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

Visit www.prescott-az.gov for more information.

Watson Lake Water Enhancement

March 2026

UTILITY PROJECT

Watson Lake is listed as impaired by the USEPA due to high pH, high nitrogen and phosphorus (nutrients), and low dissolved oxygen. These conditions have historically resulted in regular summertime algae and aquatic weed blooms alongside poor water quality. In response, the City of Prescott implemented an action plan for water quality improvement.

The project consists of water quality monitoring, installing circulators, 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.

To date, The City has initiated monthly water testing and monitoring, installed four solar-powered water circulators, and performed two phosphorus binding treatments removing over 400 lbs of phosphorus from the reservoir ecosystem. Treatments resulted in no harmful algae or aquatic weed blooms during the summer of 2025. The City will continue Watson Lake enhancement under the Public Works new Healthy Lakes Program. Monthly water quality data summaries are available at the Participate Prescott Website Surface Water Quality Dashboard. Additional treatments are being planned for Spring 2026.

City Contact Information

Project Manager: Jeremy Cordova

Phone: (928) 777-1130