

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



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Watson Lake Water Enhancement

May 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 summertime algae and aquatic weed blooms and poor water quality. In response, the City of Prescott implemented an action plan for water quality improvement.

The City performs water testing monthly, installed four water circulators, and performed two phosphorus binding treatments in 2025. Treatments resulted in no harmful algae or aquatic weed blooms throughout the summer of 2025. Plans for additional phosphorus binding and nutrient reduction treatments in spring/summer of 2026 are in development to further improve water quality. The City is in the process of contracting for a fish barrier design to allow the stocking of grass carp (white amur) to reduce aquatic vegetation that degrades water quality and recreation in the lake.

The City continues Watson Lake enhancement under the new Public Works Healthy Lakes program. Monthly water quality data summaries are available at the [Participate Prescott Website Surface Water Quality Dashboard](#) and citizens can post questions there for the environmental services team.

City Contact Information

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