



Barr Lake Water Quality Report



August 23, 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.

August – Barr Lake's water quality was very unusual for the end of August. The water level came up about three feet and the water was a dark, brownish color. There was some kind of fine particulate matter suspended throughout the water column near the dam. The water clarity was only two feet. Blue-green algae were growing near the surface and elevating the dissolved oxygen levels. The Burlington Ditch did divert water from the S. Platte River from August 7th to the 18th. Seen above from an airplane, the inflow to Barr Lake created a turbid condition in the southern half of the reservoir on August 10th.

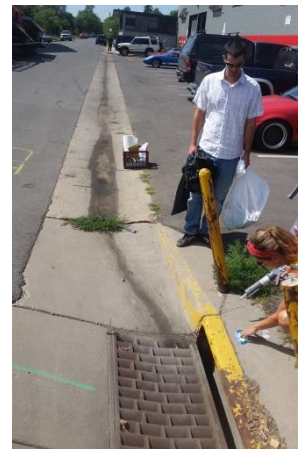
Water Quality Stats (as of 08-23-17)

Maximum Depth: 28.5 feet (between dam outlets) Water Temperature: 72.8° F (taken 3 feet below surface)

Water Clarity: 2.0 feet (≥ 3 feet is good) Dissolved Oxygen: 159% (>80% is good)

pH: 9.4 (between 6 and 9 is good) Chlorophyll-a: <40 ppb (How green, ≤ 25 is good)

Rain water only goes down the storm drain. No dumping. BMW Association is helping Denver mark storm drains. Notice in the photo the stain of oil leading to a drain.



Watershed News

Just over 300 storm drains were marked in the Cole Neighborhood just upstream of the Burlington Head Gate. A group of youth girls spent a week gluing small plaques next to storm drains that informs people that the water goes straight to the S. Platte River.

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

