



Milton Reservoir Water Quality Report



July 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. Routine lake sampling started in June of 2002.

July – Milton Reservoir was responding to an algal growth spurt from two weeks ago. In early July, the oxygen levels were over 160% and now they are only at 60%. This is due to decomposition at the bottom. With elevated water temperatures and plenty of organic material from earlier in the month, the lake had reduced oxygen all the way up to the surface. There was still 2 mg/L of oxygen at the bottom to keep the phosphorus from dissolving out of the sediment. This shows the timeframe of algal blooms, crashes, and then decomposition periods. Milton still shows no sign of blue-green algae but plenty of other species that are thriving. Total phosphorus was meeting standards in June, but the bottom waters were showing an increase.



Watershed News

July is national Lakes Appreciation Month. You can go to www.nalms.org to learn all about the month-long event. In July, you can participate in shoreline clean ups, learn something new about your favorite lake, and do your part in keeping the watershed healthy.

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 07-29-26)

Maximum Depth: 16.1 feet (dam outlet) Water Temperature: 77.2° F (taken 3 feet below surface)

Water Clarity: 1.3 feet (≥ 3 feet is good) Dissolved Oxygen: 58.2% (>80% is good)

pH: 7.92 (between 6 and 9 is good) Chlorophyll-a: <40.0 ppb (How green, ≤ 25 is good)

