



Milton Reservoir Water Quality Report



February 13, 2018

Water Summary

Milton Reservoir 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 still has about five inches of ice on the reservoir. Water clarity has reduced since January because of algal growth. The algae are keeping the top water oxygenated but the bottom water is getting low in oxygen. Total Phosphorus (TP) level in January was 0.12 mg/L (aka parts per million) or 120 µg/L (aka parts per billion). This is a major change from the TP value in January 2017 after the refill (1,190 µg/L). It took most of 2017 to have the TP slowly decline. The goal is to not go over 100 µg/L during the summer. We will see how TP does in 2018. TP can settle out of the water or be released from the dam. TP can also increase because of inflows and from internal loading from the sediments.

Water Quality Stats (as of 02-13-18)

Maximum Depth: 29.5 feet (dam outlet) Water Temperature: 40.9° F (taken 3 feet below surface)

Water Clarity: 5.4 feet (≥ 3 feet is good) Dissolved Oxygen: 127.2% (>80% is good)

pH: 8.04 (between 6 and 9 is good) Chlorophyll-a: <20 ppb (How green, ≤ 25 is good)

Milton Reservoir Total Phosphorus in January



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

Does your car leak oil? Does your truck drip power steering fluid? From windshield fluid to gasoline, automobile fluid leaks all end up on the street. Snow and rain then wash those contaminants to your river and lake. Do your part and fix your car leaks, it will help your car out and 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 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.

Contact Amy Conklin, watershed coordinator, at amy.conklin@comcast.net or 303-795-5925.

Cooperation, Involvement, and Awareness

