



Barr Lake Water Quality Report



September 25, 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.

September – It is the end of the growing season for 2017. Barr Lake is still showing signs of turbid, brownish water. Algae have been identified and most of them are diatoms and a dinoflagellate called Peridinium. This algae has been growing in the lake since early August. It is unusual to have a new algae replace the usual blue-green algal bloom in September. The dissolved oxygen levels are very low. This is an indication of decomposition and respiration at night by the algae. The lake is about 8 feet higher than average for this time of year. There are no signs of stressed fish and hopefully oxygen levels will rise.

Water Quality Stats (as of 09-25-17)

Maximum Depth: 23.0 feet (between dam outlets) Water Temperature: 60.9^o F (taken 3 feet below surface)

Water Clarity: 1.6 feet (≥ 3 feet is good) Dissolved Oxygen: 28% (>80% is good)

pH: 8.71 (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

The BMW Association is looking into what it will take to install a new storm water monitoring station just upstream of the Burlington Head Gate. The goal would be to sample storm water that is coming down the S. Platte River and entering the Burlington Ditch. The new station will be up and running by next spring.

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



D.O. Average by Month, Barr Lake (0.5 - 2.0 m)

