Public Water Access in Minnesota:

The Minnesota DNR State Parks and Tracts water recreation program provides approximately 1,500 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 boat launch sites but some sites, especially on smaller rivers, are open only during daylight. Bathrooms and docks are usually located only on the larger and busier sites.

Public Water Access Rules: The launch area must be kept clean. No litter, smoking, fast-food trash, and consuming alcohol is allowed. See Minnesota Rules, chapter 6128 for complete rules.

Boating in Minnesota:

The annual Minnesota Boating Guide summaries Minnesota's boating laws and regulations in an easy-to-read format. The guide supplies information about operating on watercraft and provides boating license and other DNR watercraft related services. The guide also contains information for operators age restrictions apply to operations. 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.

Fishing in Minnesota:

Fishing Regulations and Licensing: All persons 16 and older are required to have the appropriate license with them when fishing. All licenses are available through the DNR License Bureau, most County Auditor offices and many stores that sell fishing related goods. These stores often keep a small stamp for DNR License Owners that will get a stamp refilled for free. For more information call the DNR Information Center at 1-888-689-3473. To purchase a license by phone 24 hours a day, call 1-888-MINN-LICENSE (1-888-646-6533). It is illegal to transport lake and river water. To save your bait, use for effective harvesting, there are some tips to use for effective Selective Harvest fishing:

- Use baited 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 sailboats) regardless of length there must be a readily accessible Coast Guard approved wearable life jacket for each person on board. In addition, on all 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 self-inflating 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 Waterscraft: Special laws apply including wearing a life jacket and operating at 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.

Working Together to Protect the Waters:

Watercraft inspectors are here to ensure watercraft equipment and equipment is "clean in, clean out!" If you need assistance, have three simple steps, and it will help everyone to be on their way in a timely and pleasant manner:

1. Drain harbors and other objects that were in the water.
2. Pull the plug and leave it out.
3. Pull the plug and leave it out.

Waters with Invasive Species

B3 carry in CF
Blue Earth River (Co. 90) B3 carry in CF
Crystal Lake B3 carry in CF
Lake George B3 carry in CF
Lake Griffin B3 carry in CF
Lake Ida B3 carry in CF
Lake Ida (north) B3 carry in CF
Indigo Lake B4 carry in CF
Lake #6 B3 carry in CF
Lake Co. Rd. 16 B3 carry in CF
Lake Co. Rd. 8 B3 carry in CF
Loch Lake B3 carry in CF
Littler Cobb River B4 carry in CF
Loon Lake B2 carry in CF
Lust Lake B4 carry in CF
Mills Lake B2 carry in CF
Minnesota River (Co. 90) B3 carry in CF
Minnesota River (near 130th Street) B3 carry in CF
Minnesota River (near 210th Street) B3 carry in CF
Minor Lake B3 carry in CF
National Fish Hatchery B3 carry in CF
Ox Lake B2 carry in CF
Sable Lake B4 carry in CF
Stoney Lake B3 carry in CF
State Park Lake B3 carry in CF
Wild Lake B3 carry in CF
Winton Lake B3 carry in CF
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Aquatice 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 dancing 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 site. You can also use LakeFinder to find out if a particular lake is listed as infested or not. To find more information about infested waters, including up-to-date infested waters list and additional location information, visit mndnr.gov/inv.

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

- Clean all water including live, live wells, bait buckets, motor and ballast tanks
- Pull the plug and leave it out
- Get into the habit of taking these three simple rules, and it will soon become part of your routine. Pull out the boil drainage area. Check for and remove plants while dragging the boat down. Pull the plug when adjusting the motor. If you have other people (especially kids with you, have your friends) adding a few minutes per hour will help safeguard our waters.

Cleaning water-related equipment is just as important as cleaning your boat, please remember to:

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

These are YOUR waters and it is YOUR responsibility to inspect, clean, and dry 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 “not-kill” treated water from home and keeping it in your vehicle or cooler. Bring 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 in the trash or silted up compost bin. Unwanted waste must be disposed of in the trash.

Public Water Accesses in Blue Earth & Faribault Counties

Blue Earth Co. (continued):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Water Body Name</th>
<th>Map Grid Location</th>
<th>Ramp Type</th>
<th>Fish Species</th>
<th>Administrator</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Blue Earth Co. (Continued)</td>
<td>A4</td>
<td>concrete</td>
<td>C,B,N,S,W</td>
<td>DNR</td>
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<tr>
<td>Big Cob River (Co. Rd. 16)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Blue Earth River (Co. 90)</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
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</table>

Fish Species: C — Crappie, F — Fathead, L — Largemouth Bass, N — Northern Pike, S — Sunfish, W — Walleye

Water Body Name | Map Grid Location | Ramp Type | Fish Species | Administrator |
<table>
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