



# Milton Reservoir Water Quality Report



February 13, 2017

## Water Summary

Milton Reservoir (aka Pelican 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 Milton. 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.

February – Milton is ice free as of February 13<sup>th</sup>. This is earlier than normal due to extremely warm temperatures in February. The reservoir is fully mixing top to bottom so the oxygen and temperature is the same everywhere. Diatoms are growing which drives the oxygen well above 100%. The water will continue to mix and slowly warm up as the days get longer. The S. Platte River basin snowpack is at 142%. There should be plenty of water to keep Milton full this spring and early summer. Phosphorus went up once Milton was refilled in December. January phosphorus was 1,190 µg/L, which is well above the normal (650 µg/L).

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 after the snow melts.



## Watershed News

CU-Denver graduate students are working on several projects in the watershed to help gather data to better understand how phosphorus gets to Barr Lake. They will be presenting their results May 10<sup>th</sup> at the Barr Lake Nature Center. Please come to hear what they found out.

## 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 Lake and Milton Reservoir.

You can learn more about the lakes and what is going on in the watershed by going to [www.barr-milton.org](http://www.barr-milton.org).

Contact Amy Conklin, watershed coordinator, at [amy.conklin@comcast.net](mailto:amy.conklin@comcast.net) or 303-795-5925.

*Cooperation, Involvement, and Awareness*



## Water Quality Stats (as of 02-13-17)

Maximum Depth: 24.6 feet Water Temperature: 39.6<sup>o</sup> F  
(dam outlet) (taken 3 feet below surface)

Water Clarity: 3.1 feet Dissolved Oxygen: 175.4%  
(≥ 3 feet is good) (>80% is good)

pH: 8.70 Chlorophyll-a: <40 ppb  
(between 6 and 9 is good) (How green, ≤ 25 is good)

South Platte River Basin Monthly Snowpack Summary  
February 1, 2017

