



Department of Natural Resources Fact Sheet



2010-2011 BIENNIAL BUDGET FACT SHEET

Water Recreation Program

\$1,400,000 FY 2010 / \$1,400,000 FY 2011

It is needed because

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Division of Parks and Trails is working to meet public demand for access to water recreation opportunities. As user trends, interests, and technological opportunities evolve, funds must be strategically invested to keep pace with the demand for up-to-date facilities that provide adequate access to some of the state's most popular water destinations.

Examples of those trends and demands include:

- ◆ Enhancements to stormwater management and shoreline protection techniques: Public access facilities should serve as examples of best management practices for natural resources protection.
- ◆ Minnesotans are driving larger, more powerful boats: Public facilities should provide more suitable accesses for these boats, especially on larger lakes, rivers and heavily used sites.
- ◆ Technological advancements in the availability of information on the web: There is public need for web based Global Positioning Systems (GPS) waypoints and real-time river level data that supports safe trip planning.

Major program elements

- ◆ Rehabilitation of existing Public Water Access (PWA) sites (\$725,000): Shoreline demonstration areas would be created to protect water quality and educate lakeshore owners. Stormwater runoff would be controlled using rain gardens or other approved techniques. Interpretive signs and kiosks would be provided at the PWAs that have shoreline and stormwater runoff demonstration areas.
- ◆ Access maintenance (\$575,000): Access sites on large lakes and rivers such as Lake Mille Lacs, Red Lake, Lake of the Woods, Lake Superior, and the Mississippi River will be targeted. Additional docks to aid in the launching and

retrieval of boats will be added, launch ramps will be lengthened and interpretive signs with lake and safety information would be posted.

- ◆ Integrating GPS/River gauge data (\$100,000 one-time appropriation for each year of the FY2010-11 biennium): Downloadable GPS map coordinates will be made available for all public water accesses and water trail campsites, portages and safety hazards. Existing river level gauge data will be interpreted to represent actual river conditions.

Project Locations

Project locations are statewide.

Priority-setting

Project locations throughout the state will be selected based upon:

- ◆ Facility conditions and use patterns;
- ◆ Potential for public outreach; and
- ◆ Potential partnership opportunities.

Key measures and outcomes

- ◆ 90,000 square feet of shoreline restored;
- ◆ 50 access sites rehabilitated;
- ◆ 60 docks added;
- ◆ 100 ramps repaired;
- ◆ GPS waypoint data provided for:
 - 1585 public water accesses
 - Variety of facilities on 30 water trails; and
- ◆ Increased safety by providing useable river level gauge data on 30 water trails.

Financial implications

Rehabilitation of existing ramps is necessary because most of the existing accesses were acquired 20 to 30 years ago at a time when boats and motors were much smaller. Developed at a time when keeping the shoreline natural and dealing with storm water was also less of a priority. Those issues have changed now and most of the existing public

water access sites need to be brought up to current standards. This proposal amounts to a 72 percent increase in funding in this area. For access maintenance and operation, the proposal amounts to an approximately seven percent increase and would be used to address the need for more docks, extend some ramps, interpretive signing and safety information.

Contact

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