**Public Water Access in Minnesota:**

The Minnesota DNR State Parks and Trails water recreation program provides approximately 1,600 boat accesses, over 300 along rivers and shore 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 fishing access program is funded by user fees including boat license & gas tax related to marinas.

Public accesses are usually open 24 hours unless otherwise posted. Most sites have launch ramps but some (10%) do not. Public access areas vary in size, and bathroom and docks are usually located only on larger and boat sites.

**Public Access Rules:** The launch area must be kept clear and the boat parking area is usually off-limits to fishing, camping, storing, docking fees, and commodities. See Minnesota Rules, chapter 628 for complete rules.

### Boating in Minnesota

The annual Minnesota Boating Guide summarizes the boating laws and rules that are easy to read. 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 or their identification card when fishing. Licenses are available through the DNR License Bureau, most County Auditors and many stores that sell fishing-related goods. Traut fishing requires a trout stamp. For more information call the DNR Information Center at (651) 296-6152 or 1-888-646-6367. To purchase a license by phone 24-hour a day, call 1-888-MN-LICENSE (645-2463).

**Selective Harvest Fishing:** Improved technology and new fishing laws have decreased the quality of fishing to drastically in many waters. Practicing “Selective Harvest” will increase your enjoyment of the water and the fish. It will also increase your knowledge of the fish and how to select the most suitable fishing area.

**Sustainable Natural Environments:**

**Practice Sustainable Water Recreation:**

- **All water users:**
  - Be courteous to other boaters and water users.
  - Keep a reasonable distance from birds, wildlife, and nearby waters.
  - Operate your watercraft at a slow no-wake speed and appropriate depth.
  - Use only designated areas for launching and unloading your boat.
  - Be aware of wave wakes and shorebreaks, including wind and wave wakes.
  - Be aware of safer locations to access and provide a safe, clean, and enjoyable environment for all water enthusiasts.

**Safe Boating:**

**Personal Flotation Devices (PFD):**

- **Children:**
  - Use a common-sense approach when assessing water safety needs. Provide children with a common-sense approach when assessing water safety needs. A PFD for each person.
  - In addition, children 14 feet or longer, except canoes and kayaks, must also be equipped with a personal flotation device.

**Boating While Intoxicated (BWI):**

- **BWI:**
  - Boating while intoxicated is illegal. For penalties for this offense, see the state statutes for the penalties.
  - If a boat owner is found to be under the influence, they must be removed.

**Working Together to Protect the Waters:**

- **Watercraft Inspection Stations:**
  - **Wayside**
  - **Milaca Dam**
  - **Riverside Park**
  - **County Road 4**
  - **Princeton**
  - **Shakopee Lake**
  - **Silver Lake**

**Public Water Access in Kanabec & Mille Lacs Counties**

- **KANABEC CO.**
  - **Crisco Lake**
  - **Mille Lacs Lake**
  - **Rum River**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Water Body Name</strong></th>
<th><strong>Map Grid Location</strong></th>
<th><strong>Fish Species</strong></th>
<th><strong>Administrator</strong></th>
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<td>DNR</td>
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<td>Co Rd 11</td>
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<td>Carry-in</td>
<td>DNR</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Fish Species:**

- **C - Crappie,
  - CF - Catfish,
  - LB - Largemouth Bass,
  - N - Northern Pike,
  - P - Perch,
  - S - Shiner, W - Walleye, B - Black Bass

**Selective Harvest Fishing:**

- **Cooperative.**
  - The law requires compliance with inspectors, and it will help everyone to be on their way in a timely and pleasant manner.
  - **Be courteous to other boater and water users.**
  - **Travel at safe speeds and be aware of the effect**
  - **Conserve fuel by properly operating and**
  - **Enjoy floating, anchoring, and beaching**

### Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS)

- **Laws and Requirements:**
  - Before leaving the water access or shoreline property, you must:
    - Clean off AIS aquatic plants and animals
    - Drain all water in drain, bilge, keel, bilge, boat bucket, a mixer or ballast tanks
    - Pull the plug and leave it out

- **Get to the bottom of using these simple steps, and**
  - **Don’t let anyone else in your party**
  - **Get into the habit of taking these three simple steps,**

- **Wayside**
  - **Milaca Dam**
  - **Riverside Park**
  - **County Road 4**
  - **Princeton**
  - **Shakopee Lake**
  - **Silver Lake**

**All persons**

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