

City of Prescott
Public Works Department
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Prescott, AZ 86301



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Watson Lake Water Enhancement

October 2025

UTILITY PROJECT

Watson Lake Reservoir is listed as impaired by USEPA and suffers from harmful algae and aquatic weed blooms, high pH, and low dissolved oxygen due to excess organics accumulated in the lake. In response, the City developed and implemented an action plan for water quality improvement.

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

The City of Prescott's next step in Watson Lake enhancement is to perform a phosphorus reducing treatment of lake bottom sediment in autumn when treatment is most effective. Planning for large-scale water treatment is currently underway. The treatment will further reduce aquatic weeds and harmful algae while neutralizing pH and improving dissolved oxygen levels to improve lake health, fish habitat, and recreation opportunities. The City is pleased to report that no harmful Algae Blooms occurred in Watson Lake in the summer of 2025 as a result of treatment, and water quality continues to improve.

City Contact Information

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