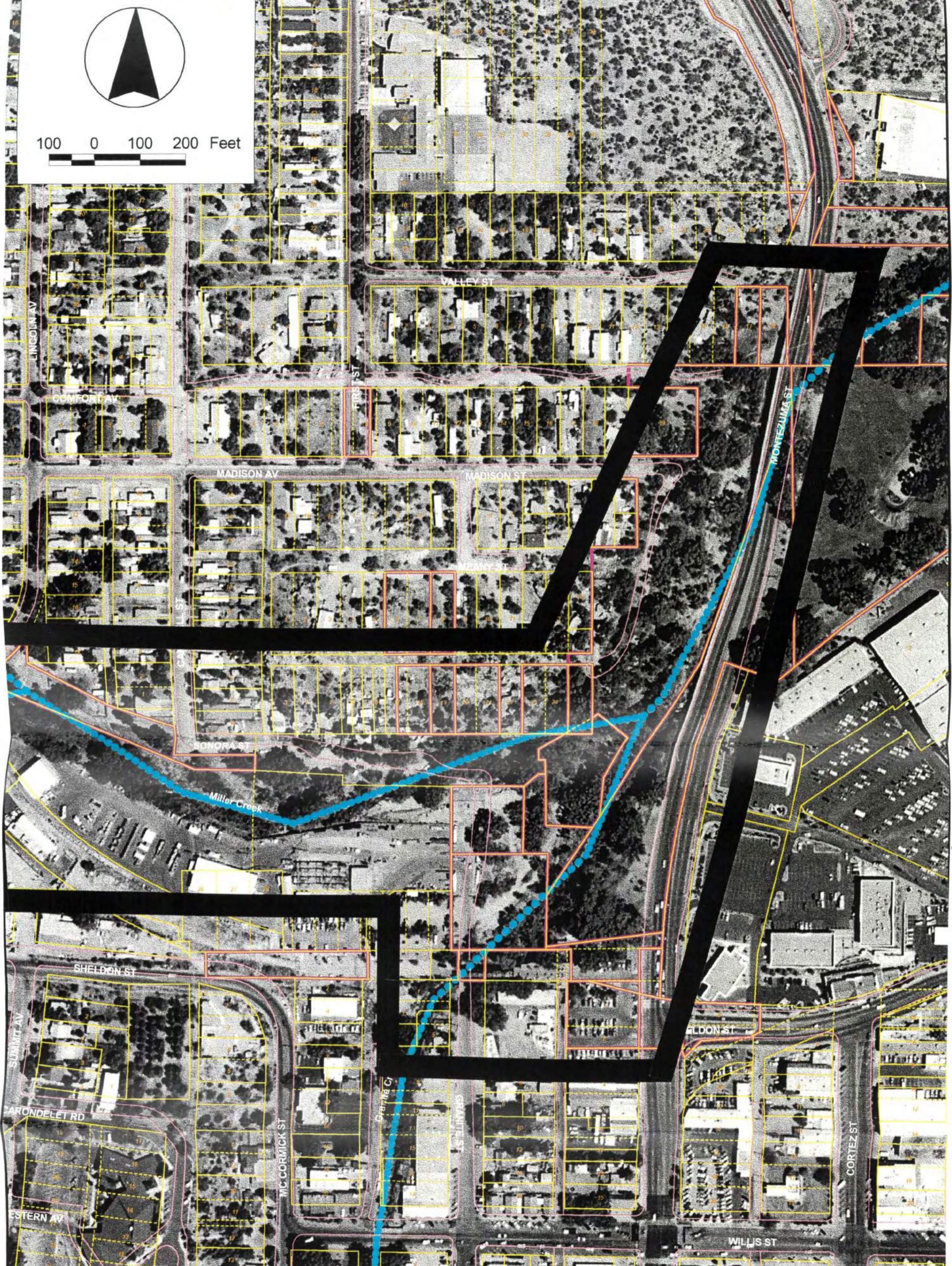
Appendix C

- Contours
 - 4
 - 10
 - 100
- Parcel History
- General Roads
- Area Streams
- City Owned Properties









100 0 100 200 Feet



City of Prescott West Granite Creek Park Master Plan

Reference GIS0607.apr 11-16-1999

Appendix D

-  Parcel History
-  General Roads
-  Area Streams
-  City Owned Properties





Yavapai Heritage Foundation

Box 61 Prescott, Arizona 86303

20 September 1987

National Endowment for the Arts
Design Arts Program
Washington DC

Dear Sir or Madam:

Please accept our endorsement of the proposal for the City of Prescott for a grant entitled 'Planning and Design For Prescott's Creek System'.

This group has been engaged for some years in cultural resource survey, National Register nominations and as an advocate for city involvement in programs to protect the unique community of Prescott. We also serve as a resource for the outlying communities and rural areas.

Since Prescott is surrounded by national forest and counts tourism as a major source of income, we are keenly aware of natural resources as well as historic buildings and surroundings.

The study of the creek system which flows through the basin in which the town is located will provide much needed information for the best decisions to be made in regard to protection and use of this precious resource.

Very truly yours,

Deborah T. Walker, President

DTW/b

Appendix E

Heritage Foundation of Arizona

29 September 1987

1403 Barranca Drive
Prescott, Arizona 86301

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

This organization, through the Board of Directors, heartily endorses and supports the grant proposal of the City of Prescott "PLANNING AND DESIGN FOR PRESCOTT'S CREEK SYSTEM". Heritage Foundation of Arizona, now in its tenth year, was organized by citizens of Arizona for the purpose of furthering the historic preservation activities throughout the state. Many successful projects have been carried out and with the growth in the state, broader concepts are now being adopted by the organization. These include historic landscaping and natural areas, archeology and tourism related concerns. As the only group in the state which serves the interests of all the citizens in the private sector in regard to all cultural resource concerns, we seek opportunities to support local initiative.

Prescott's activities in historic preservation, the adoption of a Main Street program of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, and planning for streetscape enhancement ... as well as many other well-conceived programs to serve resident and visitor alike will be advanced appreciably by the project described in this grant proposal.

Elisabeth Ruffner
Elisabeth F. Ruffner
President

PRESCOTT
MAIN ST.
PROGRAM

September 28, 1987

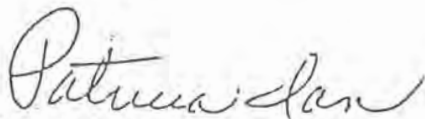
Mrs. Kay Schmitt
Budget Director
City of Prescott
P.O. Box 2059
Prescott, Arizona 86302

Dear Mrs. Schmitt:

This will serve as confirmation of Prescott Main Street Program's full support of the City's grant application to the National Endowment for the Arts to accomplish an inventory of the creek system and design of a linear park along Granite Creek. This project would increase the attraction of both Prescott residents and tourists to our downtown area and would allow both of these segments greater access and enjoyment of a natural resource in the center of Prescott.

In addition, the Creek Project would be enhanced by the landscape design plans which are currently in progress as part of the work undertaken by our Action Arizona landscape design project. These plans propose appropriate landscaping to link the Creek to our downtown where it crosses Gurley Street. The linkages provided by the Creek Project, Action Arizona and Main Street would be a tremendous contribution to our downtown community, both in terms of preserving a natural resource and in increasing the economic value of downtown.

Sincerely,



Patricia Ian
Program Manager

9/8/87



To: Prescott City Council
From: Prescott Audubon Society
Subject: National Endowment for
The Arts - cost sharing proposal.

We urge that you see fit to approve the proposal for matching grant monies and in kind services with the National Endowment for the Arts, to inventory & develop portions of Granite Creek for the public good. Economic development and return to downtown Prescott will be positive in the near future.

Our "creek" resources are very valuable and need to be placed in the public care to benefit all our citizens & visitors. Downtown business people & their employees can take a lunch break along the creek & be rejuvenated by the trees, water, grasses & water. More particularly a place of quietness & visual quality we can all enjoy. Visitors & tourists too will use these areas & benefit from the experience,

perhaps staying in Prescott for a longer time.

We understand that most of the Granite Creek corridors will be included in the proposal for inventory at this time. Also, that a 2-3 block stretch will be developed with these funds at this time. It will be the start of a major endeavor to preserve, protect & develop much of our creek system. Recreation & parks development can & should take place in the wider portions of the creeks, keeping in mind that the transportation of floodwaters is their main function.

Again we recommend your favorable consideration of the proposal before you now in regard to Prescott's riparian resources.

Thank You,
Roy Houser
Pres.

The Prescott Courier

Sunday, April 1, 1990

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\$1.00 per copy 32 pages

In our 108th year, serving the Greater Prescott Area and Central Yavapai County

'Adopt-a-block' plan to aid Granite Creek

By MICHELE MCDONALD

The Prescott Courier

Granite Creek will soon become a picturesque walkway winding through downtown Prescott.

Yavapai County Chiropractic Association has adopted a block of the watery byway as part of the city's "Adopt a Block" program, which began in April 1989.

The association will sponsor cleaning up the area, building a 4-foot-wide decomposed gravel walkway, and steps leading down from the bridge at Willis Street to the path, said Steve Gehl of the association.

The project may cost about \$1,000, he said.

"We don't really know what we're getting into," Gehl said. "It's really a natural for the chiropractors (to adopt a block) because we're always encouraging people to walk anyway."

Mary Catherine Ball of the Prescott Chamber of Commerce said five blocks have been adopted by local businesses and service groups.

The chamber is aiming for nine blocks in total. The path will stretch

Creek Park. The 1.6-mile length will have maps and signs, said Mary Baker from the chamber of commerce, who has no doubt that the path will be used.

"There's so many people in this town who are walkers," Baker said.

Work on the new block began Friday. Stakes, marking the path, were driven during a downpour. Actual construction began Saturday. The path should be ready in three weeks, Gehl said.

Larry Harmer from the Prescott Public Works Department said, the project is an important part of the downtown revitalization plan.

Betty Siegfried of the Prescott Creek Preservation Society said creating a path along the "natural corridor" will add a "fantastic aspect to the city."

Ball added that the project does not harm the creek. Native trees are not removed.

"It is low impact and low cost," she said. "This is all done at no expense to the city."

City engineers do help with the project, Ball added.

The walkway has received criticism. Some people say the paths will

Ball said during the last storm, very little of the gravel went down the creek. Also, the gravel is inexpensive and can be easily replaced, she said.

Harmer said residents, whose backyards border the creek, are concerned about the increased traffic.

However, there are ways of buffering through landscaping and use of natural topography, he said.

Diane Vigne co-owner of Granite Creek Antiques, which will be alongside the new path of Granite Creek, said she looks forward to the beautification. However, she does not think it will help the shop.

"I don't know about our business, but I think it will make it (the creek) look better," Vigne said. "I don't see how it could help (the business)."

Organizations that have adopted a block are: the Future Farmers of America and the Prescott Unified School District; Arizona Public Service Employee Volunteer Group; Prescott Audubon Society and the Prescott College.

For more information call Mary

Council session

Granite Creek trail completion uncertain

BY MELODY UHLER
The Prescott Sun

Whether or not the Granite Creek Nature Trail will be completed anytime soon is still up in the air after a recent Prescott City Council meeting.

The Prescott Chamber of Commerce was at Tuesday's regularly scheduled study session

of the city council to plead its case.

According to chamber representative, Mary Baker, the chamber needs the city to accept the trail right-of-way in order to continue with the project.

Mark Stevens, Prescott city manager, explained some of the pitfalls the city would be facing if it accepted this right-of-way.

"The biggest issue here is that the city will then have all of the responsibility for maintenance on the nature trail by accepting the easements," Stevens said.

According to Stevens, this could create a hardship on the parks and recreation department.

"If we (city) add on facilities, it will make it harder to maintain the ones we already have.

"The issue is the time we

must allocate for this trail will be time taken away from Granite Creek Park and other facilities," Stevens said.

Jim McCasland, City of Prescott, recreation services director, agreed.

"It is very important to stay on top of the maintenance issue," McCasland. "The heavier the use, the more wear and tear, and this would be a heavily used area."

Although McCasland is hesitant about the extra work and liability that would be required of the city, he likes the idea of the nature trail.

"I think this is a tremendous idea," McCasland said. "But we need to go into this with our eyes wide open. It would be useless to think the city would not be expending dollars and time in maintaining the trail."

Baker indicated that former city staff members had made a commitment to maintain the trail once completed.

According to John Moffitt, Prescott city attorney, no action was ever taken by a previous city council concerning this.

"To the best of my knowledge, there was no past council action binding the city in acceptance of these easements," Moffitt said.

Councilmember Karen Thompson, suggested the possibility of a compromise. And Mayor Daiton Rutkowski suggested that the council get more information before continuing further.

"We need to get some more information and see if we can come up with a plan," Rutkowski said.

The park, when complete, will cover seven blocks from White Spar Road to Granite Creek Park.

McCasland discussed the uniqueness of Prescott and what Granite Creek had to do with that.

"This is a riparian habitat. It is a very unique area. It is an attraction for tourists, as well as us," McCasland said. ■

Creek cleanup planned

By JOHN PLESTINA
The Prescott Courier

Prescott College is sponsoring a project, starting Monday, Jan. 18, to reverse environmental damage to Granite Creek.

The Prescott Urban Riparian Project has targeted two sections of Granite Creek, one near Mile High Middle School and the other in the area of Watson Lake for trash cleanup, removal of plants not native to the area and planting native cottonwood and willow trees.

"Ideally, restoration means restoring an area to its natural conditions," said Eric Glomski, director of the project.

"Both of these sites have been impacted and degraded over the years by development, channelization, bridge building, dumping, watershed manipulation, pollution and the introduction of invasive exotic species. The vegetation has been damaged and the natural processes upset.

"Granite Creek can never be fully restored to its natural ecological condition because it is an urban creek. But, I think we can find a balance between our human community and the natural community that we are a part of," he added.

Glomski said the Watson Woods site "has the potential of being our most outstanding riparian area, because of its size and the width of its floodplain," he said.

Glomski estimates that the area to be restored is about a mile long and a quarter of a mile wide.

"We're calling ourselves a group within Prescott College," Glomski

See CREEK, Page 2B

Prescott
The Courier
Thursday, January 14, 1993
State Editor David Miller

• CREEK

From Page 1B

said. "This project is one among many and it falls under the non-profit status of Prescott College.

"One of my goals for this project is for it to be community building. When there is community involvement, I look at restoration as environmental education. As long as we learn from the project, it will be a success," Glomski said.

He graduated from Prescott College in 1992 with a degree in environmental education.

Glomski has had some success in getting the community involved. In addition to institutional support from Prescott College, he has received donations and support from the Prescott Kiwanis Club, the Audubon Society and the Sierra Club.

Prescott city manager Mark Stevens has granted permission on behalf of the city for the project to proceed.

Equipment for the project has been donated by True Value Hardware of Prescott, the U.S. Forest Service and Chino Rentals. Additional funding is being sought from the Coors Pure Water 2000 Fund through Prescott Name Brands Distributor.

Volunteers are needed. Glomski can be contacted at 771-8723.



FRIDAY
 High — 54
 Low — 32
 Mar. 15, 1996

Granite Creek touted as 'unmined, uncut jewel' of Prescott

by CINDY BARKS
 The Daily Courier

For years, the Yavapai County Courthouse has been the undisputed "jewel" of Prescott's downtown.

Tourism, commercial activity and government all seem to flow from the tree-lined walks of the Courthouse Square.

While the community has focused on the plaza, however, another resource has gone virtually ignored.

Granite Creek, which runs parallel to and behind the famed Whiskey Row, has never been a focal point in downtown Prescott.

But there are those in the community who see the natural potential of the creek has been squandered. Prescott Mayor Paul Daly, for instance, sees the creek as the "unmined, uncut jewel" of the downtown area.

While the creek's potential is real, say its advocates, many tourists — and perhaps even some residents — are barely aware it is there. If they are, many see the creek as an eyesore: a hang-out for transients.

Daly joined a group to walk along a four-block stretch of Granite Creek this week. The walk was just one of its type being organized by Paul Britton, chairman of the Downtown Master Plan Committee.

According to Britton, Granite Creek likely will take a prominent place in the committee's plans for downtown. He expects the creek to be addressed in a report that is separate from the master plan. That report should be ready in draft form within the next three to four months, he said.

Incorporating Granite Creek more into the downtown scene has been discussed off and on for years and was brought up at the Prescott City Council's recent retreat on downtown.

The idea apparently has the support of the mayor. Daly pointed out that Granite Creek could be the site of a "second wave of tourism from the courthouse."

Both Daly and Britton compared Granite Creek's potential with the use of the San Antonio River in the development of that Texas city's downtown area.



Courier / Cindy Barks

Prescott Downtown Master Plan Committee Chairman Paul Britton, center, points out qualities of a Granite Creek bridge to Mayor Paul Daly, left, and local architect Mike Frerking, right.

According to Britton, a stretch of the San Antonio River has served as an anchor for a bustling enclave of restaurants, bars, and galleries. A native of San Antonio, Britton visualizes a scaled-down version of that in Prescott — perhaps with a boardwalk to allow for strolling

Several downtown planning efforts are expected to come together this spring. Page 5A.

under the canopy of large trees along the creek.

Walking along the creek this week, Britton pointed to the backs of several old buildings that could be renovated and opened toward the creek. Currently, creek access is closed off in most buildings, with the only entrances facing toward the street.

Britton sees Granite Creek as a cohesive force throughout the downtown area. "It ties the whole community together," he said.

Daly urged a natural-preservation approach to any development along Granite Creek, suggesting that the intense development of San Antonio be avoided in Prescott.

Date: June 12, 1996
To: Paul Britton, Chairman, Downtown Master Plan Committee
From: Hiram Davis, 445-8583 1030 Scott Drive C-30 86301
Re: Potential for Granite Creek in Downtown Prescott

Introduction. First, thanks for opportunity on Monday, June 2 to talk with the members of the Downtown Master Plan Committee about the diversion of crosstown traffic away from the core of the Downtown. Now to a separate matter - the potential for Granite Creek about which there was a story in the COURIER earlier this year; and a subsequent reminder from Editor Garner that this creek can be a "raging torrent."

I call the Committee's attention to the role which Granite Creek could play, in conjunction with Granite Creek Park, as part of a walking trail system for use in dry weather, recognizing Editor Garner's concern about flooded trails and that of Mayor Daly for "a natural-preservation approach to any development" along Granite Creek. The Mayor's concern is certainly in keeping with what I hope is an increasing recognition of the value of natural open space for humans as well as for wildlife.

Granite Creek Park: Multiple Trailhead? Why not utilize Granite Creek Park as the "trailhead" for three riparian-corridor walking trails, linking the Park with the following areas?

Campus of Middle School via south Granite Creek;

New County Office-Complex via Miller Creek; and,

Watson Woods Preserve via north Granite Creek.

Now a few words about the potential for these three "linear-park", walking trails leading from Granite Creek Park (GCP.)

(1). GCP to Campus of Middle School. Such a trail would be the realization of a long-time dream now represented by the existing small segment between Goodwin and Willis Streets. Completion should encourage walking from Park to events at Middle-School Campus or Sharlot Hall Museum; or, from those locations to the Park. Also it would provide an outdoor "change-of-pace" rest break for persons employed nearby as well opportunity for informational signs about the history of Granite Creek.

(2). GCP to New County Office-Complex. This proposed trail between the GCP and the new County Office building on Fair Street would offer opportunity for an outdoor "break" from daily routine for both persons living as well as working nearby and could well encourage walking to events at GCP and other points Downtown. Number of such persons could increase substantially once the present Fairgrounds is moved to Pioneer Park and the area so vacated is available for redevelopment - presumably for some mix of office and residential uses.

OVER ... page 2 ...

(2). GCP to New County Office Complex (cont'd). In addition, Prescott College could well be an active participant. Surely the proposed walking trail along Miller Creek from the GCP to the new County complex would encourage students and staff to walk between Sam Hill Warehouse and other College facilities on Grove Avenue - presumably retained as a "downtown" campus, especially for students in adult degree programs.

(3). GCP to Watson Woods Preserve. Initially this proposed walking trail would be limited to the stretch of Granite Creek between the GCP and the lands of the Yavapai Indian Tribe until arrangements could be worked out with tribal leaders for the proposed trail to follow Granite Creek across tribal lands.

However, early attention by City officials to this stretch of the trail would let tribal leaders know that the proposed trail to Watson Woods was more than talk and perhaps give these leaders added reason for moving ahead with their planned Indian Cultural Center near Granite Creek and north of the Prescott Resort Hotel - an opportunity to attract hiking visitors to the Center.

An even more immediate reason for such early attention to the proposed walking trail along Granite Creek between the GCP and the tribal boundary is to preserve its availability. Otherwise the space now available in this location for a trail could be lost to the pressure of further commercial/industrial development in this 6th Street area. Besides, this stretch of Granite Creek is worth experiencing - a well-vegetated riparian area.

Trail Realization. Perhaps each of these three trails could become a reality through volunteer time and contributions of money and materials/services plus needed easements negotiated with affected property owners by private non-profit entity legally qualified to accept and administer such easements. However, the scope and need for early completion both to forestall future barriers and to gain advantage of early availability for public use indicate the need for the City to play a significant role.

Yet, City officials may well be reluctant to become involved because of concern over what provision is to be made for such operating requirements as maintenance, litter control/removal and security patrols. The extent to which such responsibilities could be effectively shared with private groups is a challenge both to City officials and the citizens who want to see these trails become a reality.

Copy to: Derek Brownlee, Vice-President, Yavapai Trails Association.

Two Faces of Granite Creek Park

Reclamation
could make
grounds secure

12-15-98

By MARK DUNCAN
The Daily Courier

PRESCOTT - Walt and Josie Espitia have lived at the end of Madison Street, where the pavement dissolves into the unimproved acreage of Granite Creek Park, all their lives. Third generation Prescotttonians, their ancestors ran cattle along Granite Creek, long before there was a park, or transients, or murders.

Any more, they don't go out after dark. And the home they'd hoped to pass on to another generation will likely go on the market instead.

"I was going to leave it to one of my grandchildren," Josie said, "but now I'm not. It's just too dangerous to live down here, too scary."

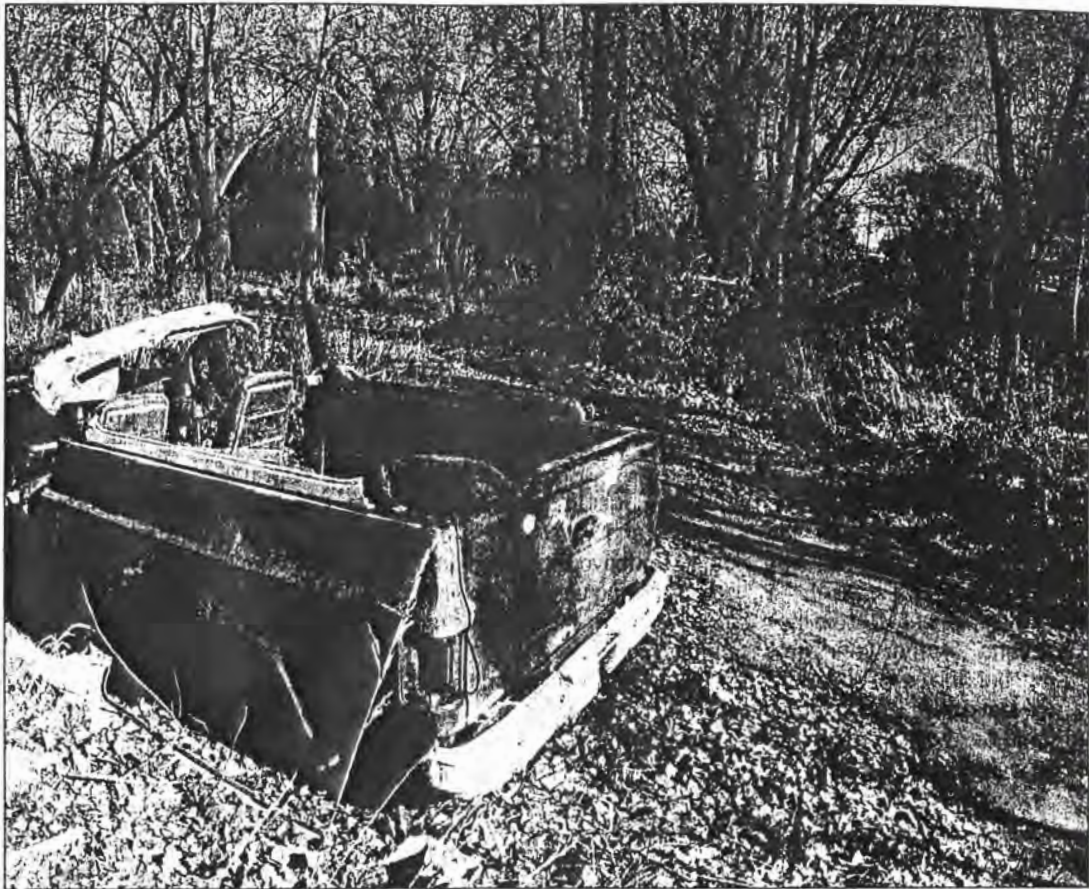
Granite Creek Park is one property that lives in two different worlds. To the east of Montezuma Street and the LaGuardia Bridge lies a soothing expanse of grass and an encircling running path. Comfortable picnic areas under the arms of massive cottonwood trees welcome family gatherings, and a ramada stands ready for community celebrations.

But to the west lies an enigma. The city long ago agreed to leave the area undeveloped as a riparian refuge, creating the current dilemma of how to balance the value of preservation against the stark reality of fear.

Gang-style graffiti graces the bridge's abutments and evidence of transient camps is easy to find. Many Prescotttonians, even those who use the park's developed portion, avoid the area.

On Dec. 4, two Prescott teenagers allegedly killed 44-year-old Bill Povilaitis and 42-year-old Carol Robinson within whistling distance of the Espitia's home. Under the bridge, and on the park's dark west side, transients have hid for years to seek the solace of drink in private.

The Espitias own three undeveloped lots that lay even closer to the creek than the one on which their



Courier/Tom Hood

The undeveloped part of Granite Creek Park has served as a dumping ground for garbage, clothing and even junk cars.

Police: Most owners favor lighting

• SAFETY, from 1A

chose not to build on the lots or sell them. These days, their sprawling lawn and generous shade trees are a natural attraction to the homeless as well as local partyers.

"We have people come down here and have a party under my trees," Walt said. "It used to be that nobody bothered us, but it's not that way any more."

On the morning of Dec. 4, the Espitias found bloodstains on their mailbox, a stark reminder of what their neighborhood has become.

They feel surrounded, by the wilds of the park on one side and a district with a reputation for lawlessness on the other.

Walt said he would welcome a community effort to continue improvements to the park - clean-up crews from both the county and the city have plans to clear brush and improve sightlines in the area - but he is unsure how much support the push will get on his street.

"People don't seem to care too much around here," he said.

The Prescott police want people to feel safe in every part of the city. And whether or not the unimproved creek frontage becomes a part of the park per se, their job remains the same.

At present, patrol of the back side of the park is a difficult necessity.

"Other than on a bicycle or foot patrol, there's no easy access to it," said Lt. Greg Nordyke. He and Assistant Chief Dave Benner said the department is very much in favor of helping to make inroads into the area.

"We're in a position to try and facilitate helping people do something with that area," Benner said. "Obviously, the police department doesn't go in and lay concrete, but we can certainly help organize groups and monitor those types of things."

Along those lines, the department has recently sponsored a series of meetings with property owners on the park's verge. One of the first things to come up was the feasibility and desirability of lights on the property.

Benner said most of the owners liked the idea.

"We went to the people on Madison Street and told them we wanted to help them solve this problem. We've had commitments from APS to put in some street lights for us, and we were really concerned that some folks would tell us they didn't want us lighting up their yards. To our pleasure, we discovered that many of them said, 'My front yard is a fine place to put up a light.'"

APS' Prescott Area Supervisor Ed Pacheco said the utility is ready and willing to go with the lights, waiting only for directions as to where.

"There were a lot of property owners in that area who said they very much wanted it done," Pacheco said. "All we need is the OK from the city to go ahead."

Improvements to the park could well have a positive ripple effect that reaches into the bordering neighborhoods of Madison, Vallejo, Comfort and Sonora streets. Benner said the department is interested in reaching out. "Absolutely," he said. "We don't plan on stopping with any one area."

But bringing Granite Creek Park into the fold of developed recreation-

al properties is not the task of the police or any one group. It has to be a cooperative effort.

"Because it's so centrally located," Nordyke said, "we see this as a whole community issue, and we'll do whatever we can to help solve this problem."

Prescott's communications director, J.J. McCormick, said the city is working on the issue from every conceivable angle. Recent grant applications intended to garner dollars for the construction of a bike path and the improvement of some of the existing trails through the park will add traffic to the area, a sure way of moving out those who disdain prying eyes.

The city, she said, is unwilling to leave the area to wrong-doers.

"It's still a very vibrant place to go," McCormick said. "I think the community feels that this is our park and we're going to continue using it. We want to let everyone know that this is not a place where crime is supposed to happen."

The Espitias, who have seen the area go full circle from grazing ground to killing ground, remain cautiously optimistic but skeptical that changes will happen, or that they will be beneficial.

"I'm not going to tell them don't do that," Walt said. "It would be nice to clean it up but, like I say, I don't know what kind of people it will bring in."

12-15-98

Riparian area's uses may change

By CINDY BARKS
The Daily Courier

PRESCOTT - High-speed traffic whizzes by on one side; homes crowd in on another. Downtown businesses and industry also enter the picture.

The surrounding uses make the undeveloped portion of Granite Creek Park - west of the LaGuardia Bridge on the Montezuma-Whipple connector - a virtual island of nature in the midst of a busy city.

But the island is no sanctuary.

"It is a pretty spot, but it has also been a traditional problem spot," said Diana Fister of the Prescott Parks and Recreation Department.

Indeed, most people in town know that it is not wise to venture into the area after dark. Long a favorite camping spot for transient people, it was in the spotlight about a year ago when park-goers complained of transients accosting them regularly in the park.

The violent deaths of two people in the area about two weeks ago has only helped to fuel the fears.

Fister pointed out the area also

'It is a pretty spot, but it has also been a traditional problem spot.'

- Diana Fister
of the Prescott
Parks and Recreation
Department.

has long been a dumping area for garbage of all sorts. Even a junk car sits on city property.

Various cleanup efforts take place every year, and still the area is hardly pristine.

Even so, it has an appeal for many residents.

Cara Staab of the local Audubon Society said she enjoys walking through the riparian area. She sees it as a valuable spot for city dwellers to retreat into nature. "Green areas are extremely important," Staab said. "They allow people to have a connection with nature."

The diversity of the riparian vegetation allows for a variety of bird life,

Staab said. A complete clearing of the area would disrupt that habitat.

But even Staab admits to feeling slightly uncomfortable at times when she is walking in the area. She takes her dog with her, she said, and probably wouldn't venture into the area without him.

As drivers crest the LaGuardia Bridge from the north, the towering cottonwood trees are the first thing they see - startling green in the spring and summer, and vivid orange and yellow in the fall.

But unlike the developed Granite Creek Park east of the bridge, the western portion is left pretty much to its own devices. No jogging trails, swing sets, barbecue grills, or park lights grace the area.

Instead, the four or five acres of land on the west offer an expanse of tangled underbrush with a canopy of cottonwoods overhead.

The irony of the situation is that many of the things that make the land appealing environmentally - the diverse underbrush that grows

See *CHANGES*, page 7A

'Flood' status limits uses for property

• CHANGES, from 1A

nearly thigh-high, the lack of lights or any other traditional park amenities — are the same things that can make west Granite Creek Park a dangerous place.

Fister pointed out that the underbrush makes it difficult for park visitors or police officers to see if someone is lurking nearby.

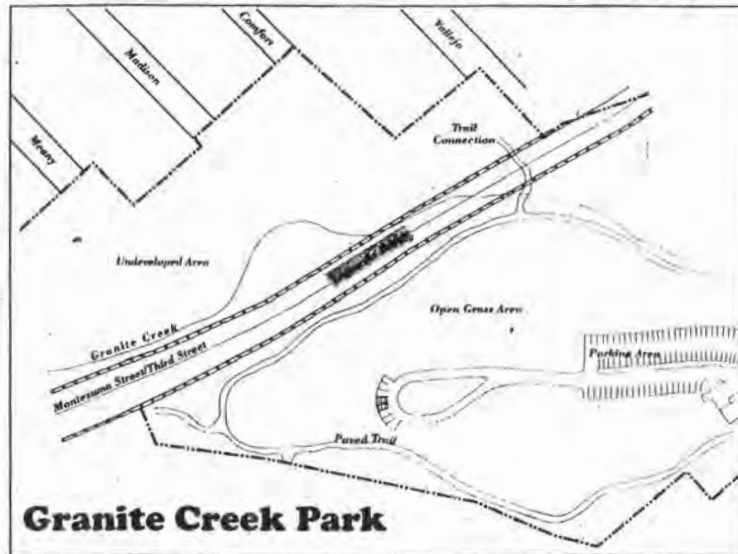
And the lack of lights in the area make it especially dangerous in the evening.

Fister said the city hopes to clear the area of some of the underbrush. In fact, crews from the Yavapai County Adult Probation program have been doing just that.

And she hopes that the city will install park lights through the area soon. However, the city has no money in the budget for lights this year, and Fister was uncertain what the cost would be.

And she stressed that the city is severely limited on what it can do with the property, because the land is within the floodway. While the improvements on the east side of the bridge were "grandfathered in," because they date back to the 1960s, Fister said the west side would fall under federal floodway restrictions, which would not allow for permanent structures.

As early as 1990, when the city drafted a master plan for Granite Creek Park improvements, there was no plan for doing anything with the



western portion. The master plan shows the area as "undeveloped."

Although most people appear to agree that the west portion of Granite Creek Park could stand some sprucing up, opinions vary about the extent the city should go to do that.

Michael Byrd of the Prescott Creeks Preservation Association, for instance, cautions against clearing too much of the area. He pointed out the undeveloped portion of Granite Creek Park is a riparian area, with diverse vegetation.

Clearing that out would be harmful to the habitat, he said.

Still, Byrd said, "the area has a lot of potential." There are things the city could do to make the area safer without damaging the environment, he

said, such as installation of low-grade lights.

Ramona Mattix, assistant community development director for the city, pointed out that the city and other community groups have proposed projects in the undeveloped park area several times recently.

For instance, she said, the Bicycle Advisory Committee's "guinea pig project" would route a bike and hiking trail through the area. The city has applied for a federal transportation grant to pay for the project.

In addition, Mattix said, the Open Space Alliance recently included the land on its list of priorities. The organization is interested in cleaning up the area so it will be more appealing to visitors, Mattix said.

Editorial

All parties need to keep up push for Granite Creek Park

It's a tragedy that the place in town where people should feel most at ease and enjoy themselves has become instead a refuge for drunks and a seedbed for violence and murder.

The pair of stories in the Dec. 15 Courier by Cindy Barks and Mark Duncan show clearly that the current situation at Granite Creek Park is a vexation - for park visitors, for its neighbors, for local civic groups and for city officials.

Despite intensive city patrols, the homeless - many of them alcoholics - still consider the park their current address, especially the riparian area west of LaGuardia bridge.

Those with no permanent address can take refuge in the underbrush for a place to sleep and drink. Violence often is the part of their world anyway - arguing and fighting over what sleeping space, shelter material, food or booze might be available. This past month, the usual denizens of the area also became targets for random violence.

Two teen-age boys face murder charges in the bludgeoning death of two transients west of LaGuardia Bridge.

Nearby residents no longer feel safe in the neighborhood. The Espitias, whom Mark Duncan quoted in his story, are looking to sell their property on the edge of the park and move out.

Even government red tape prevents Prescott city officials from cleaning up the west half of the park as much as they would like. Federal flood regulations prevent permanent structures in a flood area.

But for all the challenges, some positive signs are on the horizon, and no one should lose heart yet or write off the area to bums and thugs.

The police have conducted community meetings in the area, and the neighbors have been receptive to additional lighting in the west half of the park. Community groups have volunteered to help clean it up and install some improvements.

Arizona Public Service has offered to help with lighting.

The meetings and cooperation among the city, police, neighbors and community groups and Arizona Public Service are positive steps.

A few unsavory characters shouldn't be able to ruin a valuable community service for the taxpayers who paid for it and have every right to enjoy it.

Group focuses on Granite Creek trail

By CINDY BARKS

The Daily Courier

PRESCOTT – Hilltops are not the only open areas that are important to Prescott; its creeks also are valuable to the views, recreation, and ambiance of the community.

A group of people from varied community organizations reached that conclusion when it met Friday afternoon to discuss the potential and future of a trail along Granite Creek.

Representatives from the group maintained that creek preservation should be in the mix of the open space issues that the Prescott City Council will discuss on Wednesday.

"It is not just viewsheds that are identified in the open space plan," said Ramona Mattix, assistant community development director for the city. "It's also riparian areas."

The group agreed to submit the Granite Creek corridor as one of the potential areas to which the city may devote sales tax money for open space preservation. The council is currently accepting suggestions for areas that should be preserved as a part of an open space initiative.

Eric Smith, the city's open space and trails coordinator, organized the Friday meeting. He sought viewpoints from the group on such topics as economic development, creeks preservation, recreation, and the importance of the creek to Sharlot Hall Museum.

Most of the approximately 25 people who attended the meeting appeared to agree that Granite Creek is an important asset to the downtown area.

David Sommer, director of the Prescott Chamber of Commerce, said the creek has the potential of being "the economic engine for Prescott."

Michael Byrd of the Prescott Creeks Preservation Association (PCPA) pointed out that a plan has long been in the works for boardwalks along the creek.

And Mattix said the city's

Downtown Master Plan mentions a "downtown river walk," – a feature that would be key to future redevelopment of the downtown area.

Prescott Economic Development Coordinator Greg Fister added that the creek could be the central issue in a future study that the city is considering doing in conjunction with the Arizona Main Street department.

Currently, the creek "acts as a barrier for pedestrians," according to information that a consultant prepared for the Arizona Main Street Program.

The study, for which the city and Main Street would split the cost, would "show people what can be done to make the creek an asset rather than a liability," Fister said.

Several of the people at the Friday meeting stressed that any future study of the creek should focus on environmental and preservation concerns, as well as economic development issues.

Even so, most also appeared to agree that the community should improve the appearance of and access to the creek for general public.

But those goals come with some obstacles. For instance, the group brought up questions about the land ownership along the banks of the creek.

Other concerns centered on the difficult access to the creek area, the possibility of flooding, and the transient people who regularly gather under the creek's bridges.

Smith said the meeting was an effort to get discussions started once again on the Granite Creek trail.

If the city and Main Street do undertake a study of the creek's impact on the downtown, Fister said that process would come with considerable public discussion.

The Main Street department has a contract with an Irvine, Calif., firm – the Urban Design Studio – which likely would be the consultant for the project, Fister said.

West Granite ^{3/10/00} Creek master plan on display

*Public to see committee's
progress on Wednesday*

By CINDY BARKS
The Daily Courier

PRESCOTT - For the past six months, a committee has worked to navigate the twists and turns of the West Granite Creek Park area to come up with a master plan for the undeveloped park land.

Next week, the public will have an opportunity to review what the committee has recommended. An open house will take place from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. Wednesday, in the upstairs meeting room of the Prescott Public Library, 215 E. Goodwin St., to display the committee's work so far.

The informal open house will include a site plan, phases of implementation, and other displays for the public to view. Those who attend will have an opportunity to comment on what they see.

The master plan area includes the confluence of Miller and Granite creeks, as well as the site of the Arizona Public Service cleanup of contaminated dirt next to Granite Creek Park.

Since the violent deaths of two homeless people in the area in late 1998, intense attention focused on what to do with the four or five acres of mostly primitive park land that fronts Granite Creek on the west side of the LaGuardia Bridge on Montezuma Street.

Last year, the City Council budgeted \$10,000 for the master plan, to cover the cost of mapping and other documents.

For years, the city has left the west side of the park as a riparian area, where large cottonwood trees tower over smaller elms, willows, and box elders. The creeks meander through the area, and tangled brush covers the ground.

Although the area offers a green spot in the middle of the city, its proximity to downtown and its dark cover at night have made it a natural for people who have nowhere else to go.

Homeless people have long gravitated to the area. In December 1998, two youths allegedly beat two homeless people to death in area, which brought the situation to a head.

This past fall, a citizens' advisory committee kicked off the master planning for the west side of Granite Creek Park.

The Granite Creek planning committee consists of nine members: Jay Eby of the Open Space Alliance; Judy Heywood of Arizona Public Service (APS); Doug Hulmes of Prescott College; Barnabas Kane, a landscape architect; Sue Knaup of the Prescott Alternative Transportation; Duane Oliver of APS; Tom Pettit of the Open Space Alliance; Matt Turner of the Prescott Creek Preservation Association; and Warren Zager, adjacent land owner and affected business owner.

Since the planning began, a number of other community efforts

See PLAN, page 11A

• PLAN

From page 1A

have begun, which could help to preserve more riparian land along Prescott's creeks.

For instance, "Prescott's greenways" is one of the categories that would benefit from the open space initiative that voters will decide in May.

The initiative involves the extension of the city's existing 1-percent sales tax for streets. It would devote a total of about \$41 million to open space acquisition over the next 15 years.

In addition, a group of community leaders met in December to discuss the future of the entire Granite Creek trail system. The group discussed a possible study of the creek corridor, which would focus on economic development potential for the creek, as well as environmental and preservation concerns.

And just recently, the Dexter School area kicked off a neighborhood plan that will include the park land. Neighborhood Services Director Laurie Hadley said that study likely will complement the park master plan by recommending better lighting and safer trails and sidewalks. "(The plan) will be trying to get people to the park in a safer manner," Hadley said.

To help pay for some of recommended improvements to the park area – such as trails, two bridges, benches, and lighting – the park master planning committee is planning a fund-raiser on April 1. The event will take place at the new Millstone Bistro and Bakery (formerly Malarkey's), and will feature food, music, an auction, and short presentations.

Tickets are \$25, and are available at Ironclad Bicycles on South White Spar Road. For more information on the event, call 708-0911.

31700

Prescott plans improvements for part of Granite Creek Park

By CINDY BARKS
The Daily Courier

PRESCOTT – More than \$200,000 worth of improvements could be in the works to make the undeveloped part of Granite Creek Park safer and more useable.

For the past six months, a citizens' committee has been working on a master plan for the four or five acres of mostly primitive land near the confluence of Miller and Granite creeks on the west side of the LaGuardia Bridge on Montezuma Street.

The city conducted an open house Wednesday night to allow the public to review what the committee has recommended. About 40 people turned out for the open house, which included a number of displays that showed pictures of the park as it is today, as well as the

plans to make the area more user-friendly.

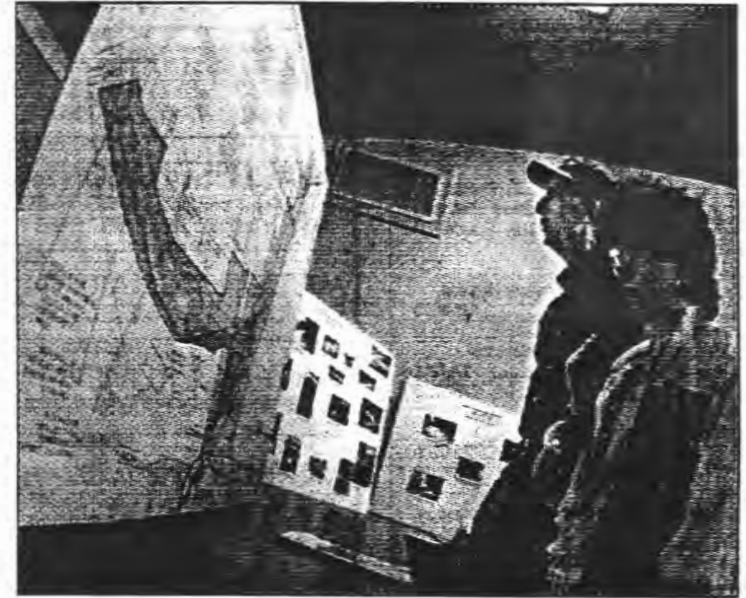
Along with the displays, the open house was an opportunity for residents to comment on the plans.

Eric Smith, trails and open space coordinator for the city, said Thursday that he received a number of written comments from the people who attended. Most were positive and complimented the committee for the recommended improvements, Smith said.

The public has until April 7 to submit written comments about the plan to: Prescott Parks and Recreation; P.O. Box 2059; Prescott, 86302. Anyone with questions can reach Smith at 445-5880.

The committee identified a "vision" for Granite

See *PARK*, page 12A



Courier/Tom Hood

Charlene Craig and Ron Smith look over maps of the West Granite Creek master plan Wednesday at the Prescott Public Library.

• PARK

From page 1A

Creek Park, which included such goals as extending trails upstream and downstream along the creeks; lighting to make the area safer; and creating a showcase of native vegetation and riparian land.

The undeveloped portion of Granite Creek Park has been in the community spotlight recently because of safety concerns.

For years, the city has left the west side of the park as a riparian area, where trees and underbrush grow. Because of the area's proximity to the downtown, homeless people have long gravitated there. In December 1998, the safety issue came to a head when two teen-agers beat two homeless people to death in the area.

That led to the move toward a master plan for the area.

And Smith said most of the written comments reflect the community's acceptance of the proposed improvements. For instance, he said, he received positive comments about the proposed lighting in the area, the bridges across the creeks, and the removal of sewer lines that currently cross the creek.

Along with the positive comments, Smith said he also received a proposal from a group of people who want to use the park area to conduct "Wild West" shows. The group is looking for a location to have about six Wild West shows a year.

Smith said he will take the group's suggestions back to the planning committee for review. One question that came up during the discussions, Smith said, is whether the small undeveloped portion of the park is large enough to accommodate the shows.

Currently, the master plan calls for about \$213,000 in improvements to the park. Among the improvements are four bridges and two low-water crossings, which would help to connect about one mile of new trails.

The most expensive bridge – at about \$125,000 – is a pedestrian crossing over Miller Creek near Lincoln Street. Residents have asked the city to build the bridge to give them better pedestrian access between their homes and area businesses, schools and churches.

Smith said the money for the Lincoln Street bridge could come from a grant that the Dexter Neighborhood Plan, which is also currently under way, is advocating.

The master plan divides the improvements into three phases. The first phase includes fund-raisers, boundary surveys, 401 and 404 permits for the trails and parks, and land exchanges. Smith said many of the first-phase items are already under way and should be complete by mid-2000.

Completion of the all three phases could be done by as early as 2002, Smith said. But he added the goals could take until about 2005, depending on the availability of money.

The city Parks and Recreation Department currently has about \$13,000 on hand for the improvements. The department will ask for another \$40,000 in the upcoming budget round for the 2000/2001 fiscal year.

To augment the budget, Smith said, "we'll have to be pretty creative with grants to put all of the pieces of the puzzle together."

The park master plan will be on display at the Prescott Public Library for several weeks. Anyone interested in submitting written comments can pick up comment forms at the library.

Fund-raiser will aid in Granite park work

By CINDY BARKS ~~3/20/00~~
The Daily Courier

PRESCOTT - In keeping with the recreational atmosphere they hope to promote in the area, Granite Creek greenway advocates will kick off a fund-raising campaign this week with a festive mix of music, food, and an auction.

And appropriately, the event will take place at the soon-to-be-open Millstone Bistro & Bakery, overlooking Granite Creek near the future site of a foot bridge that organizers hope the fund-raiser will help to pay for.

The first-ever Prescott Downtown Greenways fund-raiser and auction will begin at 6 p.m.

Saturday, and will continue throughout the evening with a variety of bands, a buffet dinner, and an auction.

The Millstone Bistro & Bakery will host the event at its new location, 300 N. Montezuma (formerly Malarkey's).

Tickets for the event are selling briskly, but organizers said Monday that some were still available. Admission is \$25 for individuals, or \$250 for a sponsor table of eight.

The fund-raiser is the brainchild of the West Granite Creek Park master plan committee, which recently released its plans for improvements

See *GREENWAYS*, page 11A

• GREENWAYS

From page 1A

to make the undeveloped portion of the park more user-friendly.

Among those improvements are a number of foot bridges and low-water crossings. Warren Zager, chairman of the fund-raising committee, said the event organizers hope it will generate enough money to build two or three bridges and low-water crossings.

Those structures can cost anywhere from several thousand dollars each to about \$20,000, he said.

But Zager and Sue Knaup, another member of the master planning committee, say the bridges are a crucial first step to implementing the master plan improvements.

They point out, for instance, that the plan involves removing the sewer lines that currently cross above the creek. Pedestrians regularly use those pipes as paths to cross the creek. Once the pipes are gone, people will need another way to cross.

The fund-raiser will feature four bands throughout the evening. First up will be the Banjo Boys, who will play at about 6 p.m., while appetizers are being served. Then, the Desert Jackalopes, a folk music group will take over.

Gun will play. And finishing up the evening will be Russ and his band, a dance fusion and funk band, which will start at about 9:30 p.m., and will play while people dance.

After appetizers, the crew at Millstone will provide a buffet dinner, with a sample of the fare the restaurant will offer when it opens later in April.

The fund-raiser also will include an auction, at which a number of donated items will be up for sale. Among the auction items are: food baskets from local businesses; art works of blown glass, pottery, and stained glass; gift certificates; a mountain bike; a picnic table; and a weekend at a beach-side resort in Redondo Beach, Calif.

Along with the auction donations, the fund-raiser also has generated \$1,000 in donations from Chai and from Prescott College, as well as a donation of a \$1,000 painting from Elisabeth Ruffner. Previously, the low-water crossing effort received a \$2,500 donation from the Yavapai County Community Foundation.

Anyone interested in attending the fund-raiser can buy tickets at Ironclad Bicycles, 710 White Spar Road, or call the Prescott Alternative Transportation group at

Granite Creek Park gains from fund-raiser

EDITOR:

I want to thank our community for the kind support for the first-ever Prescott Downtown Greenways fund-raiser on April 1.

The money we raised will go toward implementing the West Granite Creek Master Plan and more specifically to buy materials to build pedestrian bridges across Granite Creek. I expect one day we will be able to ride our bikes, or walk, all the way from downtown Prescott to downtown Flagstaff.

I would like to thank: Judy Haywood and APS, Elisabeth Ruffner, Millstone Bistro and Bakery family and employees, Prescott College, Yavapai County Community Foundation, Auction Specialist, Inc., The Banjoneers, Birds Unlimited, Prescott Courier, The City of Prescott, The Desert Jackalopes, Ironclad Bicycles, M3 and Prescott Lakes, Groove Bone, Smoking Gun, Allan's Flowers, American Express Tax & Business, Antonius Glass Studio, Art Escape, Ca'To Salon, Collison's & friends, Tony Ebarb, and The Flower Box & Gift Center.

Also Friends of JS Acker, Gaber

& Friends, Eric Glomski, Good Scents Flowers & Such, Great Panes Art Glass, Harvard Investments, Dr. Kirdani and friends, Kinko's, KNOT, Kenson Construction, Mountain Artists Guild, Murphy's and High Gear, NAZCA Enterprises, Inc., New Frontiers, Sue Knaup and Prescott Alternative Transportation, Prescott Creeks Preservation Association, Prescott Area Arts and Humanity Council, Eric Smith, Linda Hartman and Dave Loeffler and Prescott's Parks and Recreation, Phares and Friends. Riparia, Inc., Betty Ritter, Ruffner-Cibola, Mountain Sports Inc., Watters Garden Centers, Yavapai Exceptional Industries, Yavapai Trails Association, Tom Pettit and Joanne Hawley, all the people that bought tickets and my wife, Karen Zager.

I hope this event continues for many years to come.

Warren Zager
Prescott

Granite Creek Park fund-raiser brings in more than \$10,000

The Daily Courier

PRESCOTT - More than 300 people turned out for the first-ever fund-raiser for the West Granite Creek Park area Saturday night.

The event, which took place at the soon-to-be-open Millstone Bistro and Bakery on North Montezuma Street, raised more than \$10,000 for improvements in the undeveloped park area.

The evening featured a dinner, four bands, and an auction that offered a wide variety of donated art work and other items.

Advocates of the park plan organized the fund-raiser as a means to come up with the money for the improvements that a master plan for the area has identified. For example, the money could go for urgent needs such as creek crossings, trails and lights.

But Eric Smith, trails and open space coordinator for the city, pointed out that the master plan is still in its review stages. Area residents can examine the master plan at the Prescott Public Library. They have until Friday to submit their written comments on the plan to

the Parks and Recreation Department.

After that, Smith said, the master plan likely will go to the Parks and Library Advisory Committee, and then to the Planning and Zoning Commission. He estimated that the plan will go to the Prescott City Council for final review by about June.

If the City Council approves the plan, Smith said, the park improvements could begin soon after that.

The master planning committee came up with the idea for Saturday's fund-raiser after the community failed to receive a federal transportation grant to help with trails, low-water crossings and bridges.

The Millstone Bistro (formerly Malarkey's) sits along the banks of Granite Creek adjacent to the park. The business owners agreed to debut their new restaurant with the fund-raiser. The restaurant will open to the general public later this spring - probably by May.

Many businesses and individuals donated money and goods to the fund-raiser. The auction alone raised about \$4,300.

'Wild west' show draws fire from park planners

By CINDY BARKS
The Daily Courier

PRESCOTT – For six months, a citizens' committee has worked to come up with a master plan for the undeveloped West Granite Creek Park.

And members of the committee made it clear to the Prescott Planning and Zoning Commission this week that they like the plan the way it currently stands – and that is without a "wild west" show on a portion of the park land.

Several dozen master plan supporters filled the room Thursday morning, when the Planning and Zoning Commission met for its regular study session.

Among the items on the agenda was a review of the West Granite Creek master plan, a 37-page document that recommends passive uses for the four or five acres of mostly primitive land near the confluence of Miller and Granite creeks on the west side of the LaGuardia Bridge on Montezuma Street.

The plan got rave reviews from the commission and from the audience, while the idea to add a wild west show in the area did not fare so well.

Although the commissioners did not take a vote at the study session, they got a

taste of the overriding sentiment in the room, when Sue Knaup, committee member and Prescott Alternative Transportation director, called for a show of hands from the audience about the addition of a wild west show in the Granite Creek Park area.

Most of the people at the meeting indicated support for the plan as the committee originally proposed it, without an amphitheater for a wild west show.

The idea for conducting wild west shows on the west side of Granite Creek Park reportedly surfaced during the March open house that the committee conducted to get comments from the public about the draft plan.

It came up again at Thursday's commission meeting, when the supporters suggested an addition to the master plan that would allow for a number of outdoor performances to showcase traditional western skills relating to cattle ranching, mining, and logging.

Ben Hansen, the editor of the Daily Courier, said the newspaper has committed to being the media sponsor for six outdoor performances of old west skills. He said the old west shows could become a tourist draw for the area.

Hansen and fellow supporter Beau

Hickory maintained that the old west shows could fit in well with what the committee has planned for the West Granite Creek area. "This would detract nothing from what the committee has accomplished," Hansen said.

Hickory said he first broached the idea for the shows with the city about two years ago. Original plans for the shows at another downtown location fell through, he said, because of concerns about having trained animals in the area.

Hickory said the shows would require a "very limited amount of development" in the park area.

But that was more than the master plan supporters were willing to consider. Prior to the meeting, the Prescott Alternative Transportation organization had sent out notices to its members, urging attendance at Thursday's session.

The notice stated that "there is increased momentum" for the wild west show idea. It added that wild west shows would be "completely contrary to everything the West Granite Creek Park Master Plan strives for."

Knaup repeated those concerns Thursday, when she responded to the idea that Hansen and Hickory presented.

She said the master plan committee had

broad representation from the community, along with support from the surrounding neighborhood and many of the area businesses. "I'm sure all of these would be very upset if the plan was torpedoed by a crazy scheme like the wild west show," Knaup said. "What they are talking about would require large destruction of this area."

When Knaup asked for a show of hands from the audience, Zant urged her to tone down her comments. "You've got a commission in favor of what you're doing; don't overkill it," he said.

Although city officials did not oppose the idea of a wild west show in Prescott, they questioned the appropriateness of the location at the West Granite Creek Park.

Eric Smith, trails and open space coordinator for the city, pointed out that the city purchased the park land with Land and Water Conservation money, which precludes any type of business endeavor from locating there. The area is also in the floodplain, which would strictly limit the type of development, Smith said.

And Ramona Mattix, assistant community development director for the city, said the city is currently going out for proposals for an equestrian center – either at the existing rodeo grounds off Fair Street, or at

Pioneer Park. "The wild west show is a great idea, but I don't know if the purchase requirements on the land would allow for it," Mattix said. "(The equestrian center) would be an excellent shot for it."

Hickory, however, said the West Granite Creek Park location would allow visitors arriving in tour buses to visit the downtown and walk to the wild west show. He doubted that visitors would walk to the equestrian center.

The commission likely will vote on the park master plan at its next meeting on July 13. After that, it will go to the Prescott City Council for final consideration.

The plan advocates a gradual clean-up and improvement of the park land. The improvements would include a number of foot bridges over the creeks, security lighting, re-establishment of some of the native vegetation, and multi-use trails.

From the outset, the commissioners appeared supportive of the plan, which they said would clean up an area that has been a trouble spot in the community for years.

"As rough and dirty as it is right now, with just a bit of attention, it could end up being something we could all be proud of," said Commissioner Robert Lightfoot.

Talk of the Town:

Prescott must draw on its Old West past

By JIM LAMERSON
Special to The Daily Courier

I've been watching with interest Beau Hickory's and The Daily Courier's proposed Old West show ideas. I do not consider this dim-witted nor foolish.

I compliment the Courier for its willingness to participate in such a venture and Mr. Hickory for his willingness to share his expertise and "Tom Mix Circus" collection in a clean air economic development opportunity.

However, I agree with Romona Mattix and Sue Knaup with regard to Mr. Hickory's desired location in the west side of Granite Creek Park being inappropriate.

Prescott voters elected to buy certain open space. This and projects using other forms of governmental subsidy specific to acquisition and land use may negate using certain locations for entertainment enterprise. We should respect the wishes and spirit of the voters on this matter.

I am personally excited about the Old West show opportunity for Prescott and its potential for tourist attraction. I hope the council, chamber of commerce, Courier and Mr. Hickory work diligently to incorporate this idea into Prescott's near future.

Clean air infusion of cash flow for Prescott businesses is another priority on top of my wish list. Without it Prescott will have to take what it can for revenue generation. I suggest as did Ms. Mattix, the present fairgrounds is a logical location to pursue. I would encourage all concerned parties to work on development of the current fairgrounds location for year-round events non-conflicting with the rodeo and its demands.

I favor keeping the rodeo where it is and developing that site for additional recreational and special event use. The Old West show could help to

increase that opportunity. While I'm under the assumption the rodeo is a privately held organization and the county currently owns the site, I think Prescott has this rare opportunity to continue developing its Old West image and an economic base conducive to tourism without excessive commercial development in the sales tax race with emerging municipalities.

I think the mayor's idea for an equestrian center is a laudable concept for the same reasons. It's non-polluting, an opportunity for an outside infusion of cash and in keeping with Prescott's heritage. I do not agree Pioneer Park is the ideal location today. However, we shouldn't "throw the baby out with the bath" either.

I also consider acquisition of the Elks Theater a wonderful economic development opportunity conducive to expanded tourism. I've heard the city is working on this, and I thank staff and council for doing so. I can imagine not only Shakespeare and other theatrical events in Prescott, but a "Lillie Langtry" atmosphere in our own theater from time to time.

I hope the community will embrace and develop such admirable concepts as Mr. Hickory's Old West show, the mayor's equestrian center, acquisition of the Elks Theater and keeping our rodeo where it's at for as long as it's both logical and economically feasible for all concerned.

This type of growth and economic development requires community commitment and financial support. I encourage Prescott to embrace such ideas, and find ways to make them work rather than challenging their usefulness.

(Jim Lamerson is chairman of the Prescott Chamber of Commerce Economic Development Committee and a longtime downtown businessman.)

7-2-00

Park plan gets P&Z approval

By CINDY BARKS
The Daily Courier

7/00

PRESCOTT — A proposal for an old west show at the West Granite Creek Park came too late in the planning process for the Prescott Planning and Zoning Commission to accommodate it in the master plan for the park.

That was word from the commissioners this week, before they unanimously approved the master plan that a nine-member committee came up with.

The master plan for the West Granite Creek Park recommends a number of improvements for the primitive land on the west side of La Guardia Bridge, off Montezuma Street. Most of the improvements target passive recreational uses, such as hiking trails and creek crossings.

A proposal for an old west show came up after much of the proposed master plan was already complete.

More than 25 people filled the meeting room Thursday morning to support the master plan as the committee proposed it — without an amphitheater for performances that would include an old west show.

Ben Hansen, editor of the Daily Courier, said the newspaper has committed to be the media sponsor for six of the old west shows.

He maintained that the old west shows, which would have a lecture format, would fit well with what the committee has in mind for West Granite Creek Park.

"I don't think there would be any degradation of the natural setting," Hansen said.

See PARK PLAN, page 12A

• PARK PLAN

From page 1A

The West Granite Creek Park setting could also serve as a site for other theatrical and musical performances, Hansen added.

He asked the commission to postpone a decision on the park master plan until he and the show promoters could work with the park committee on the details.

But members of the audience opposed any kind of a delay on the plan.

Jim Knaup, a 25-year resident of Prescott, noted that the city advertised months ago for people who were interested in serving on the West Granite Creek Park master plan committee. "If someone wanted to get involved, they had the right," he said.

He urged the commission not to postpone the master plan at this late date. "I urge you not to allow this distraction to undo the good work that has been done," Knaup said.

Doug Humes, who served on the master planning committee, pointed out that the plan offers an opportunity for the community to restore a significant riparian corridor.

Sue Knaup, director of the Prescott Alternative Transportation group and a member of the park

"The old west show is actually a nice idea. It is just being presented in an inappropriate place. If it's as unobtrusive as it is being presented, there are many locations where it could go around town."

— Sue Knaup, director of the Prescott Alternative Transportation master plan committee

master plan committee, said she does not oppose the idea of the old west shows, just the location.

"The old west show is actually a nice idea," she said. "It is just being presented in an inappropriate place. If it's as unobtrusive as it is being presented, there are many locations where it could go around town."

Commissioners expressed no interest in postponing the master plan approval to accommodate the old west proposal.

Commission Chairman Jim Zant urged Hansen to do "more homework" on the old west show propos-

al, and perhaps, take the matter to the Prescott City Council. "We are the final say; the council is," Zant said. "It is kind of like you got involved with this, but you got involved late."

Zant added that the commission's approval of the master plan "will not preclude" a possible future use of the park for theatrical performances.

But Commissioner Marilyn Osborne brought up an issue that city officials have been emphasizing from the start of the discussion — the restrictions the park land is under because of the grant money that went toward the purchase of the land in the 1970s.

Eric Smith, trails and open space coordinator for the city, explained that the city used Land and Water Conservation Fund money to purchase the West Granite Creek Land. "The federal grant does not allow for any commercial, economic development, or entertainment uses on the land, he said.

"Would this not make (the old west shows) a moot point?" Osborne asked.

"Yes," answered City Attorney John Moffitt.

The West Granite Creek Park Master Plan will go to the Prescott City Council on July 18 and 25.

Prescott P&Z will decide who wins shootout over shows

*Commissioners also
continue discussion
of 69 Overlay plan*

By CINDY BARKS

The Daily Courier

PRESCOTT - Two weeks ago, the idea for old west performances in the undeveloped section of Granite Creek Park took fire from the people who came up with a master plan for the area.

But that was not the end of the matter. When the Prescott Planning and Zoning Commission meets at 9 a.m. Thursday, the West Granite Creek Master Plan will be back on the agenda for a possible vote. And the old west show proponents plan to be there to continue to advocate their proposal.

The meeting agenda also will include continued discussion of the Highway 69 Overlay District document.

When the commission first reviewed the West Granite Creek Master Plan in late June, several dozen audience members showed almost unanimous opposition to the idea of what they referred to as "wild west" shows.

A citizen committee of nine Prescott residents worked for about six months to come up with the plan. The proposed master plan recommends mostly passive uses, such as trails, security lighting and creek crossings, for the four-or-five-acre park west of the LaGuardia Bridge on Montezuma Street.

Sue Knaup, one of the members of the master plan committee, maintained that the western performances would be "completely contradictory to the master plan."

But Beau Hickory, who is advocating the idea, said the term "wild west show" is a misnomer for what he hopes to do in West Granite Creek Park.

Rather, he said the events would be a showcase for "old west" skills that deal with the historic cattle ranching, mining and logging industries.

Hickory and his wife, Tinnell, do old west performances around the country, and they say the format they have in mind for West Granite Creek Park would be much less intrusive than many people seem to believe.

While the term "wild west show" implies that a large number of animals would be involved, Tinnell said the shows she and Hickory plan would use a "lecture and demonstration format." For instance, they said, the show might include a demonstration of rope spinning, along with an explanation of the evolution of the skill in the West.

"We never, ever said we were going to do 'wild west' shows," Tinnell added.

As Hickory explained it, the old west shows would require an area of about a "couple hundred square feet." He envisions using the strip of land along Montezuma Street near the Millstone Bistro and Bakery. The narrow strip of land between the street and the creek would make a perfect spot for the shows, he said.

Hickory said he is asking for a trial period of six shows. "If they are not successful, we will go away," he said.

The Saturday performances and rehearsals would draw tourists, Hickory maintains. The West Granite Creek location would be close enough to downtown that people could walk there. And, he said, the public venue would allow him to have free admission to the performances.

"That is the last location where this can be done at a figure this town can afford," Hickory said.

Ben Hansen, editor of the Daily Courier, said the newspaper has agreed to be a media sponsor for the events. He also sees the shows as a boon to tourism in the downtown area.

Hansen added that although the Courier plans to sponsor only six old west performances, the area would be an ideal venue for a number of "equally unobtrusive community theater activities, which also would draw people."

Other activities that would be ideal for the spot, he said, would be outdoor Shakespeare, historical theater performances and music events. Those activities would make more people aware of the park and would make them want to come back and enjoy its passive uses, he added.

Hickory and Hansen say the old west shows would require no permanent structures, although Hickory said he hopes to move in bleachers that would have four rows of seats. Hickory said he would like to anchor the bleachers down, but they could be removed if necessary.

Hickory contends the old west shows would fit in well with the passive nature of the proposed master plan.

Knaup disagrees. Even if the shows would require no major structures, she said, they likely would bring hundreds of people into the area. "They're talking about a great economic benefit to the community, and the only way to do that is to bring in large amounts of people," she said. "We're not talking about 20 people; we're talking about hundreds of people."

Even if the spectators were to bring their own chairs, Knaup said, the large number of people would disturb the natural setting and the riparian area.

In addition to the disturbance of the environment, Knaup said the shows also would be a bother to the surrounding neighbors, who would have to put up with the noise from the shows. "You can't put on a quiet show," Knaup said.

City officials have also brought up concerns about the fact that the park land is in a flood area, and that it was purchased with Land and Water Conservation Fund money, which comes with use restrictions.

Hickory said he hopes to work with the master plan, not against it. "We understand their concerns," he said. "We would not allow anything that would damage the area to any great degree."

After the Planning and Zoning Commission makes a recommendation on the master plan, it will go the Prescott City Council for a final decision.

Prescott council greets park master plan with open arms

By CINDY BARKS
The Daily Courier

PRESCOTT - The West Granite Creek Park master plan apparently will not have any problem getting the approval of the Prescott City Council.

At their study session on Tuesday, the council praised the 37-page document that plans for the future of the five acres of primitive land west of the La Guardia Bridge on Montezuma Street.

The council will vote on the plan at its July 25 meeting, and the expected approval will give the green light for improvements at the park that will cost nearly \$100,000 (excluding the nearby \$111,000 Lincoln Street pedestrian bridge, which the city likely will pay for through a separate grant).

"This is one of the best documents to cross my desk in a long time," Councilman Robert Behnke told Trails and Open Space Coordinator Eric Smith. "It is well-documented and well-thought-out."

The master plan was the work of a nine-member committee that included: Jay Eby of the Open Space Alliance; Judy Heywood of APS; Doug Hulmes of Prescott College; Barnabas Kane, a landscape architect; Sue Knaup of the Prescott Alternative

Transportation group; Duane Oliver of APS; Tom Pettit and Johanna Hawley, neighborhood representatives; Matt Turner, Prescott Creeks Preservation Association; and Warren Zager, adjacent property owner.

The master plan has been the topic of some debate in recent weeks, because of a proposal for an old west show on a portion of the land. (The Daily Courier is one of the sponsors for the shows.)

But last week, the Prescott Planning and Zoning Commission unanimously approved the master plan, without provisions for the old west show amphitheater. And there was no mention of the old west show during Tuesday's council meeting.

Instead, the council members focused on the value of the park to Prescott's future. "I think (the park) is the kind of thing that truly can be uniquely Prescott, because nobody else can do this," Mayor Sam Steiger said. "Nobody else has this resource."

Along with the Lincoln Street pedestrian bridge over Miller Creek, the plan recommends a number of other foot bridges: a steel trail bridge over Granite Creek east of La Guardia Bridge; a wood trail bridge over Miller Creek from the neighborhood to the downtown connector trail; and a wood

bridge over Granite Creek along the sewer line crossing.

Other improvements include: low-water crossings over Miller and Granite creeks; security lighting; an emergency cellular phone; park benches; signs, informational kiosks; interpretative stations; a small neighborhood garden; drinking fountains; and a small playground area.

Steiger brought up a letter that the council members received from Michael Byrd and Eric Glomski, who have been involved with creek preservation, about the intensity of the plan.

Council members also had questions about the need for some of the improvements, such as the drinking fountains and telephone.

Smith said the master plan was a balancing act between protecting the riparian integrity of the creek land and making the area more user-friendly. "We had to find some kind of compromise, a middle road," Smith said.

But, he added, some of Byrd's and Glomski's concerns "could easily be incorporated into the plan."

In other action, the council:

- Voiced support for a policy to govern

the \$255,000 housing rehabilitation grant that the city accepted last week for the neighborhood surrounding the old Dexter School.

The council endorsed guidelines that Economic Development Specialist Jane Bristol presented for the award of the money.

Under the guidelines, the applicants would have to fall within low- to moderate-income categories.

A number of criteria would give certain applicants more weight in the ranking process. For instance, priority would go to: those with the lowest income; households with dependent children; the elderly and handicapped; and single parents.

In addition, those who wish to make repairs for handicap accessibility, septic systems, and health and safety issues would also get a higher rating in the application process. The council also asked that people who wish to convert their septic systems to city sewer get a higher rating.

The maximum amount each home could receive would be \$20,000. The money could go for home repairs, such as roof replacement, electrical wiring and plumbing.

If the owner lives in the home for at least

five years, he would not have to repay the money from the grant. But if the house were to sell within five years, the owner would have to repay a prorated amount to the city. That money then would go to the next applicant on the list.

• Considered a \$263,502 change order for construction of a connector road between highways 69 and 89, recently renamed the Prescott Lakes Parkway.

The change order, which would add to the cost of the approximately \$11 million contract for the road, would include: \$132,000 for additional excavation at the new autoplex; \$72,000 for relocation of a water main that conflicts with roadway excavation; \$25,520 for additional conduit installation for street lights between Highway 69 and the autoplex; \$5,434 for removal of additional trees at the new bridge over Granite Creek; \$16,720 for the rustication and paint for a major retaining wall next to Highway 89; and \$11,700 for a project field office for inspection and management of the construction.

Public Works Director Tom Long said the city and the consulting engineers missed most of the changes in the project specifications.



Appendix F

Trails along Prescott's Creeks

USES AND BENEFITS

Pedestrian and bicycle transportation between schools, businesses, parks, and neighborhoods

Providing a safer method of travel than along roadways

Recreation

Physical Fitness

Social

Education

THREE SCENARIOS

1. No action – no trail along creek
2. "Social" Undesignated Trails (currently found along lower Butte, Granite, and Miller Creeks)
 - Not city managed or maintained
 - Not formally patrolled
 - Some hazardous conditions exist (e.g., tree roots, washouts, etc.)
3. City Managed Trails (example: Butte Creek Trail – Hassayampa, others are in the works)
 - City managed
 - City accepts liability
 - Maintained by City volunteer trail crew
 - Patrolled by volunteers
 - Continual improvements are made to treadway and corridor providing safety
 - Potential for amenities (benches, educational signs, bridges, etc.)
 - Potential mitigation for privacy (trees & shrubs, fences, etc.)
 - Trail does not have to be owned by City
 - Trails can be placed onto existing utility easements
 - Trails can be constructed to withstand high runoff periods
 - Trail easements carry tax benefits
 - Many studies demonstrate the following:
 - a. People who use trails are more educated and responsible
 - b. Crime rates do not increase with trails in place
 - c. Real estate values can increase with trails adjacent to property, and agents will use trails as a selling tool
 - Ideally, creek trails are championed by neighborhood residents with an interest in making it happen and improving quality of life

The First Annual

Appendix G

**PRESCOTT DOWNTOWN
GREENWAYS
FUNDRAISER & AUCTION**

(auction by Auction Specialist Inc.)

A Night of Fun, Music and Fine Food

APRIL 1, 2000

6:00pm

AT THE NEW:



**Millstone Bistro & Bakery
300 N. Montezuma (at Sheldon)**

Funds raised will go to build Prescott's Mile-High Trail system, a network of trails along Prescott's Greenways that connect schools, businesses, neighborhoods, parks and people.

TICKETS: Tickets available at Ironclad Bicycles, 710 White Spar Rd. or call Prescott Alternative Transportation: 708-0911. All donations are tax deductible. Make checks payable to: Prescott Alternative Transportation.

\$25 INDIVIDUALS

\$250 SPONSOR TABLES (8 SEATS) includes program listing and benefits



Prescott Creeks
Preservation Association



Prescott Mile-High
Trails System



Prescott Alternative
Transportation



Prescott Area Arts and
Humanities Council



Prescott's Mile-High Trail System Updated Trail Standards (1999)

An Addendum to the 1996 City Trails Plan

Trails within City of Prescott's Mile-High Trail System are found in a variety of settings, and standards vary according to types and volume of uses, and settings. As per City Council Resolution, all City of Prescott Trails are non-motorized.

Category #1. - Primitive Setting – Minimal and Limited Uses:

Examples: Lakeview & Cove Trails (spur trails along southern Prescott Peavine Trail)
Uses: Hiking Only
Clearance Width: 6' wide x 10' high
Tread width: 24"
Tread Surface: Natural
Outslope: Maximum 5%
Drainage: Waterbars, Drain Dips, & Rock Channels
Signing: Flexible fiberglass at junctions w/ various decals
Maximum Grades: 20%
Information at Trail Access Point: None

Category #2. - Semi-Primitive Setting – Limited Use:

Examples: Butte Creek and Aspen Creek Trails
Uses: Hiking/Running/Equestrian
Clearance Width: 6' wide x 10' high
Tread width: 24" – 36"
Tread Surface: Natural
Outslope: Maximum 5%
Drainage: Drain Dips & Rock Channels
Signing: Flexible fiberglass at junctions w/ various decals
Maximum Grades: 12%
Information at Trail Access Point: 8" x 12" Sign w/ limited information

Category #3. - Semi-Primitive Setting – Multiple-use (potentially high volume):

Examples: Prescott Legacy Trail, Lower Granite Creek Discovery Trail
Uses: Hiking/Running/Equestrian/Mountain Bicycling
Clearance Width: 6' wide x 10' high
Tread width: 36" – 48" (6' – 8' in circumstances where heavy use is anticipated)
Tread Surface: Natural (except crushed and compacted decomposed granite in some areas)
Outslope: Maximum 5%
Drainage: Rolling drain dips & rock channels
Signing: Flexible fiberglass at junctions w/ various decals
Maximum Grades: 12%
Information at Trail Access Point: 8" x 12" Sign w/ limited information

Category #4. - Rails-to-Trails Conversions:

Examples: Prescott Peavine Trail
Uses: Hiking/Running/Equestrian/Mountain Bicycling
Clearance Width: 16' wide x 12' high
Tread width: 12'- 16'
Tread Surface: Compacted ballast (ballast over 1" in diameter is removed)
Outslope: Maximum 2-5%
Drainage: Culverts under former railroad bed
Signing: Steel signs (black text on green sign) bolted onto steel posts (threads flattened on bolts to prevent removal)
Maximum Grades: 5%
Information at Trail Access Point: Kiosk with large amount of information

Category #5. - Creek Trails:

Example: Granite Creek Trail/Prescott Riverwalk
Clearance Width: 10' wide (for sight distance) x 10' high
Tread width: Varies – determined by width of creek corridor and suitable "shelf" for placement of trail
Minimum 6' wide treadway
10' width for heavily used portions
Tread Surface: Reinforcement is needed with rip-rap & gabion structures where trail is adjacent to creek and bridge approaches
Natural surface in some areas where drainage is adequate
Compacted decomposed granite with bonding agents in other areas
Outslope: Maximum 5%
Drainage: Culverts under trail
Signing: Steel signs (black text on green sign) bolted onto steel posts (threads flattened on bolts to prevent removal)
Maximum Grades: 5%
Information at Trail Access Point: 8" x 12" Sign w/ limited information

Category #6. - Urban setting associated with roadway:

Example: Trail associated with 69/89 Connector
Clearance Width: 14' wide x 10' high – 6' landscaped buffer between roadway and trail
Tread width: 14' (10' hardened surface and 4' soft surface)
Tread Surface: Hardened: asphalt, soil cement, or various synthetic materials
Soft: Decomposed granite and natural
Outslope: Maximum 5%
Drainage: Culverts and outsloping
Signing: Flexible fiberglass at junctions w/ various decals & steel signs
Maximum Grades: 15%
Information at Trail Access Point: 8" x 12" Sign w/ limited information

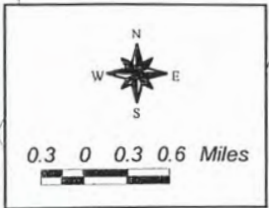
If you have questions, contact Eric Smith, Trails Coordinator, @ 445-5880.

City of Prescott Open Space Plan

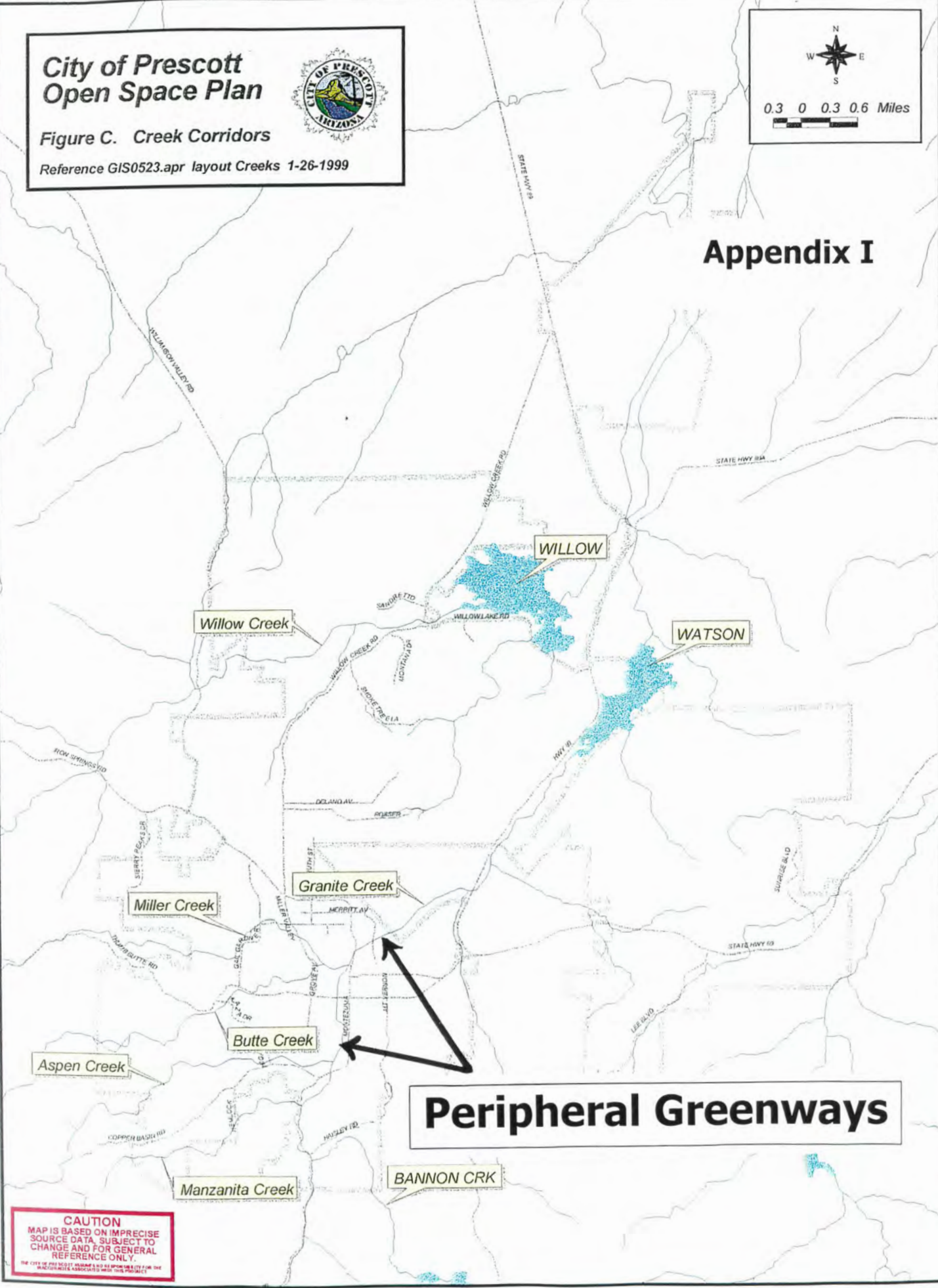


Figure C. Creek Corridors

Reference GIS0523.apr layout Creeks 1-26-1999



Appendix I



Peripheral Greenways

CAUTION
MAP IS BASED ON IMPRECISE
SOURCE DATA, SUBJECT TO
CHANGE AND FOR GENERAL
REFERENCE ONLY.
THE CITY OF PRESCOTT MAKES NO WARRANTY AS TO THE
ACCURACY OR COMPLETENESS OF THIS MAP.

