What is FiN?

Fishing in the Neighborhood (FiN) is Minnesota DNR’s urban fishing program. FiN provides great shore fishing opportunities for the 3.3 million Twin Cities metro residents. Fishing in the Neighborhood ponds are intended for beginner anglers to introduce them to the sport of fishing, but can be used by anyone wanting to wet a line.

FiN works with local partners such as parks and recreation departments to provide family-friendly settings situated in residential areas. This allows people to enjoy a day at the park and good fishing too! In cooperation with local partners, FiN stocks fish, assesses fish populations, installs fishing piers and shore fishing structures, restores shoreline habitat and sponsors aquatic education to create quality fishing opportunities.

To find out more, visit the FiN web page at:
www.mndnr.gov/fishing/fin

Or, you can contact one of the FiN staff members below

Hennepin, Carver and Scott counties:
Matt Petersen
952-496-4141 X226
Matthew.Petersen@state.mn.us

Ramsey, Dakota, Washington and Anoka counties:
Tim Ohmann
651-259-5787
Tim.Ohmann@state.mn.us

The Minnesota DNR prohibits discrimination in its programs and services based on race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, marital or familial status, disability, public assistance status, age, sexual orientation, and local human rights commission activity. Individuals with a disability who need a reasonable accommodation to access or participate in DNR programs and services please contact the DNR ADA Title II Coordinator at info.dnr@state.mn.us, 651-296-6157. For TTY/TDD communication contact us through the Minnesota Relay Service at 711 or 800-627-3529. For TTY/TDD communication contact us through the Minnesota Relay Service at 711 or 800-627-3529. Discrimination inquiries should be sent to Minnesota DNR, 500 Lafayette Road, St. Paul, MN 55155-4049; or Office of Civil Rights, U.S. Department of the Interior, 1849 C. Street NW, Washington, DC 20240.

This document is available in alternative formats to individuals with disabilities by contacting info.dnr@state.mn.us, 651-296-6157. For TTY/TDD communication contact us through the Minnesota Relay Service at 711 or 800-627-3529.

©2019, State of Minnesota, Department of Natural Resources

Printed on recycled paper containing a minimum of 10 percent post-consumer waste and vegetable-based ink.
# Table of Contents

- What is FiN? .................................. 2
- Youth are the future of Natural Resources. ....................... 4
- Angler Code of Ethics ................................ 5

## Anoka County ................................ 6
- Cenaiko ....................................... 7
- Lochness ..................................... 7
- Moore ......................................... 8
- Spring ........................................ 8

## Carver County ................................ 12
- Firemen’s ...................................... 13
- Riverpointe ................................... 13

## Dakota County ................................ 14
- Blackhawk .................................... 15
- Carlson ........................................ 15
- City Hall ....................................... 16
- Cobblestone .................................. 16
- Fish ............................................ 17
- Farquar ........................................ 17
- Gun Club ...................................... 18
- Holland ........................................ 18
- McDonough and Schultz ......................... 19
- Prairievlew .................................... 19
- Rebecca ....................................... 20
- Rogers ......................................... 20
- Schwanz ....................................... 21
- Schwarz ....................................... 21
- Simley .......................................... 22
- Thomas ........................................ 22
- Thompson ..................................... 23
- Valley ......................................... 23
- Wood Park .................................... 24

## Hennepin County .............................. 26
- Bass Ponds .................................... 27
- Boundary Creek ................................ 27
- Brooklyn Park .................................. 28
- Centennial .................................... 28
- Champlin Mill .................................. 29
- Cornelia ........................................ 29
- Lamplighter .................................... 30
- Loring .......................................... 30
- Powderhorn ................................... 31
- Ryan ............................................ 31
- Snelling ........................................ 32

- Smith .......................................... 32
- Taft ............................................ 33
- Wirth .......................................... 33
- Wolfe .......................................... 34

## Ramsey County ................................ 36
- Beaver ......................................... 37
- Bennett ........................................ 37
- Casey .......................................... 38
- Como .......................................... 38
- Gervais Mill .................................... 39
- Handlos ........................................ 39
- Langton ........................................ 40
- Loeb ............................................. 40
- McCarrons ..................................... 41
- Silver (West) ................................... 41
- Silver (East) .................................... 42
- Wakefield ...................................... 42

## Scott County .................................. 44
- Crystal .......................................... 45
- Jeffer’s (Pond) .................................. 45
- Jordan Mill ..................................... 46
- Lakefront ...................................... 46
- Lion’s Park ..................................... 47
- McColl .......................................... 47
- Sweetbrier ..................................... 48

## Washington County .......................... 52
- Alice ............................................ 53
- Battle Creek .................................... 53
- Carver .......................................... 54
- Colby ............................................ 54
- Hidden Valley .................................. 55
- Lily .............................................. 55
- Lost .............................................. 56
- Powers .......................................... 56
- Ravine .......................................... 57
- Shields .......................................... 57

- Fishing Tips for the Beginning Angler ......................... 60

- Angler Diary .................................... 62

**Lakes without fishing piers are City Hall, Boundary Creek and Centennial.**
Youth are the Future of Natural Resources

As citizens of Minnesota, it is our responsibility to promote fishing traditions and encourage environmental stewardship in our youth. To instill environmental values, we need to take the time to bring our children outside and help them take ownership in natural resources. Everyone is spending more time indoors rather than enjoying all of what nature has to offer. Along with teaching youth patience and making them aware of the outdoors, fishing is a great opportunity to spend quality time with your family and friends. A great sense of accomplishment comes when a child baits his/her hook and catches that first fish. Pass on your knowledge of fishing and environmental awareness and you will be continuing the Minnesota tradition that so many enjoy. Help youth get excited about fishing!
Angler Code of Ethics:

1. Take only what you need, keep only what you will eat and never wastefully discard any fish; it is illegal.

2. Think of the fish first. If you plan to release the fish, handle it gently and return it to the water. Never throw it into the water.

3. Respect everyone fishing around you.

4. Do not litter. Clean up old fishing line, hooks and bait containers even if they are not yours so they do not end up in the water.

5. Know the rules of the lake you are fishing so you do not keep under-sized fish or too many fish. Also be sure to follow park rules.

Remember, our lakes and rivers belong to everyone and we all must do our part to preserve them for future generations. Enjoy the great fishing opportunities presented to you and always follow the angler code of ethics when you are fishing.

This booklet highlights...

Locations of 70 small lakes and ponds managed by the FiN program. FiN ponds are ideal places to introduce new anglers to the sport of fishing and have a variety of species to challenge seasoned anglers. Try one of these on your next fishing trip or one of the hundreds of other fishing lakes in the metro area. You will need a fishing license if you are age 16 or older and make sure to understand the fishing regulations.
Anoka County

1. Cenaiko
2. Lochness
3. Moore
4. Spring

www.mndnr.gov/fishing/fin/anoka.html
Cenaiko

**Location:** Coon Rapids, Coon Rapids Dam Regional Park, Coon Rapids Boulevard and Egret Boulevard Northwest  
**Depth:** 36 feet  
**Size:** 29 acres  
**Species:** Rainbow Trout (winter and spring), Bluegill, Black Crappie, Pumpkinseed, Green Sunfish and White Sucker  
**Extras:** Excellent parking, two fishing piers, picnic shelter, nature viewing, walking trails, restrooms  
**Accessibility:** Excellent  
**Comments:** The lake basin was constructed as a “borrow pit” from which gravel was removed and excavated to a depth at which groundwater was encountered and the pit was allowed to fill with groundwater. Cenaiko is stocked with Rainbow Trout and occasionally stocked with surplus Brook Trout in winter and is one of two FiN trout lakes in the East Metro Area. As a designated Trout Lake, fishing is not allowed outside of trout season. Please refer Minnesota fishing regulations for inland trout fishing seasons and limits.

Lochness

**Location:** Blaine, Lochness Park, Lexington Avenue and 111th Avenue  
**Depth:** 16 feet  
**Size:** 9.5 acres  
**Species:** Bluegill, Black Crappie, Northern Pike, Bullhead  
**Extras:** Excellent parking, fishing pier, frisbee golf, grills, nature viewing, picnic shelter, picnic tables, playground, restrooms, walking path  
**Accessibility:** Excellent  
**Comments:** Lochness is stocked regularly with Bluegills and also gets occasional Northern Pike stocked during the winter. The long fishing pier provides access to deeper water which may hold more fish.
Moore

Location: Fridley, Moore Lake Park, Highway 65 and 694
Depth: 22 feet  Size: 27.5 acres
Species: Bluegill, Black Crappie, Largemouth Bass, Northern Pike, Yellow Perch, Bullhead
Extras: Ball fields, basketball, concessions, excellent parking, two fishing piers, grills, picnic shelter, picnic tables, playground, restrooms, swimming beach, tennis, volleyball, walking path
Handicap Access: Excellent
Comments: Moore Lake is divided in half by Highway 65. While both basins support fish populations, the eastern basin is where fish are stocked and two fishing piers are located. There is also plenty of open shoreline to fish from and a swim beach to take a break at on hot days.

Spring

Location: Spring Lake Park, Lakeside Lion’s Park, Pleasant View Drive and County Road 10
Depth: 17 feet  Size: 32.3 acres
Species: Bluegill, Largemouth Bass, Walleye
Extras: Ball fields, excellent parking, fishing pier, picnic shelter, picnic tables, playground, restrooms, walking path
Accessibility: Fair
Comments: Spring Lake has clear water and a very diverse native plant community in the lake which provides habitat for fish and food for waterfowl. The lake has been stocked with Bluegills and Walleyes which should provide some great fishing in the years to come.
Bluegill Sunfish
The Bluegill Sunfish has a round, flat body that is four to ten inches long. The body is greenish-blue in color with an orange belly. The solid blue/black “ear” spot distinguishes the Bluegill from other sunfish species. This fish is a great target species for youth. Try fishing off a pier using corn or worms as bait and you will have a fun day of fishing!

Pumpkinseed Sunfish
The Pumpkinseed sunfish is another common fish you will catch when taking youth fishing. Their round, flat body is about four to eight inches in length. The distinguishing characteristic of this species is its bright red “ear” spot.

Green Sunfish
Green Sunfish look like Bluegills however they have a more elongated body. Their mouths are larger than other sunfish species. They are typically three to six inches long and have fins that are green in color with white edges.
Rainbow Trout
The Rainbow trout was introduced to Minnesota in the late 1800s and is native to Western North America. It has a pink stripe along the middle of its body, and its sides, back, fins, and tail are covered in dark spots. They prefer cool, clear water and can be caught on flies or spoons.

Brown Trout
The Brown trout was introduced to Minnesota in the late 1800s and is native to Germany. It has a golden-brown to olive-black body with large dark spots on its sides and dorsal fin. A distinguishing characteristic are the reddish spots with light rings or halos scattered on a Brown Trout’s sides. Brown trout can tolerate warmer water than other trout species. It is a hard to catch fish but it may feed more aggressively on cloudy or rainy days.

Brook Trout
The Brook trout is native to Minnesota. It can be found in cool clear streams and some small lakes with sand/gravel bottoms and moderate vegetation. It is less selective about bait than the Brown or Rainbow trout but is more sensitive to habitat degradation and warm water than those species.
Trout Lakes Description and List

1. “Trout lakes in the Twin Cities Metro Area are the type that contain stream trout (rainbow, brook, brown) and are called stream trout lakes. These lakes are extremely popular with anglers, who like trout for their beauty, fight, and taste.”

2. Check Trout Regulations Here: www.dnr.state.mn.us/fishing/regs.html

3. Metro Trout Lakes List:
   1. **Hennepin County:**
      Little Long (Minnetrista) — Rainbow Trout
      Trout Pond (Champlin) — Rainbow Trout
   2. **Carver County:**
      Courthouse (Chaska) — Rainbow, Brown, Brook Trout
   3. **Scott County:**
      Quarry (Shakopee) — Rainbow Trout
   4. **Anoka County:**
      Cenaiko (Coon Rapids) — Rainbow and Brook Trout
   5. **Dakota County:**
      Holland (Eagan) — Rainbow Trout

Explaining the use of “Tip Ups” for ice fishing
Carver County

1. Firemen’s
2. Riverpointe

www.mndnr.gov/fishing/fin/carver.html
Firemen’s

Location: Chaska, Firemen’s Park, Flying Cloud Drive and Highway 41  
Depth: 23 feet  Size: 9 acres  
Species: Bluegill, Black Crappie, Largemouth Bass  
Extras: Excellent parking, two fishing piers, grills, picnic shelter, picnic tables, playground, restrooms, swimming beach, walking path  
Accessibility: Excellent  
Comments: The fishing pier and boardwalk provide access to abundant Bluegill and occasional Largemouth Bass. Nearly all of the shoreline of Firemen’s pond can be accessed. Surrounded by a city park, Firemen’s pond creates a great family fishing experience. When the fishing slows, enjoy other amenities including picnic areas, a playground, a swimming beach, restaurant, and curling center.

Riverpointe

Location: Watertown, Riverpointe Park, Highway 25 and County Road 122  
Depth: 28 feet  Size: 6 acres  
Species: Bluegill, Black Crappie, Largemouth Bass, Channel Catfish  
Extras: Fishing pier, good parking, shore fishing blocks, swimming beach, walking path  
Accessibility: Excellent  
Comments: Riverpointe Pond is located along the South Fork of the Crow River just outside the City of Watertown. Riverpointe provides a great challenge for even the experienced angler with its deep basins, abundant vegetation and clear water providing cover for the fish. Try the northern basin for Bluegills and Largemouth Bass as well as deep waters for Channel Catfish.
1. Blackhawk
2. Carlson
3. City Hall
4. Cobblestone
5. Fish
6. Farquar
7. Gun Club
8. Holland
9. McDonough and Schultz
10. Prairieview
11. Rebecca
12. Rogers
13. Schwanz
14. Schwanz
15. Simley
16. Thomas
17. Thompson
18. Valley
19. Wood Park

Photo courtesy of Dakota County www.mndnr.gov/fishing/fin/dakota.html

www.mndnr.gov/fishing/fin/fin/dakota.html
Blackhawk

Location: Eagan, Blackhawk Lake Park, Murphy Parkway and Deerwood Drive  
Depth: 12 feet  
Size: 40 acres  
Species: Bluegill, Black Crappie, Largemouth Bass, Northern Pike, Bullhead  
Extras: Excellent parking, fishing pier, grills, pavilion, picnic shelter, picnic tables, playground, restrooms, shore fishing structure, volleyball, walking path  
Accessibility: Excellent  
Comments: Try fishing from the pier or shore stations for the Largemouth Bass that lurk in this Eagan hotspot. Northern Pike, Bluegills and other panfish are also abundant and can be readily caught from the fishing pier. For more information check out the Eagan Fishing Guide on the City of Eagan website.

Carlson

Location: Eagan, Carlson Park, Carlson Lake Lane and Svensk Lane  
Depth: 19 feet  
Size: 12 acres  
Species: Bluegill, Black Crappie, Largemouth Bass, Channel Catfish, Walleye, Bullhead  
Extras: Fair parking, fishing pier, playground, shore fishing structure, walking path  
Accessibility: Poor  
Comments: This lake is regularly stocked with Walleyes, Bluegills and Channel Catfish. Try fishing from the shore with a worm under a bobber and you may be pleasantly surprised at what you can catch. There are shore fishing areas on the south side of the lake and a pier on the east end.
City Hall

**Location:** Inver Grove Heights, 80th Street and Highway 52  
**Depth:** 15 feet  
**Size:** 13.6 acres  
**Species:** Bluegill, Walleye  
**Extras:** Community center, excellent parking, indoor water park, loaner fishing poles, playground, skate park, walking path  
**Accessibility:** Fair  
**Comments:** City Hall Pond is limited to shore fishing, but that doesn’t mean you can’t catch a limit of the Bluegills which are stocked here each spring. You can even have a chance to catch a Walleye in the years following this ponds use as a grow-out pond.

Cobblestone

**Location:** Apple Valley, Cobblestone Lake Park, Diamond Path Road and County Road 46  
**Depth:** 18 feet  
**Size:** 34.7 acres  
**Species:** Bluegill, Black Crappie, Largemouth Bass, Walleye, Bullhead  
**Extras:** Good parking, picnic tables, playground, walking path  
**Accessibility:** Excellent  
**Comments:** Cobblestone Lake is a former gravel pit that is now actively managed for fishing. The entire shoreline is City of Apple Valley park and open for fishing. Walleye stocking has been successful in this lake and keeper-size fish are out there as well as Largemouth Bass and Bluegills.
Fish
Location: Eagan, Fish Lake Park, Denmark Avenue and Westcott Road
Depth: 35 feet Size: 30.5 acres
Species: Bluegill, Black Crappie, Largemouth Bass, Northern Pike, Yellow Perch, Bullhead
Extras: Fishing pier, good parking, restrooms, walking path, boat landing (electric only)
Accessibility: Poor
Comments: This is a popular Eagan lake for anglers seeking Northern Pike and Largemouth Bass. The boat access allows for easy launching of canoes or small boats which allow you to fish the deep offshore holes in this lake.

Farquhar
Location: Apple Valley, Farquar Park, Pilot Knob Road and Diamond Path Road
Depth: 10 feet Size: 63 acres
Species: Bluegill, Walleye, Bullheads
Extras: Excellent parking, fishing pier, picnic area, nature viewing, playground, tennis courts, restrooms
Accessibility: Fair
Comments: Most of the shoreline is private residences. A city park is located in the southwest end of the lake offers a fishing pier but no public boat access. Carry in boat access is possible. The City of Apple Valley stocked the lake with Walleye in 2013 and currently these fish are of catchable size.
Gun Club

Location: Inver Grove Heights, Lions Park, 65th Street and Blaine Avenue East
Depth: 9 feet  Size: 9 acres
Species: Bluegill, Black Crappie, Largemouth Bass, Bullhead
Extras: Fair parking, fishing pier, nature viewing, picnic shelter, playground, walking path
Accessibility: Excellent
Comments: Also known as Lion's Park Pond, this small shallow lake provides some great fishing opportunities for Bluegills and Largemouth Bass. Channel Catfish have been stocked since 2012 and should be approaching keeper size in this pond. The City of Inver Grove Heights operates an aeration system in the winter on this pond.

Holland

Location: Eagan, Lebanon Hills Regional Park, Lexington Avenue South and Cliff Road
Depth: 55 feet  Size: 32 acres
Species: Rainbow Trout (winter), Bluegill, Black Crappie, Pumpkinseed Sunfish, Largemouth Bass, Northern Pike
Extras: Excellent parking, fishing pier, picnic area, nature viewing, walking trails, restrooms
Accessibility: Poor
Comments: Holland Lake is located entirely within Lebanon Hills County Park in the City of Eagan. Carry-on water craft opportunities exist but be aware that steep topography around the lake can present a challenge. Angling opportunities on Holland Lake are mostly limited to shore, pier and ice fishing. Holland Lake is stocked with Rainbow Trout for a winter fishery and is one of two FiN trout lakes in the East Metro Area.
McDonough and Schulze

Location: Apple Valley, Lebanon Hills Regional Park, County Road 32 and Hay Lake Road North
Depth: McDonough 8 feet  Size: 18 acres  Depth: Schulze 15.5 feet  Size: 13 acres
Species: Bluegill, Black Crappie, Largemouth Bass, Bullhead
Extras: Camping, excellent parking, fishing pier, fire ring, grills, hiking trails, loaner fishing poles, picnic shelter, picnic tables, playground, restrooms, swimming beach
Accessibility: McDonough – Good, Schulze – Poor
Comments: Lebanon Hills Park provides a multitude of recreational opportunities. A short walk from the visitor center will bring you to McDonough Lake’s fishing pier where you can fish for the Bluegills which are stocked or walk the opposite way and find a nice place to sit and fish from shore on Schulze Lake.

Prairieview

Location: Farmington, Prairieview Park, Highway 50 and 12th Street
Depth: 11 feet  Size: 12 acres
Species: Bluegill, Black Crappie, Largemouth Bass
Extras: Fair parking, fishing pier, playground, walking path
Accessibility: Good
Comments: Prairieview Pond is a series of interconnected ponds which filter and control runoff with native vegetation and wetlands before it reaches the Vermillion River. The pond with the fishing pier has been stocked with Bluegills and Black Crappies.
**Rebecca**

**Location:** Hastings, Lake Rebecca Park, 2nd Street West and Lock and Dam Road  
**Depth:** 15 feet  
**Size:** 77 acres  
**Species:** Bluegill, Black Crappie, White Crappie, Bluegill, Largemouth Bass, Channel Catfish, Northern Pike, Walleye, Bowfin (Dogfish)  
**Extras:** Excellent parking, fishing pier and wharf, boat landing (Surface water zoning prohibits allows only electric motors on the lake), picnic area, nature viewing, walking trails, restrooms  
**Accessibility:** Excellent  
**Comments:** Next to Jaycee Park on the Mississippi River Pool 2, Lake Rebecca Park is an angler’s haven. Lake Rebecca, a small oxbow lake adjacent to the Mississippi River within the City of Hastings, is entirely within a city park. Prone to flooding, Lake Rebecca has history of containing many river species not listed above. You never know what you may catch at Lake Rebecca!

**Rogers**

**Location:** Mendota Heights, Roger’s Lake Park, Wagon Wheel Trail and Dodd Road  
**Depth:** 8 feet  
**Size:** 102 acres  
**Species:** Bluegill, Black Crappie, Largemouth Bass, Northern Pike, Bullhead  
**Extras:** Basketball, fishing pier, excellent parking, grills, picnic shelter, picnic tables, playground, restrooms, skate park, volleyball  
**Accessibility:** Excellent  
**Comments:** Native plantings along the shore near the fishing pier help prevent erosion and provide habitat for wildlife. The fishing pier is a great place to wet a line for the abundant Bluegills in this lake. Try fishing from a canoe to access other areas where you may hook into a Largemouth Bass or Northern Pike.
Schwanz

Location: Eagan, Trapp Farm Community Park, Wilderness Run Road and Lynx Court
Depth: 12 feet  Size: 13 acres
Species: Bluegill, Black Crappie, Largemouth Bass, Bullhead
Extras: Carry-in access (electric only), fishing pier, good parking, grills, pavilion, picnic tables, playground, sledding, walking path
Accessibility: Good
Comments: Trapp Farm Community Park borders the northwest corner of the lake and provides plenty of shore fishing opportunities. Bluegills, Black Crappies and Largemouth Bass will entertain anglers of all ages.

Schwarz

Location: Rosemount, Schwarz Pond Park, Connemara Trail and S. Robert Trail (behind sports dome)
Depth: 3.5 feet  Size: 10 acres
Species: Bluegill, Bullhead
Extras: Fishing pier, good parking, grills, picnic shelter, playground, skate park, walking path
Accessibility: Fair (long distance from parking)
Comments: Schwarz is a lake that can produce large Bluegills over the summer and provides plenty of fishing action from the shore or fishing pier. The City of Rosemount holds an annual fishing derby at this lake during its Leprechaun Days celebration.
Simley

**Location:** Inver Grove Heights, Simley Park, 80th Street and Cahill Avenue  
**Depth:** 14 feet  
**Size:** 15 acres  
**Species:** Bluegill, Black Crappie, Largemouth Bass, Channel Catfish, Walleye, Common Carp, Bullhead  
**Extras:** Fair parking, fishing pier, picnic shelter, picnic tables, shore fishing blocks, walking path  
**Accessibility:** Fair  
**Comments:** Simley is one of the most popular lakes in the FiN Program. There is a fishing pier and multiple shore fishing stations around the lake to fish from. A wide variety of fish species are present and the shore drops off quickly making it easy to fish deep water.

Thomas

**Location:** Eagan, Thomas Lake Park, Pilot Knob Road and Cliff Road  
**Depth:** 7 feet  
**Size:** 41.5 acres  
**Species:** Bluegill, Black Crappie, Largemouth Bass, Bullhead  
**Extras:** Carry-in access (electric only), excellent parking, fishing pier, playground, picnic shelter, picnic tables, restrooms, walking path  
**Accessibility:** Excellent  
**Comments:** Thomas is a shallow aerated lake that has been known to produce quality sized Largemouth Bass. The fishing pier and shore fishing stations along the shoreline can provide some great fishing action, or bring a canoe and explore all the bays and the 2.6 miles of shoreline.
Thompson

Location: West Saint Paul, Thompson Park, Butler Avenue and Stassen Lane  
Depth: 8 feet  
Size: 8 acres  
Species: Bluegill, Largemouth Bass, Bullhead  
Extras: Excellent parking, fishing pier, picnic shelter, picnic tables, playground, restrooms, walking path  
Accessibility: Excellent  
Comments: Located in a very popular park, Thompson Lake also receives a lot of fishing pressure. Bluegills and Channel Catfish are stocked in this small lake. A large raingarden and a shoreline restoration near the pier has helped improve the water quality in the lake by reducing nutrient runoff from the parking lot.

Valley

Location: Lakeville, Valley Lake Park, Galaxie Avenue and County Road 46  
Depth: 11 feet  
Size: 7.5 acres  
Species: Bluegill, Black Crappie, Largemouth Bass, Channel Catfish, Northern Pike, Bullhead  
Extras: Fishing pier, good parking, grills, picnic shelter, picnic tables, playground, restrooms, swimming beach, walking path  
Accessibility: Excellent  
Comments: A former gravel pit, this small lake is deep and has been stocked with Bluegills and Channel Catfish in recent years. The fishing pier and open shoreline give anglers many options for fishing. The swim beach is a great place to cool off if the fish are not biting on hot summer days.
Wood Park

**Location:** Burnsville, Wood Park, 143rd Street and Portland Avenue

**Depth:** 14 feet  
**Size:** 14 acres

**Species:** Bluegill, Channel Catfish, Walleye, Bullhead

**Extras:** Basketball, fishing pier, good parking, grills, picnic tables, playground, shore fishing blocks, soccer, walking path

**Accessibility:** Poor

**Comments:** Wood Park is tucked away in Burnsville and stocked with Bluegills. Try fishing with a worm or a leech under a bobber and you could be rewarded with a nice Walleye or Channel Catfish from this lake.
Tying an improved clinch knot

The clinch knot is probably the most popular fishing knot used today. When properly tied, the clinch knot is very strong and it won’t slip. This is a versatile fishing knot, and it can also be used to attach lures to your fishing line.

1. Thread one end of the line through the eye of the hook.
2. Wrap the line around itself five times to make five twists. Fishing tackle manufacturers have found that five wraps of the line work best. With fewer than five wraps, fish might pull out the knot. With more than five wraps, the line may break.
3. Take the tag (loose) end of the line and put it through the first twist, near the hook.
4. Notice the new loop you have made. Take the same tag end and pass it through the new loop. (This is the “improved” part of the knot that prevents it from slipping.)
5. Drop this end.
6. Slide the whole knot down to the hook.
7. Gently tug on the end you previously dropped.
8. Neaten the knot. It’s important to make sure the knot is “neat,” or that the coils are tightly lined up. If there are loose wraps, or wraps on both sides of the eye, the knot may snag and break.
9. Voila! There should be neatly stacked coils lined up next to the eye.
1. Bass Ponds  
2. Boundary Creek  
3. Brooklyn Park  
4. Centennial  
5. Champlin Mill  
6. Cornelia  
7. Lamplighter  
8. Loring  
9. Powderhorn  
10. Ryan  
11. Smith  
12. Snelling  
13. Taft  
14. Wirth  
15. Wolfe

www.mndnr.gov/fishing/fin/hennepin.html
Bass Ponds

**Location:** Bloomington, Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge, East Old Shakopee Road and East 86th Street  
**Depth:** Youth Pond: 14.5 feet  **Size:** 6 acres  **Depth:** Hogback: 9 feet  **Size:** 14 acres  
**Species:** Bluegill, Black Crappie, White Crappie, Largemouth Bass, Channel Catfish, Northern Pike  
**Extras:** Good parking, fishing pier, nature viewing, walking path  
**Accessibility:** Poor  
**Comments:** Youth and Hogback Ridge Ponds are conveniently located in the beautiful MN Valley Wildlife Refuge. Since parking is three-quarters of a mile from the ponds, enjoy birding and viewing other wildlife on your walk to these popular fishing destinations. The mostly forested shoreline of Youth Pond provides healthy habitat for fish and the open shoreline of Hogback Ridge gives anglers a great opportunity to try numerous hotspots.

Boundary Creek

**Location:** Maple Grove, Boundary Creek Park, 104th Avenue and Nathan Lane  
**Depth:** 8 feet  **Size:** 11.4 acres  
**Species:** Bluegill, Black Crappie  
**Extras:** Ball fields, basketball, excellent parking, football, playground, tennis, walking path  
**Accessibility:** Poor  
**Comments:** Boundary Creek is a great lake to try fishing in the summer and fall. The south and east sides of the lake are suitable for shore fishing. If the fishing slows, enjoy the many amenities that surround the park including going for a nature walk.
Brooklyn Park

Location: Brooklyn Park, Community Activity Center, 85th Avenue and Zane Avenue
Depth: 12 feet  Size: 1 acre
Species: Bluegill, Yellow Perch
Extras: Community center, excellent parking, fishing pier, picnic shelter, playground, skate park
Accessibility: Good
Comments: Beginning in 2013 Bluegills and Yellow Perch were stocked for fishing. In addition to great fishing at this little pond, the community center provides a multitude of other activities for visitors.

Centennial

Location: Edina, Centennial Lakes Park, France Avenue and West 76th Street
Depth: 9 feet  Size: 6 acres
Species: Bluegill, Black Crappie, Largemouth Bass, Northern Pike
Extras: Good parking, picnic tables, restrooms, walking path
Accessibility: Excellent
Comments: Centennial Lake is an excellent family fishing destination in the heart of Edina. Extensive shoreline access allows for the opportunity for your child to catch their first fish. Do not forget your camera! Stretches with guardrails help keep angling safe for young children that want to begin a lifelong love for fishing.
Champlin Mill

Location: Champlin, Doris A. Kemp Park, Highway 169 and West River Road  
Depth: 11 feet  
Size: 37 acres  
Species: Bluegill, Black Crappie, Northern Pike  
Extras: Fishing pier, good parking, grills, picnic tables, walking path  
Accessibility: Excellent  
Comments: For a great family day outdoors, visit Champlin Mill Pond. Fishing from one of three piers can provide children with the experience of catching several Minnesota game fish including Northern Pike. Picnic tables and grills provide opportunities for an outdoor lunch. Finish the day with a nature walk on the parks walking paths.

Cornelia

Location: Edina, Rosland Park, Highway 62 and France Avenue  
Depth: 6.5 feet  
Size: 53+ acres  
Species: Bluegill, Black Crappie, Yellow Perch, Common Carp, Bullhead  
Extras: Excellent parking, fishing pier, grills, pavilion, walking path, picnic shelter, picnic tables, playground, restrooms  
Accessibility: Good  
Comments: Lake Cornelia is another convenient fishing destination in Edina. Rosland Park provides an overall outdoor experience. An abundant population of Yellow Perch can be reached from the fishing pier, located on the east side of the lake. Bullheads and Common Carp are a couple of other species that can be caught and can provide a good challenge for a young angler.
Lamplighter

Location: St. Louis Park, Lamplighter Park, Pennsylvania Avenue and 16th Street West
Depth: 6 feet  Size: 8 acres
Species: Bluegill, Black Crappie, Common Carp
Extras: Fishing pier, good parking, walking path
Accessibility: Fair
Comments: Lamplighter Pond is a wonderful place to try fishing in the summer and fall. Native shoreline vegetation has been restored providing healthier habitats for fish and wildlife. Besides stocked Bluegills, anglers can expect to catch Common Carp from the fishing pier located on the west shore.

Loring

Location: Minneapolis, Loring Park, Hennepin Avenue South and 15th Street East
Depth: 16 feet  Size: 7 acres
Species: Bluegill, Black Crappie, Channel Catfish, Bullhead
Extras: Bandstand, fair parking, fishing pier, gardens, horseshoes, playground, public art, restrooms, tennis and basketball courts, wading pool, walking path
Accessibility: Good
Comments: Loring Lake is surrounded by native wetland and upland prairie plantings that have brought a little bit of wilderness back to the city. This shoreline habitat has helped protect water quality for the stocked Bluegills, Black Crappies and Channel Catfish. Using a minnow as bait can help catch Black Crappies and worms will attract the abundant Bluegills and Black Bullheads.
Powderhorn

Location: Minneapolis, Powderhorn Park, East 35th Street and 15th Avenue South
Depth: 24 feet   Size: 11 acres
Species: Bluegill, Black Crappie, Largemouth Bass, Channel Catfish, Bullhead
Extras: Basketball, good parking, fishing pier, picnic tables, playground, restrooms, volleyball, wading pool, walking path
Accessibility: Excellent
Comments: Powderhorn Lake is a favored destination for shore or pier fishing for Bluegills, Largemouth Bass and Black Bullheads. The lake is stocked with Channel Catfish. If fishing along the shore, be careful not to trample the habitat along the water’s edge. These plants provide habitat for wildlife while also filtering nutrients and runoff.

Ryan

Location: Minneapolis, Xerxes Avenue and 46th Avenue North
Depth: 36 feet   Size: 19 acres
Species: Bluegill, Black Crappie, Largemouth Bass, Northern Pike, Yellow Perch
Extras: Fishing pier, good parking
Accessibility: Poor
Comments: Ryan Lake is a great place to go ice fishing for panfish and Yellow Perch that are stocked regularly into this lake. The fishing pier offers access to deeper water to try your luck at other game fish like Largemouth Bass and Northern Pike.
Smith

**Location:** Bloomington, Smith Lake Park, Park Avenue South and East 82nd Street  
**Depth:** 16 feet  
**Size:** 7 acres  
**Species:** Bluegill, Black Crappie  
**Extras:** Excellent parking, fishing pier, grills, pavilion, picnic shelter, picnic tables, playground, restrooms, walking path  
**Accessibility:** Excellent  
**Comments:** Smith Lake is stocked with Bluegills and Black Crappies. Shoreline and prairie habitat has been restored around the lake. These plants help protect water quality and improved habitat for fish. Not only can you discover a new place to fish in Bloomington but a place to identify prairie plants.

Snelling

**Location:** St. Paul, Fort Snelling State Park, Highway 5 and Post Road  
**Depth:** 9.5 feet  
**Size:** 103 acres  
**Species:** Bluegill, Black Crappie, Largemouth Bass, Northern Pike, Yellow Perch  
**Extras:** Biking trails, excellent parking, fishing pier, grills, loaner fishing poles, picnic shelter, picnic tables, swimming beach, restrooms, vehicle entrance fee, walking paths  
**Accessibility:** Excellent  
**Comments:** Located in the heart of the Twin Cities, Snelling Lake provides great fishing action for the abundant Bluegills and Yellow Perch. In addition to the miles of biking trails, Fort Snelling State Park is a great place to picnic and swim or go wildlife watching. A daily or annual vehicle pass is required to enter this park.
Taft

**Location:** Richfield, Taft Park, Cedar Avenue and Highway 62  
**Depth:** 45 feet  
**Size:** 14 acres  
**Species:** Bluegill, Black Crappie, Largemouth Bass, Northern Pike, Yellow Perch  
**Extras:** Good parking, fishing pier, grills, picnic tables, playground, restrooms, walking path  
**Accessibility:** Good  
**Comments:** Taft Lake is a deep, small lake located right on the Richfield and Minneapolis border. The lake was first managed as a fishing pond in 1975 and continues to be a great family fishing destination. Try the fishing pier to target Northern Pike or Walleyes using minnows or if they are not biting switch to worms and try to entice a Bluegill to bite.

Wirth

**Location:** Minneapolis, Theodore Wirth Park, Highway 55 and Wirth Parkway  
**Depth:** 25 feet  
**Size:** 40 acres  
**Species:** Bluegill, Black Crappie, Largemouth Bass, Northern Pike, Walleye, Yellow Perch, Bullhead  
**Extras:** Excellent parking, fishing pier, picnic tables, playground, restrooms, swimming beach, walking path  
**Accessibility:** Excellent  
**Comments:** Wirth Lake is conveniently located near many neighborhoods, making fishing a readily available pastime for surrounding youth. The pier on the east side of the lake provides opportunities to catch many of the game fish present in Wirth Lake. Although shoreline fishing access is not available around the entire lake, there are great spots along the shore just north of the pier.
Wolfe

Location: St. Louis Park, Wolfe Park, Monterey Drive and 36th Street West  
Depth: 25 feet   Size: 3 acres  
Species: Bluegill, Black Crappie, Largemouth Bass, Northern Pike, Yellow Perch  
Extras: Excellent parking, fishing pier, pavilions, picnic shelter, picnic tables, playground, restrooms, shore fishing blocks, walking path  
Accessibility: Excellent  
Comments: Wolfe Lake is a beautiful example of how a shoreline restoration project can thrive in the middle of the Twin Cities. This restoration has enhanced wildlife habitat, decreased erosion and provided numerous learning opportunities to the residents of St. Louis Park. Many game species make this a favorite family fishing destination.
Yellow Perch

The Yellow Perch has a round, long body much like the Walleye but has a distinctive yellow body covered in dark vertical bars with orange fins. Yellow Perch can grow to be six to fourteen inches long. Yellow Perch swim in large schools in open water during the day and congregate near vegetation just off the bottom of the lake at night. They are usually caught with small jigs and live bait.

Minnesota State Record Yellow Perch:
3 lbs. 4 oz.

My largest Yellow Perch:

Northern Pike

The Northern Pike has a long, cylindrical body. It can grow from twelve to forty inches and has light marks on its dark body. This species has over 750 teeth to feed on small- to medium-sized fish. Northern Pike are ambush predators that are caught on lures or minnows.

Minnesota State Record Northern Pike:
45 lbs. 12 oz.

My largest Northern Pike:

Muskellunge

The Muskellunge looks a lot like the Northern Pike however it has dark spots or bars on a lighter background. They also grow larger, anywhere from twelve to fifty inches. The Muskellunge is a very elusive fish that can be caught in clear, vegetated lakes using large lures.

Minnesota State Record Muskellunge:
54 lbs.

My largest Muskellunge:
1. Beaver
2. Bennett
3. Casey
4. Como
5. Gervais Mill
6. Handlos
7. Langton
8. Loeb
9. McCarrons
10. Silver (West)
11. Silver (East)
12. Wakefield

www.mndnr.gov/fishing/fin/ramsey.html
Beaver

**Location:** St. Paul, Beaver Lake County Park, Edgewater Boulevard and Magnolia Avenue East  
**Depth:** 11 feet  
**Size:** 86 acres  
**Species:** Bluegill, Black Crappie, Largemouth Bass, Yellow Perch, Bullhead  
**Extras:** Ball fields, excellent parking, fishing pier, grills, picnic shelter, picnic tables, playground, shore fishing blocks, restrooms, volleyball, walking path  
**Accessibility:** Excellent  
**Comments:** As one of the more popular FiN lakes, the fishing pier can get crowded at Beaver Lake. Try fishing from the south shore or the shore fishing stations to the north of the fishing pier. Bluegills and Channel Catfish are regularly stocked in this lake.

Bennett

**Location:** Roseville, Central Park, Lexington Avenue and County Road C  
**Depth:** 9 feet  
**Size:** 29 acres  
**Species:** Bluegill, Black Crappie, Largemouth Bass, Northern Pike, Common Carp, Bullhead  
**Extras:** Ball fields, bandstand, fishing pier, good parking, grills, picnic shelter, picnic tables, restrooms, playground, tennis, volleyball, walking path  
**Accessibility:** Excellent  
**Comments:** The fishing pier at this lake provides great access to deeper water for fishing. A loop trail around the lake also provides anglers many opportunities to fish from shore and try new areas to find fish that are biting. Bennett Lake is stocked with Bluegills, Channel Catfish and Walleyes.
Como

**Location:** St. Paul, Como Park, Lexington Avenue and Como Avenue  
**Depth:** 15 feet  
**Size:** 67 acres  
**Species:** Bluegill, Black Crappie, Largemouth Bass, Channel Catfish, Northern Pike, Walleye, Common Carp, Bullhead  
**Extras:** Concessions, fishing pier, good parking, grills, pavilion, picnic shelter, picnic tables, restrooms, walking path  
**Accessibility:** Good  
**Comments:** Walleyes, Northern Pike and Largemouth Bass are all found in this urban lake and there are many locations around the lakeshore to target them. The fishing pier is a popular spot to fish and can get anglers past the thick aquatic vegetation in late summer. In addition to fishing, Como Park has a multitude of other amenities for visitors.

Casey

**Location:** North St. Paul, Casey Lake Park, White Bear Ave. and County Road C  
**Depth:** 3 feet  
**Size:** 12 acres  
**Species:** Bluegill, Largemouth Bass  
**Extras:** Ballfields, excellent parking, grills, picnic shelter, picnic tables, playground, shore fishing blocks, volleyball, walking path  
**Comments:** This shallow aerated lake was overpopulated with Common Carp in the past but is now stocked with gamefish such as Largemouth Bass and Bluegills to provide angling action from the shore. An extensive native shoreline planting attracts a variety of birds and wildlife to this park.
Gervais Mill

Location: Little Canada, Gervais Mill Park, Edgerton Street and Little Canada Road
Depth: 12 feet    Size: 6 acres
Species: Bluegill, Bullhead
Extras: Good parking, hiking trails, nature viewing, two fishing piers, walking path
Accessibility: Fair
Comments: Extensive walking trails take visitors around the park and to the two fishing piers located on the pond. Birds and wildlife are attracted to the native plantings throughout the park. Bluegills are stocked into this pond and other species such as Walleye and Largemouth Bass occasionally get into the pond from nearby Gervais Lake.

Handlos

Location: White Bear Lake, Lakewood Hills Park, White Bear Avenue and Orchard Lane
Depth: 8 feet    Size: 9 acres
Species: Bluegill, Bullhead
Extras: Ball fields, excellent parking, fishing pier, grills, picnic tables, playground, restrooms, sledding, soccer, walking path
Accessibility: Good
Comments: Handlos is a small pond that is stocked with Bluegills. The fishing pier is the best location for fishing from on this lake since it allows you to cast into deeper water.
Langton

Location: Roseville, Langton Lake Park, County Road C2 and Cleveland Avenue
Depth: 6 feet   Size: 21 acres
Species: Bluegill, Bullhead
Extras: Excellent parking, fishing pier, nature viewing, playground, walking path
Accessibility: Excellent
Comments: Langton is stocked with Bluegills that can quickly grow to a large size over the summer in highly productive pond. Try angling from the path that bisects the lake or from the fishing pier and you may be pleasantly surprised by the size of fish in late summer.

Loeb

Location: St. Paul, Marydale Park, Dale Street and Maryland Avenue
Depth: 28 feet   Size: 8.5 acres
Species: Bluegill, Black Crappie, Largemouth Bass, Channel Catfish, Walleye, Bullhead
Extras: Fishing pier, good parking, grills, picnic tables, playground, shore fishing blocks, walking path
Accessibility: Fair
Comments: Loeb is a deep little lake in St. Paul that offers the opportunity to catch Walleye, Largemouth Bass and Channel Catfish. A walking path loops the lake and provides access to shore fishing sites as well as the fishing pier. Large Bluegill are typically stocked in the fall.
McCarrons

**Location:** Roseville, Lake McCarrons County Park, Rice Street  
**Depth:** 57 feet  
**Size:** 68 acres  
**Species:** Bluegill, Black Crappie, Largemouth Bass, Smallmouth Bass, Northern Pike, Yellow Perch

**Extras:** Excellent parking, fishing pier, boat landing, picnic area, nature viewing, beach, restrooms  
**Accessibility:** Excellent

**Comments:** The lake has a history of partial winterkills that sometime reduce the number of small panfish back to sustainable levels of abundance. Ramsey County operates and maintains a 15-acre county park on the east side of the lake that includes approximately 900 feet of shoreline and a beach on the east shore. The park is fully developed and includes a boat launch with parking for 8 car/boat trailers. The park has trail connections to municipal trails and it functions as a trailhead for the Trout Brook Regional Trail.

Silver (West)

**Location:** Columbia Heights and Street Anthony, Silver Lake Beach Park and Silverwood Park, Silver Lake Road South West and 45th Ave Northeast  
**Depth:** 47 feet  
**Size:** 70 acres  
**Species:** Bluegill, Black Crappie, Largemouth Bass, Channel Catfish, Walleye, Yellow Perch

**Extras:** Excellent parking, fishing pier, boat landing, picnic area, nature viewing, walking trails, Beach, restrooms  
**Accessibility:** Poor

**Comments:** A large portion of the lakeshore is operated by Three Rivers Park District, who provides ample shore fishing locations as well as a canoe livery and launching area. The City of Columbia Heights operates a small swimming beach in the northwest corner of the lake and a small public boat launch located in the southwest corner of the lake.
Silver (East)

**Location:** Maplewood and North St. Paul, Joy Park and Silver Lake Park, Century/Geneva Avenue North and Joy Road or Century/Geneva Avenue North 19th Avenue

**Depth:** 18 feet  
**Size:** 72 acres

**Species:** Bluegill, Black Crappie, Pumpkinseed Sunfish, Largemouth Bass, Northern Pike, Walleye, Yellow Perch

**Extras:** Excellent parking, two fishing piers, boat landing, picnic area, nature viewing, walking trails, beach, restrooms

**Accessibility:** Excellent

**Comments:** A North St. Paul City Park on the south shore contains a swimming beach and fishing pier, while a Maplewood City Park on the north shore contains a concrete boat ramp and fishing pier. The lake is heavily vegetated and shallow with a predominant Northern Pike, Largemouth Bass, and Bluegill fish community.

Wakefield

**Location:** Maplewood, Wakefield Park, Frost Avenue and Prosperity Road

**Depth:** 9 feet  
**Size:** 22.5 acres

**Species:** Bluegill, Black Crappie, Northern Pike, Bullhead

**Extras:** Ball fields, excellent parking, fishing pier, grills, picnic tables, playground, restrooms, sledding, shore fishing blocks, walking path

**Accessibility:** Excellent

**Comments:** Wakefield is stocked with Bluegills that you can fish for from the shore fishing stations around the lake or from the fishing pier. Use the fishing pier to get into deeper water and past the aquatic vegetation that can become thick in mid-summer.
How to Fish

**Spring** is the best season to catch fish due to the fish being hungry after the long winter, being more active due to warmer waters and laying their eggs near shore. As soon as the ice has melted off the lakes, sunfish and crappies are a great species to fish for. The Walleye and Northern Pike season is not legally open until mid-May while bass and muskie season begins in late May or early June. Cloudy and rainy days are good fishing days, however, never be near a lake during a thunderstorm with lightning.

**Summer** shore fishing is a little more difficult due to thick near shore vegetation and fish moving to deeper, cooler waters away from shore. Try fishing in the early morning or evening as well as river fishing since rivers tend to have cooler waters and less vegetation.

**Fall** is another great time to fish due to cooling water temperatures, vegetation die offs and fish aggressively feeding to prepare for winter. Winter ice fishing is a great way to catch crappies and sunfish. Try a bucket of minnows or some waxworms to catch fish during the winter months.
1. Crystal
2. Jeffers’ (Pond)
3. Jordan Mill
4. Lakefront
5. Lion’s Park
6. McColl
7. Sweetbrier

Photo courtesy of www.mndnr.gov/fishing/fin/scott.html
Crystal

**Location:** Prior Lake, Crystal Lake Park, Highway 13 and Village Lake Drive Southeast  
**Depth:** 26 feet  
**Size:** 31 acres  
**Species:** Bluegill, Largemouth Bass, Northern Pike  
**Extras:** Fair parking, fishing pier, picnic shelter, picnic tables, walking trails  
**Accessibility:** Poor  
**Comments:** Crystal Lake is a great place to fish in both the summer and the winter. During the winter, be aware of the aeration system that creates open ice but helps the fish to survive. With the high abundance of Largemouth Bass and Bluegills, Crystal Lake provides a great place to introduce a young angler to their first fish. The fishing pier on the south side of the lake adds access to the deeper waters of this lake.

Jeffers’ (Pond)

**Location:** Prior Lake, Jeffers Elementary, 14800 Jeffers Pass NW  
**Depth:** 70 feet  
**Size:** 10 acres  
**Species:** Bluegill, Black Crappie, Largemouth Bass, Yellow Perch, Pumpkinseed  
**Extras:** Jeffers Elementary, ballfield, wooded walking trails, benches boardwalk and fishing pier  
**Accessibility:** Poor  
**Comments:** Enjoy the scenic natural setting around Jeffers’ pond in the City of Prior Lake. Walking trails circumnavigate the pond and include a bridge boardwalk over a rocky outflow stream for good waterfowl and wildlife viewing. Fishing at Jeffers’ pond may result catching a variety of sportfish species including Largemouth Bass and Black Crappie.
Jordan Mill

**Location:** Jordan, Lagoon Park, Park Drive and Sunset Drive  
**Depth:** 18 feet  
**Size:** 18 acres  
**Species:** Bluegill, Black Crappie, Largemouth Bass, Northern Pike  
**Extras:** Excellent parking, fishing pier, grills, picnic tables, playground, restrooms, swimming beach, shore fishing blocks, walking path  
**Accessibility:** Excellent  
**Comments:** Jordan Mill Pond is an ideal place to take a child fishing. The surrounding park as well as the newly added shoreline restoration have improved the water quality of Jordan Mill Pond and have created habitat for game fish to reproduce. This pond is a beautiful place to launch a canoe and cast for Largemouth Bass.

Lakefront

**Location:** Prior Lake, Lakefront Park, Kop Parkway and Main Avenue  
**Depth:** 5 feet  
**Size:** 14 acres  
**Species:** Bluegill, Black Crappie, Largemouth Bass, Northern Pike  
**Extras:** Amphitheater, ball fields, basketball, excellent parking, fishing pier, picnic shelter, picnic tables, playground, restrooms, soccer, tennis, walking path  
**Accessibility:** Good  
**Comments:** With the game fish species that have been stocked into Lakefront Pond, this park can provide the overall experience for a family that wants to enjoy the outdoors. The fishing pier provides great access to fishing and the 3-mile trail system helps expose youth to a variety of wildlife.
Lion’s Park

Location: Shakopee, Lion’s Park, Marystown Road and Vierling Drive  
Depth: 5 feet  
Size: 1 acre  
Species: Bluegill, Black Crappie  
Extras: Frisbee golf, good parking, grills, horseshoes, picnic shelter, picnic tables, playground, sledding, swimming, tennis, walking path  
Accessibility: Poor  
Comments: Lion’s Park provides the entire experience, including great fishing at Lion’s Park Pond. This community destination includes picnicking, frisbee golf course as well as access to stocked Bluegills. Shore fishing around this pond is a great way to expose a beginner angler to catching their first fish.

McColl

Location: Savage, Community Park, 13500 Dakota Avenue South  
Depth: 11 feet  
Size: 23 acres  
Species: Bluegill, Black Crappie, Largemouth Bass, Channel Catfish  
Extras: Ball fields, excellent parking, fishing pier, grills, picnic shelter, picnic tables, playground, restrooms, walking path  
Accessibility: Good  
Comments: Enjoy many learning opportunities at McColl Pond in the City of Savage. Walking trails weave through native prairie landscapes exposing youth to habitat and wildlife they may not experience anywhere else in the Twin Cities. Fishing at McColl Pond may result in an excited child catching Bluegills, Largemouth Bass and Channel Catfish.
Sweetbrier

**Location:** Elko/New Market, Sweeny Lane, from the corner of 230th Street SE and Natchez Avenue

**Depth:** 16 feet  
**Size:** 20 acres  
**Species:** Bluegill, Largemouth Bass  
**Extras:** Disc Golf Course, fishing pier, grills, picnic shelter, playground  
**Accessibility:** Poor  

**Comments:** The surrounding park and disc golf course on the southern shore of Sweetbrier lake make for a fun family afternoon of activities. A fishing pier offers shore access into the clear water of Sweetbrier where anglers of all ages may reel in abundant Bluegill and Largemouth Bass.
FiN Trailer

The FiN trailer is a multi-purpose mobile fishing education station. It can haul 100 fully rigged fishing poles, tackle, and bait and if it is on the road, it is on its way to a lake near you. The trailer also carries a 100+ gallon aquarium for special fish displays, casting skills equipment and fish replicas used to teach fish identification. The outer artwork serves as a reminder of the great fishing resources available in Minnesota, especially the Metro Area. “Share the Passion.” Take someone fishing today.
Black Crappie

Like the sunfish, the Black Crappie has a round, flat body. Its body length can vary from six to fourteen inches. The sides of its body are silvery-white with black speckling. Black Crappies can also be caught off a pier using small minnows or various colors of artificial bait.

Minnesota State Record Black Crappie: 5 lbs.

My largest Black Crappie:

White Crappie

Although the White Crappie is shaped like the Black Crappie, its coloration varies. Instead of black speckles on a silvery-white background, the White Crappie has black vertical bars. White Crappies are less common but may be found in several FiN lakes.

Minnesota State Record White Crappie: 3 lbs. 15 oz.

My largest White Crappie:
Largemouth Bass
The Largemouth Bass is a member of the sunfish family and is found in many FiN ponds. This fish has a large jaw that extends beyond the eye and can grow anywhere from six to twenty-four inches in length. It is green in color with a dark lateral stripe on the side of its body. To target Largemouth Bass, try fishing with plastic worms near lily pads.

Smallmouth Bass
The Smallmouth Bass also has a large jaw but its upper lip only extends to the middle of the eye. This fish has a bronze colored body with dark vertical bars. Smallmouth Bass are found near rocks and boulders or near submersed woody debris. Common in many rivers in Minnesota, Smallmouth Bass grow to be six to twenty inches long and are present in some FiN ponds.

Walleye
The Walleye is the Minnesota state fish and is torpedo-shaped. It has a white belly with a distinguishing white tip on the lower lobe of the tail fin. The large, glassy eye is where this fish gets its name. They can grow anywhere from ten to thirty inches long. Try fishing for Walleyes with leeches or minnows at dusk in open, deep pools.
1. Alice
2. Battle Creek
3. Carver
4. Colby
5. Hidden Valley
6. Lily
7. Lost
8. Powers
9. Ravine
10. Shields

www.mndnr.gov/fishing/fin/washington.html
Alice

**Location:** New Scandia Township, William O’Brien State Park, Highway 95  
**Depth:** 9 feet  
**Size:** 26 acres  
**Species:** Bluegill, Black Crappie, Largemouth Bass, Northern Pike, Bullhead  
**Extras:** Biking, camping, excellent parking, fishing pier, grills, hiking trails, loaner fishing poles, nature viewing, picnic shelter, picnic tables, restrooms, swimming beach, vehicle entrance fee, volleyball, walking path  
**Accessibility:** Excellent  
**Comments:** Alice Lake is a great fishing resource where you can catch a wide variety of fish. Alice is a wonderful place to canoe and enjoy spectacular scenery while wetting a line. The park also offers access to the St. Croix River. A daily or annual vehicle pass is required to enter the park.

Battle Creek

**Location:** Woodbury, Menomin Park, Edgewood Avenue and Meadow Lane  
**Depth:** 14 feet  
**Size:** 106 acres  
**Species:** Bluegill, Black Crappie, Largemouth Bass, Northern Pike, Common Carp, Bullhead  
**Extras:** Fair parking, fishing pier, grills, picnic tables, playground, restrooms, walking path  
**Accessibility:** Excellent  
**Comments:** The fishing pier on the west shore provides the best fishing from shore in the summer. A boat access allows anglers to explore more areas of this 100 acre lake (10 hp motor limit). Battle Creek is a popular ice fishing lake for Northern Pike during the winter months.
Carver

Location: Woodbury, Carver Lake Park, Century Avenue and 494
Depth: 36 feet    Size: 50 acres
Species: Bluegill, Black Crappie, Largemouth Bass, Northern Pike, Walleye, Yellow Perch, Bullhead
Extras: Fire ring, fishing pier, good parking, grills, picnic shelter, picnic tables, playground, restrooms, swimming, volleyball, walking path
Accessibility: Poor
Comments: Carver Lake is a great place for a day outdoors to enjoy the surrounding hills and deep, clear water. A fishing pier provides angling access, and there is a boardwalk that runs along the shore. Try the swimming beach if you want to take a break on a hot day.

Colby

Location: Woodbury, Colby Lake Park, Lake Road and County Road 19
Depth: 11 feet    Size: 71 acres
Species: Bluegill, Black Crappie, Largemouth Bass, Channel Catfish, Northern Pike, Yellow Perch, Bullhead
Extras: Basketball, good parking, fishing pier, picnic shelter, picnic tables, playground, restrooms, tennis, walking path
Accessibility: Good
Comments: Colby fishing pier is on the south end that connects to the loop trail around the lake. The FiN Program stocked Channel Catfish in 2012 in addition to Bluegills and they should grow rapidly in this eutrophic lake. Come and check out these improvements and more at this lake in the heart of Woodbury.
Hidden Valley

**Location:** Cottage Grove, Hidden Valley Park, 70th Street and Hardwood Avenue  
**Depth:** 11 feet  
**Size:** 3 acres  
**Species:** Bluegill, Bullhead  
**Extras:** Fair parking, fishing pier, walking path  
**Accessibility:** Fair  
**Comments:** Hidden Valley Pond is stocked with Bluegills. A fishing pier gives anglers more access to deeper water in this lake. The City of Cottage Grove sponsors a popular fishing clinic each year at this pond.

Lily

**Location:** Stillwater, Lily Lake Park, Greenley Street South and Churchill Street West  
**Depth:** 51 feet  
**Size:** 43.7 acres  
**Species:** Bluegill, Black Crappie, Largemouth Bass, Northern Pike, Walleye, Yellow Perch  
**Extras:** Ball fields, basketball, boat landing (electric only), fishing pier, grills, good parking, picnic shelter, picnic tables, playground, restrooms, tennis, volleyball  
**Accessibility:** Good  
**Comments:** Lily Lake provides a great fishing resource right in Stillwater. Northern Pike are occasionally stocked in the winter and Bluegills are very abundant and provide plenty of action for first time anglers.
Lost

Location: Mahtomedi, Wildwood Park, County Road 244 and Old Wildwood Road
Depth: 26 feet  Size: 22 acres
Species: Bluegill, Black Crappie, Largemouth Bass, Northern Pike, Walleye, Yellow Perch
Extras: Fishing pier, good parking, grills, picnic shelter, picnic tables, playground, restrooms, volleyball, walking path
Accessibility: Fair
Comments: The deep, clear waters of Lost Lake are a result of the diverse native plant community found in this lake. Fish such as Northern Pike and Largemouth Bass thrive in this type of habitat, providing a thrill to the lucky angler that hooks one.

Powers

Location: Woodbury, Powers Lake Park, Fox Run Road and County Road 19
Depth: 41 feet  Size: 58 acres
Species: Bluegill, Black Crappie, Largemouth Bass, Northern Pike, Walleye, Yellow Perch, Bullhead
Extras: Carry-in access (electric only), fishing pier, good parking, grills, picnic shelter, picnic tables, playground, restrooms, walking path
Accessibility: Good
Comments: Powers Lake, one of the best fishing lakes in Woodbury, has multiple species of game fish, good water quality and easy access. Try fishing for Largemouth Bass and Northern Pike along the edge of the weedline that develops in the summer.
Ravine

**Location:** Cottage Grove, Ravine Regional Park, County Road 19 and Highway 61

**Depth:** 15 feet  
**Size:** 27.2 acres

**Species:** Bluegill, Black Crappie, Largemouth Bass, Walleye, Bullhead

**Extras:** Excellent parking, fishing pier, grills, hiking trails, nature viewing, picnic shelter, picnic tables, playground, restrooms, shore fishing blocks, walking path, vehicle entrance fee

**Accessibility:** Good

**Comments:** Ravine is a great little lake that can produce large Bluegills, Walleyes and Largemouth Bass. Tucked away in a valley, Ravine offers great bird watching for herons, egrets, hawks and eagles. A fishing pier makes it easy to get past the aquatic vegetation and into deeper water. A daily or annual vehicle pass is required to enter the park.

---

Shields

**Location:** Forest Lake, Shields Lake Park, Imperial Avenue North

**Depth:** 27 feet  
**Size:** 26 acres

**Species:** Bluegill, Black Crappie, Largemouth Bass, Northern Pike, Bullhead

**Extras:** Parking is poor, picnic tables, fishing pier, carry in boat access

**Accessibility:** Poor

**Comments:** Even though no formal boat launch exists anglers are able to portage canoes and small boats from the parking area down the hill to the lake. Shields Lake is restricted to electric trolling motors only. A fishing pier provides shore fishing access. A winter aeration system has been in place since 1995.
Channel Catfish

Channel Catfish are a long, smoothed-skinned fish with barbels and a forked tail. They can grow to be ten to thirty inches long and are found in larger streams and rivers. Several FiN ponds are stocked with Channel Catfish which can be distinguished from a bullhead by the “V” shaped notch in the tail. This fish can be caught off the bottom and under cover with stink baits, worms, minnows or other baits. Channel Catfish have taste buds over their entire body.

Black Bullhead

The Black Bullhead is similar to catfish, however it has a flat, square tail. It has black barbels and can grow from four to fourteen inches long. Black Bullheads are found in almost every FiN pond and are easily caught using worms.

Lead Tackle

The tackle industry, recognizing a growing awareness and concern about lead in the environment, has begun to create tungsten, glass, copper, steel, tin, bismuth, or plastic sinkers. Consider using non-lead tackle when you go fishing.

Here’s what you can do to help:
• Ask local sporting good stores to stock nonlead fishing tackle.
• Spread the word by telling other anglers about the problem.
• Dispose of old lead sinkers and jigs properly by locating a drop-off location. See DNR Web site for more information.
White Bass

White Bass have a silvery-white body that is high and flat shaped with a two-part dorsal fin. They can grow to be six to sixteen inches long and are covered in black, horizontal stripes. The best fishing time for this species is in the spring or midsummer when you can catch them on jigs or minnows.

Bowfin (Dogfish)

The Bowfin, or dogfish, has a long soft-rayed dorsal fin and a spot at the base of its tail fin. Its body is an emerald green or brownish in color. It can grow from eight to twenty-five inches long and has a bony plate, called the gular plate, on the underside of its jaw. Bowfin are found in vegetated habitat and can be caught using lures and minnows.

Common Carp

The Common Carp is the largest member of the minnow family, growing from twelve to thirty-six inches. The two whiskers on its mouth make this fish easy to identify. Its body is pale gold in color and is covered with large scales. Try fishing on the bottom using corn or worms as bait.
Fishing Tips for the Beginning Angler...

Do I need a license?
If you are age 16 or older and/or assisting a child with fishing, you need a Minnesota angling license. Licenses can be purchased at sporting goods stores, bait stores, convenience and retail stores, online at www.mndnr.gov or by phone at 1-888-665-4236. Be sure to follow the fishing regulations.

Safety
Your safety is very important. When going on a fishing trip, young children should always fish with an adult. If you are fishing from a boat or canoe, ALWAYS wear a life jacket. Children under 10 years of age are required by law to wear a lifejacket while in a watercraft in Minnesota. If weather turns stormy, make sure you get away from the water. Because the sun reflects off the water surface, it is a good idea to wear sunscreen and sunglasses. Be aware of where your hook is at all times, it is sharp. Do not let it swing around and always look behind you before casting to avoid injuring someone else.

Where should I fish?
A good place to start fishing is the public fishing piers located on many lakes. If fish are not biting, try a new spot. Sometimes it is a matter of casting on the other side of the pier to find the hot spot. Walk along shore but do not trespass. Try fishing near plants and trees in the water, in shady areas or around rocks.

What equipment should I fish with?
A beginner fishing rod and reel is a great, all-purpose set-up to begin your fishing journey. The tackle you use should be sized to the type of fish you are trying to catch. For panfish, use a small hook and for larger fish like bass or Northern Pike, use a bigger hook or lure. A sinker will keep your bait down near the lake or river bottom where most fish swim. Place a weight about 10 inches up from your hook and only use enough to sink your bait. To help indicate a fish is on, place a bobber on your line.

What bait should I use?
You will probably have your best luck fishing with earthworms. Pinch a one- or two-inch piece of worm and thread it on your hook. Different species of minnows can be used to catch Black Crappies as well as Northern Pike and Walleyes. If live bait is not available for purchase near you, try digging for your own worms under logs and rocks or use canned corn, pieces of a hot dog or even marshmallows.

What if my line gets tangled?
Your line will get tangled often when you are a new angler however do not let it discourage you. Take a few minutes to try to untangle it and if that does not work, cut the line and retie the hook. Be sure to give your line a good tug to make sure the knot will not slip off the hook.
What if I catch a fish?
Before handling a fish, always get your hands wet to prevent taking off the slimy protective coating on the outside of the fish. Because most fish have fin spines that can poke your hand, always handle the fish carefully but firmly. Be cautious about putting your fingers in the fish’s mouth as some fish like Northern Pike and Walleyes have sharp teeth. If the hook is in too deep to get out, cut the line about an inch from the fish’s mouth and let the fish go. It is easier to leave it in rather than cause internal damage when trying to get it out. If you plan to release the fish, make sure to return it to the water as quickly as possible.

What kind of fish is it?
The images throughout this booklet show some of the more common fish found in area lakes and ponds.

Are the fish safe to eat?
Generally the fish are safe to eat, however the Minnesota Department of Health lets people know how often fish can be safely eaten. They recommend women who are or may become pregnant and children can eat Bluegills and crappies once per week and generally eat other fish species once per month. For others, there are no restrictions for eating Bluegills or Black Crappies and other fish species can be eaten once per week. For lake-specific advice, check www.mndnr.gov/lakefind/ for additional health advisory information. Only keep what you need and place fish on ice until you get home.

Be courteous...
Do not litter or throw old fishing line and tackle in the lake. Always follow the park rules where you are fishing. Fishing can be a very relaxing pastime so be courteous while you are fishing around other anglers.

Take a break
Fishing with children is a lot of fun but can be challenging as well. Make sure to bring snacks, take them for a walk, go to the playground and look for other wildlife like birds and turtles. Make fishing part of a fun, healthy outing and remember that you will not always catch a fish. Have fun and let us know how you did!
Date: ___________________________  Day: ___________________________
Body of water: ____________________  City: ___________________________
Species: _________________________  Fishing buddy: ______________________
Length/Weight: _________________  Bait/Lure used: ______________________
Notes: ________________________________
____________________________________
____________________________________

Date: ___________________________  Day: ___________________________
Body of water: ____________________  City: ___________________________
Species: _________________________  Fishing buddy: ______________________
Length/Weight: _________________  Bait/Lure used: ______________________
Notes: ________________________________
____________________________________
____________________________________

Date: ___________________________  Day: ___________________________
Body of water: ____________________  City: ___________________________
Species: _________________________  Fishing buddy: ______________________
Length/Weight: _________________  Bait/Lure used: ______________________
Notes: ________________________________
____________________________________
____________________________________

Print more copies of the Angler Diary page at www.mndnr.gov/fishing/fin
Date: _________________  Day: _________________
Body of water: _______________  City: _________________
Species: _______________  Fishing buddy: _______________
Length/Weight: _______________  Bait/Lure used: _______________
Notes: ___________________________________________
_________________________________________________
_________________________________________________

Date: _________________  Day: _________________
Body of water: _______________  City: _________________
Species: _______________  Fishing buddy: _______________
Length/Weight: _______________  Bait/Lure used: _______________
Notes: ___________________________________________
_________________________________________________
_________________________________________________

Date: _________________  Day: _________________
Body of water: _______________  City: _________________
Species: _______________  Fishing buddy: _______________
Length/Weight: _______________  Bait/Lure used: _______________
Notes: ___________________________________________
_________________________________________________
_________________________________________________

Print more copies of the Angler Diary page at www.mndnr.gov/fishing/fin
As citizens of Minnesota, it is our responsibility to promote fishing traditions and encourage environmental stewardship in our youth. Fishing is a great opportunity to spend quality time with your family and friends. Pass on your knowledge of fishing and environmental awareness and you will be continuing the Minnesota tradition that so many enjoy.

mndnr.gov/fishing/fin