



# Barr Lake Water Quality Report



April 13, 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.

*April* – The spring time for Barr Lake brings many things, including: extreme temperature shifts, quick cold storms, inflows to top off or keep topped off, a steady increase in water temperature top to bottom, steady daily phosphorus and nitrogen loads, and a growth in diatoms and eventually zooplankton. Barr Lake is slightly clearer and that is because of the large-bodied daphnia zooplankton. There has been a steady decline in weekly nitrogen concentrations so far in 2021 at the Burlington Head Gate. Weekly phosphorous concentrations in the S. Platte River have been bouncing between 0.32 and 1.04 mg/L. Snowmelt in the early summer typically dilute the nutrients, especially phosphorus.

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

Just upstream of Denver and the Barr/Milton Watershed is Chatfield Reservoir. A \$171 million construction effort to allow for more water to be stored in the reservoir. In years when there is excess snowmelt, the reservoir will store an extra 20,600 acre-feet of water. This is closely the same amount of water as Barr Lake in July. Over 35,000 trees have been planted along the S. Platte R.

## 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](http://www.barr-milton.org).

Contact Amy Conklin, watershed coordinator, at [amy.conklin@comcast.net](mailto:amy.conklin@comcast.net) or 303-795-5925.

*Cooperation, Involvement, and Awareness*



## Water Quality Stats (as of 04-13-21)

Maximum Depth: 31.2 feet (between dam outlets)      Water Temperature: 50.8° F (taken 3 feet below surface)

Water Clarity: 2.6 feet (≥ 3 feet is good)      Dissolved Oxygen: 110.2% (>80% is good)

pH: 9.13 (between 6 and 9 is good)      Chlorophyll-a: >30 ppb (How green, ≤ 25 is good)

