



Milton Reservoir Water Quality Report



March 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.

March – Milton Reservoir is following 2024 water clarity closely. Diatoms and cooler water algae are growing well. One question is why Milton so much more productive than Barr Lake for this year. Looking at the phosphorus data, Barr lake is around 0.060 mg/L while Milton is twice as much, around 0.15 mg/L. This different might be what is fueling the algae in Milton compared to Barr. The other key importance is the large-bodied daphnia zooplankton numbers. The bigger the population, the more grazing will keep the algae down. We will see how Milton does during the spring clearing phase.



Watershed News

Keep your eyes out for the 2026 BMW watershed tour. The annual tour is in June, and we plan to have a stakeholder meeting along with the tour. These tours give folks an opportunity to learn and see new parts of the watershed.

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 03-10-26)

Maximum Depth: 26.2 feet (dam outlet) Water Temperature: 45.2° F (taken 3 feet below surface)

Water Clarity: 1.6 feet (≥ 3 feet is good) Dissolved Oxygen: 110.9% (>80% is good)

pH: 8.77 (between 6 and 9 is good) Chlorophyll-a: <30.0 ppb (How green, ≤ 25 is good)

