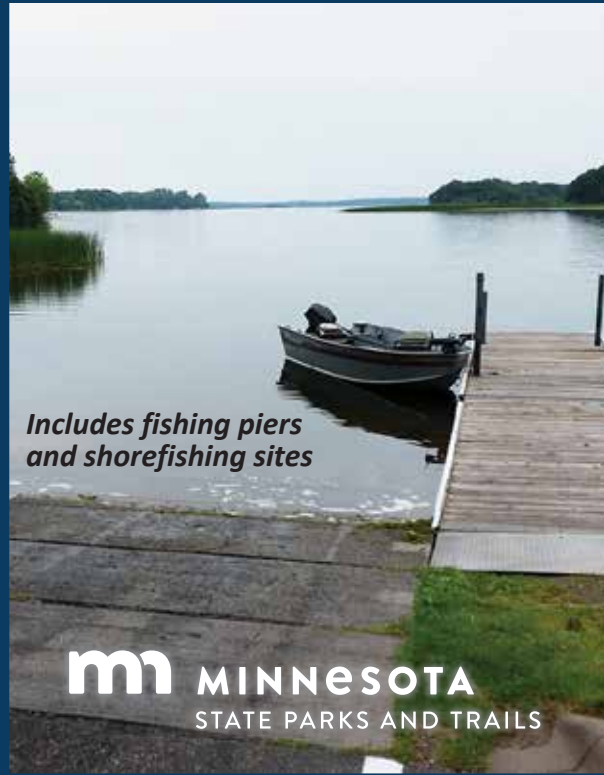


COTTONWOOD AND JACKSON COUNTIES



m MINNESOTA
STATE PARKS AND TRAILS



Produced under a grant from the Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund, administered by the U.S. Coast Guard.



Photos: Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, unless otherwise noted.

Persons with disabilities may request this information in an alternative format.



Minnesota State Parks and Trails-New Ulm
(507) 359-6067

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

Public Water Access in Minnesota:

Minnesota has approximately 3,000 public water access sites, 375 fishing piers and shore fishing sites and 35 state water trails. The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR), federal agencies and local government units share in the ownership and operation of these facilities.

DNR public water access sites are usually open 24 hours a day however, access sites owned by others may have different hours and rules. Most trailer access sites have concrete launch ramps and are designed for launching watercraft up to 18 ft. in length. There are some boat ramps that can handle larger boats. There are typically no launch fees unless the access is located within a park requiring a vehicle permit.

The following activities are unlawful at public water access sites: littering, camping, overnight mooring, shooting/hunting, fires, storage of watercraft, vehicles, or equipment of any kind, and consuming alcoholic beverages. See Minnesota Rules, chapter 6218 for complete rules.

Boating Access Etiquette

Keep the launch ramp area clear unless actively launching or loading. The line to launch/load is formed by the vehicles and trailers on land (not by the order of the boats in the water or at the dock). Conditions will vary from site to site and with the changing seasons so boaters should check the condition of the ramp and depth of water before each use.

Boating Laws

Enjoying Minnesota's lakes and rivers by paddle or motorboat is a wonderful privilege which comes with serious responsibilities. The Minnesota Boating Guide summarizes Minnesota's boating laws and regulations in an easy-to-read form. The waterbody you are using may also be subject to federal and local rules and restrictions. For a copy of the Boating Guide contact the DNR Information Center, 651-296-6157 or 888-646-6367
Email: info.dnr@state.mn.us

All motorized watercraft regardless of length and nonmotorized watercraft over 10 feet must be licensed and pay the registration fee (exceptions may apply).

Own Your Wake

Under Minnesota law, the damage your boat wake causes is treated the same as damage caused by an actual collision. Respect others so everyone can enjoy their time on the water.



- Stay more than 200 feet away from shorelines, docks, swimmers, and watercraft.
- Boats that create an artificial wake require even more distance to lower the impact.
- Minimize repetitive passes.
- Keep the noise down and be courteous to other boaters.

Top Boating Safety Tips

- Wear your life jacket —ensure children less than 10 years old always wear theirs.
- Stay sober—Alcohol is the #1 factor in boating fatalities.
- Share your Float Plan—Tell someone where you're going and when you will be back. If you're not back, they should call 911.
- Know your boat - stay alert while operating, scan for dangers; stay seated and low in the boat to prevent falls overboard.



Both are life jackets.
Both will save your life.
But only if they're worn.
#Wearit



Fishing Information

Most persons 16 to 89 are required to have the appropriate license with them when fishing (exception may apply). Licenses are available online and at many stores that sell fishing related goods. To purchase a license by phone 24 hours a day, call 1-MN-LICENSE (888-665-4236) or go to mndnr.gov/buyalicense.

Season dates and bag limits can vary from lake to lake. Size restrictions may exist and fishing in a particular lake could be closed or limited. Check the Special Regulations and the Minnesota Fishing Regulations for more information or online at mndnr.gov/fishing.

Do Your Part to Protect Minnesota Waters

Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS)

AIS are non-native plants, animals, and diseases that harm fish populations, water quality and water recreation. Most boaters and anglers take action to prevent the spread of invasive species and protect Minnesota waters. To find out if a water body contains an AIS, visit mndnr.gov/lakefinder, visit mndnr.gov/infested, or look for an "Invasive Species Alert" sign at the public water access.

Watercraft Inspectors are Here to Help

Inspectors will inform you about AIS and will physically inspect your boat, trailer, other water-related equipment, and compartments that hold water. Be prepared:

When entering:

- Arrive cleaned and drained.
- Open the lids of closed compartments that could hold water, like live wells, so the inspector can see they are drained.



When exiting:

- Pull all drain plugs. Clean off any plants, mud and invasive animals.

Tell us how we are doing by emailing: wip.dnr@state.mn.us

Take Action

Before leaving the access or shoreland, you must:

- Clean your boat, trailer and gear to remove plants and prohibited invasive species.
- Drain all water and leave plugs out during transport.
- Dispose of unwanted bait in the trash.
- To Keep leftover live baitfish: (1) bring extra bottled or dechlorinated tap water with you and (2) on shore before leaving, drain your bait container and refill it with the extra water.

Take these additional steps to reduce the risk of spreading AIS whenever possible:

- Decontaminate your equipment – find free stations at mndnr.gov/decon
- Spray your equipment with high-pressure water or rinse it with very hot water (120 degrees for at least two minutes or 140 degrees for at least 10 seconds).
- Dry your boat and gear for five days before using in another water body.

Know the Laws

- You may not transport aquatic plants or prohibited invasive species, dead or alive.
- You may not launch watercraft or place a trailer in the water if it has aquatic plants, zebra mussels or other prohibited invasive species attached or water present in compartments.
- You must drain all water, remove the drain plug(s) and leave all water-draining devices open when transporting watercraft, gear and equipment.
- You may not release bait or non-native species into Minnesota waters.
- You may need a permit to harvest bait or transport water from an infested water body.

mndnr.gov/AIS

Public Water Accesses in Cottonwood & Jackson Counties

Water Body Name	Map Grid Location	Ramp Type	Fish Species	Administrator	Water Body Name	Map Grid Location	Ramp Type	Fish Species	Administrator
COTTONWOOD CO.					JACKSON CO.				
Augusta Lake (E)	C2	carry in	Wildlife	County	Boot Lake	F3	gravel	Wildlife	DNR
Augusta Lake (W)	C2	concrete	Wildlife	DNR	Clear Lake (N)	F3	concrete	LB,P,W	DNR
Banks Wildlife Mgmt. Area	D3	concrete	Wildlife	DNR	Clear Lake (W)	F3	fishing pier	LB,P,W	DNR
Bat Lake	C3	carry in	Wildlife	DNR	Clear Lake (S)	F3	concrete	LB,P,W	County
Bean Lake	B1	concrete	C,N,P	DNR	Des Moines River (Chris)	E3	concrete	Various	DNR
Bean Lake	B1	fishing pier	C,N,P	DNR	Des Moines River (Belmon)	E3	concrete	Various	DNR
Bingham Lake	D3	concrete	C,P,S,W	DNR	Des Moines River (Ashley Park)	F4	carry in	Various	City
Bingham Lake	D3	fishing pier	C,P,S,W	DNR	Des Moines River (Petersburg)	G4	concrete	Various	DNR
Clear Lake	D3	concrete	P,W	DNR	Fish Lake (NW)	D3	carry in	C,CF,P,S,SB,W	Township
Clear Lake	D1	carry in	Wildlife	DNR	Fish Lake (S)	D3	concrete	C,CF,P,S,SB,W	DNR
Cottonwood Lake (W)	D3	concrete	C,LB,N,W	City	Fish Lake (S)	D3	fishing pier	C,CF,P,S,SB,W	County
Cottonwood Lake (S)	D3	fishing pier	C,LB,N,W	City	Fish Lake (SE)	D3	carry in	C,CF,P,S,SB,W	Township
Des Moines River (Talcot Lake)	D1	carry in	Various	DNR	Flaherty Lake	E2	concrete	P,N,S,W	DNR
Des Moines River (Pat's Grove)	D2	carry in	Various	County	Independence Lake	E3	concrete	LB,S	DNR
Des Moines River (Hwy 13)	D3	carry in	Various	City	Laur's Lake	E3	carry in	Wildlife	MNDOT
Des Moines River (Dam)	D3	gravel	Various	City	Little Spirit Lake	G3	concrete	LB,P,W	DNR
Des Moines River (Mayflower Park)	D3	carry in	Various	City	Loon Lake (E)	G3	concrete	C,N,P,W	County
Double Lake North	B1	concrete	C,N,W	DNR	Loon Lake (E)	G3	fishing pier	C,N,P,W	County
Double Lake North	B1	fishing pier	C,N,W	County	Loon Lake (W)	G3	concrete	C,N,P,W	DNR
Eagle Lake	C4	concrete	P	DNR	Loon Lake (W)	G3	fishing pier	C,N,P,W	DNR
Hurricane Lake	B1	carry in	Wildlife	DNR	North Heron Lake	E2	concrete	N,P	DNR
Mountain Lake (E)	C4	concrete	C,LB,N,P,S,W	City	Pearl Lake (E)	G3	fishing pier	C,N,P,W	County
Mountain Lake (W)	C4	concrete	C,LB,N,P,S,W	DNR	Pearl Lake (W)	G3	concrete	C,N,P,W	County
Mountain Lake (S)	C4	fishing pier	C,LB,N,P,S,W	City	Round Lake (E)	G1	concrete	C,P,W	DNR
Oaks Lake	D1	earth	N,P,C	DNR	Round Lake (S)	G1	earth	C,P,W	Township
Summit Lake	D3	concrete	LB,S,W	DNR	Skunk Lake	G2	concrete	Wildlife	DNR
Swan Lake	C3	carry in	Wildlife	DNR	South Heron Lake (E)	F2	concrete	N,P	County
Talcot Lake (no motors during waterfowl season)	D1	concrete	C,P,W	DNR	South Heron Lake (W)	F2	concrete	N,P	County
					South Heron Lake (NW)	E2	carry in	N,P	DNR
					String Lake	D2	concrete	P	DNR
					Timber Lake	E2	concrete	C,P,N	DNR

Administrator: DNR - MN Dept. of Natural Resources
USFWS - U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Fish Species: C — Crappie, CF — Catfish, LB — Largemouth Bass,
N — Northern Pike, S — Sunfish, SB — Smallmouth Bass,
W — Walleye, P — Perch



Accessible Accesses

Public water access sites developed after 2012 will have accessible parking spaces and accessible routes to the top of the boat ramp. Some sites have additional accessible routes to a dock and other site amenities. When known, 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.

If a facility is out of compliance or you have difficulty using any part of an access or pier, please report the problem 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.

