



# Barr Lake Water Quality Report



May 25, 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 is clearing up for the spring time. Water clarity was almost 13 feet compared to 2 feet on May 10<sup>th</sup>. This spring time clearing is a result of a healthy balance between beneficial algae (e.g., diatoms) and grazing zooplankton that keep the algae in check. Water temperature also plays a big role in what species of algae grow. As the water warms up, green and blue-green algae will begin to grow. Oxygen is below 100%. This means respiration (i.e., zooplankton eating algae) is greater than photosynthesis (i.e., algae producing oxygen). One difference this year is that the water clarity is about a month behind compared to last year.

### Water Quality Stats (as of 05-25-16)

Maximum Depth: 32.8 feet (between dam outlets)      Water Temperature: 60.8<sup>o</sup> F (taken 3 feet below surface)

Water Clarity: 12.8 feet (≥ 3 feet is good)      Dissolved Oxygen: 68% (>80% is good)

pH: 8.06 (between 6 and 9 is good)      Chlorophyll-a: <10 ppb (How green, ≤ 25 is good)

Don't forget to bring along a bag to pick up after your pet on those nice summer walks. Pet waste can be a source of nutrients and bacteria that can harm water quality.



Pick up after your dog.

Don't drink from streams and rivers, which end up in our lakes and reservoirs. So please, pick up after your pet, and help keep bodies of water as places for fish, cats, and enjoy.



## Watershed News

BMW Association's annual watershed tour is June 28<sup>th</sup>. The tour will start at Barr Lake's nature center and include stops at ECCV treatment facility and Milton Reservoir for a lunch BBQ. Kayaking on Lake Christina will also be included. Come and have some fun in the BMW. Contact Amy Conklin to register.

### 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 Secchi Depth by Month, Barr Lake

