



Milton Reservoir Water Quality Report



September 26, 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, lake users, or downstream water users.

September – Fall is here which means the end of the defined growing season for lakes/reservoirs (July through September). The Platte Valley Canal was bringing a small amount of water into Milton. The lake elevation has not changed since early September. The reservoir's surface water temperature has dropped 6 degrees since 9/11. Algae are growing but there are no signs of any major blue-green algal blooms. pH is well below the upper limit of 9.0 and Milton has yet to go above 9.0 for 2018. For most of 2018, Milton was only slightly warmer on top. Only in May was there a strong thermocline separating the warmer top water from the cooler bottom water. This frequent summer-time mixing of the water column can help with oxygenation, pH, and keeping blue-greens from dominating.

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 look at the 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 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 09-26-18)

Maximum Depth: 14.8 feet (dam outlet) Water Temperature: 64.2° F (taken 3 feet below surface)

Water Clarity: 1.3 feet (≥ 3 feet is good) Dissolved Oxygen: 82.6% (>80% is good)

pH: 8.09 (between 6 and 9 is good) Chlorophyll-a: <30 ppb (How green, ≤ 25 is good)

