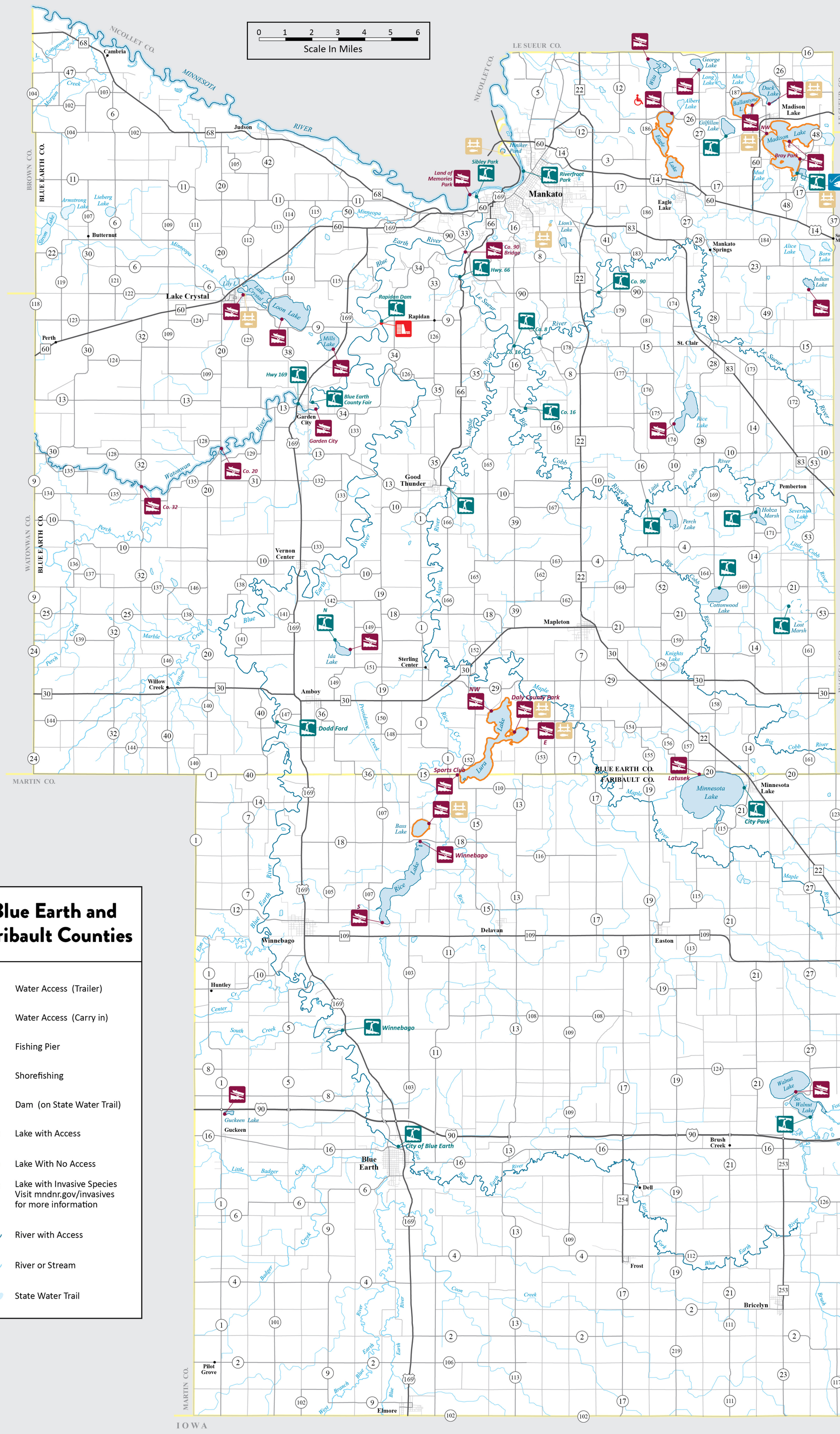

Blue Earth and Faribault Counties

- Water Access (Trailer)
- Water Access (Carry in)
- Fishing Pier
- Shorefishing
- Dam (on State Water Trail)
- Lake with Access
- Lake With No Access
- Lake with Invasive Species Visit mndnr.gov/invasives for more information
- River with Access
- River or Stream
- State Water Trail

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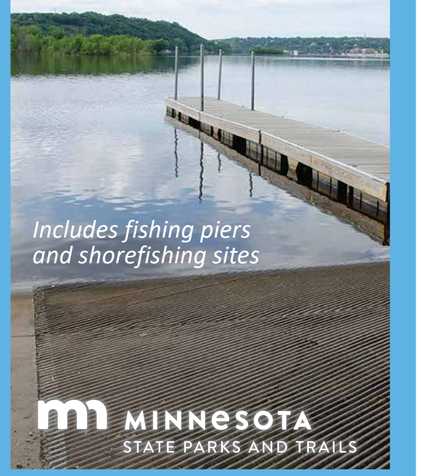
STATE PUBLIC WATER ACCESS MAP

BLUE EARTH AND FARIBAULT COUNTIES



Includes fishing piers and shorefishing sites

MINNESOTA STATE PARKS AND TRAILS

Clean in
Clean out

Clean your watercraft, Drain all water, Dispose of unused bait.

Federal Aid Project funded by your purchase of fishing equipment and motor boat fuels.

Minnesota State Parks and Trails- New Ulm
(507) 359-6000

The DNR Information Center
The DNR's Information Center is available to provide free publications of facilities and services as well as answers questions pertaining to DNR recreational opportunities in Minnesota.

500 Lafayette Road, St. Paul, MN 55155-4040
651-296-6157 (local) or 1-888-MINNDNR

mndnr.gov

Photos: Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, unless otherwise noted.
Persons with disabilities may request this information in an alternative format.

Public Water Access in Minnesota:

The Minnesota DNR State Parks and Trail's water recreation program provides approximately 1,650 boat accesses, over 365 fishing piers and shore fishing sites and manages 35 designated Water Trails in Minnesota. The DNR, Federal Government and local communities operate boat accesses. See the table on the right for specific site information. **The DNR boating programs are funded by user fees** including boat license & gas tax related to marine use.

Public accesses are usually open 24 hours unless otherwise posted. Most sites have launch ramps but some sites, especially on smaller rivers, are carry in only. Bathrooms and docks are usually located only on the larger and busier sites.

Public Water Access Rules - The launch area must be kept clear and the following activities are unlawful: littering, camping, shooting, building fires, and consuming alcoholic beverages. See Minnesota Rules, chapter 6218 for complete rules.

Boating in Minnesota

The annual ***Minnesota Boating Guide*** summarizes Minnesota's boating laws and regulations in an easy-to-read form. The guide supplies information about operating watercraft on the state's lakes and rivers. Operator age restrictions apply to operators 17 years old and younger.

Licensing - All motorized and non-motorized watercraft must be licensed by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR). Please contact the DNR License Bureau for information.

© Take Me Fishing

Fishing in Minnesota

Fishing Regulations and Licensing - All persons 16 and older are required to have the appropriate license with them when fishing. Licenses are available through the DNR License Bureau, most County Auditors and many stores that sell fishing related goods. Trout fishing requires a trout stamp. For more information call the DNR information Center at (651) 296-6157 or 1-888-646-6367. To purchase a license by phone 24 hours a day, call 1-888-MN-LICENSE (665-4236).

Selective Harvest Fishing - Improved technology and increased fishing have caused the quality of fishing to decline in many waters. Practicing "Selective Harvest" offers anglers an opportunity to take some fish home while releasing others back into the water to improve fishing quality. Here are some tips to use for effective **Selective Harvest fishing**:

- ☑ Use barbless hooks
- ☑ Play the fish quickly and handle the fish carefully
- ☑ Never hold the fish by the eyes
- ☑ Use a needle nose pliers to remove hooks or cut the line if it is too deep
- ☑ Ease the fish back into the water, do not throw it back.

Safe Boating

Life Jackets - On all boats (except a sailboard) regardless of length there must be a readily accessible Coast Guard approved wearable life jacket for each person on board. In addition, on boats 16 feet or longer, except canoes and kayaks, there must also be at least one Coast Guard approved throwable device, such as a ring buoy or seat cushion.

Boating While Intoxicated (BWI) - Boating while intoxicated is illegal. For persons found to be under the influence there are significant penalties, including fines and possible jail sentences.

Personal Watercraft - Special laws apply including wearing a life jacket and operating at slow no wake speed at certain distances from other watercraft, swimmers and other objects in the water. Operator age restrictions also apply. Consult the Boating Guide for more information. A DNR safety video is available free of charge.

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.

To identify an infested water, look for orange Invasive Species Alert signs at the access. You can also use LakeFinder to find out if a particular lake is listed as infested: mndnr.gov/lakefind. For more information about infested waters, including an up-to-date infested waters list and additional location information, visit mndnr.gov/invasives.

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

- ☑ **Clean** off ALL aquatic plants and animals
- ☑ **Drain** all water including bilge, livewells, baitwells, bait buckets, motor and ballast tanks
- ☑ **Pull** the plug and leave it out

Get into the habit of taking these three simple steps, and it will soon become part of your routine. Pull away from the boat ramp area. Check for and remove plants while strapping the boat down. Pull the plug when adjusting the motor. If you have other people (especially kids) with you, have them help! Adding a few minutes will help safeguard our waters.

Cleaning water-related equipment is just as important as cleaning boats, so while you're cleaning your boat, please remember to also:

- ☑ Clean anchors, ropes, fishing tackle, and other objects that were in the water. Many species can be transported in the mud or in fishing lines and rope
- ☑ Dump water out of canoes, kayaks, and other watercraft before leaving

These are YOUR waters and it is YOUR responsibility to inspect, clean, and drain your boats!

AIS Bait Laws

It is illegal to transport lake and river water. To save your bait (minnows or leeches), the DNR recommends bringing "fish safe", treated water from home and keeping it in your vehicle or cooler. Bringing ice can be a good idea on warm days to cool down the water.

DO NOT dump unwanted bait into water bodies or on the shoreline! Unwanted bait belongs in the trash or a designated compost bin. Unwanted worms must be disposed of in the trash.

Working Together to Protect the Waters

Watercraft Inspectors are here to ensure watercraft and equipment are "clean in, clean out!" If you need assistance, have questions about the laws, or are curious about the program, please ask!

Ways 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 quickly
- ☑ If there is a Decontamination Unit present, please follow all the instructions given by the inspectors, for your safety and theirs. There will be plenty of time to ask questions and watch them 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 help pull weeds off boats or other such tasks. They also have grabbing tools for plants

When you see the Watercraft Inspectors, please be cooperative. The law requires compliance with inspectors, and it will help everyone to be on their way in a timely and pleasant manner.

Public Water Accesses in Blue Earth & Faribault Counties

Water Body Name	Map Grid Location	Ramp Type	Fish Species	Administrator
BLUE EARTH CO.				
Ballantyne Lake	A4	concrete	C,LB,N,S,W	DNR
Big Cobb River (Co. Rd. 16)	B3	carry in	CF	County
Blue Earth / Minnesota Rivers (Sibley Park)	A3	carry in	CF,W	City
Blue Earth River (Co. 90)	B3	carry in	Various	County
Blue Earth River (Rapidan Dam)	B3	carry in	Various	County
Blue Earth River (Dodd Ford)	C2	carry in	Various	DNR
Cottonwood Lake	C4	concrete	Wildlife	DNR
Crystal Lake	B2	concrete fishing pier	C,S,W,N	City
Duck Lake	A4	concrete fishing pier	C,LB,N,S,W	County
Eagle Lake ♿	A4	concrete	N,W, Wildlife	County
George Lake	A4	concrete	C,N,S,W	County
Gilfillin Lake	A4	carry in	Wildlife	DNR
Hiniker Pond	A3	fishing pier	C,S,LB	City
Hobza Marsh	C4	carry in	Wildlife	DNR
Ida Lake	C2	concrete	N,C,S,LB	DNR
Ida Lake (north)	C2	carry in	N,C,S,LB	DNR
Indian Lake	B4	earth	Wildlife	DNR
Le Sueur River: Hwy. 66	B3	carry in	CF,W	County
Le Sueur River: Co. Rd. 16	B3	carry in	CF,W	DNR
Le Sueur River: Co. Rd. 8	B3	carry in	CF,W	County
Le Sueur River: Co. Rd. 90	B4	carry in	CF,W	County
Lion's Lake	B3	fishing pier	C,S	City
Little Cobb River	C4	carry in	CF,W	County
Loon Lake	B2	concrete	C,N,S,W	DNR
Lost Marsh	C4	carry in	Wildlife	DNR
Lura Lake: Daly Park	D3	concrete fishing pier	C,N,S,W,LB	County
Lura Lake: East	D3	concrete fishing pier	C,N,S,W,LB	County
Lura Lake: NW	C3	concrete	C,N,S,W,LB	DNR
Lura Lake: Sportsman's Club	D3	concrete	C,N,S,W,LB	County
BLUE EARTH CO. (continued)				
Madison Lake: Bray Park	A4	concrete	C,LB,N,S,W	County
Madison Lake: East	A4	concrete	C,LB,N,S,W	DNR
Madison Lake: NW	A4	concrete fishing pier	C,LB,N,S,W	City
Madison Lake: SE	A4	carry in shorefishing	C,LB,N,S,W	County
Maple River	C3	carry in	CF,N,W	County
Mills Lake	B2	concrete	C,LB,S,N	DNR
Minnesota River (Land of Memories Park)	A3	concrete	Various	City
Minnesota River (Sibley Park)	A3	carry in	Various	City
Minnesota River (Riverfront Park)	A3	carry in	Various	City
Perch Lake	C4	carry in	Wildlife	DNR
Watonwan River: Co. Rd. 32	C1	concrete	W,CF	County
Watonwan River: Co. Rd. 20	B2	concrete	W,CF	County
Watonwan River: Hwy. 169	B2	carry in	W,CF	DNR
Watonwan River: Garden City	B2	concrete	W,CF	County
Watonwan River: County Fair	B2	carry in	W, CF	County
Wita Lake	A4	concrete	Wildlife	DNR
FARIBAULT CO.				
Bass Lake	D3	concrete fishing pier	CF,N,W,C,S,LB	DNR
Blue Earth River (Blue Earth)	E3	carry in	Various	City
Blue Earth River (Winnebago)	E2	carry in	Various	DNR
Guckeen Lake	E2	concrete	N,C	DNR
Minnesota Lake (City Park)	D4	carry in	Wildlife	City
Minnesota Lake (Latusek)	D4	concrete	Wildlife	DNR
Rice Lake	B4	concrete	Wildlife	DNR
Rice Lake (Winnebago)	D3	concrete	Wildlife	DNR
Rice Lake (South)	D3	concrete	Wildlife	DNR
Rice Lake (Wells)	E5	concrete	C,LB,N,S	DNR
Rice Lake (Pihl's Park)	E5	fishing pier	C,LB,N,S	County
South Walnut Lake	E4	carry in	N,W, Wildlife	DNR
Walnut Lake	E4	concrete	N,W, Wildlife	DNR

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 the red, accessible symbol shown above.

Fishing piers and developed shore fishing sites have been designed to meet the needs of people with disabilities. Parking is generally located within 300 feet of the site and there is a hard surface path 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 vandalism 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-MINNDNR) or email info.dnr@state.mn.us.

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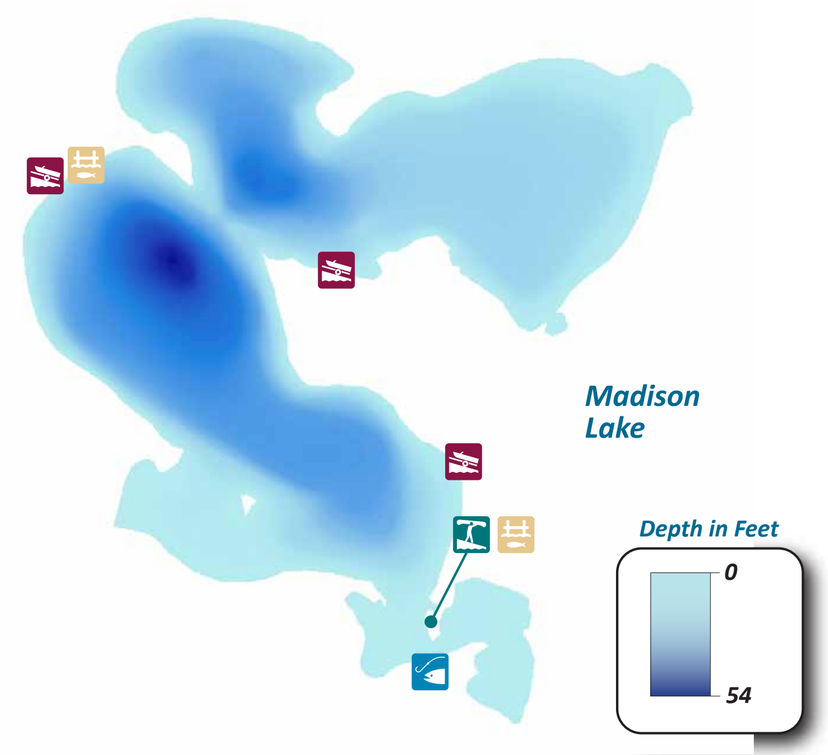
Waters with Invasive Species

Fish Species: C — Crappie, CF — Catfish, LB — Largemouth Bass, N — Northern Pike, S — Sunfish, W — Walleye
Wildlfe — Wildlife Lake