Barr Lake Water Quality Report

December 11, 2018

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.

December – Barr Lake is filling with S. Platte River water. The current surface area of Barr Lake is 1,410 acres, and the volume is close to 14,369 acre-feet, which is close to 45% full. Ice was only 1.5 inches thick by the dam and was not strong enough to support the sampling boat. Algae are still growing despite the shorter days and cooler water temperatures. Oxygen, pH, and Chl-a are still high because of the algal growth. Barr Lake is filling with only water coming from the S. Platte River which is diverted near the Riverside Cemetery just downstream of downtown Denver.

Water Quality Stats (as of 12-11-18)

Maximum Depth: 23.0 feet (between dam outlets)

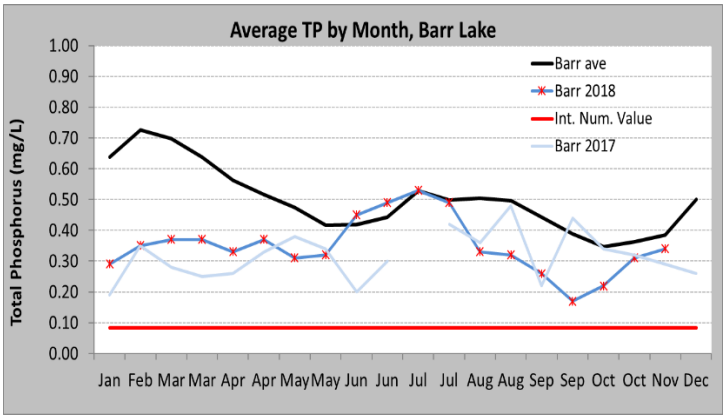
Water Temperature: 36.2^0 F (taken 3 feet below surface)

Water Clarity: 3.3 feet (≥ 3 feet is good)

Dissolved Oxygen: 156.4% (>80% is good)

pH: 9.24 (between 6 and 9 is good)

Chlorophyll-a: 113 ppb (How green, ≤ 25 is good)



Be algae aware. Summer is the time when blue-green algae like to grow. They are the only algae that can float to the surface and form harmful scums. Be algae aware and avoid contact with the scum.

Watershed News

BMW is participating in a watershed workgroup organized by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) to evaluate impacts of adding phosphorus to Denver Water's drinking water system. Adding phosphorus helps to reduce lead in drinking water. But, the added phosphorus can aggravate the problem of downstream algae blooms.

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