Barr Lake Water Quality Report

May 9, 2017

Water Summary

Barr Lake is sampled twice a month between March and October and monthly between November and February. The Barr Lake and Milton Reservoir Watershed Association coordinates all of the efforts to monitor, test, and improve the water quality in Barr Lake. Regular lake sampling started in 2002 and will continue into the future. It is important to closely monitor water quality to observe any major changes that would impact wildlife, park users, or downstream water users.

May – Barr Lake is just beginning to thermally stratify (warmer, lighter water floating on top of cooler heavier water). It is 14^0 C (57^0 F) at the top and 12^0 C (54^0 F) on the bottom. Cooler and windier weather recently has allowed for more mixing to occur. Warmer weather and longer days will quickly warm up the top water, keeping the bottom water near 54^0 F. Water clarity decreased with an increase in oxygen and pH. Algae growth is greater than the respiration and consumption by the zooplankton. The interactions between algae (primary producers) and zooplankton (consumptive grazers) can impact water quality on a short time scale.

Water Quality Stats (as of 05-09-17)

Maximum Depth: 33.5 feet (between dam outlets)

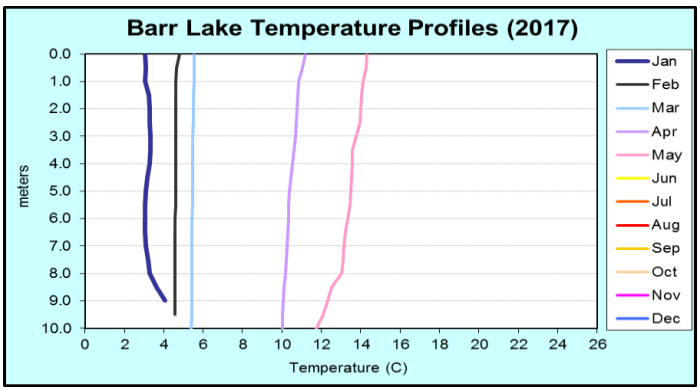
Water Temperature: 57.4^0 F (taken 3 feet below surface)

Water Clarity: 3.6 feet (≥ 3 feet is good)

Dissolved Oxygen: 142% (>80% is good)

pH: 9.07 (between 6 and 9 is good)

Chlorophyll-a: <20 ppb (How green, ≤ 25 is good)



That time of year when people fertilize their yards. In some states, it is the law to sweep any fertilizer that gets on your sidewalk or driveway. Do your best to keep fertilizer from getting to Barr Lake.

H2ONLY KEEPITCLEAN

Watershed News

Watershed bike tours along the S. Platte are scheduled for June 6th and 7th. New Picture Post has been installed at the boat ramp, check it out. Graduate students from CU-Denver will be presenting watershed project results. Presentations will be on May 10th at the Nature Center.

Join BMW Association

BARR LAKE AND MILTON RESERVOIR ASSOCIATION

The BMW Association's mission is to improve the water quality by encouraging cooperation, involvement, and awareness with people living near and upstream of Barr.

You can learn more about the lake and what is going on in the watershed by going to www.barr-milton.org.

Contact Amy Conklin, watershed coordinator, at amy.conklin@comcast.net or 303-795-5925.

Cooperation, Involvement, and Awareness