Barr Lake Water Quality Report

March 24, 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 – The 27" snow storm on March 13-14 has allowed a good source of runoff to help bring Barr Lake up. Flows are also bypassing Barr and filling up Horse Creek Reservoir. Barr is still a couple of meters from full-pool. Algae are still growing well. %DO did change from over 200% down to 123% which indicates a slowdown of growth. Barr is still above 9.0 pH for the third month in a row. The boat ramp and the boating season will begin April 3rd. Coming off of a drought year in 2020 with a major drawdown, it is good to see the increase in water depth. We hope to see an increase in water clarity as the zooplankton begin to graze on the algae. This occurs typically each spring.

Water Quality Stats (as of 03-24-21)

Maximum Depth: 27.9 feet
(between dam outlets)

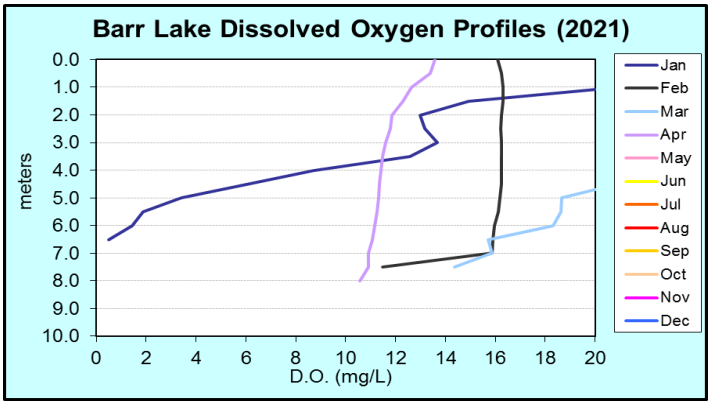
Water Temperature: 43.2^0 F
(taken 3 feet below surface)

Water Clarity: 2.0 feet
(≥ 3 feet is good)

Dissolved Oxygen: 123.0%
(>80% is good)

pH: 9.06
(between 6 and 9 is good)

Chlorophyll-a: >50 ppb
(How green, ≤ 25 is good)



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.

H2 ONLY KEEP IT CLEAN

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