



Barr Lake Water Quality Report



January 12, 2021

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.

January – New year but same Barr Lake. Barr is on its way to refill by Februarys. Algae are growing well under five inches of ice. Water clarity is low, oxygen is high right at the surface, and Chl-a is well above the goal. Fresh load of water along with nutrients is supporting this winter-time algal growth. Diatoms is the other species growing well in Barr. If zooplankton populations increase, they can keep the winter algae in check and eventual clear up the water under the ice. pH is meeting the standard and is starting off the year on a right foot. The nutrient levels for 2021 will be determined by the concentrations in the S. Platte River during the refill period.

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

Mild winter weather brings a slow refill to Barr. February is 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 01-12-21)

Maximum Depth: 21.0 feet (between dam outlets) Water Temperature: 37.6° F (taken 3 feet below surface)

Water Clarity: 1.8 feet (≥ 3 feet is good) Dissolved Oxygen: 163.3% (>80% is good)

pH: 8.71 (between 6 and 9 is good) Chlorophyll-a: 44.9 ppb (How green, ≤ 25 is good)

Barr Lake 2021 Phytoplankton Groups

