

City of Prescott
Public Works Department
433 North Virginia Street
Prescott, AZ 86301



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Watson Lake Water Enhancement

April 2025

UTILITY PROJECT

Watson Lake Reservoir is listed as an impaired waterway by USEPA and suffers from harmful algae and aquatic weed blooms. In response, The City developed and implemented an action plan for water quality improvement.

The project consists of water quality monitoring, installing lake circulators, conducting large-scale water treatments, purchasing an electric aquatic weed harvesting boat, and consideration of stocking with grass carp (white amur) to consume vegetation.

Solar powered circulators have been installed to reduce algae blooms and promote beneficial microorganism growth. Water quality monitoring is ongoing with a state-licensed lab providing training and oversight. Contract negotiation is underway for a firm to perform whole lake water quality treatment. A suitable fish barrier construction site has been identified to allow stocking of both Watson and Willow Lakes with Grass Carp, and schematic barrier plans are being drafted for review by city engineers.

The City's next steps are to perform water quality treatment, receive the aquatic weed harvester and train city staff on operating the harvester, and gain approval from Game and Fish for construction of a fish barrier.

City Contact Information

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