



# Barr Lake Water Quality Report



April 27, 2016

## 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.

*April* – pH dropped at the end of April. Percent oxygen is also down from early April. Both of these parameters indicate that the diatom bloom is beginning to decline. Even though there have been a couple of cold fronts that have hit the area, Barr's water temperature is average for this time of year. Water clarity is still only a couple of feet so fishing for fish that rely on vision to find their food might not be the best right now. Phosphorus is below average, but it is important to look at both nitrogen and phosphorus. The ratio of N to P should be above 15 in order to control large algae blooms.

## Water Quality Stats (as of 04-27-16)

Maximum Depth: 33.1 feet (between dam outlets)      Water Temperature: 53.2<sup>o</sup> F (taken 3 feet below surface)

Water Clarity: 2.0 feet (≥ 3 feet is good)      Dissolved Oxygen: 125% (>80% is good)

pH: 8.51 (between 6 and 9 is good)      Chlorophyll-a: <50 ppb (How green, ≤ 25 is good)

*Spring has sprung. Do your best to keep fertilizers off of the sidewalk, roads, and driveways. You want your lawn green, not the lake.*



Buy phosphorus-free fertilizer and keep our water clean.

Runwater can easily wash phosphorus from lawns into our water system. Phosphorus is the junk food for algae, causing it to grow out of control, turning our waters green, lowering water quality and even killing fish. Use phosphorus free lawn fertilizers to keep it clean.



## Watershed News

*BMW Association is helping plan a bike tour down Bear Creek from the reservoir to the S. Platte River. Tours are on June 7 (morning) and June 8<sup>th</sup> (afternoon). The tour is free and a fun way to see parts of the BMW. Contact CFWE to reserve a spot ([www.cfwe.org](http://www.cfwe.org)).*

## 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](http://www.barr-milton.org).

Contact Amy Conklin, watershed coordinator, at [amy.conklin@comcast.net](mailto:amy.conklin@comcast.net) or 303-795-5925.

*Cooperation, Involvement, and Awareness*



Average TN:TP by Month, Barr Lake

