



Milton Reservoir Water Quality Report



December 18, 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.

December – Unlike Barr, Milton has yet to start refilling. Milton typically refills once Barr is closer to full-pool. In fact, water is still being temporarily pumped from the reservoir on the west-side for oil/gas drilling purposes. Milton is slightly smaller in volume than Barr and refills fairly quickly during the winter months. Refill typically occurs during December/January to about February. With a lower than normal water level, Milton will need to bring in more water for the 2021 water year. This means a larger phosphorus load as well. We will see how much phosphorus comes in. It all depends on the concentrations in the S. Platte River when the water is being diverted just below Ft. Lupton.

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 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 12-18-20)

Maximum Depth: 10.5 feet (dam outlet) Water Temperature: 38.4° F (taken 3 feet below surface)

Water Clarity: 1.3 feet (≥ 3 feet is good) Dissolved Oxygen: 104.6% (>80% is good)

pH: 8.72 (between 6 and 9 is good) Chlorophyll-a: <40 ppb (How green, ≤ 25 is good)

Average Depth by Month, Milton Reservoir

