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

November 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, mows and removes aquatic weeds, and continues a phosphorus binding campaign that has bound over 1,500 lbs of phosphorus in the lake since June 2025. The above efforts have prevented harmful algae blooms in Watson Lake for two years now, and treatments will resume in May, 2027. Organics reduction treatments are also ongoing at the south end of the lake where anoxic organic-rich strata are thickest. All products applied are drinking water and aquatic life safe.

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

Project Manager: Jeremy Cordova

Phone: (928) 777-1130