



Milton Reservoir Water Quality Report



June 25, 2018

Water Summary

Milton Reservoir 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 Milton. 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.

June – Another early blue-green algae bloom for Milton. Despite much lower phosphorus levels this year, the reservoir is just as green as last year for June. What time will tell is the intensity and duration of the bloom. Milton did fully mix due to some large storms recently. This mixing of the entire water column allowed for some nutrients to be released from the bottom water. Also, the cooler bottom water warmed up and the warmer top water was cooled down because of the mixing. The blue-green algae that are growing are called *Microcystis aeruginosa* – the most common blue-green found in nutrient-rich lakes and reservoirs. The floating algae will eventually settle to the reservoir bottom and be consumed by bacteria. The water level is down about 1.6 feet from full pool.

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

Welcome our new intern, Samantha Mills. Come to a BMW event this summer and say hi to her. Lakes Appreciation Day celebration is coming soon – July 14th! RSVP at the nature center if you want to come out and volunteer. Free lunch and on the water activities will happen in the afternoon. It is a good way to give back.

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 Lake and Milton Reservoir.

You can learn more about the lakes 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



Water Quality Stats (as of 06-25-18)

Maximum Depth: 24.6 feet (dam outlet) Water Temperature: 69.3° F (taken 3 feet below surface)

Water Clarity: 3.8 feet (≥ 3 feet is good) Dissolved Oxygen: 125.0% (>80% is good)

pH: 8.77 (between 6 and 9 is good) Chlorophyll-a: =49.3 ppb (How green, ≤ 25 is good)

