



Barr Lake Water Quality Report



December 18, 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.

December – Barr Lake is on its way to refilling. With close to three inches of ice, the water clarity was still an improved 1.8 feet. Up from 1.1 feet in November. Diatoms do best in cooler water and seem to thrive all winter long. Occasionally, winter clarity can be over 15 feet deep. We will see how this winter goes. The winter refill typically goes from early November until sometime in January. This fill period is critical in determining the amount of nutrients that will be in Barr Lake for the following growing season. With Barr so low in 2020, there will be a larger phosphorus load. More water that comes in means more pounds of nutrients as well.

When snow and ice melts, the salt goes with it, washing into our lakes, streams, wetlands and groundwater. Once in the water, there is no way to remove the chloride. Less is more when it comes to applying salt. Chloride can harm the fish and plant life in our waters.



Watershed News

Have a great holiday season, and we will see you in February at the next BMW stakeholder meeting. 2020 WQ updates will be available in early 2021. Check the www.barr-milton.org site to stay up to speed on projects and WQ updates. 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 12-18-20)

Maximum Depth: 17.4 feet (between dam outlets) Water Temperature: 36.6° F (taken 3 feet below surface)

Water Clarity: 1.8 feet (≥ 3 feet is good) Dissolved Oxygen: 135.6% (>80% is good)

pH: 8.82 (between 6 and 9 is good) Chlorophyll-a: <30 ppb (How green, ≤ 25 is good)

