



Barr Lake Water Quality Report



March 10, 2020

Water Summary

Barr 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 Barr Lake. 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.

March – Winter is over for Barr. Ice is officially off and the reservoir is thermally mixing and slowly warming up the entire water column. Warm and cold weather in March allows for the bottom water to gain heat. The pH is finally below 9.0 which indicates that there is less primary productivity caused by the algae. This is diatom season and there should be further diatom growth here in the spring as the lake warms up. Water has come up some so there was some input since February but most of the water is bypassing Barr and going to Horse Creek Reservoir. Total phosphorus is much lower in this February than in 2019. This is a good sign.

Water Quality Stats (as of 03-10-20)

Maximum Depth: 30.5 feet (between dam outlets) Water Temperature: 43.5° F (taken 3 feet below surface)

Water Clarity: 2.3 feet (≥ 3 feet is good) Dissolved Oxygen: 114% (>80% is good)

pH: 8.76 (between 6 and 9 is good) Chlorophyll-a: >50 ppb (How green, ≤ 25 is good)

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

BMW is planning out 2020 activities. We have hired Jennie Fleurant as our intern for this spring and summer, carp net will be used again between September and October, the bike tour date is 6/18, Lake Appreciation Day at Barr is July 11th, and a big shoreline clean-up will be on National Public Lands Day (9/26).

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.

You can learn more about the lake 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



Total Phosphorus by Month, Barr Lake

