Milton Reservoir Water Quality Report

February 10, 2026

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.

January – Milton Reservoir was ice free like Barr Lake. Algae are growing in Milton. Clarity is slightly better than last month, and the oxygen levels are well above 100%. DO was more than the average, more than a year ago, and shows signs of algal growth. This cool-water growth my be earlier this year because of the lack of ice cover. We might see a prolonged cool-water growing season unless nutrients become scarce because of biological uptake and deposition. Even with a good crop of growth, the pH is well below the upper standard of 9.0. Next month, monitoring will increase to twice a month. This will help track the algal growth changes during the spring. Milton is close to being full so we will see how the lack of snowmelt impacts flows later in the summer.

Water Quality Stats (as of 02-10-26)

Maximum Depth: 24.6 feet
(dam outlet)

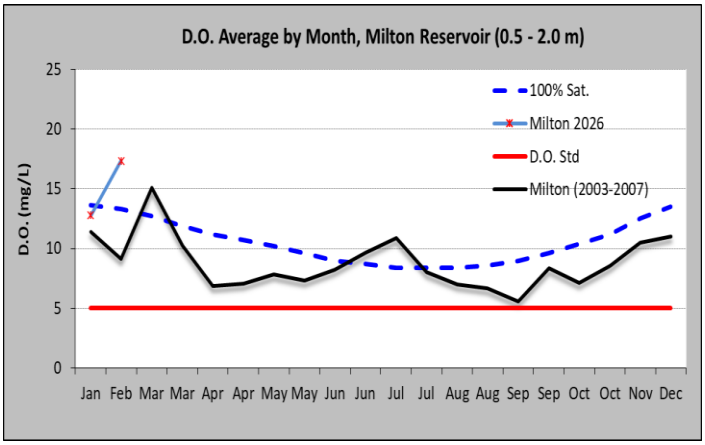
Water Temperature: 38.1^0 F
(taken 3 feet below surface)

Water Clarity: 2.8 feet
(≥ 3 feet is good)

Dissolved Oxygen: 154.1%
(>80% is good)

pH: 8.28
(between 6 and 9 is good)

Chlorophyll-a: <30.0 ppb
(How green, ≤ 25 is good)



ZERO PHOSPHORUS On Your Lawn

Watershed News

The next BMW board meeting will be February 24th. The focus on the meeting is public outreach and information. I/E committee members are welcome to participate. The Technical Committee still meets the fourth Thursday of the odd months at 9am. Anyone is welcome attend these BMW meetings.

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