



WATER
EDUCATION



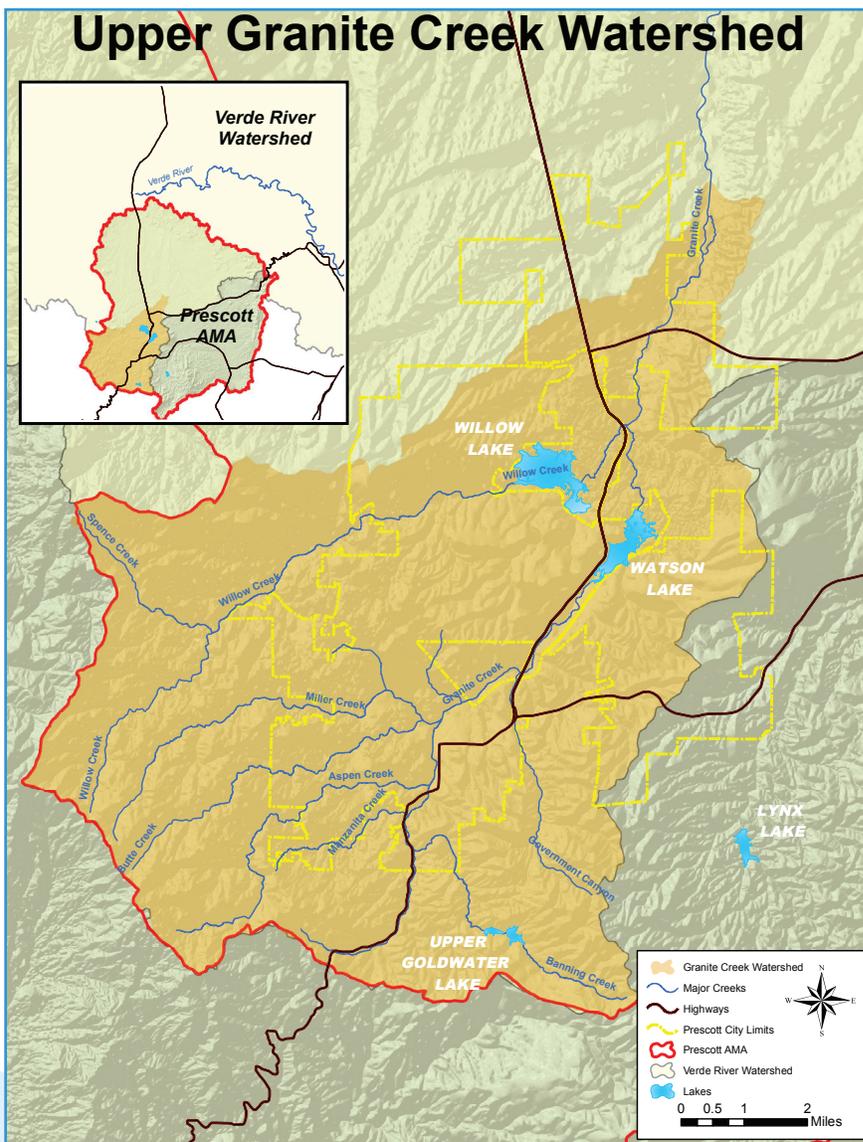
March 2018

Welcome! This is a **WaterSmart “Drop by Drop”** factsheet; the new water education program sponsored by the City of Prescott. Each month learn more about Prescott’s water resources. From history to infrastructure, together we’ll discuss Prescott water one drop at a time!

WaterSmart Factsheet Summary:

- A **watershed** is an area of land within which water drains to a low point
- The City of Prescott is located within the **Verde River watershed**, and more specifically the area known as the **Upper Granite Creek watershed**
- Everyday choices we make affect our watershed, and the flow from it, using reclaimed and surface water

John Wesley Powell (explorer and scientist, 1834-1902) in his *Report on the Lands of the Arid Regions of the United States* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1962) proposed that irrigation systems and state boundaries be based on watersheds, to avoid disagreement between states. As we know, this did not occur; however, protecting watersheds is vital to preserving water quality for residents, plants, and animals. Let’s explore the local watershed.



What is a watershed?

In the simplest terms, a watershed is a land area that drains water to a low point. The United States Geological Survey defines it as, “A watershed is an area of land that drains all the streams and rainfall to a common outlet such as the outflow to a reservoir, mouth of a bay, or any point along a stream channel.” Remember, water not only washes over the surface as surface flow, but also enters the ground to become groundwater.



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City of Prescott (Official)



Did you know ...

All living things depend on **fresh water**: people, plants, animals and trees. Water is easy for most of us in this country to get; we turn on the faucet and out comes water!

The Upper Granite Creek Watershed

The Verde River watershed includes an area draining approximately 5,500 square miles in north-central Arizona. Prescott is located within the upper portion of the Verde River watershed, and more specifically in the Upper Granite Creek watershed. Water from small tributaries is collected in Granite and Willow Creeks, which then flow into Watson and Willow Lake Reservoirs. Water spilling from these reservoirs, and entering from other creeks, flows to the Verde River.

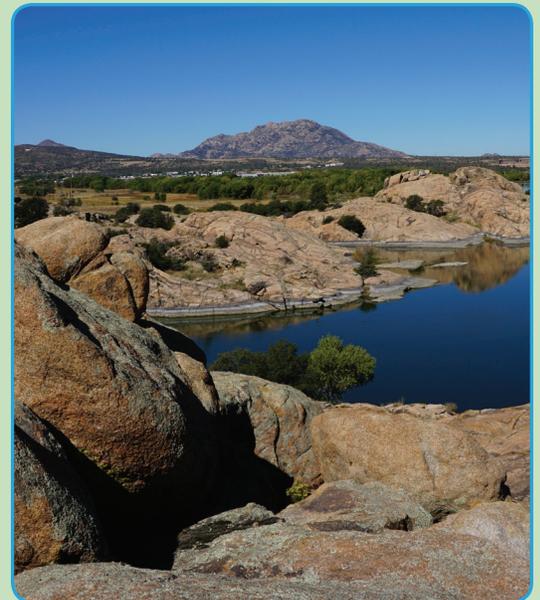
Watershed protection and drinking water supplies

Watershed protection and drinking water supplies are as important as they were in 1864 when Prescott was Arizona's territorial capital. Not only has the population increased, but federal, state, and local regulations now protect water supplies.

Whether our water supply is contained in a surface water reservoir or the local groundwater system, it is limited in quantity. Since 1999, the City has relied upon surface water to augment the municipal water supply. See Prescott's Urban Water Cycle factsheet for more information.

Reasons for conserving the watershed

- Enhances the attractiveness of the community
- Protects our community from losses related to flooding and erosion
- Preserves water quality for people, wildlife, and plants
- Preserves the capacity of and water quality within our reservoirs



Be WaterSmart!

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

(Source: CreekCare Booklet by Prescott Creeks)

