



Fin

Fishing in the Neighborhood

Youth and Family Fishing Guide
Twin Cities Metro Area
2009-2010



mndnr.gov (888) 646-6367

24-hour TIP hotline 1-800-652-9093
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What is FiN?

Fishing in the Neighborhood (FiN) is Minnesota DNR's urban fishing program. FiN provides great shorefishing opportunities for the 2.5 million Twin Cities metro residents. Neighborhood fishing ponds are intended for beginner anglers to introduce them to sport fishing, but can be used by anyone wanting to wet a line.

FiN works with local partners such as parks and recreation departments to provide family-friendly settings situated in residential areas. This allows people to enjoy a day at the park and good fishing too! In cooperation with local partners, FiN will stock fish, assess fish populations, install fishing piers, shorefishing structures, restore shoreline habitat and sponsor aquatic education to create quality fishing opportunities.

To find out more, visit the FiN web page at:
www.mndnr.gov/fishing/fin

Or, you can contact one of the FiN staff members below:



Ramsey, Dakota, Washington and Anoka counties:
Rick Walsh
651-259-5819
Rick.Walsh@dnr.state.mn.us



Hennepin, Scott and Carver counties:
Mark Nemeth
952-826-6764
Mark.Nemeth@dnr.state.mn.us



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Youth are the Future of Natural Resources

As citizens of Minnesota, it is our responsibility to promote fishing traditions and encourage environmental stewardship in our youth. To instill environmental values, we need to take the time to bring our children outside and help them take ownership in natural resources. Everyone is spending more time indoors rather than enjoying all of what nature has to offer. Along with teaching youth patience and making them aware of the outdoors, fishing is a great opportunity to spend quality time with your family and friends. A great sense of accomplishment comes when a child baits his/her hook and catches that first fish. Pass on your knowledge of fishing and environmental awareness and you will be continuing the Minnesota tradition that so many enjoy. **Help youth get excited about fishing!**

Angler Code of Ethics:

1. Take only what you need, keep only what you will eat and never wastefully discard any fish; it is illegal.
2. Think of the fish first. If you plan to release the fish, handle it gently and return it to the water. Never throw it into the water.
3. Respect everyone fishing around you.
4. Do not litter. Clean up old fishing line, hooks and bait containers even if they are not yours so they do not end up in the water.
5. Know the rules of the lake you are fishing so you do not keep under-sized fish or too many fish. Also be sure to follow park rules.

Remember, our lakes and rivers belong to everyone and we all must do our part to preserve them for future generations. Enjoy the great fishing opportunities presented to you and always follow the angler code of ethics when you are fishing.

This booklet highlights...

locations of over 60 small lakes and ponds managed by the FiN program. FiN ponds are ideal places to introduce new anglers to the sport of fishing and have a variety of species to challenge seasoned anglers. Try one of these on your next fishing trip or one of the hundreds of other fishing lakes in the metro area. You will need a fishing license if you are age 16 or older and make sure to read the fishing regulations.





Anoka County

1. Club West
2. Lochness
3. Moore
4. Spring



Club West

Location: Blaine, Lakeside Park, Highway 65 and 109th Avenue

Depth: 25 feet

Species: Bluegill, Black crappie, Largemouth bass, Northern pike, Walleye, Bullhead

Extras: Picnic shelter, picnic tables, grills, walking path, basketball 1/2 court, playground, fair parking

Handicap Access: None

Comments: Club West Lake is made up of several connected bodies of water. There is a city park on the north end of the lake and most of the shoreline is suitable for angling. Bluegill and black crappie are moderately abundant and largemouth bass, northern pike and walleye are in low to moderate numbers.



Lochness

Location: Blaine, Lochness Park, Lexington Avenue and 111th Avenue

Depth: 16 feet

Species: Bluegill, Black crappie, Northern pike, Bullhead

Extras: Restrooms, excellent parking, picnic shelter, picnic tables, grills, playground, fishing pier, walking path

Handicap Access: Excellent

Comments: Lochness Lake is one of the better places to fish in Blaine. It is stocked regularly with bluegill and black crappie and occasionally gets stocked with catchable size northern pike in the winter. The long fishing pier will get you out into deep water.



Moore

Location: Fridley, Moore Lake Park, Highway 65 and 694

Depth: 22 feet

Species: Bluegill, Black crappie, Largemouth bass, Channel catfish, Northern pike, Yellow perch, Bullhead

Extras: Restrooms, excellent parking, picnic shelter, picnic tables, grills, playground, fishing pier, walking path, swimming beach, concessions

Handicap Access: Excellent

Comments: Moore Lake is divided by Highway 65 into two basins called West and East Moore Lake. On the east side, there is a long open shoreline for fishing and you can use the fishing pier to reach deeper water. Try fishing at dusk for channel catfish, which feed more in the evening and nighttime hours.



Spring

Location: Spring Lake Park, Lakeside Lion's Park, Pleasant View Drive and County Road 10

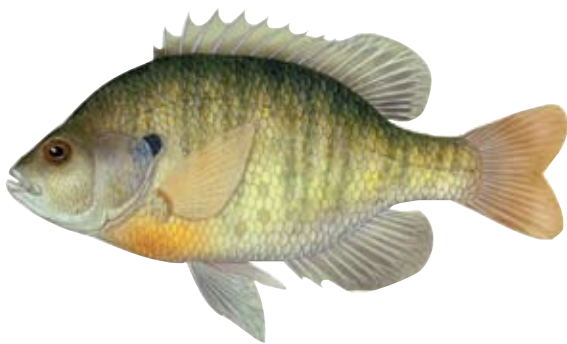
Depth: 17 feet

Species: Bluegill, Black crappie, Largemouth bass, Northern pike, Bullhead

Extras: Restrooms, excellent parking, picnic shelter, picnic tables, playground, fishing pier, ball fields, walking path

Handicap Access: Fair

Comments: Spring Lake is a gem of a lake. It is a small lake with very clear water and a healthy aquatic plant community. There is a good population of gamefish. When water levels are low, dense submersed vegetation may lead to difficult summer fishing from the pier.



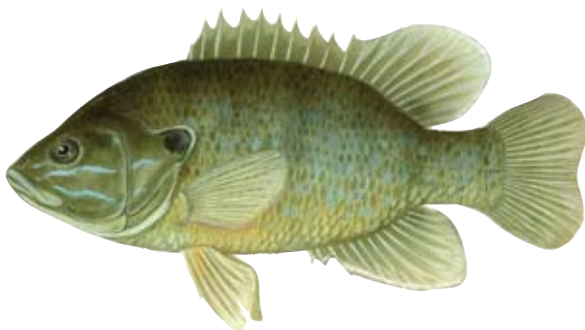
Bluegill sunfish

The bluegill sunfish has a round, flat body that is four to ten inches long. The body is greenish-blue in color with an orange belly. The solid blue/black “ear” spot distinguishes the bluegill from other sunfish species. This fish is a great target species for youth. Try fishing off a pier using corn or worms as bait and you will have a fun day of fishing!



Pumpkinseed sunfish

The pumpkinseed sunfish is another common fish you will catch when taking youth fishing. Their round, flat body is about four to eight inches in length. The distinguishing characteristic of this species is its bright red “ear” spot.



Green sunfish

Green sunfish look like bluegill however they have a more elongated body. Their mouths are larger than other sunfish species. They are typically three to six inches long and have fins that are green in color with white edges.



Carver County

1. Fireman's
2. Riverpointe



Fireman's

Location: Chaska, Fireman's Park, Flying Cloud Drive and Highway 41

Depth: 23 feet

Species: Bluegill, Largemouth bass

Extras: Restrooms, excellent parking, picnic shelter, picnic tables, grills, fishing piers, walking path, playground, swimming beach

Handicap Access: Excellent

Comments: Fireman's Pond is stocked annually with bluegill and largemouth bass. Bluegills are easily caught off the fishing pier. The pond is located within a city park with amenities including picnic areas, playground and swimming beach.



Riverpointe

Location: Watertown, Riverpointe Park, Highway 25 and County Road 122

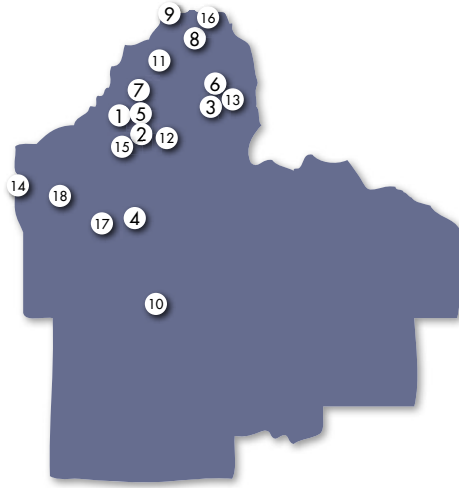
Depth: 28 feet

Species: Bluegill, Largemouth bass, Channel catfish

Extras: Walking path, shorefishing blocks, good parking

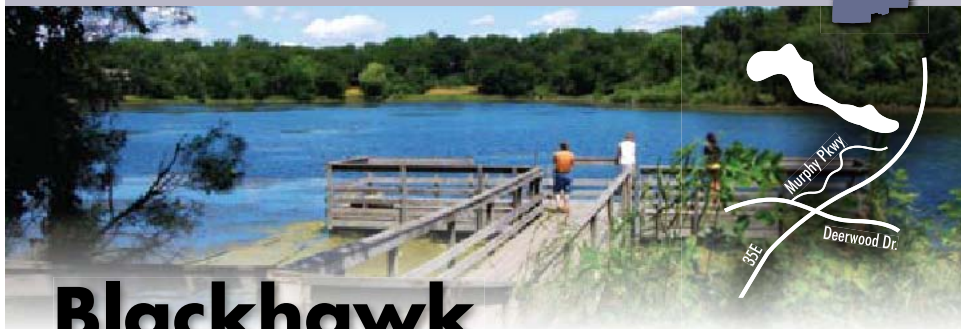
Handicap Access: None

Comments: Riverpointe Pond is the newest addition to the FiN program. Most of the shoreline is accessible for fishing the deep basins of Riverpointe. Also, try your luck on the South Fork of the Crow River, located east of Riverpointe Pond.



Dakota County

- | | |
|----------------|-----------------|
| 1. Blackhawk | 10. Prairieview |
| 2. Carlson | 11. Rogers |
| 3. City hall | 12. Schwanz |
| 4. Cobblestone | 13. Simley |
| 5. Fish | 14. Sunset |
| 6. Gun Club | 15. Thomas |
| 7. LeMay | 16. Thompson |
| 8. Marthaler | 17. Valley |
| 9. Pickerel | 18. Wood Park |



Blackhawk

Location: Eagan, Blackhawk Lake Park, Murphy Parkway and Deerwood Drive

Depth: 12 feet

Species: Bluegill, Black crappie, Largemouth bass, Northern pike, Bullhead

Extras: Restrooms, excellent parking, shorefishing structure, picnic shelter, picnic tables, playground, fishing pier, walking path, volleyball

Handicap Access: Good

Comments: A new shorefishing structure was installed in 2004 to prevent erosion and provide fishing access. The lake has a nice population of largemouth bass with some larger individuals present. For more information on fishing lakes in Eagan, check out the Eagan Fishing Guide at <http://www.ci.eagan.mn.us/live/page.asp?menu=2664>.



Carlson

Location: Eagan, Carlson Park, Carlson Lake Lane and Svensk Lane

Depth: 19 feet

Species: Bluegill, Black crappie, Largemouth bass, Walleye, Bullhead

Extras: Fair parking, shorefishing structure, playground, fishing pier, walking path

Handicap Access: Poor

Comments: Also called Quigley, Carlson Lake has a history of nice-sized panfish, largemouth bass and walleye. A new fishing structure has been installed at Carlson Lake near the playground. It is easy to wet a line from the fishing platform or the many shoreline spots located around the lake.



City Hall

Location: Inver Grove Heights, 80th Street and Highway 52

Depth: 15 feet

Species: Bluegill, Black crappie, Smallmouth bass, Walleye, White sucker

Extras: Excellent parking, walking path, playground, community center, indoor water park

Handicap Access: Fair

Comments: City Hall, a deep lake with areas over 15 feet deep, does not get as much fishing pressure as nearby Simley Pond. The trees and island in the middle provide excellent structure for fish. In fall, walleye fingerlings and large bluegills are stocked to provide additional fishing opportunities.



Cobblestone

Location: Apple Valley, Cobblestone Lake Park, Diamond Path Road and County Road 46

Depth: 18 feet

Species: Bluegill, Black crappie, Walleye, Bullhead

Extras: Good parking, picnic tables, playground, fishing pier, walking path

Handicap Access: Excellent

Comments: Cobblestone Lake, a former gravel pit that has been turned into a lake, has plenty of fishable shoreline and a pier. The lake has two deep areas, one on each end of the lake with a shallower area connecting the two. Maximum depth is nearly 20 feet deep, but may currently be shallower due to low water levels.



Fish

Location: Eagan, Fish Lake Park, Denmark Avenue and Westcott Road

Depth: 35 feet

Species: Bluegill, Black crappie, Largemouth bass, Northern pike, Bullhead

Extras: Restrooms, good parking, fishing pier, walking path

Handicap Access: Poor

Comments: Fish Lake, one of the larger lakes in Eagan, is also one of the deeper FiN ponds at 35 feet. There is a nice population of northern pike and largemouth bass. The lake is aerated during the winter, so be aware of thin ice when ice fishing.



Gun Club

Location: Inver Grove Heights, Lions Park, 65th Street and Blaine Avenue East

Depth: 9 feet

Species: Bluegill, Black crappie, Largemouth bass, Bullhead

Extras: Fair parking, picnic shelter, playground, fishing pier, walking path

Handicap Access: Excellent

Comments: Also known as Lions Park Pond, this small lake has abundant sunfish. The water is very clear which allows healthy plant habitat for largemouth bass and bluegill. Dense plant growth can interfere with fishing in midsummer. Nice-sized black crappie have been caught in this lake. Large bluegills are often stocked in the fall.



LeMay

Location: Egan, Moonshine Park, Pilot Knob Road and Jurdy Road

Depth: 15 feet

Species: Bluegill, Black crappie, Largemouth bass, Bullhead

Extras: Fair parking, bird watching

Handicap Access: Fair

Comments: LeMay offers a quiet shorefishing setting that is very inviting to anglers.

Aquatic vegetation can become dense by midsummer, so give this lake a try in the spring.



Marthaler

Location: West Saint Paul, Marthaler Park, Wentworth Avenue and Humboldt Avenue

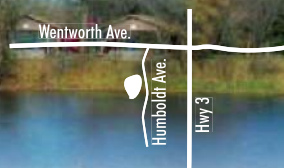
Depth: 6 feet

Species: Bluegill, Black crappie

Extras: Restrooms, excellent parking, picnic shelter, picnic tables, grills, playground, tennis, walking path, sledding in winter

Handicap Access: Poor

Comments: This lake has been managed as a fishing pond since 1975. Marthaler winterkills frequently and therefore is stocked each spring with bluegill and black crappie. The lake provides plenty of habitat and food for the stocked fish, which can easily double in size over the summer.





Pickerel

Location: Lilydale, Lilydale Regional park, Lilydale Road

Depth: 11 feet

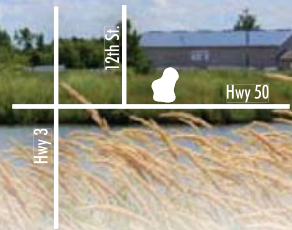
Species: Bluegill, Black crappie, Largemouth bass, Northern pike, Walleye, Freshwater drum, Common carp, Bowfin, Bullhead

Extras: Fair (unpaved) parking

Handicap Access: Poor

Comments: Pickerel Lake offers shorefishing and non-motorized boat angling opportunities.

The aquatic vegetation can become quite dense in the summer so early season fishing is probably best from the shore. The City of St. Paul is updating the park and recently installed a carry-in boat access site. Various river fish species are commonly caught due to a connection with the Mississippi River.



Prairieview

Location: Farmington, Prairieview Park, Highway 50 and 12th Street

Depth: 11 feet

Species: Bluegill, Black crappie

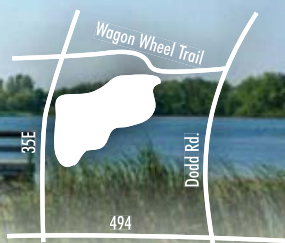
Extras: Fair parking, playground, fishing pier, walking path

Handicap Access: Good

Comments: Prairieview Pond is new to the FiN program. There are a series of interconnected ponds which filter and control runoff with native vegetation and wetlands.

The pond with the fishing pier has been stocked with bluegill and black crappie. The ponds flow to the Vermillion River.

Dakota



Rogers

Location: Mendota Heights, Roger's Lake Park, Wagon Wheel Trail and Dodd Road

Depth: 8 feet

Species: Bluegill, Black crappie, Largemouth bass, Channel catfish, Northern pike, Bullhead

Extras: Restrooms, good parking, picnic shelter, picnic tables, grills, playground, fishing pier, volleyball, basketball, skate park

Handicap Access: Excellent

Comments: Rogers Lake has a variety of species to catch. The native plantings on the shore around the fishing pier help prevent erosion and provide good wildlife habitat. Rogers is a great lake to fish from a canoe.

Dakota



Schwanz

Location: Eagan, Trapp Farm Community Park, Wilderness Run Road and Lynx Court

Depth: 12 feet

Species: Bluegill, Black crappie, Largemouth bass, Bullhead

Extras: Good parking, picnic tables, fishing pier, playground, walking path

Handicap Access: Good

Comments: Trapp Farm Community Park borders the northwest corner of the lake and provides plenty of shorefishing opportunities. Good-sized black crappie, bluegill and largemouth bass will entertain anglers of all ages.



Simley

Location: Inver Grove Heights, Simley Park, 80th Street and Cahill Avenue

Depth: 14 feet

Species: Bluegill, Black crappie, Largemouth bass, Smallmouth bass, Walleye, Common carp, Bullhead

Extras: Fair parking, picnic shelter, picnic tables, fishing pier, walking path

Handicap Access: Fair

Comments: Simley Lake is a very popular fishing lake. It has a pier, shorefishing stations on the north shore and a lot of open space on the island from which to fish. A shoreline restoration project was conducted in 2002 and expanded in 2007. Large bluegills are often stocked in the fall.



Sunset

Location: Burnsville, Sunset Pond Park, Sunset Lake Drive and Burnsville Parkway

Depth: 11 feet

Species: Bluegill, Black crappie, Largemouth bass, Northern pike, Yellow perch, Bullhead

Extras: Restrooms, good parking, picnic shelter, picnic tables, grills, playground, walking path

Handicap Access: Fair

Comments: Sunset Pond offers fishing for many game species. Near the culverts on the south end is a popular place to fish as well as several areas on the north end where deeper water can be found. Expect excessive plant growth by midsummer in this very shallow lake.

Dakota



Thomas

Location: Egan, Thomas Lake Park, Pilot Knob Road and Cliff Road

Depth: 7 feet

Species: Bluegill, Black crappie, Largemouth bass, Bullhead

Extras: Restrooms, excellent parking, playground, fishing pier, walking path, picnic shelter, picnic tables

Handicap Access: Excellent

Comments: Thomas Lake is a shallow lake that is aerated to prevent winterkill. It has a good population of largemouth bass. The fishing pier will give you access to the deeper water that might hold more fish. This is a wonderful lake to fish from a canoe.

Dakota



Thompson

Location: West Saint Paul, Thompson Park, Butler Avenue and Stassen Lane

Depth: 8 feet

Species: Bluegill, Black crappie, Largemouth bass, Northern pike, Bullhead

Extras: Restrooms, excellent parking, picnic shelter, picnic tables, playground, fishing pier, senior center, walking path

Handicap Access: Excellent

Comments: The FiN program has been active at Thompson Lake. To protect water quality, eroded shoreline has been planted with native aquatic and upland plant species. There is also a raingarden between the parking lot and walking path that intercepts runoff, allowing rainwater to infiltrate into the soil instead of going into the lake. Thompson produces larger bluegill from time to time.

Dakota



Valley

Location: Lakeville, Valley Lake Park, Galaxie Avenue and County Road 46

Depth: 11 feet

Species: Bluegill, Black crappie, Largemouth bass, Northern pike, Bullhead

Extras: Restrooms, good parking, picnic shelter, picnic tables, grills, playground, fishing pier, swimming beach, walking path

Handicap Access: Excellent

Comments: Valley Lake is a great place to relax and enjoy some fishing or take someone and teach them to fish. When the fish are not biting off the fishing pier, walk the path and try the other side of the lake.

Dakota



Wood Park

Location: Burnsville, Wood Park, 143rd Street and Portland Avenue

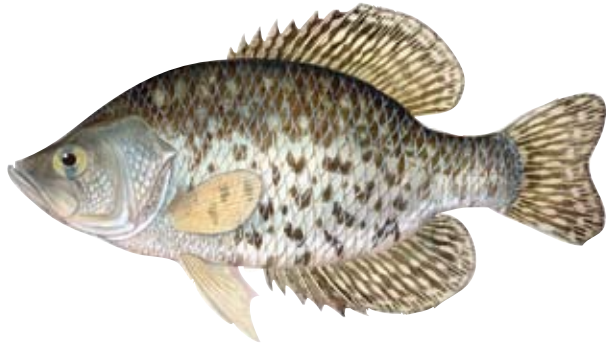
Depth: 14 feet

Species: Bluegill, Black crappie, Largemouth bass, Walleye, Yellow perch, Bullhead

Extras: Good parking, picnic tables, grills, playground, fishing pier, basketball, soccer, walking path

Handicap Access: Poor

Comments: Wood Park is a quiet lake to fish in the City of Burnsville. The access to the lake is down the hill via an asphalt walking path. There is a fishing pier plus several locations that you can fish from shore. Bluegills are abundant and you should be able to catch them using a worm or even a piece of corn or bread.



Black crappie

Like the sunfish, the black crappie has a round, flat body. Its body length can vary from six to fourteen inches. The sides of its body are silvery-white with black speckling on most of its body. Black crappie can also be caught off a pier using crappie minnows or various colors of artificial bait.



White crappie

Although the white crappie is shaped like the black crappie, its coloration varies. Instead of black speckles on a silvery-white background, the white crappie has black vertical bars. White crappie are not as common as black crappie but can be found in several FiN ponds.



Largemouth bass

The largemouth bass is a member of the sunfish family and is found in many FiN ponds. This fish has a large jaw that extends beyond the eye and can grow anywhere from six to twenty-four inches in length. It is green in color with a dark lateral stripe down the side of its body. To target largemouth bass, try fishing with plastic worms near lily pads.



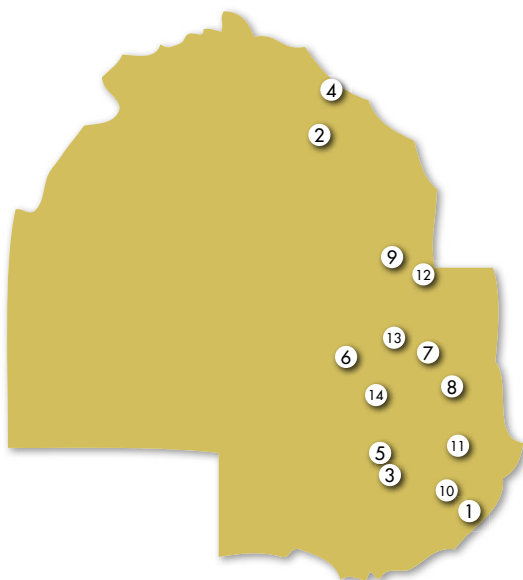
Smallmouth bass

The smallmouth bass also has a large jaw but its upper lip only extends to the middle of the eye. This fish has a bronze colored body with dark vertical bars. Smallmouth bass are found near rocks and boulders or near submersed woody debris. Common in many rivers in Minnesota, smallmouth bass grow to be six to twenty inches long and are present in several FiN ponds.



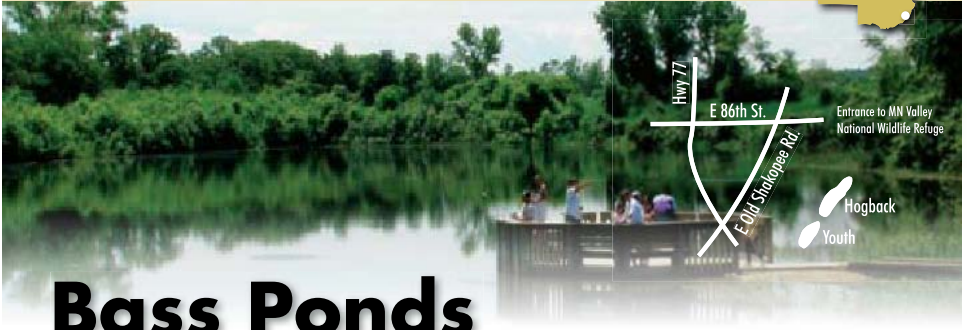
Walleye

The walleye is the Minnesota state fish and is more torpedo-shaped. It has a white belly with a distinguishing white tip on the lower lobe of the caudal fin. The large, glassy eye is where this fish gets its name. They can grow anywhere from ten to thirty inches long. Try fishing for walleye with leeches or minnows at dusk in open, deep pools.



Hennepin County

- | | |
|-------------------|---------------|
| 1. Bass Ponds | 8. Powderhorn |
| 2. Boundary Creek | 9. Ryan |
| 3. Centennial | 10. Smith |
| 4. Champlin Mill | 11. Taft |
| 5. Cornelia | 12. Webber |
| 6. Lamplighter | 13. Wirth |
| 7. Loring | 14. Wolfe |



Bass Ponds

Location: Bloomington, Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge, East Old Shakopee Road and East 86th Street

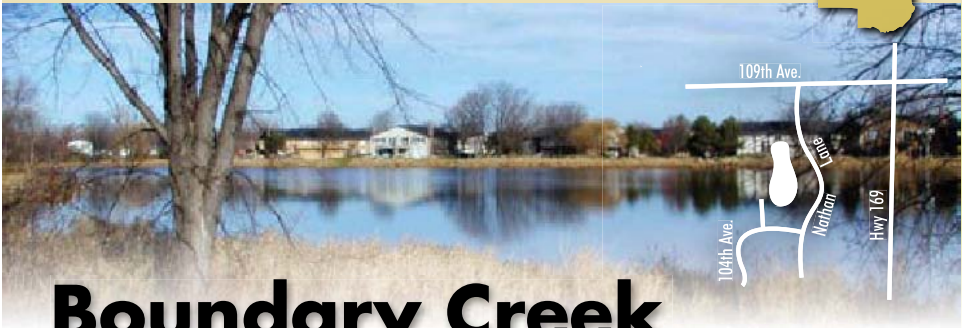
Depth: Youth Pond -14.5 feet, Hogback - 9 feet

Species: Bluegill, Black crappie, White crappie, Largemouth bass, Northern pike, Channel catfish

Extras: Good parking, fishing pier, nature viewing, walking path

Handicap Access: Poor

Comments: Bass Ponds (Youth Fishing Pond and Hogback Ridge Pond) are located in the wildlife refuge. Parking is located three-quarters of a mile from the pond. Most of the shoreline of Youth Pond is forested, providing healthy habitat for fish.



Boundary Creek

Location: Maple Grove, Boundary Creek Park, 104th Avenue and Nathan Lane

Depth: 8 feet

Species: Bluegill, Black crappie

Extras: Excellent parking, playground

Handicap Access: Poor

Comments: Bluegill and black crappie have been stocked since 1987. Areas on the south and east sides of the lake are suitable for shore fishing. Anglers may also catch an occasional bullhead. Boundary Creek Park has an extensive trail system, playground, tennis, basketball, softball and football areas.



Centennial

Location: Edina, Centennial Lakes Park, France Avenue and West 76th Street

Depth: 9 feet

Species: Bluegill, Black crappie, Largemouth bass, Northern pike, Green sunfish

Extras: Restrooms, good parking, picnic tables, walking path

Handicap Access: Excellent

Comments: Centennial Lake is located in the City of Edina and is a great angling destination for all ages. Large areas of the shoreline are available for angling with a mixture of open areas and stretches of guardrails.



Champlin Mill

Location: Champlin, Doris A. Kemp Park, Highway 169 and West River Road

Depth: 11 feet

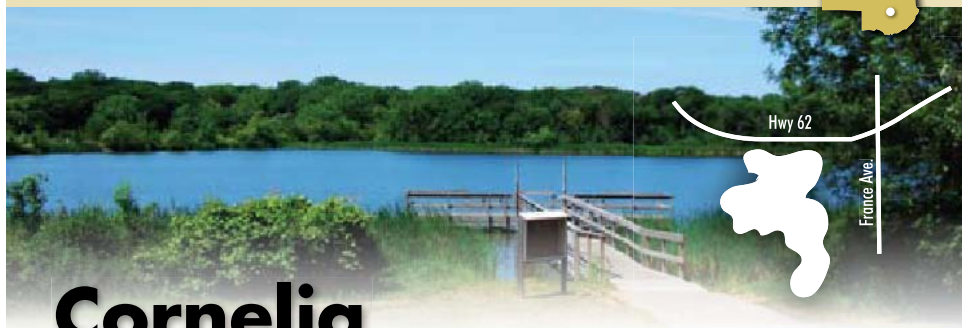
Species: Bluegill, Black crappie

Extras: Good parking, fishing pier, walking path

Handicap Access: Excellent

Comments: Champlin Mill Pond has been managed as a fishing pond since 1976.

A fishing pier and accessible shoreline are available to anglers. Additional park amenities include a pavilion, picnic tables, benches, grills and trail system.



Cornelia

Location: Edina, Rosland Park, Highway 62 and France Avenue

Depth: 6.5 feet

Species: Bluegill, Black crappie, Yellow perch

Extras: Restrooms, excellent parking, picnic shelter, picnic tables, grills, playground, fishing pier, pavilion, paved walking path

Handicap Access: Good

Comments: Lake Cornelia has been stocked with bluegill since 2000. A fishing pier is located on the east shoreline. Anglers may also catch bullheads, common carp and green sunfish.



Lamplighter

Location: St. Louis Park, Lamplighter Park, Pennsylvania Avenue and 16th Street West

Depth: 6 feet

Species: Bluegill, Black crappie

Extras: Walking path, fishing pier, good parking

Handicap Access: Fair

Comments: Lamplighter is a shallow pond stocked annually with bluegill and black crappie. The shoreline vegetation has been improved to provide healthier habitat for fish and wildlife. Anglers may also catch an occasional common carp.



Loring

Location: Minneapolis, Loring Park, Hennepin Avenue South and 15th Street East

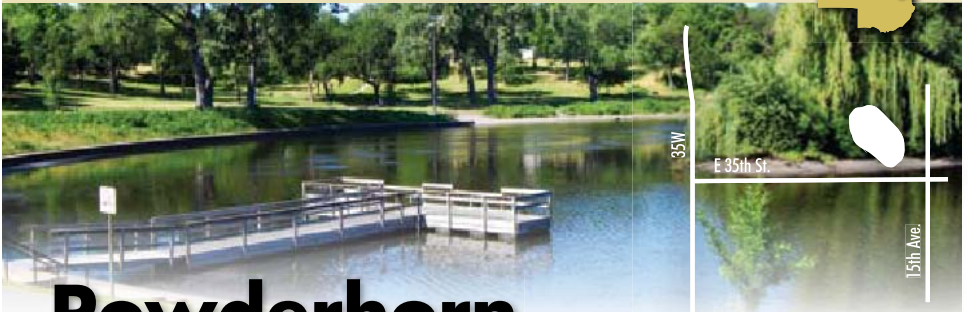
Depth: 16 feet

Species: Bluegill, Black crappie, Channel catfish

Extras: Restrooms, fair parking, playground, wading pool, fishing pier, tennis and basketball courts, horseshoes, bandstand, gardens, public art, walking path

Handicap Access: Good

Comments: Loring Lake has been stocked annually with bluegill, black crappie and channel catfish. A shoreline restoration in 1997 with native wetland and upland prairie plants has brought a little bit of wilderness back into the city. Try using minnows to catch black crappies.



Powderhorn

Location: Minneapolis, Powderhorn Park, East 35th Street and 15th Avenue South

Depth: 24 feet

Species: Bluegill, Black crappie, Largemouth bass, Channel catfish

Extras: Restrooms, good parking, picnic tables, playground, basketball, volleyball, walking path, wading pool

Handicap Access: Excellent

Comments: When visiting Powderhorn Lake, take note of the shoreline restoration project that is growing along the lakeshore. Not only does it provide habitat for wildlife, it also helps absorb nutrients and runoff.



Ryan

Location: Minneapolis, Xerxes Avenue and 46th Avenue North

Depth: 36 feet

Species: Bluegill, Black crappie, Largemouth bass, Northern pike, Yellow Perch

Extras: Fishing pier, good parking

Handicap Access: Poor

Comments: The fishing pier offers an advantage for fishing at Ryan Lake. This pond is also favored by anglers in the winter time.



Smith

Location: Bloomington, Smith Lake Park, Park Avenue South and East 82nd Street

Depth: 16 feet

Species: Bluegill, Black crappie

Extras: Restrooms, excellent parking, picnic shelter, picnic tables, grills, playground, fishing pier, walking path

Handicap Access: Excellent

Comments: Wet a line at Smith Lake from the fishing pier located on the southeast side of the lake. Other amenities include picnic tables, pavilion, benches and a walking path around the park and lake. Also enjoy the beautiful shoreline habitat around Smith Lake.



Taft

Location: Richfield, Taft Park, Cedar Avenue and Highway 62

Depth: 45 feet

Species: Bluegill, Black crappie, Largemouth bass

Extras: Restrooms, good parking, picnic tables, grills, playground, fishing pier, walking path

Handicap Access: Good

Comments: Taft Lake has been managed as a fishing pond since 1975. Taft Park also has ball fields, basketball courts and a walking path around the lake.



Webber

Location: Minneapolis, Camden Park, Webber Parkway and Aldrich Avenue North

Depth: 4 feet

Species: Bluegill, Channel catfish

Extras: Good parking, grills, playground, walking path

Handicap Access: Fair

Comments: Webber Pond has been managed as a fishing pond since 1976. The open shoreline makes this a favorable lake for shore fishing. Other amenities at the park include a small wading pool, children's playground and picnic tables. Try fishing at Webber Pond for the adult channel catfish that are stocked every year in June.



Wirth

Location: Minneapolis, Theodore Wirth Park, Highway 55 and Wirth Parkway

Depth: 25 feet

Species: Bluegill, Black crappie, Largemouth bass, Northern pike, Walleye

Extras: Restrooms, excellent parking, picnic tables, playground, fishing pier, walking path, swimming beach

Handicap Access: Excellent

Comments: Wirth Lake is near many inner-city neighborhoods. You can catch many of the species listed above from the pier on the east side of the lake or from the shoreline just north of the fishing pier.



Wolfe

Location: St. Louis Park, Wolfe Park, Monterey Drive and 36th Street West

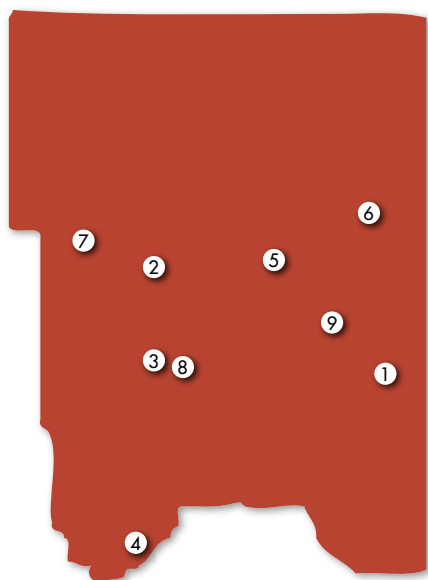
Depth: 25 feet

Species: Bluegill, Black crappie, Largemouth bass, Northern pike, Yellow perch

Extras: Restrooms, excellent parking, picnic shelter, picnic tables, playground, fishing pier, walking path

Handicap Access: Excellent

Comments: A shoreline restoration project planted in May 2003 helps to protect the shoreline from erosion, enhances wildlife habitat and provides learning opportunities at the park. The park has picnic tables, pavilions, benches, children's playground and walking path. Wolfe is a favorite fishing lake of young anglers.



Ramsey County

1. Beaver
2. Bennett
3. Como
4. Crosby
5. Gervais Mill
6. Handlos
7. Langton
8. Loeb
9. Wakefield



Beaver

Location: St. Paul, Beaver Lake County Park, Edgewater Boulevard and Magnolia Avenue East

Depth: 11 feet

Species: Bluegill, Black crappie, Largemouth bass, Channel catfish, Northern pike, Yellow perch, Bullhead

Extras: Restrooms, excellent parking, picnic shelter, picnic tables, grills, playground, fishing pier, walking path

Handicap Access: Excellent

Comments: Abundant panfish and northern pike make Beaver Lake a great place to fish. If the fishing pier is crowded, try fishing from the shore structures north of the pier. Beaver Lake is stocked annually with channel catfish.



Bennett

Location: Roseville, Central Park, Lexington Avenue and County Road C

Depth: 9 feet

Species: Bluegill, Black crappie, Largemouth bass, Channel catfish, Northern pike, Bullhead, Common carp

Extras: Restrooms, good parking, picnic shelter, picnic tables, grills, playground, fishing pier, tennis, baseball, walking path, volleyball

Handicap Access: Excellent

Comments: There are many shorefishing opportunities around Bennett Lake. It has a pier and a paved trail that goes around the entire lake. In July and August, fish the south side where the water is deeper and trees provide shade. Large bluegills are often stocked in the fall.



Como

Location: St. Paul, Como Park, Lexington Avenue and Como Avenue

Depth: 15 feet

Species: Bluegill, Black crappie, Largemouth bass, Channel catfish, Northern pike, Walleye, Common carp, Bullhead

Extras: Restrooms, good parking, picnic shelter, picnic tables, grills, concessions, fishing pier, walking path

Handicap Access: Good

Comments: In midsummer, when underwater plants grow thick, try casting and retrieving a weedless lure across the top of the vegetation at dusk. The 2006 fish survey found good numbers of sunfish, walleye and northern pike. If the fish are not biting, try nearby Loeb Lake.



Gervais Mill

Location: Little Canada, Gervais Mill Park, Edgerton Street and Little Canada Road

Depth: 12 feet

Species: Bluegill, Black crappie, Largemouth bass, Yellow perch, Bullhead

Extras: Good parking, walking path, two fishing piers

Handicap Access: Fair

Comments: This is a gem of a pond located in Little Canada. Walking trails wind around the park, leading to two fishing piers. It is a good place to watch for wildlife and birds. Bluegill and black crappie are restocked after occasional winterkills and other fish such as largemouth bass and walleye get into the pond from nearby Gervais Lake.



Handlos

Location: White Bear Lake, Lakewood Hills Park, White Bear Avenue and Orchard Lane

Depth: 8 feet

Species: Bluegill, Black crappie, Bullhead

Extras: Restrooms, excellent parking, picnic tables, grills, playground, fishing pier, soccer, baseball, walking path, sledding (water slide, skate park and pool at YMCA)

Handicap Access: Good

Comments: Come and try out the fishing pier that was installed in 2002. The pier will allow you to cast to the deepest part of the pond as you try to catch bluegills and black crappies. The pond is restocked with bluegills and black crappies after occasional winterkills. Bluegill and black crappie can be of good size by August and September.



Langton

Location: Roseville, Langton Lake Park, County Road C2 and Cleveland Avenue

Depth: 6 feet

Species: Bluegill, Black crappie, Bullhead

Extras: Excellent parking, playground, fishing pier, walking path

Handicap Access: Excellent

Comments: Langton Lake is stocked annually with bluegill and black crappie. Panfish grow quickly over the summer and can be over 8 inches long in the fall. The fishing pier is a good spot to fish from or you can fish along the paved path that splits the lake. This is an excellent place for a walk to enjoy some shade and wildlife viewing.



Loeb

Location: St. Paul, Marydale Park, Dale Street and Maryland Avenue

Depth: 28 feet

Species: Bluegill, Black crappie, Largemouth bass, Channel catfish, Walleye, Bullhead

Extras: Good parking, picnic tables, grills, playground, fishing pier, walking path

Handicap Access: Fair

Comments: Loeb is a nice little fishing lake that has a pier and areas where you can fish from shore along the east side. A paved trail around the entire lake leads anglers to the best shorefishing spots on the north and east shores. Large bluegills are often stocked in the fall.



Wakefield

Location: Maplewood, Wakefield Park, Frost Avenue and Prosperity Road

Depth: 9 feet

Species: Bluegill, Black crappie, Largemouth bass, Northern pike, Bullhead

Extras: Restrooms, excellent parking, picnic tables, grills, playground, baseball, walking path, sledding

Handicap Access: Good

Comments: Wakefield Lake is an ideal setting for all types of recreation. Three shorefishing stations give you a place to fish without trampling vegetation and causing erosion.



White bass

White bass have a silver-white body that is high and flat shaped with a two-part dorsal fin. They can grow to be six to sixteen inches long and are covered in black, horizontal stripes. The best fishing time for this species is in the spring or midsummer. You can fish for white bass using jigs or minnows in a few FiN ponds as well as the rivers of Minnesota.



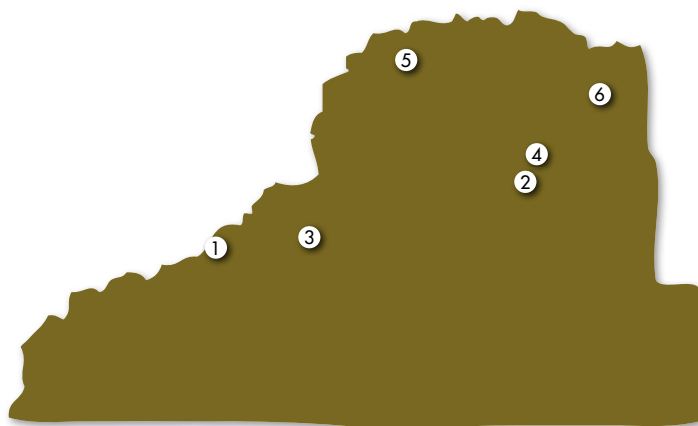
Common carp

The common carp is the largest member of the minnow family, growing from twelve to thirty-six inches. The two whiskers on its mouth make this fish easy to identify. Its body is pale gold in color and is covered with large scales. Try fishing off the bottom using corn or bread as bait.



Northern pike

The northern pike has a long, cylindrical body. It can grow from twelve to forty inches and has light marks on its dark body. This species has over 750 sharp teeth to feed on small- to medium-sized fish. Northern pike are ambush predators that are caught on lures or minnows.



Scott County

- 1. Beason
- 2. Crystal
- 3. Jordan Mill
- 4. Lakefront
- 5. Lion's Park
- 6. McColl



Beason

Location: Belle Plaine, Quarry Campground in the Minnesota Valley Recreation Area, Highway 169 and Park Boulevard

Depth: 6 feet

Species: Bluegill, Black crappie, White crappie

Extras: Restrooms, good parking, picnic shelter, picnic tables, hiking trails, mountain biking, horseback riding, camping, vehicle entrance fee

Handicap Access: Poor

Comments: Because Beason Lake periodically receives floodwaters from the Minnesota River, do not be surprised if you catch various other species including common carp or northern pike while angling here. The shoreline provides ample room to fish. A daily or annual vehicle pass is required to enter the park.



Crystal

Location: Prior Lake, Crystal Lake Park, Highway 13 and Village Lake Drive Southeast

Depth: 26 feet

Species: Bluegill, Largemouth bass, Northern pike

Extras: Walking trails, fishing pier, fair parking

Handicap Access: Poor

Comments: Crystal Lake became a FiN pond in 2007. It has recently been stocked and is aerated to prevent winterkill. It is a great place to try fishing in both the summer and winter.



Jordan Mill

Location: Jordan, Lagoon Park, Park Drive and Sunset Drive

Depth: 18 feet

Species: Bluegill, Black crappie, Largemouth bass, Northern pike

Extras: Restrooms, excellent parking, picnic tables, grills, playground, walking path, swimming beach

Handicap Access: Poor

Comments: Jordan Mill Pond has been managed as a fishing pond since 1977. Other amenities include picnic tables, pavilion, benches and a playground area. Jordan Mill Pond is a great place for a family fishing trip.



Lakefront

Location: Prior Lake, Lakefront Park, Kop Parkway and Main Avenue

Depth: 5 feet

Species: Bluegill, Black crappie, Largemouth bass, Northern pike

Extras: Restrooms, excellent parking, picnic shelter, picnic tables, playground, fishing pier, soccer, ball fields, tennis, basketball, walking path

Handicap Access: Good

Comments: Lakefront Park is a 148-acre park featuring an amphitheater, 3-mile trail system, picnic shelters and a floating boardwalk. Lakefront Pond has been known to have large bluegills from time to time.



Lion's Park

Location: Shakopee, Lion's Park, Marystown Road and Vierling Drive

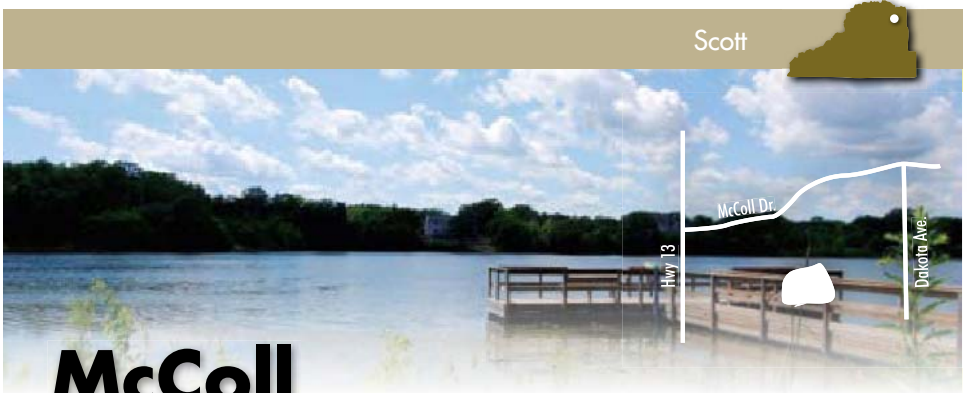
Depth: 5 feet

Species: Bluegill, Black crappie

Extras: Good parking, picnic shelter, picnic tables, grills, playground, walking path, frisbee golf course, horseshoes, sledding, tennis, swimming

Handicap Access: Poor

Comments: Lion's Park Pond is an excellent community fishing destination. Although it is a good early season pond, it can also be a great place to wet a line in the fall.



McColl

Location: Savage, Community Park and Environmental Learning Center, 13500 Dakota Avenue South

Depth: 11 feet

Species: Bluegill, Black crappie, Largemouth bass, Channel catfish

Extras: Restrooms, excellent parking, picnic shelter, picnic tables, grills, playground, fishing pier, walking path

Handicap Access: Good

Comments: Other park attractions include a playground, baseball fields, trails and the native prairie landscape. McColl Pond is a great family destination for fishing, walking and viewing nature.



Muskellunge

The muskellunge looks a lot like the northern pike however it has dark spots or bars on a lighter background. They also grow larger, anywhere from twelve to fifty inches. The musky is a very elusive fish that can be caught in clear vegetated lakes using large lures.



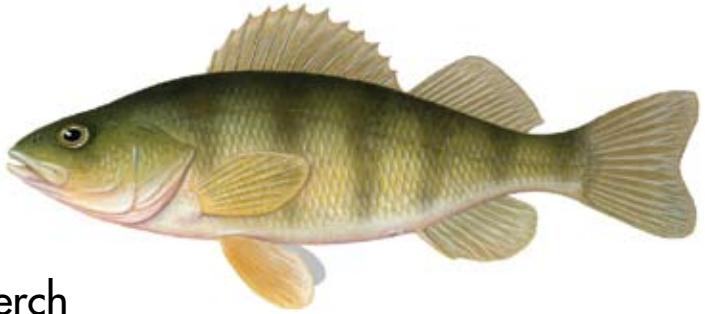
Channel catfish

Channel catfish are a long, smoothed-skinned fish with barbels and a forked tail. They can grow to be ten to thirty inches long and are found in larger streams and rivers. Several FiN ponds are stocked with channel catfish. This fish can be caught off the bottom and under cover with stink baits, worms, minnows or other baits. Channel catfish have taste buds over their entire body.



Black bullhead

The black bullhead is similar to catfish, however it has a flat, square tail. It has black barbels and can grow from four to fourteen inches long. Black bullheads are found in almost every FiN pond and are easily caught using worms.



Yellow perch

The yellow perch has a round, long body much like the walleye but has a distinctive yellow body covered in dark vertical bars. Its fins are orange and can grow to be six to fourteen inches long. Yellow perch swim in large schools in open water during the day and congregate near vegetation just off the bottom of the lake at night. They are usually caught with small jigs and live bait.



Bowfin (Dogfish)

The bowfin, or dogfish, has a long, slender body with a long soft-rayed dorsal fin. Its body is an emerald green color with a spot on its caudal fin. It can grow from eight to twenty-five inches long and has a bony plate, called the gular plate, on the underside of its jaw. Bowfin are found in vegetated habitat and can be caught using lures and minnows.



Washington County

1. Alice
2. Battle Creek
3. Carver
4. Colby
5. Hidden Valley
6. Lost
7. McKusick
8. Northland
9. Powers
10. Ravine

Washington



Alice

Location: New Scandia Township, William O'Brien State Park, Highway 95

Depth: 9 feet

Species: Bluegill, Black crappie, Largemouth bass, Northern pike, Bullhead

Extras: Restrooms, excellent parking, picnic shelter, picnic tables, grills, fishing pier, biking, camping, vehicle entrance fee, walking path

Handicap Access: Excellent

Comments: Alice Lake is a great fishing resource where you can catch a wide variety of fish. This beautiful lake is a great place to canoe and enjoy spectacular scenery while wetting a line. The park also offers access to the St. Croix River. A daily or annual vehicle pass is required to enter the park. Large bluegills are often stocked in the fall.

Washington



Battle Creek (Mud Lake)

Location: Woodbury, Menomin Park, Edgewood Avenue and Meadow Lane

Depth: 14 feet

Species: Bluegill, Black crappie, Largemouth bass, Northern pike, Bullhead

Extras: Restrooms, fair parking, picnic tables, grills, playground, fishing pier, walking path

Handicap Access: Excellent

Comments: Much of the shoreline is marshy and vegetated leaving the fishing pier as the best place to fish. Try fishing in spring and early summer because aquatic vegetation can become thick by midsummer. Ice fishing in the winter can be very good at times. If you try ice fishing, be aware of the aeration system that can create areas of thin ice.



Carver

Location: Woodbury, Carver Lake Park, Century Avenue and 494

Depth: 36 feet

Species: Bluegill, Black crappie, Largemouth bass, Northern pike, Yellow perch, Bullhead

Extras: Restrooms, good parking, picnic shelter, picnic tables, grills, swimming, volleyball, fire ring, walking path, archery

Handicap Access: Poor

Comments: Carver Lake is a great place for a day outdoors. It is a pretty lake surrounded by hills and is 36 feet deep with fairly clear water. Carver Lake has no fishing pier, but there is a boardwalk that runs along the shore. The lake has a history of abundant northern pike. Also, try the swimming beach if you want to take a break on a hot day.



Colby

Location: Woodbury, Colby Lake Park, Lake Road and County Road 19

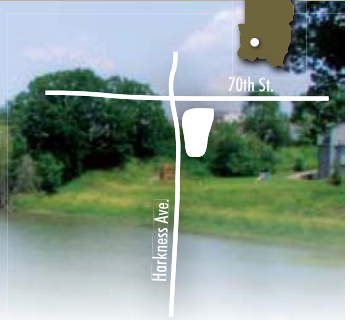
Depth: 11 feet

Species: Bluegill, Black crappie, Largemouth bass, Northern pike, Yellow perch, Bullhead

Extras: Restrooms, good parking, picnic shelter, picnic tables, playground, basketball, tennis, walking path

Handicap Access: Fair

Comments: Colby Lake is a little known fishing resource in Woodbury. The FiN program started managing it in 2002. The lake has a good panfish population and several shore access points around its 2-mile perimeter. If fish are not biting, try nearby Powers Lake.



Hidden Valley

Location: Cottage Grove, Hidden Valley Park, 70th Street and Harkness Avenue

Depth: 11 feet

Species: Bluegill, Black crappie, Bullhead

Extras: Fair parking, walking path, fishing pier

Handicap Access: Poor

Comments: Hidden Valley Pond is one of the newest in the FiN program. It has been stocked with bluegill and black crappie and produces nice-sized fish from time to time. The City of Cottage Grove sponsors a popular fishing clinic each year in June.



Lost

Location: Mahtomedi, Wildwood Park, County Road 244 and Old Wildwood Road

Depth: 26 feet

Species: Bluegill, Black crappie, Largemouth bass, Northern pike

Extras: Restrooms, good parking, picnic shelter, picnic tables, grills, playground, fishing pier, volleyball, walking path

Handicap Access: Fair

Comments: Lost Lake provides fantastic fishing and is a beautiful lake to just sit and enjoy the scenery. The fish survey conducted in 2005 found some nice-sized bluegill. Wildwood Park provides many other activities for you and your family while you are fishing.



McKusick

Location: Stillwater, McKusick Park, Owens Street and McKusick Road

Depth: 12 feet

Species: Bluegill, Black crappie, Bullhead

Extras: Fair parking, picnic shelter, picnic tables, walking path

Handicap Access: Poor

Comments: Shorefishing is available along the walking path on the north and west sides of the lake. Fishing from shore can be challenging at some places due to cattails and other vegetation.



Northland Park

Location: Stillwater, Northland Park, Northland Avenue and County Road 12

Depth: 8 feet

Species: Bluegill, Black crappie, Bullhead

Extras: Restrooms, good parking, picnic shelter, picnic tables, playground, baseball, tennis, horseshoes, walking path, Wildlife Management Area (no hunting)

Handicap Access: None

Comments: Northland Lake was incorporated into the FiN program in 2003. The best shorefishing occurs on the shoreline along County Road 12. In midsummer, vegetation in shallow water can get thick and interfere with fishing. Some nice-sized bluegills and black crappie have been caught in this lake.



Powers

Location: Woodbury, Powers Lake Park, Fox Run Road and County Road 19

Depth: 41 feet

Species: Bluegill, Black crappie, Largemouth bass, Northern pike, Walleye, Yellow perch, Bullhead

Extras: Restrooms, good parking, picnic shelter, picnic tables, grills, playground, fishing pier, walking path

Handicap Access: Good

Comments: A cooperative effort between the Rotary Club of Woodbury, the City of Woodbury and the MN DNR brought a fishing pier to Powers Lake in May 2004. This lake is one of the best fishing lakes in Woodbury and has many species of gamefish. Try fishing for good-sized bass and northern pike after a weedline develops in the summer.



Ravine

Location: Cottage Grove, Ravine Regional Park, County Road 19 and Highway 61

Depth: 15 feet

Species: Bluegill, Black crappie, Largemouth bass, Walleye, Bullhead

Extras: Restrooms, excellent parking, picnic shelter, picnic tables, grills, playground, walking path, hiking trails, fishing pier, vehicle entrance fee

Handicap Access: Good

Comments: Ravine is a gem of a fishing lake that can produce walleyes and largemouth bass.

Tucked away in a valley, Ravine Lake also offers great bird watching for herons, egrets, hawks and eagles. A new fishing pier installed in 2006 makes it easy to get past the aquatic vegetation. Large bluegills are often stocked in the fall. A daily or annual vehicle pass is required to enter the park.

Fishing Tips for the Beginning Angler

Do I need a license?

If you are age 16 or older, you need a Minnesota angling license. They can be purchased at sporting goods stores, bait stores, convenience and retail stores, online at www.mndnr.gov or by phone at 1-888-665-4236. Be sure to follow fishing regulations.

Safety

This is very important. Young children should always fish with an adult. If you fish from a boat or canoe ALWAYS wear a life jacket. If weather turns stormy, get away from the water. It is a good idea to wear sunscreen and sunglasses because sunlight reflects off the water. Be aware of your hook, it is sharp - do not let it swing around and do not swing it in front of people while casting.

Where should I fish?

Many lakes have public fishing piers or docks, this is a good place to start. If they are not biting, try a new spot. Sometimes it is just a matter of casting to the other side of the dock. Walk along shore, but do not trespass. Try fishing near plants and trees in the water, in shady areas or around rocks.

What should I fish with?

The tackle you use should be sized to the type of fish you are after. For sunfish, use a small hook or lure. If you want to fish for something bigger, like bass or northern pike, use a bigger hook or lure.

What bait should I use?

You will probably have your best luck with worms. Pinch a one- or two-inch piece and thread it on your hook. Use minnows for crappies and northern pike. Live bait may not be available where you are so try canned corn, pieces of hot dog or marshmallow. Try finding your own worms under logs and rocks.

What if my line gets tangled?

Do not worry, this will happen. Try for a few minutes to untangle it, but do not spend too much time. It is easy to cut the line and retie the hook. Give your line a good tug to make sure the knot will not slip.

What if I catch a fish?

Before handling fish, get your hands wet. This will prevent your hands from taking off the slimy protective coating on the outside of the fish. Handle the fish firmly but carefully. Most fish have spiny fin rays that can poke your hand. Some fish like northern pike have sharp teeth, so be cautious about putting your fingers in the fish's mouth. Get the fish back in to the water as quickly as possible if you are going to release it. If the hook is in too deep to get out, cut the line and let the fish go with the hook; it is easier on them.

What kind of fish is it?

The pictures throughout this book show some of the more common fish found in area lakes and ponds.

Are the fish safe to eat?

Generally, yes. The standard fish consumption advice for women and children is one meal per week for panfish and one per month for larger fish. For adult men, it is unlimited for panfish and one meal per week of larger fish. For lake-specific advice, check www.mndnr.gov/lakefind/ for additional information. Only keep what you need or practice catch and release. Keep fish cool until you get them home.

Be courteous....

Follow park rules. Do not litter and do not throw old fishing line or tackle in the lake. People like to relax while fishing. Obnoxious behavior is not fun for anyone.

Take a break

If you are fishing with young children this is important. Fishing with children is a lot of fun, but can be challenging. Bring snacks, take a walk, go to the playground and look for birds or turtles. Make fishing part of a fun, healthy outing and remember that you will not always catch something. Have fun and let us know how you did!



This information is available in alternative formats to individuals with disabilities by calling (651) 296-6157 (Metro Area) or 1-888-MINNDNR or Telecommunication Device for the Deaf/TTY: (651) 296-5484 (Metro Area) or 1-800-657-3929.



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