



Milton Reservoir Water Quality Report



August 8, 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.

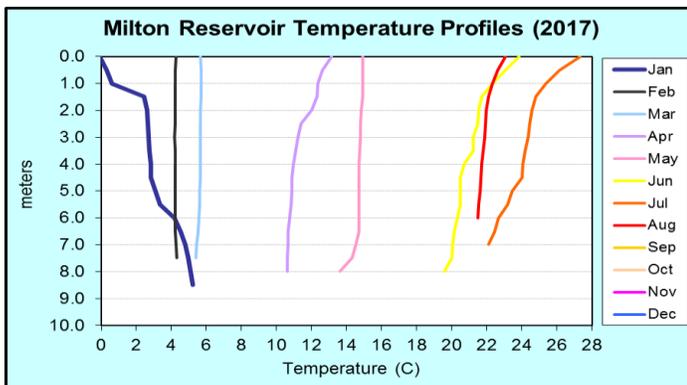
August – Milton is showing signs of a second blue-green algae bloom (microcystis). What's unusual is the lower pH and oxygen levels. The cooler temperatures and rain might be causing the algae to slow down. Most of the floating surface bloom was at the southern end of the lake. Milton is also fully mixing now that it is only 20 feet deep. This mixing can bring up bottom lake water that is lower in oxygen because of thermal stratification. Milton has been stratified since late May. Typically, early August is when the water is the hottest. The profile data shows that July water temperatures were much higher than early August. The temperature regime determines what happens in a lake.

Water Quality Stats (as of 08-08-17)

Maximum Depth: 20.0 feet Water Temperature: 72.1° F
(dam outlet) (taken 3 feet below surface)

Water Clarity: 4.3 feet Dissolved Oxygen: 72.0%
(≥ 3 feet is good) (>80% is good)

pH: 8.94 Chlorophyll-a: <30 ppb
(between 6 and 9 is good) (How green, ≤ 25 is good)



Rain water only goes down the storm drain. No dumping. BMW Association is helping Denver mark storm drains. Notice in the photo the stain of oil leading to a drain.



Watershed News

Just over 300 storm drains were marked in the Cole Neighborhood just upstream of the Burlington Head Gate. A group of youth girls spent a week gluing small plaques next to storm drains to inform people that the water goes straight to 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

