



Milton Reservoir Water Quality Report



December 17, 2019

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.

December – Milton ended 2019 with lots of water and increasing water clarity. Algae are still growing causing elevated oxygen and pH levels. Milton did not meet the pH or dissolved oxygen standard for 2019. Overall water quality continues to improve, and more reduction in the annual phosphorus loads are needed in order to meet the pH and DO standards. The average TP concentration for July-September has dropped since 2014. This year's average was similar to last year. The biggest influence on the in-reservoir phosphorus levels is the phosphorus concentration in the S. Platte at Ft. Lupton when the Platte Valley Canal opens up to refill Milton during the winter.

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

Intern Lauren Barclay ended her time with BMW by helping with lake sampling. Good luck to Lauren in graduating next spring. Jillian Taylor, Water Quality Specialist, helps with lake sampling 20 times a year. It takes about an hour at each lake when they are full.

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 12-17-19)

Maximum Depth: 24.6 feet (dam outlet) Water Temperature: 38.6° F (taken 3 feet below surface)

Water Clarity: 3.0 feet (≥ 3 feet is good) Dissolved Oxygen: 149.3% (>80% is good)

pH: 9.20 (between 6 and 9 is good) Chlorophyll-a: <50 ppb (How green, ≤ 25 is good)

