**Public Water Access in Minnesota:**

The Minnesota DNR State Parks and Trail’s water recreation program provides approximately 1,800 boat accesses, over 350 fishing piers and store fishing sites, and manages 34 designated Water Trails in Minnesota. The DNR, Federal Government and local communities operate boat accesses. See the table on the right for specific site information. The DNR boating programs are funded by user fees including boat license & gas tax related to motor use.

Public accesses are usually open 24 hours unless otherwise posted. Most sites have launch ramps but some sites, especially smaller rivers, are carry-in only. Bathrooms and docks are usually located only on the larger rivers.

**Public Access Fee Rules -** The launch area must be kept clean and the following activities are prohibited: littering, camping, shooting, building fires, and consuming alcoholic beverages. See Minnesota Rules, chapter 6218 for complete rules.

**Boating in Minnesota**

The annual Minnesota Boating Guide summaries Minnesota’s boating laws and regulations in an easy-to-read form. The guide supplies information about operating watercraft on the state’s lakes and rivers. Operator age restrictions apply to operators 17 years old and younger.

Licensing - All motorized and non-motorized watercraft must be licensed by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR). Please contact the DNR License Bureau for information.

**Fishing in Minnesota**

Fishing Regulations and Licensing - All persons 16 and older are required to have the appropriate license with them when fishing. Licenses are available through the DNR License Bureau, most County Auditors and many stores that sell fishing related goods. Trout fishing requires a trout stamp. For more information call the DNR information line at (651) 296-6170 or 1-888-646-6367.

To purchase a license by phone 24 hours a day, call 1-888-MN-LICENSE (1-888-665-4236).

Select Harvest Fishing - Improved technology and renewed fishing have caused the quality of fishing to decline in many waters. Practicing “Select Harvest” offers anglers an opportunity to take some fish home while releasing others back into the water to improve fishing quality. Here are some tips to use for effective Select Harvest fishing:

1. Use bare-bell hooks
2. Play the fish quickly and handle the fish carefully
3. Never hold the fish by the eyes
4. Use a needle nose pliers to remove hooks or cut the line if it is too deep
5. Ease the fish back into the water, do not throw it back

**Sustainable Natural Environments**

**Practice Sustainable Water Recreation!**

A healthy and attractive natural environment enables people to enjoy the outdoors without negative impacts on the environment. Communities working together can improve water resources by promoting environmentally sensitive land use practices along rivers and throughout waterways.

1. Be courteous to other boaters and water users
2. Keep a reasonable distance from birds, wildlife, and aquatic vegetation
3. Travel at safe speeds and be aware of the effect your wake has on the shoreline and other users
4. Operate your watercraft at a slow no wake speed when appropriate
5. Use watercraft that is the appropriate type and size for the water resource
6. Boating doesn’t require continuous movement; enjoy floating, anchoring, and beaching
7. Conserve fuel by properly operating and maintaining your watercraft
8. Don’t litter and do properly dispose of boat and marine waste

**Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS):**

**Laws and Requirements:**

Before leaving the water access or shoreline property, you MUST:

1. Clean off AIS aquatic plants and animals
2. Drain all water including bilge, lawns, boat hulls, boat ballast, motor and motor tanks
3. Pull the plug and leave it out

Get into the habit of taking these three simple steps, and it will soon become part of your routine. Pull away from the boat ramp area. Check for plants while strapping the boat and keeping it in your vehicle or cooler. bring ice can be a good idea on warm days to cool down the water.

**Working Together to Protect the Waters**

Watercraft Inspectors are here to ensure watercraft and equipment are “clean in, clean out!” If you need assistance, have questions about the laws, or are curious about the program, please ask.

Ways you can help the Watercraft Inspectors:

1. Please clean your boat and pull your plug as soon as you are safely able to. That way when the inspector comes, the inspection process will move quickly.
2. If there is a Decontamination Unit present, please follow all the instructions given by the inspector, for your safety and theirs. There will be plenty of time to ask questions and watch them work from a safe distance.

**Ways the Watercraft Inspectors can help you:**

1. The inspectors have tools, wrenches and pliers, so if you are having trouble with your plug, ask!
2. If there are weeds that are hard to reach, inspectors can also help pull weeds off boats or other such tasks. They also have grabbing tools for plants.
3. When you see the Watercraft Inspector, please be cooperative. The law requires compliance with inspection, and it will help everyone to be on their way in a timely and pleasant manner.

**Safe Boating**

**Personal Floatation Devices (PFD):** On all boats except a sailboat regardless of length there must be a readily accessible Coast Guard approved wearable PFD for each person on board. In addition, on boats 16 feet or longer, except canoes and kayaks, there must also be at least one Coast Guard approved throwable device, such as a ring buoy or seat cushion.

**Boating While Intoxicated (BWI):** Boating while intoxicated is illegal. For persons found to be under the influence there are significant penalties, including fines and possible jail sentences.

**Personal Watercraft:** Special laws apply including wearing a PFD and operating at slow speed at certain distances from other watercraft, swimmers and other objects in the water. These laws are going to vary from place to place, so please ask a Watercraft Inspector for a Current Watercraft Guide before boating.

**Fish Species:**

- C — Crappies
- CF — Catfish
- LB — Largemouth Bass
- LT — Lake Trout
- M — Muskellunge
- N — Northern Pike
- S — Sunfish
- SB — Smallmouth Bass
- ST — Stream Trout
- W — Walleyes
- N / A — Not Available

**Artichoke Lake (N)**

- E4 concrete
- C,N,S,W DNR

**Artichoke Lake (S)**

- E5 concrete
- C,N,S,W DNR

**Artichoke Lake (E)**

- E6 fishing pier
- C,N,S,W DNR

**Artichoke Lake (W)**

- E7 concrete
- C,N,S,W Township

**Berry Lake**

- D2 carry in
- WAPS USFS

**Homesteads**

- D1 concrete
- C,N,S,W DNR

**Slate Park-Bonanza Lake**

- E2 concrete
- C,N,S,W DNR

**Park-Meadowbrook Lake**

- D3 concrete
- C,N,S,W DNR

**Meadowbrook Lake**

- E3 concrete
- C,N,S,W DNR

**Cannes**

- D3 concrete
- C,N,S,W DNR

**North Dronovella**

- E8 concrete
- C,N,S,W City

**Bobkera Slough**

- D3 concrete
- C,N,S,W DNR

**Easi Lake**

- D3 concrete
- C,N,W County

**Long Tom Lake**

- E3 concrete
- N,S,W DNR

**Long Tom Lake**

- E3 fishing pier
- N,S,W City

**Marsh Lake (W1)**

- F4 carry in
- C,N,W DNR

**March Lake (Crismal Landing)**

- F4 carry in
- C,N,W DNR

**Minnesota River (Dresden)**

- F4 carry in
- N USFS

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**Public Water Accesses in Big Stone & Traverse Counties**

**Fish Species:**

- C — Crappies
- CF — Catfish
- LB — Largemouth Bass
- LT — Lake Trout
- M — Muskellunge
- N — Northern Pike
- S — Sunfish
- SB — Smallmouth Bass
- ST — Stream Trout
- W — Walleyes
- N / A — Not Available

**Artichoke Lake**

- E4 concrete
- C,N,S,W DNR

**Artichoke Lake (S)**

- E5 concrete
- C,N,S,W DNR

**Artichoke Lake (E)**

- E6 fishing pier
- C,N,S,W DNR

**Artichoke Lake (W)**

- E7 concrete
- C,N,S,W Township

**Berry Lake**

- D2 carry in
- WAPS USFS

**Homesteads**

- D1 concrete
- C,N,S,W DNR

**Slate Park-Bonanza Lake**

- E2 concrete
- C,N,S,W DNR

**Park-Meadowbrook Lake**

- D3 concrete
- C,N,S,W DNR

**Meadowbrook Lake**

- E3 concrete
- C,N,S,W DNR

**Cannes**

- D3 concrete
- C,N,S,W DNR

**North Dronovella**

- E8 concrete
- C,N,S,W City

**Bobkera Slough**

- D3 concrete
- C,N,S,W DNR

**Easi Lake**

- D3 concrete
- C,N,W County

**Long Tom Lake**

- E3 concrete
- N,S,W DNR

**Long Tom Lake**

- E3 fishing pier
- N,S,W City

**Marsh Lake (W1)**

- F4 carry in
- C,N,W DNR

**March Lake (Crismal Landing)**

- F4 carry in
- C,N,W DNR

**Minnesota River (Dresden)**

- F4 carry in
- N USFS

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**TRAVESE CO.**

**Mud Lake**

- B2 concrete
- N,S DNR

**Mattina River**

- B2 concrete
- Various County

**#1**

- C2 concrete
- C,N,S,W County

**#2 Fish Camp**

- C1 concrete
- C,N,S,W DNR

**#3**

- C1 concrete
- C,N,S,W County

**#4 Brown Valley**

- C1 concrete
- C,N,S,W DNR

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