



Milton Reservoir Water Quality Report



February 14, 2023

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

February – Milton Reservoir had 14” of ice at the deepest location near the dam outlet. It has been close to 66 days of continuous ice cover. The Platte Valley Canal has been running water into Milton since late January and is close to 70% full. Algae have slowed down increasing water clarity, lower pH below 8.0, and dropping dissolved oxygen close to 100% levels. During winter refills, Milton receives most of its nutrients. Phosphorus levels in the S. Platte River during the winter are important. In 2022, the overall TP concentration for Milton was 54% less than the period between 2003 and 2007. Oxygen levels were below 1.0 mg/L for the bottom six feet of water. Phosphorus dissolves out of the lake sediment when this happens.



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 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



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

Maximum Depth: 23.3 feet (dam outlet) Water Temperature: 37.5° F (taken 3 feet below surface)

Water Clarity: 2.0 feet (≥ 3 feet is good) Dissolved Oxygen: 102.1% (>80% is good)

pH: 7.97 Chlorophyll-a: <30.0 ppb (between 6 and 9 is good) (How green, ≤ 25 is good)

