



Milton Reservoir Water Quality Report



March 12, 2024

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.

March – Milton is full much earlier this year along with open waters since early February. Early ice off can have direct impact on water quality in Milton. A shorter ice season can mean more evaporation, warmer waters, more biological activity, update of nutrients, and a longer stratification period that isolates bottom waters. Milton was thermally stratified allowing for warmer water to float on top of cooler water. Wind and storms can easily destratify the water column allowing the bottom water to reoxygenate and slowly warm up. Milton was fully oxygenated from surface to the bottom. Algal growth was even causing oxygen to be over 100% saturation near the sediments. This means that Milton has not been stratified for very long.



Watershed News

Spring is here which means mud season and plenty of wet snow and runoff. Smaller creeks in the watershed can add up to a large source of turbid, nutrient-rich waters. Runoff from muddy fields and construction sites can get to smaller creeks that eventually get to the S. Platte River or directly to the inlet ditches.

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 Sami Miller, watershed coordinator, at miller.sami@outlook.com.

Cooperation, Involvement, and Awareness



Water Quality Stats (as of 03-12-24)

Maximum Depth: 27.2 feet (dam outlet) Water Temperature: 44.4° F (taken 3 feet below surface)

Water Clarity: 2.3 feet (≥ 3 feet is good) Dissolved Oxygen: 148.7% (>80% is good)

pH: 8.91 (between 6 and 9 is good) Chlorophyll-a: <30.0 ppb (How green, ≤ 25 is good)

Milton Reservoir Temperature Profiles (Jan-Jul, 2024)

