



Milton Reservoir Water Quality Report



April 27, 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 – From 20 feet back up to 8 feet, water clarity has changed quite a bit in April. Diatoms generally grow in April and the zooplankton are the grazers that keep them in check. Even though there have been a couple of cold fronts that have hit the area, Milton's water temperature is average for this time of year. Phosphorus is below average, but it is important to also look at nitrogen. The ratio of N to P should be above 15. Milton is seeing higher than average ratios of nitrogen to phosphorus. Keeping the ratio above 15 means that phosphorus is in short supply and will limit the amount of algae growth.

Water Quality Stats (as of 04-27-16)

Maximum Depth: 26.2 feet (dam outlet) Water Temperature: 53.1° F (taken 3 feet below surface)

Water Clarity: 8.4 feet (≥ 3 feet is good) Dissolved Oxygen: 90.7% (>80% is good)

pH: 8.14 (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 the 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

BMW Association is helping plan a bike tour down Bear Creek from the reservoir to the S. Platte River. Tours are on June 7 (morning) and June 8th (afternoon). The tour is free and a fun way to see parts of the BMW. Contact CFWE to reserve a spot (www.cfwe.org).

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



Average TN:TP by Month, Milton Reservoir

