



Barr Lake Water Quality Report



May 12, 2026

Water Summary

Barr Lake 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 Barr Lake. Routine lake sampling started in June of 2002.

May – Barr Lake seems to be two months ahead of schedule. Some of this is driven by the warmer than normal waters. For the first five months, the top mixing layer has been above average for temperature. There were visual signs of blue-green algae growing. The algae were surfacing more at the east end of the reservoir, especially near shore and in areas that were more stagnant like the boat ramp, in shallow bays, and around smartweed beds. The open water was much clearer with over 12 feet of clarity. This clarity was a three-fold improvement from two weeks ago. Overall, water quality was great at Barr Lake – pH and dissolved oxygen standards were being met.



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.

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.

You can learn more about the lake 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 05-12-26)

Maximum Depth: 30.2 feet Water Temperature: 61.6° F
(between dam outlets) (taken 3 feet below surface)

Water Clarity: 12.8 feet Dissolved Oxygen: 121.6%
(≥ 3 feet is good) (>80% is good)

pH: 8.45 Chlorophyll-a: <15 ppb
(between 6 and 9 is good) (How green, ≤ 25 is good)

Barr Lake Temperature Profiles (Jan-Jul)

