



ST. LOUIS COUNTY (central)



Includes fishing piers and shorefishing sites



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-Grand Rapids (218) 999-7923

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

mn.dnr.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.

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.

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.

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.

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. Licenses are available through the DNR License Bureau, most County Auditors and many stores that sell fishing related goods.

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.

- 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.



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.

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.

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.

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.
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.

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



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.
If there is a Decontamination Unit present, please follow all the instructions given by the inspectors.
If there are weeds that are hard to reach, inspectors can also help pull weeds off boats or other such tasks.

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 central St. Louis County

Table with columns: Water Body Name, Map Grid Location, Ramp Type, Fish Species, Administrator, Water Body Name, Map Grid Location, Ramp Type, Fish Species, Administrator. Lists various lakes and rivers with their respective access details.

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.

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.

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.

Administrator: DNR - MN Dept. of Natural Resources, MN DOT - MN Dept. of Transportation, USFS - U.S. Forest Service, IRRRA - Iron Range Resources & Rehabilitation Agency

Fish Species: C - Crappie, LB - Largemouth Bass, LT - Lake Trout, M - Muskellunge, N - Northern Pike, S - Sunfish, SB - Smallmouth Bass, ST - Stream Trout, W - Walleye, N / A - Not Available

Waters with Invasive Species

† Portage over 100 yards

* State Park Sticker Required



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