



Barr Lake Water Quality Report



February 14, 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.

February – Barr Lake had 12 inches of solid ice at the dam. Ice cover started in mid-December, and it has been roughly 66 days of ice. The big story is the water clarity under the ice for February. It increased over 10 feet since mid-January. This clarity is caused by productive zooplankton that filter feed the algae out of the water. The last time Barr was this clear in February was in 2016. The graph below shows 2022 conditions in Barr. A year ago, with ice cover, Barr had no oxygen at the bottom of the lake, and it caused an increase in phosphorus loading from the sediments. So far in 2023, Barr has plenty of oxygen top to bottom and phosphorus levels will hopefully be less in the spring.



Watershed News

Snow water equivalent in South Platte River basin is at 106%, similar to one year ago. Statewide is at 122%. The accumulated snowfall for the Denver area since January first is 13.0 inches. Chatfield Reservoir is currently at 27,900 acre-feet (97% full).

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



Water Quality Stats (as of 02-14-23)

Maximum Depth: 27.2 feet (between dam outlets) Water Temperature: 37.9° F (taken 3 feet below surface)

Water Clarity: 11.5 feet (≥ 3 feet is good) Dissolved Oxygen: 102.7% (>80% is good)

pH: 8.38 (between 6 and 9 is good) Chlorophyll-a: <5.0 ppb (How green, ≤ 25 is good)

