Milton Reservoir Water Quality Report

March 9, 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.

March – Welcome to spring. We have had several days of 70^0 F weather and now a looming snow storm is on its way. Milton has continued to fill and is close to full pool. Similar to Barr Lake, Milton is experiencing plenty of algal growth now that the ice is off, and the waters are slowly warming. The dissolved oxygen levels are well above 100%, especially in the top 3 feet of water. Low clarity and slightly stratified water column is allowing for the algae to grow mostly at the surface. Profile data indicates pH below 9.0 after 2.0-meter depth all the way to the bottom. The top 2 meters are slightly above 9.0. Profile data can show how water quality changes with depth, especially when thermally stratified.

Water Quality Stats (as of 03-09-21)

Maximum Depth: 25.3 feet
(dam outlet)

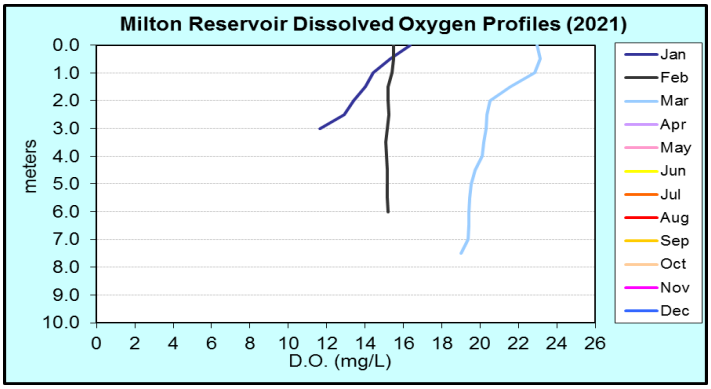
Water Temperature: 40.8^0 F
(taken 3 feet below surface)

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

Dissolved Oxygen: 215.9%
(>80% is good)

pH: 9.13
(between 6 and 9 is good)

Chlorophyll-a: <75 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.

H2O ONLY
KEEPITCLEAN

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 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