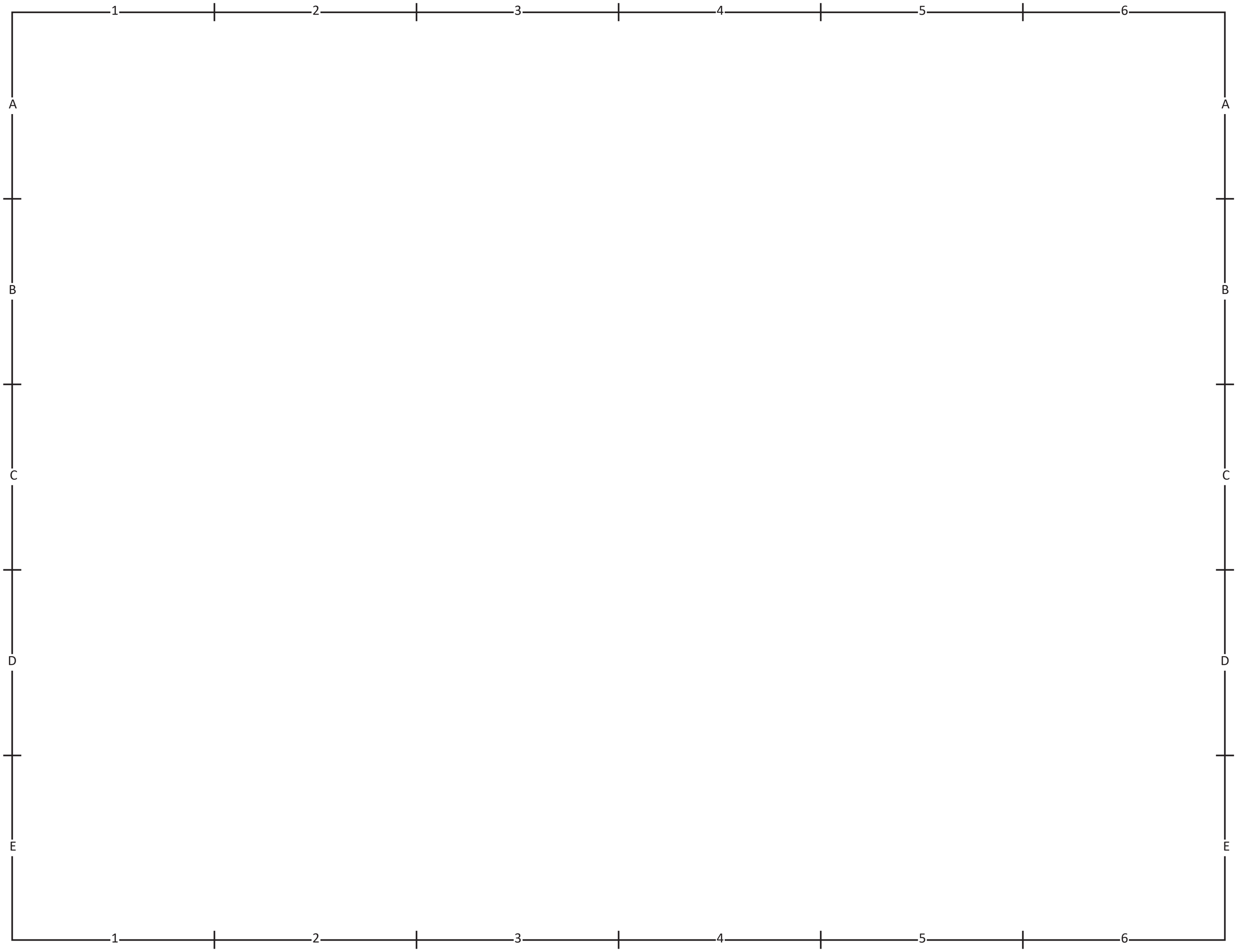
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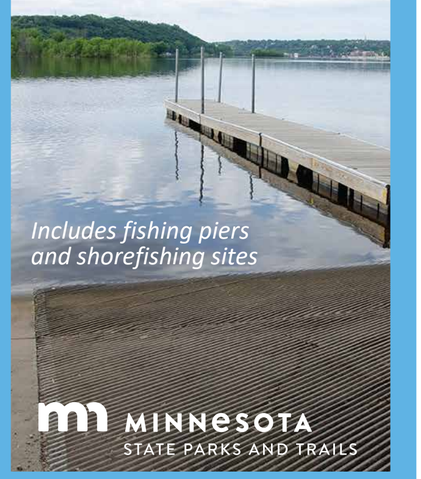
STATE PUBLIC WATER ACCESS MAP

STEARNS COUNTY



Clean in
Clean out

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

mndnr.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. The DNR, Federal Government and local communities operate boat accesses. See the table on the right for specific site information. **The DNR boating programs are funded by user fees** including boat license & gas tax related to marine use.

Public accesses are usually open 24 hours unless otherwise posted. Most sites have launch ramps but some sites, especially on smaller rivers, are carry in only. Bathrooms and docks are usually located only on the larger and busier sites.

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. See Minnesota Rules, chapter 6218 for complete rules.

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. Operator age restrictions apply to operators 17 years old and younger.

Licensing - All motorized and non-motorized watercraft must be licensed by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR). Please contact the DNR License Bureau for information.

© Take Me Fishing

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. Trout fishing requires a trout stamp. For more information call the DNR information Center at (651) 296-6157 or 1-888-646-6367. To purchase a license by phone 24 hours a day, call 1-888-MN-LICENSE (665-4236).

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. Here are some tips to use for effective **Selective Harvest fishing**:

- ☑ 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. In addition, on boats 16 feet or longer, except canoes and kayaks, there must also be at least one Coast Guard approved throwable device, such as a ring buoy or seat cushion.

Boating While Intoxicated (BWI) - Boating while intoxicated is illegal. For persons found to be under the influence there are significant penalties, including fines and possible jail sentences.

Personal 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. Operator age restrictions also apply. Consult the Boating Guide for more information. A DNR safety video is available free of charge.

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. For more information about infested waters, including an up-to-date infested waters list and additional location information, visit mndnr.gov/invasives.

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. Pull the plug when adjusting the motor. If you have other people (especially kids) with you, have them help! Adding a few minutes will help safeguard our waters.

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. Many species can be transported in the mud or in fishing lines and rope
- ☑ 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. Bringing ice can be a good idea on warm days to cool down the water.

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

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. That way when the inspector comes, the inspection process will move quickly
- ☑ If there is a Decontamination Unit present, please follow all the instructions given by the inspectors, for your safety and theirs. There will be plenty of time to ask questions and watch them work from a safe distance

Ways the Watercraft Inspectors can help you:

- ☑ The inspectors have tools, wrenches and pliers, so if you are having trouble with your plug, ask!
- ☑ If there are weeds that are hard to reach, inspectors can also help pull weeds off boats or other such tasks. They also have grabbing tools for plants

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 Stearns County

Water Body Name	Map Grid Location	Ramp Type	Fish Species	Administrator
Beaver Lake	D5	concrete	C,LB,N,S	DNR
Big Lake	D4	concrete	C,LB,N,S,W	DNR
Big Birch Lake (SE)	A3	concrete	N / A	Township
Big Birch Lake Birch Lake State Forest	A3	concrete	N / A	DNR
Big Birch Lake	A3	fishing pier	N / A	DNR
Big Birch Lake - Stundabecks	A3	earth	N / A	Township
Big Fish Lake	C4	concrete	C,LB,N,S,W	DNR
Big Spunk Lake	B4	concrete	C,LB,N,S,W	DNR
Big Spunk Lake	B4	carry in	C,LB,N,S,W	County
Big Watab Lake	C4	concrete	C,LB,N,S,W	DNR
Black Oak Lake	B2	gravel	C,N,S,W	DNR
Carnelian Lake	D5	concrete	N / A	DNR
Cedar Lake	A3	concrete	C,N,S	DNR
Cedar Island Lake	D4	concrete	C,LB,N,S,W	DNR
Clear Lake	C4	concrete	C,N,S,W	DNR
Clearwater Lake (Blackpool)	E6	concrete	N / A	DNR
Clearwater Lake (Bob's Bay)	E6	concrete	N / A	DNR
Eden Lake	D4	concrete	C,LB,N,S,W	DNR
Getchell Lake	B3	carry in	N / A	DNR
Goodners Lake	D5	concrete	C,LB,N,S	DNR
Grand Lake	D5	concrete	C,LB,N,S,W	DNR
Horseshoe Lake	D4	concrete	C,LB,N,S,W	DNR
Kings Lake	B3	concrete	C,LB,N,S,W	DNR
Kings Lake	B3	fishing pier	C,LB,N,S,W	DNR
Koronis Lake (Lake Park)	D3	concrete	C,LB,N,S,SB,W	City
Koronis Lake (Hwy. 55	E3	concrete	C,LB,N,S,SB,W	DNR
Koronis Lake (County Park)	E3	concrete	C,LB,N,S,SB,W	County
Long Lake	D4	concrete	C,LB,N,S,W	DNR
Long Lake	A3	concrete	C,LB,N,S,W	DNR
Long Lake	A3	fishing pier	C,LB,N,S,W	DNR
Long / Crooked Lakes	D6	concrete	N / A	Township
Lower Spunk Lake	B4	concrete	N / A	DNR
McCormick Lake	A2	concrete	N / A	DNR
Marie Lake / Mill Pond	E6	concrete	C,LB,N,S,W	County
Middle Spunk Lake	B4	concrete	C,LB,N,S,W	City
Middle Spunk Lake	B4	fishing pier	C,LB,N,S,W	City
MISSISSIPPI RIVER: Mississippi County Park	A6	concrete	Various	City
Walleye Rd. Landing	A5	concrete	Various	Township
Sartell - Benton Co.	B6	concrete	Various	DNR
Rotary Park	B6	carry in	Various	City
Heims Mill	B6	concrete	Various	County
Wilson Park - Benton Co.	C6	concrete	Various	City
5th Avenue	C6	concrete	Various	City
Beaver Islands Park	C6	fishing pier	Various	City
Beaver Islands Park	C6	concrete	Various	City
Clearwater - Sherburne Co.	D6	concrete	Various	DNR
River Bluffs Regional Park	C6	concrete	Various	City

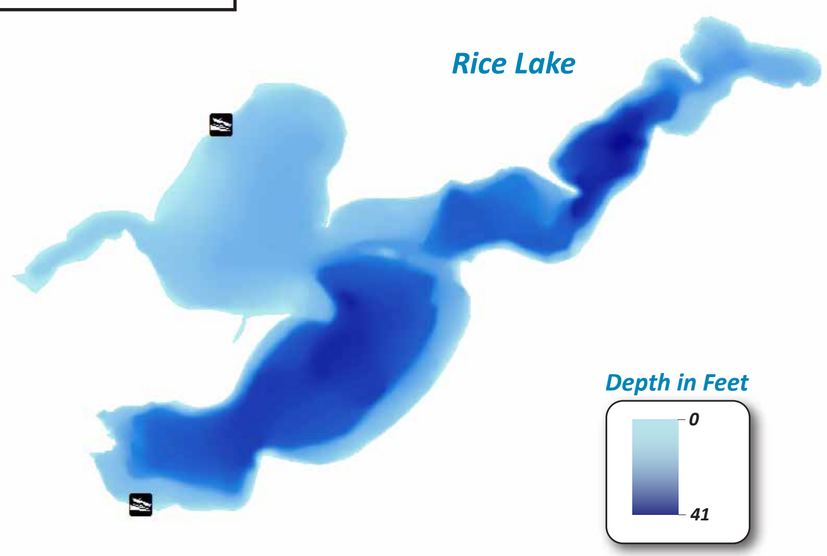
Water Body Name	Map Grid Location	Ramp Type	Fish Species	Administrator
Mud Lake	D4	concrete	N / A	City
North Brown's Lake	D4	concrete	C,LB,N,S,W	DNR
Ochotto Lake	B4	concrete	C,LB,N,S	City
Pearl Lake	D5	concrete	C,LB,N,S,W	DNR
Pelican Lake	B4	concrete	C,N,S,W	DNR
Pine Lake	B4	gravel	N,LB,C	DNR
Pleasant Lake	C5	concrete	C,LB,N,W	DNR
Rice Lake (N)	D3	concrete	C,LB,N,S,W	DNR
Rice Lake (S)	D3	concrete	C,LB,N,S,W	DNR
Sand Lake	B3	concrete	C,LB,N,S	DNR
Sauk Lake (Hwy 71)	A2	concrete	Various	DNR
Sauk Lake (S)	A2	concrete	Various	City
Sauk Lake	A2	fishing pier	Various	City
SAUK RIVER: Sauk Center	A2	carry in	Various	City
Mill Pond	B2	concrete	Various	City
Melrose Dam	B2	carry in	Various	City
Melrose	B2	carry in	Various	City
Spring Hill	C3	carry in	Various	County
St. Martins	C3	carry in	Various	County
Richmond	D4	carry in	Various	City
Sauk River (Lions Park)	D4	fishing pier	Various	City
Lions Park	D4	concrete	Various	City
Cold Spring	D4	carry in	Various	City
Eagle Park	C5	carry in	Various	City
Rockville County Park	C5	carry in	Various	County
Miller Landing	C5	carry in	Various	County
Pineview Park	C5	carry in	Various	City
Knights of Columbus Park	C5	carry in	Various	City
School Section Lake	E6	concrete	C,N,S	DNR
St. Anna Lake	A3	gravel	C,N,LB	DNR
Sylvia Lake	A3	concrete	C,N,S,SB	County
Sylvia Lake	A3	fishing pier	C,N,S,SB	County
Two Rivers Lake	B4	concrete	C,LB,N,S,W	DNR
Uhlenkolts Lake	B3	earth	N,S	DNR
Warner Lake	D6	concrete	C,LB,N,S	County
Warner Lake	D6	fishing pier	C,LB,N,S	County

Fish Species: C — Crappie, LB — Largemouth Bass, N — Northern Pike, S — Sunfish, SB — Smallmouth Bass, W — Walleye, N / A — Not Available

Waters with Invasive Species

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. Some sites 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 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.

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, or Contact the DNR Information Center, 651-296-6157 (888-MINNDNR) or email info.dnr@state.mn.us.