

I. Access to Lakes and Rivers

Michael T. Markell, Supervisor
Water Recreation Section
Trails and Waterways Unit
Department of Natural Resources
DNR Building - 500 Lafayette Road
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55155-4052
(612) 296-6413

A. M.L. 91, Ch 254, Art 1, Sec 14, Subd. 3(d)

Appropriation: \$1,000,000
Balance: \$ -0-

This appropriation is to the commissioner of natural resources to provide boat access to major recreation lakes and to construct fishing piers in accordance with established priorities, inventory, map, and construct shore access sites in the metropolitan area.

II. NARRATIVE

This program will provide the public with access to lakes and rivers throughout the state. Access includes boat access, fishing piers and shoreline access, and will provide fishing opportunities to both anglers with or without a boat.

III. OBJECTIVES

A. Boat access to major boating recreational areas

- A1. Narrative: The purpose of this project is to provide for boat access to major boating recreational areas in Minnesota which are lacking adequate access because of the high cost associated with access acquisition and construction.
- A2. Procedures: Approximately one to two access sites could be established on major water resources. Priorities would include Lake Darling, Lake Minnetonka, the Mississippi River from Saint Paul to

the Iowa border, the Saint Croix River, Gull Lake, Leech Lake, Burntside Lake, Lake Koronis, Whitefish Lake, Lake Winnibigoshish and other large lakes.

A3. Budget:

- a. Amount budgeted: \$450,000
b. Balance: \$ -0-

A4. Timeline:

	July 1991	Jan 1992	June 1992	Jan 1993	June 1993
Acquire 1 to 2 accesses	-----				
Develop 1 to 2 accesses		-----			

- A5. Status: One access site purchased on Lake Minnetonka. Lilydale access completed on the Mississippi River in cooperation with the city of Saint Paul. An access site was purchased on Green Lake, Chisago County.

- A6. Benefits: Demand for access to lakes and rivers remains strong as indicated by boat license increases of two percent each year. Currently, Minnesota is third in the nation in number of boat licenses and leads the nation in boats per capita with nearly one boat for every six people. Minnesota ranks near the top in the nation in number of fishing licenses sold, and fishing continues to increase.

By acquiring and developing access to public waters, we are providing the public with the recreational use of Minnesota's abundant resources of lakes and rivers.

B. Fishing piers

- B1. Narrative: Fishing piers is a program which provides shore fishing opportunities for anglers by means of a dock protruding into the lake or river. A typical fishing pier is a floating structure usually 50 to 100 feet in length, perpendicular to the shore with a 40 foot "T" at the end. Fishing piers are barrier free and are generally operated and maintained through a cooperative effort with local units of government.
- B2. Procedures: Fishing piers are provided through cooperative agreements with local governments and sportsmen's clubs. Stillwater Prison Industries constructs the piers, Department of Natural

Resources' labor crews install them, and local governments maintain and operate the piers; often with assistance from local clubs.

B3. Budget:

- a. Amount budgeted: \$400,000
b. Balance: \$ -0-

B4. Timeline:

	July	Jan	June	Jan	June
	1991	1992	1992	1993	1993
18 fishing piers constructed and installed					

B5. Status: Twenty-two fishing piers were constructed by Stillwater Prison Industries and were installed by the Department of Natural Resources.

B6. Benefits: This will help reduce the backlog of requests for 57 piers. Studies on fishing pier use indicate that they provide from 3,000 to 6,000+ hours of angling per pier per season.

C. Shore access in the Twin Cities metropolitan area

C1. Narrative: This program will provide the public with opportunities to obtain access to lakes in the seven county metropolitan area by locating and mapping shore access areas and working with communities on a cooperative basis to construct shore access sites.

C2. Procedures: This program will provide an inventory of existing shore access areas, identify amenities, uses or potential uses, and publish a map. We will formulate procedures, guidelines and criteria to construct shore access sites in cooperation with local communities. Construction will include walkways to the shore, improved shoreline for fishing opportunities (benches, level areas along the shore for fishing, and water access roads). Particular attention will be given to needs of the handicapped, the elderly and children.

C3. Budget:

- a. Amount budgeted: \$150,000
b. Balance: \$ -0-

C4. Timeline:

	July	Jan	June	Jan	June
	1991	1992	1992	1993	1993
Inventory shore access					
Publish map					
Improve Access in cooperation with local governments					

C5. Status: Completed shore access survey and published map showing over 180 metro shore fishing sites. Reviewed potential sites for improvements in cooperation with the Section of Fisheries. Five sites are being improved in cooperation with local units of government.

C6. Benefits: With the increased emphasis on urban fishing, this project will identify angling opportunities on a map for the public, targeting especially the handicapped, elderly, and children. Metropolitan lakes are more and more intensively managed by the Section of Fisheries, and with the increasing population, more opportunities are needed for shore access for anglers. In addition, with the demand by the public to use water for other activities such as bird watching, nature study, scuba diving, walking, viewing, etc., it is important that we provide the opportunity to access as many of the metropolitan lakes as possible by the passive user.

IV. EVALUATION

Objectives A and B of this program can be evaluated by the success in acquiring and developing access sites on major recreation lakes and constructing and installing fishing piers. The Department of Natural Resources has established priorities for these initiatives and a successful program will accelerate these initiatives. In addition, completion of an inventory of shore access sites in the metropolitan area, publication of a map, and improvement of shore access sites in cooperation with local governments will provide an evaluation of Objective C.

In the long term, the program can be evaluated by continued and successful use by the public of Minnesota's water resources through these water recreation programs.

V. CONTEXT

A. The Department of Natural Resources has identified over 250 lakes needing new or increased boat access. With boat registration

increasing at two percent per year and the cost of lakeshore, other funding sources are inadequate to meet the demand.

Fishing piers are highly successful and sought after by local governments and sportsmen's clubs throughout the state. Current funding levels cannot meet the demand with a backlog of 57 requests.

Providing the public with information on location of shore access sites is a new initiative.

- B. Increasing boat access to major recreational lakes and providing fishing piers will accelerate existing programs. Providing shore access information and improving shore access sites provides another way for the non-boating public, including the elderly, the handicapped and children, to enjoy fishing opportunities.
- C. The Legislative Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCMR) was instrumental in accelerating the boat access program in 1979 and has provided support and funding for new access sites in several bienniums since then. The LCMR most recently (1990-91) funded a Lake Superior Harbor of Refuge and Public Boat Access study and funds to provide a breakwater and public boat access in the city of Duluth.

D.		July 1989	July 1990	July 1991
	Water Access and Recreation	----\$3,626.0	-----*****\$3,935.00	*****
	Water Access Federal Aid	----\$ 423.0	-----*****\$ 424.0	*****
	LCMR North Shore Harbors Study	----\$ 100.0	-----	
	LCMR Duluth Area Breakwater	----\$ 132.5	-----*****\$ 132.5	*****

E. Water Access and Recreation \$

VI. QUALIFICATIONS

1. Program Manager

- a. B.S. Forestry, University of Minnesota, 1967.
- b. The Program Manager has been in this position since 1979. He has overseen the construction of over 400 access sites and the

purchase of over 200 new access sites. He also implemented the design and construction of fishing piers.

Previously, he worked in land acquisition as an appraiser/negotiator for the Department of Natural Resources. He is active on the national scene as Vice President of the States Organization for Boating Access.

VII. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

Semiannual status reports will be submitted not latter than January 1, 1992, July 1, 1992, January 1, 1993 and a final status report by June 30, 1993.