



# Milton Reservoir Water Quality Report



April 13, 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.

*April* – Good news, the pH at Milton Reservoir was below 9.0 thanks to a reduction in algal growth. Dissolved oxygen was even below 100% indicating respiration is greater than photosynthesis. Zooplankton are on the rise and are helping keep the algal growth down. Water clarity is still shallow and will hopefully clear up soon for the spring. Milton is close to full pool in time for the recreational season. Lake users are beginning to establish their summer camp sites, and a new docking system has been installed at the east boat ramp. A couple of juvenile bald eagles are still occupying the cottonwood trees along the east shore. Milton was fulling mixing top to the bottom because of the 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

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 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](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: 24.6 feet (dam outlet)      Water Temperature: 49.8° F (taken 3 feet below surface)

Water Clarity: 2.0 feet (≥ 3 feet is good)      Dissolved Oxygen: 89.7% (>80% is good)

pH: 8.77 (between 6 and 9 is good)      Chlorophyll-a: <35 ppb (How green, ≤ 25 is good)

