



Barr Lake Water Quality Report



October 29, 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.

October – Barr Lake experience extreme water temperature drop in late October decreasing the reservoir water temperatures by 17 °F in two weeks. The water temperature average for the end of October is 52 °F. The water temperature on 10/29 was 38.5 °F. Despite the cooler water, algal growth has increased through October. The chl-a concentration at the end of October was the second highest for 2020. The chl-a peak was on 1/13/20 at 243 ug/L. This trend of more primary productivity in the fall/winter season instead of the summer growing season has been happening since about 2010. This is why year-round monitoring is important for lakes and reservoirs in Colorado.

Do your part. Keep leaves out of Barr Lake. Don't rake leaves in the street or wait for the wind or street sweeper to make them disappear. Leaves in the street can end up at Barr Lake. Rake it.



Watershed News

Next up is the annual board retreat. This winter, the board of directors will talk about big topics and go over future projects. We are busier than ever and there's plenty to do. Check the www.barr-milton.org site to stay up to speed on projects and other water topics. Anyone is welcome to attend all BMW meetings.

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

Water Quality Stats (as of 10-29-20)

Maximum Depth: 6.9 feet (between dam outlets) Water Temperature: 38.1° F (taken 3 feet below surface)

Water Clarity: 1.0 feet (≥ 3 feet is good) Dissolved Oxygen: 140.8% (>80% is good)

pH: 8.87 (between 6 and 9 is good) Chlorophyll-a: 209 ppb (How green, ≤ 25 is good)



Average Water Temperature by Month, Barr Lake (0.5-2.0 meters)

