



Barr Lake & Milton Reservoir Watershed Association
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PRESS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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STAKEHOLDERS LAUNCH PLAN POLLUTION REDUCTION PLAN

Denver, Colorado – February 19, 2007 – Denver-area organizations who joined forces to form the Barr Lake and Milton Reservoir Watershed (BMW) Association recently released a collaborative watershed management plan which lays the groundwork for reducing pollution to Barr Lake and Milton Reservoir north of Denver. The *2006 Barr Lake and Milton Reservoir Watershed Management Plan* is a major first step in a 10-year process to reduce nutrient pollution to these lakes, which are popular spots for outdoor recreation, bird-watching, and fishing, provide habitat to nesting bald eagles, and store water used for both agricultural and drinking water supplies. The *Plan* sets a precedent for dozens of watersheds across the State with similar nutrient pollution issues. The BMW Association will officially release the *Plan* at a meeting on Tuesday, February 27 from 9:00 to noon at the Brighton Recreation Center. This meeting is open to all stakeholders and interested public.

The Barr/Milton watershed stretches north and east over 850 square miles, beginning at Chatfield Reservoir and covering most of the Denver metropolitan area and portions of six counties. BMW Association participants include representatives of cities and towns, major wastewater treatment facilities, drinking water providers, agricultural water users, and recreational groups. Water quality problems include high nutrients, excessive algal growth, and high pH. In 2004, the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) included both Barr Lake and Milton Reservoir on the State's 303(d) list of impaired waters. The *2006 Barr Lake and Milton Reservoir Watershed Management Plan* and more information about the group can be found at www.barr-milton.org.



Eagle chicks at Barr Lake State park
(Photo by stakeholder Steve Lundt;
more photos available at www.barr-milton.org).

Stakeholders learn to use a secchi disk at a water quality sampling demonstration on Barr Lake hosted by the BMW Association.

