



Milton Reservoir Water Quality Report



March 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.

March – This month marks the beginning of two sampling events per month. Both reservoirs are experiencing typical spring-time diatom growth. Milton Lake’s water clarity went from 17 feet deep in January to just over 3 feet in the beginning of March. Diatoms favor cooler water temperatures and have little competition from other algal species. The Chlorophyll-a level is 97 parts per billion. This is higher than a year ago and above the median value. In 2017, there were three distinct algae blooms – diatoms in March and blue-greens in June and September. The soluble phosphorus (food for the algae) is very low and this is because of the diatoms consuming it.

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

Two great events are being planned for this coming June. June 5th and 6th there is the annual free bike tour that will follow Sand Creek from Bluff Lake to the S. Platte River. Then June 26th is the annual watershed tour. This year’s tour will highlight the big changes going on around the Western Complex and the S. Platte River.

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



Water Quality Stats (as of 03-13-18)

Maximum Depth: 26.6 feet (dam outlet) Water Temperature: 42.1° F (taken 3 feet below surface)

Water Clarity: 3.3 feet (≥ 3 feet is good) Dissolved Oxygen: 131.7% (>80% is good)

pH: 9.20 (between 6 and 9 is good) Chlorophyll-a: <100 ppb (How green, ≤ 25 is good)

