



Barr Lake Water Quality Report



June 22, 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.

June – Water temperature at Barr is above 70° F in the top 3 meters (10 feet) and then gradually cools the deeper you go. Water is lighter as it gets warmer. Barr is stratified, meaning warm water floating on top of cooler water. This layering in the water column isolates the bottom water allowing oxygen to be depleted. The algae are keeping the top 3 meters well oxygenated. Deeper than 4 meters, algae are not growing and the water is not mixing with the surface. There is zero oxygen below 6 meters so fishing will not be good down deep. Windy storms and the seasonal drawdown will eventually mix the entire water column. For now, no sign of blue-green algae. Smog has also been thick because of regional wildfires.

Water Quality Stats (as of 06-22-16)

Maximum Depth: 32.2 feet (between dam outlets) Water Temperature: 73.9° F (taken 3 feet below surface)

Water Clarity: 7.1 feet (≥ 3 feet is good) Dissolved Oxygen: 129% (>80% is good)

pH: 8.92 (between 6 and 9 is good) Chlorophyll-a: <15 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 local 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 28th. 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.

Contact Amy Conklin, watershed coordinator, at amy.conklin@comcast.net or 303-795-5925.

Cooperation, Involvement, and Awareness

