



# *Department of Natural Resources Fact Sheet*



## **2008 POLICY FACT SHEET Public Water Access**

### **It is needed because**

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is currently restricted to purchasing public water access sites not exceeding 7 acres. The Department seeks this change to be able to address the need for larger public water access sites that provide appropriately sized on-site storm water retention, shoreline setbacks and restoration areas, and continue to provide adequate access and parking. This change also addresses a growing need to provide public access to smaller lakes in the state for other recreational needs like kayaking, canoeing, hunting, and related activities.

### **Major elements**

This change will increase the site size the DNR can purchase for a public water access. It will also further define the size of lake that the DNR may purchase a site for a public water access.

### **Project locations**

Sites are located across the state on public water bodies that currently do not have a public water access site or the current site is not adequate. An inadequate site could be one that does not fully accommodate storm water, does not have adequate parking to accommodate the types of watercraft using the site or is in need of a greater setback from the lake to provide proper vegetative screening and shoreline restoration.

### **Impact on operating budget**

This language change would not have any impact on the current DNR operating budget. Current budget is adequate to maintain additional sites that this change would provide in the short term. Adequate shoreline restoration, storm water retention and native plant restorations could result in a long term reduction in operating costs.

### **For further information contact:**

Forrest Boe  
Director  
Trails and Waterways  
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources  
500 Lafayette Rd, St. Paul, MN 55155  
651-259- 5615  
Forrest.Boe@dnr.state.mn.us