Milton Reservoir Water Quality Report

April 29, 2026

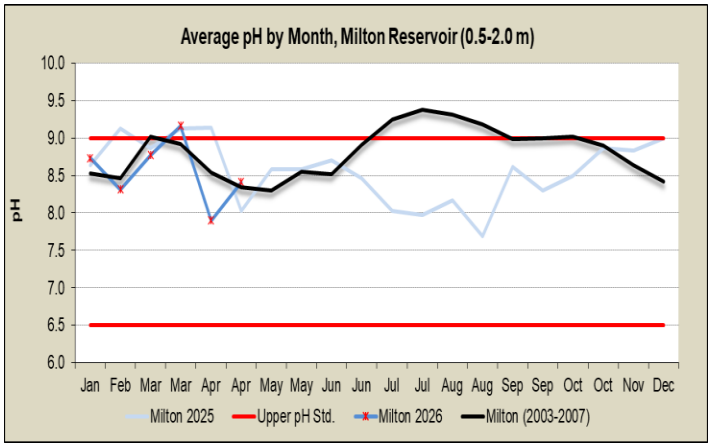
Water Summary

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.

April – Milton Reservoir looked very similar to Barr Lake. Growing a good crop of diatoms and cryptophyte. These species of freshwater algae prefer cooler waters and do not produce as much chl-a as other algae (e.g., green and blue-green algae). They do have the ability to be mobile in the water column to avoid stress. These types of algae are great food for zooplankton which is why we are seeing a crash and boom cycle between the algae and the zooplankton. Think of like the zooplankton grazing on the algae is like mowing the lawn every week. The algae can grow quickly and then the zooplankton come in the mow it down. The pH peaks are when the algae are growing well and the dips are when the zooplankton on grazing.

Water Quality Stats (as of 04-29-26)

Maximum Depth: 24.6 feet (dam outlet)	Water Temperature: 55.8^0 F (taken 3 feet below surface)
Water Clarity: 2.6 feet (≥ 3 feet is good)	Dissolved Oxygen: 105.6% (>80% is good)
pH: 8.48 (between 6 and 9 is good)	Chlorophyll-a: <15.0 ppb (How green, ≤ 25 is good)



ZERO PHOSPHORUS On Your Lawn

Watershed News

Keep your eyes out for the 2026 BMW watershed tour. The annual tour will be on June 23rd from 9am to noon. We will be having the tour and stakeholder meeting at the Bluff Lake Nature Center located in Central Park. The focus will be on education and information efforts and a walking tour of Bluff Lake. Lunch will be provided.

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