



# Milton Reservoir Water Quality Report



August 23, 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 slightly warmer than early August and had twice the water clarity. Blue-green algae are growing but the water is relatively clear because there was no “bloom”. The water depth decreased by only six inches since August 8<sup>th</sup>. With both pH and dissolved oxygen elevated, this is an indicator that algae growth is on the rise. Total phosphorus has been close to average since early March after a large spike from November 2016 to January 2017. Nitrogen is the other macro nutrient that algae need and the Total Nitrogen is slightly below average and below the values from 2016. With a N:P ratio of less than 5, nitrogen is controlling the growth of algae.

### Water Quality Stats (as of 08-23-17)

Maximum Depth: 19.4 feet Water Temperature: 73.8° F  
(dam outlet) (taken 3 feet below surface)

Water Clarity: 7.2 feet Dissolved Oxygen: 125.0%  
(≥ 3 feet is good) (>80% is good)

pH: 9.27 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](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*

