Public Water Access in Minnesota:

The Minnesota DNR State Parks and Trail’s water recreation program provides approximately 1,200 boat accesses, over 365 fishing piers and 39 show 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 designed for designated “free boating waters” including boat launches go no related to marine use.

Public accesses are usually open 24 hours unless otherwise posted. Please help keep our launch ramps but some sites, especially on smaller rivers, are open only in the summer. Bathrooms and docks are usually located on the larger and busier sites.

Public Water Access Rules - The launch area must be kept clear and the following activities are unsafe, littering, camping, gathering, building fires, and consuming shellfish/shrimp. For more information visit www.dnr.state.mn.us/mnwater/PublicAccess/MAP.

Before leaving the water access or shoreline property, you MUST: - Clean all fish (except a sailboard) regardless of age. Many species can be transported in the mud or sludge, and the fishing line and rope. - Dump water out of canoes, kayaks, and other watercraft before leaving site.

AIS Bait Laws

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

DO NOT dump wastewater or bait water into bodies of water or on the shoreline. Unwanted bait bag in the trash or a designated compost bin. Unwanted wastes must be disposed of in the trash.

Accessories

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 also 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 show 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 usable 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 designated sites no longer accessible. If a site is found to be out-of-service, please report problems to the site administrator listed in this guide, or Contact the DNR Information Center, 651-296-6157 or email info.dnr@state.mn.us.

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.

Safe Boating

Lifecrafts - On all boats (except sailboats) regardless of length there must be a readily accessible Coast Guard approved life jacket for each person on board. In addition, on boats 16 feet change, remove covers and kayaks, there must also be at least one Coast Guard approved throwable device, such as a ring buoy or sea anchor.

Boating While Intoxicated (DWI) - 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 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.

Public Water Access in Pine County

Public Water Access in Pine County:

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