



Barr Lake Water Quality Report



December 13, 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.

December – Barr Lake is fully covered with about three inches of ice. Barr has been filling for most of December minus a few days when there was no flow. The lake is thermally stratified with warmer water on the bottom now that ice has set up. Water clarity has slightly improved but is still less than a meter. pH was clearly above 9.0 for most of the water column with oxygen above 100% so there is plenty of photosynthesis occurring. What was missing were the large-body zooplankton (native water fleas) that do a great job of grazing on the diatoms. It is always a guessing game when it comes to winter-time water clarity and algae growth under the ice.

Just like fertilizers, it is best to keep salt out of our lakes and streams. If you do use salt, please use it sparingly and even consider sweeping it up before the snow melts.



Watershed News

To avoid dumping holiday trash around the watershed, make sure you take advantage of local Christmas tree recycling programs or use your tree for composting, mulch, or firewood. Please do not dump your tree along the roadside. Most trash eventually finds its way into Barr Lake and other water ways in the watershed.

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



Water Quality Stats (as of 12-13-16)

Maximum Depth: 27.6 ft (between dam outlets) Water Temperature: 35.5° F (taken 3 feet below surface)

Water Clarity: 2.9 feet (≥ 3 feet is good) Dissolved Oxygen: 134 % (>80% is good)

pH: 9.33 (between 6 and 9 is good) Chlorophyll-a: >25 ppb (How green, ≤ 25 is good)

