



Milton Reservoir Water Quality Report



January 11, 2021

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.

January – It is difficult to believe, but algae do grow well during the winter season under inches of ice. Milton’s algae cell count was just under 2,000 algae units per milliliter of water. Compare this to Barr Lake’s 950 algae units per milliliter of water, it is much higher which explains the higher pH, dissolved oxygen, and Chl-a. Milton is a foot lower than the December depth. No water has yet to enter the reservoir. Milton typically begins refilling later than Barr Lake, roughly in February and March. The 5-diffuser aeration system located on the dam is allowing enough water movement to keep a smaller area ice free. Algae are keeping the oxygen levels above 100% because of photosynthesis.

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

Milton has yet to begin refilling for the new year. 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 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 01-12-21)

Maximum Depth: 9.5 feet (dam outlet) Water Temperature: 37.00° F (taken 3 feet below surface)

Water Clarity: 1.1 feet (≥ 3 feet is good) Dissolved Oxygen: 126.8% (>80% is good)

pH: 8.97 Chlorophyll-a: 195 ppb (between 6 and 9 is good) (How green, ≤ 25 is good)

Milton Reservoir 2021 Phytoplankton Groups

