Barr Lake Water Quality Report

January 10, 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.

January – Barr is close to being completely filled. The lake is fully iced over. Recent warm weather after last week's storm is creating a slushy, soft surface over about six inches of solid ice. Water is being diverted around Barr Lake to fill Horsecreek and Prospect reservoirs. More large-bodied, native zooplankton (daphnia or commonly called water fleas) were collected which is causing an improvement in water clarity under the ice. pH is still high which means plenty of algae are growing near the surface. Oxygen is above 5 ppm all the way down to 20 feet.

Water Quality Stats (as of 01-10-17)

Maximum Depth: 30.5 feet
(between dam outlets)

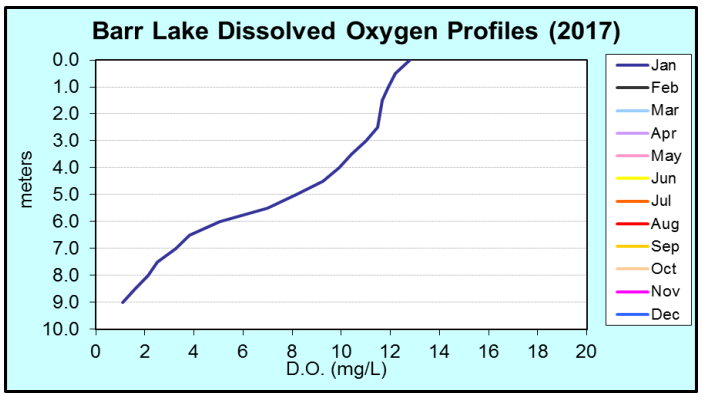
Water Temperature: 37.5^0 F
(taken 3 feet below surface)

Water Clarity: 5.2 feet
(≥ 3 feet is good)

Dissolved Oxygen: 107%
(>80% is good)

pH: 9.01
(between 6 and 9 is good)

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



Just like fertilizers, it is best to keep salt out of our lakes and streams. If you do use salt, please use it sparingly and even consider sweeping it up after the snow melts.

Watershed News

To avoid dumping holiday trash around the watershed, make sure you take advantage of local Christmas tree recycling programs or use your tree for composting, mulch, or firewood. Please do not dump your tree along the roadside. Most trash eventually finds its way into Barr Lake and other water ways in the watershed.

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