



Barr Lake Water Quality Report



March 9, 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.

March – Welcome to spring. We have had several days of 70° F weather and now a looming snow storm is on its way. Barr Lake is filling and releasing water, and the overall depth or volume has not changed since early February. There have been a couple of snow events that have brought snow melt/runoff to Barr Lake. There was a bit of floating, woody debris in Barr indicating runoff inflows. The reservoir is experiencing plenty of algal growth. The dissolved oxygen is twice as much as it should be, and the pH is above the standard of 9.0. The water temperature is on the rise and has thermally stratified slightly because of the recent warm weather.

After months of winter buildup and no street sweeping, old leaves and grasses can be thick at the curb. Spring snow storms are some of the largest runoff events and are first flushes of our curbs. Try to remember to clean your curb in front of your house before any storm events.



Watershed News

March is the month of large snowfalls and warmer, spring-like weather. City and County of Denver has recently received a new storm water permit from the state (MS4 permit). This updated permit is important for the city and for the watershed. Storm water has an important role when it comes to filling up both lakes.

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 03-09-21)

Maximum Depth: 25.6 feet (between dam outlets) Water Temperature: 40.5° F (taken 3 feet below surface)

Water Clarity: 1.5 feet (≥ 3 feet is good) Dissolved Oxygen: 218.2% (>80% is good)

pH: 9.04 (between 6 and 9 is good) Chlorophyll-a: >75 ppb (How green, ≤ 25 is good)

Barr Lake Temperature Profiles (Jan-Jul)

