



# Milton Reservoir Water Quality Report



April 14, 2016

## 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.

*April* – Milton’s clarity went from 3 feet to 20 feet in only 17 days. Zooplankton have done an effective job of grazing on the diatoms to clear up the water. This clearing phase should continue until June. Due to low algae growth and respiration by zooplankton, the dissolved oxygen was below 100%. Unlike Barr Lake, Milton did not see a spike in pH due to diatom growth this spring. pH has been consistently below 8.5. The phosphorus is also staying well below normal for the springtime. Lower nutrients may allow for smaller diatoms blooms in the spring.

## Water Quality Stats (as of 04-14-16)

Maximum Depth: 27.2 feet (dam outlet)      Water Temperature: 55.9° F (taken 3 feet below surface)

Water Clarity: 20.0 feet (≥ 3 feet is good)      Dissolved Oxygen: 70.4% (>80% is good)

pH: 8.24 (between 6 and 9 is good)      Chlorophyll-a: <5 ppb (How green, ≤ 25 is good)

*Spring has sprung. Do your best to keep fertilizers off of the sidewalk, roads, and driveways. You want your lawn green, not the lake.*



Buy phosphorus-free fertilizer and keep our water clean.

Rainwater can quickly wash phosphorus from fertilizer into our water system. Phosphorus is like junk food for algae, causing it to grow out of control, turning our waters green, lowering water quality and even killing fish. Use phosphorus free lawn fertilizers to keep it clean.



## Watershed News

*There is a new bald eagle’s nest on the northern inlet to Milton Reservoir. This nest seems to have replaced the southern nesting site. Eaglets are in the nest now with both adults closely watching and feeding. Many of these nesting eagles came from Barr Lake’s offspring.*

## Join BMW Association

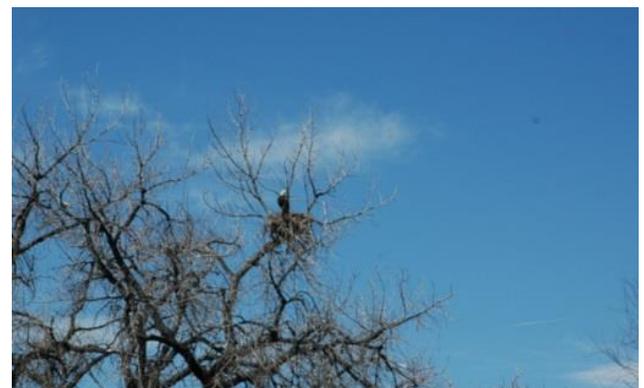
BARR LAKE AND MILTON RESERVOIR ASSOCIATION

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*



Average pH by Month, Milton Reservoir (0.5-2.0 m)

