Public Water Access in Minnesota:

The Minnesota DNR State Parks and Trail’s water recreation program provides approximately 1,500 boating sites, over 365 fishing piers and shore fishing sites and manages 35 designated Water Trail in Minnesota. The DNR, federal Government and local community operate boating access. See the table on the right for specific site information. The DNR boating programs are available free including boat tonnage & fees to get marine use.

Public access are usually open 24 hours unless otherwise posted. Most have launch ramps but some sites, especially on small rivers, are only open. Bathrooms and docks are usually located on the lower and upper sides.

About Public Water Access Rules - The launch area must be kept clear and the following activities are unlawful: littering, camping, fishing, hunting, fumbling, and consuming beverages. See Minnesota Rules, chapter 6128 for complete rules.

Boating in Minnesota: The annual Minnesota Boating Guide summaries Minnesota’s boating regulations and are available at no cost. The guide supplies information about operating on watercraft and the requirements for boat owners. Minnesota law requires operators to register their boat. More information about watercraft registration is available at 1-888-646-6367. To purchase a license by phone 24 hours a day, call (651) 296-6157 or email info.dnr@state.mn.us.

Fishing in Minnesota: Fishing Regulations and Licensing - All persons 16 and older are required to have the appropriate license from the DNR when fishing. Licenses are available through the DNR License Bureau, local County Auditors, and many stores that sell fishing related goods. Trout fishing requires a trout stamp. For more information about infested waters, including an up-to-date list of infested waters and additional location information, visit mn.dnr.gov/invasives.

Before leaving the water access or shoreline property, you MUST:

- Clean all off-shore aquatic plants and animals.
- Clear trash out of water including, weeds, trash, bottles, baskets, motor and ballast tanks.
- Pull the plug and leave it out.

Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Laws and Requirements:

The DNR lists lakes and rivers as “infested” with certain aquatic invasive species. If you are harvesting bait, commercial fishing, or diverting or taking water, you might need to follow special regulations in infested waters.

If you are harvesting an infested water, look for orange Invasive Species Alert signs at the access. You can also use LakeFinder to find out if a particular water is listed as infested. For more information about infested waters, including an up-to-date list of infested waters and additional location information, visit mn.dnr.gov/invasives.

Waters with Invasive Species:

Working together to protect the waters:

Watercraft Inspectors are here to ensure watercraft owners are following the law. Check your watercraft in case you need assistance, have questions about the law, or are curious about the process.

When you can help the Watercraft Inspectors:

- Please clean your boat and pull your plug as soon as you are safely able to. That way when the inspector comes, the inspection process will move more quickly.
- If there is a Decommission Unit present, please follow all the instructions given by the inspector for your safety and theirs. There will be plenty of time to clean your boat and we will work from a safe distance.
- Ways the Watercraft Inspectors can help you:
  - The inspectors have tools, wrenches and pliers, so if you are having trouble with your plug, ask.
  - If there are weeds that are hard to reach, inspectors can also pull weeds off boats or other such tasks. They also have hooking tools for people.
  - When you see the Watercraft Inspectors, please cooperate. The law requires compliance with inspectors, and it will help everyone get on their way in a timely and pleasant manner.

Accessible Accesses:

Public water access sites developed after 2012 have been designed with accessible parking spaces and accessible routes to the top of the boat ramp. Some sites have additional accessible routes to a dock or other site amenities. These sites are identified with a logo, accessible symbol shown above.

Fishing and developed shore fishing sites have been designed to meet the needs of people with disabilities. Parking is generally located within 200 feet of the site and there is a level fishing surface from the parking area to the facility. The DNR cooperates with a variety of local units of government to maintain the fishing piers.

Sometimes, weather or variations can make these designed sites no longer accessible. If a site is found to be out of compliance, please report problems to the site administrator listed in this guide, or Contact the DNR Information Center, 651-296-6157 (888-MN-DNR2) or email info.dnr@state.mn.us.