



Barr Lake Water Quality Report



October 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.

October – Hot and cold – the weather can't make up its' mind. Barr Lake is also just a couple feet below full pool elevation. The water is still brown in color caused by algae. 2017 was not a good year for water clarity. The spring time clearing was not very deep and did not last long. Despite the shallower water clarity, the algae blooms for the year have been less than normal. From sampling, blue green algae is down while diatoms and other non-blooming species are up. Phosphorus has increased slightly this year but with a full reservoir going into the winter fill season, some of the nutrients should settle out for next year's summer season.

Water Quality Stats (as of 10-25-17)

Maximum Depth: 31.2 feet (between dam outlets) Water Temperature: 52.6° F (taken 3 feet below surface)

Water Clarity: 3.0 feet (≥ 3 feet is good) Dissolved Oxygen: 98.9% (>80% is good)

pH: 8.87 (between 6 and 9 is good) Chlorophyll-a: <50 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



Average Secchi Depth by Month, Barr Lake

