



# Barr Lake Water Quality Report



May 10, 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.

May – Barr Lake has not cleared up yet this spring. Typically, water clarity in early May is around 3 meters or over 10 feet. Clarity was only 2 feet on May 10<sup>th</sup>. The reason for low clarity is because of diatom growth. This form of algae grows in cooler water. Zooplankton, act like grazers and consume the diatoms which results in improved spring time clarity. Zooplankton numbers should increase soon. Water clarity data demonstrate the balancing act between nutrients, algae, and zooplankton. The diatoms are consuming nutrients which might help control the summertime blue-green algae blooms.

## Water Quality Stats (as of 05-10-16)

Maximum Depth: 33.1 feet (between dam outlets)      Water Temperature: 55.4<sup>o</sup> F (taken 3 feet below surface)

Water Clarity: 2.1 feet (≥ 3 feet is good)      Dissolved Oxygen: 141% (>80% is good)

pH: 8.96 (between 6 and 9 is good)      Chlorophyll-a: >30 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.

Runoff can quickly 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*

