



Milton Reservoir Water Quality Report



June 9, 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. Routine lake sampling started in June of 2002.

June – Milton Reservoir did have signs of blue-green algae (Anabaena or now called Dolichospermum). This is a common blue-green. The filamentous algae are great at surviving low nitrogen environments. Not sure how big of a bloom this will be. The water clarity did improve to 3 feet, and the pH and DO indicate not much algal growth. The bottom water is getting close to zero oxygen but is hanging in there. Overall, Milton is looking good for June. The water depth went down slightly, but not much. Milton is also seeing record low phosphorus levels. This might be the reason why a bloom will not be so large. The January concentrations has been low for the past three years. Low TP during the refill period helps with lower algal growth all summer long.



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



Water Quality Stats (as of 06-09-26)

Maximum Depth: 23.0 feet (dam outlet) Water Temperature: 70.0° F (taken 3 feet below surface)

Water Clarity: 3.3 feet (≥ 3 feet is good) Dissolved Oxygen: 105.7% (>80% is good)

pH: 8.46 (between 6 and 9 is good) Chlorophyll-a: <20.0 ppb (How green, ≤ 25 is good)

Milton Reservoir Total Phosphorus in January

