



Barr Lake Water Quality Report



January 10, 2023

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 the efforts to monitor, test, and improve the water quality in Barr Lake. Regular lake sampling started in 2002.

January – Barr Lake remains iced over since mid-December. Ice thickness near the dam was 7” with about 2” of snow on top. Noteworthy observations include higher pH, lower water clarity, and a healthy population of zooplankton, especially the large, bodied daphnia. To collect zooplankton, a tow net is pulled through the entire water column. During the day, zooplankton swim to the deeper, darker waters to avoid predation from fish. Hopefully the community of zooplankton will continue to do well and keep the algae in check under the ice and into the early spring. Burlington Head Gate has been closed since January 5th. The Beebe Pipeline is still sending water though.



Water Quality Stats (as of 01-10-23)

Maximum Depth: 25.6 feet (between dam outlets) Water Temperature: 36.1^o F (taken 3 feet below surface)

Water Clarity: 1.8 feet (≥ 3 feet is good) Dissolved Oxygen: 177.3% (>80% is good)

pH: 9.30 (between 6 and 9 is good) Chlorophyll-a: <75.0 ppb (How green, ≤ 25 is good)

Watershed News

South Platte Renew, wastewater treatment plant for Littleton and Englewood, started tertiary treatment at the end of November, 2022. Phosphorus levels have steadily dropped in the S. Platte River, especially soluble reactive phosphorus that algae prefer to use.

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 Sami Miller, watershed coordinator, at sami.miller2019@gmail.com.

Cooperation, Involvement, and Awareness

