



Department of Natural Resources Fact Sheet



2008 CAPITAL BUDGET

Water Access Acquisition, Development and Fishing Piers

Governor's Recommendation: \$1,000,000

It is needed because

Minnesota is known for its wealth of lakes, rivers and streams and the abundant recreational opportunities provided by 11,842 lakes and more than 69,000 miles of natural rivers and streams in the state. However, rapid development of shoreland threatens public access to these recreational opportunities in the future, while the demand for access continues unabated. Minnesota ranks fourth in the nation in boat ownership (860,000 licensed boats, or an average of one boat for every six Minnesotans), with the number of boat licenses increasing by approximately one percent annually.

The current statewide system of boat access and shorefishing sites includes more than 1,590 boat accesses and more than 300 fishing piers and shorefishing sites, with a backlog of more than \$15 million in boat access acquisition and development projects and more than 50 fishing pier requests. And as shoreland development and public demand for water access continue to grow, there will be an increasing need both to acquire and develop new public access sites, as well as rehabilitate existing access sites.

Major project elements

This funding will provide the public with new and improved boat accesses, fishing piers, and shorefishing sites throughout the state. Specifically, this funding will provide:

- ◆ Acquisition and construction of new or expanded boat access sites, increase public access to meet current demands (\$900,000);
- ◆ Rehabilitation of existing sites to maintain investments, satisfy legal requirements, and meet new technological advancements (\$50,000); and
- ◆ Construction of fishing piers and shorefishing sites to meet demands for water access by the non-boating public (\$50,000).

This funding supports the requirement that the state spend approximately 15 percent of its federal apportionment under the Wallop-Breaux Act on boat access.

Priority-setting

Priorities for development of public water access sites are based on the following criteria:

- ◆ Lake size
- ◆ Lake type
- ◆ Water clarity
- ◆ Proximity to population centers
- ◆ Local demand
- ◆ Statewide significance

Project locations

Priority projects are located statewide.

Key measures and outcomes

Broad public access to lakes and rivers provides high-quality fishing and boating opportunities.

- ◆ Acquire and construct new or expanded boat access sites on larger lakes
- ◆ Repair and rehabilitate existing boat access sites
- ◆ Construct 2 new fishing piers or shorefishing sites
- ◆ Protect shoreline through restoration and improvement, demonstrating shoreland best management practices (such as the use of native plantings) to the public

For further information contact:

Stan Linnell

Planning, Acquisition and Development Manager

Division of Trails and Waterways

500 Lafayette Road, Box 52

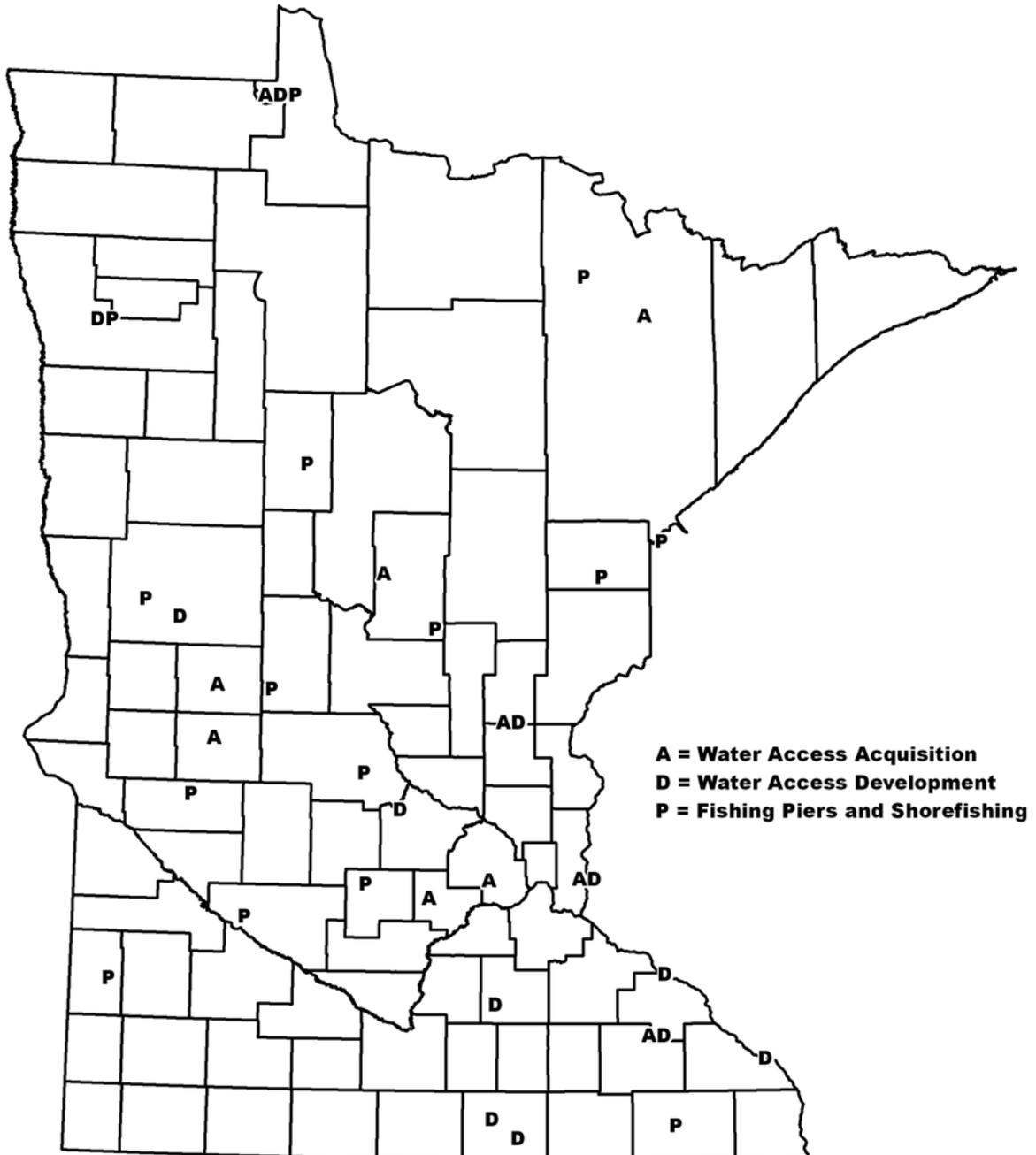
St. Paul, MN 55155

(651) 259-5626

stan.linnell@dnr.state.mn.us

DNR Capital Project Priorities as of January 2008

Potential New Public Water Access Acquisition and Development and Fishing Pier and Shorefishing Development Sites



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