



Milton Reservoir Water Quality Report



March 10, 2020

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.

March – Winter is over for Milton. 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 through periodic mixing. The pH is still above 9.0 from top to bottom. This indicates that diatoms are growing well. One noticeable different from 2019 is the lower TP values for the winter months. Depending on inflows this spring, the TP could continue to decrease. 2015, 2016, and 2018 were also lower TP years for Milton and had much lower chl-a levels for the summer months. The key is reduced external P loads and to keep the bottom of the lake oxygenated.

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 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 03-10-20)

Maximum Depth: 24.6 feet (dam outlet) Water Temperature: 36.8° F (taken 3 feet below surface)

Water Clarity: 3.3 feet (≥ 3 feet is good) Dissolved Oxygen: 142.9% (>80% is good)

pH: 9.63 (between 6 and 9 is good) Chlorophyll-a: >50 ppb (How green, ≤ 25 is good)

