

Access to Minnetonka

The Aug. 31 article on Lake Minnetonka access failed to report what every close observer of the lake has seen for decades: The public is using the lake in numbers so large as to be unsafe on busy summer evenings and weekends.

ST/S
The burning issue in St. Paul in recent years is not really whether the public can launch enough boats on Lake Minnetonka. It's whether the Department of Natural Resources is or is not a sponsor of a large public launching site.

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This almost bizarre desire to add one more large-scale access for launching boats was highlighted at an executive council meeting two years ago when DNR Commissioner Joe Alexander presented his department's rationale for pushing more boats on the lake. The governor interjected his views by saying that he had been on the lake that summer and could hardly wait to get off, that lake activity reminded him of a German autobahn and that he wondered why the lake needed any more boats.

Everyone using the lake on a busy summer day gets the same impression. The question is not whether additional boat access is needed. It's whether the existing access opportunities can be so managed as to preserve the natural resource qualities of the lake before it's too late. The DNR should be devoting itself to that goal, not hastening the deterioration of such a fine natural asset. —Robert L. Searles, Wayzata.