

JUL 18 1995

FOR THE PERIOD ENDING JUNE 30, 1995

This project was supported by the Trust Fund (M.S.)

TITLE: Access to Lakes and Rivers  
PROGRAM MANAGER: Michael T. Markell  
ORGANIZATION: DNR, Trails and Waterways Unit  
LEGAL CITATION: M.L. 93, Ch. 172, Art. 1, Sec. 14, Subd. 10(1)  
APPROP. AMOUNT: \$1,000,000

#### STATEMENT OF OBJECTIVES

This program provides access to lakes and rivers statewide, including boat access, fishing piers and shoreline access. The water recreation program expands and improves the public's opportunities to benefit through the enjoyment of Minnesota's water resources. This program's objectives are boat accesses to lakes and rivers, shoreline access and fishing piers.

#### RESULTS

A. Boat Access to Lakes and Rivers: Acquired public water access sites as follows: one on Lake Vermilion in St. Louis County, one on the Mississippi River in Wabasha County, and one on the Rainy River in Koochiching County. Developed one site on the Mississippi River in cooperation with the City of Lake City by expanding parking, rebuilding the launch ramps, and other improvements. The acquisitions will provide increased angler opportunities once they are developed. The development project in Lake City provides increased boat access to the Mississippi River and is heavily used.

B. Fishing Piers and Shoreline Access: Purchased 22 fishing piers from Stillwater Prison and installed them on lakes and rivers throughout the state. In addition, constructed three shorefishing sites in the Metro Area. Most of the new piers and shoreline accesses are already in use and enhance angling opportunities.

*-update in '96 found 32 total.  
-JB intern*

#### PROJECT RESULTS USE AND DISSEMINATION

A. Studies have shown that three-fourths of Minnesota's boaters launch at a public access at least once a year. Also, nearly four out of five of Minnesota's boat owners fish as part of their recreational activities. These sites will provide additional opportunities to access thousands of acres of water.

B. Studies show that over 500,000 hours of shore and pier fishing occurs in the metro area alone. There continues to be a demand for pier and shoreline access. DNR publishes maps to provide site and fishing information for the public.

LCMR Final Work Program Update Report

I. PROJECT TITLE: Access to Lakes and Rivers-Continuation

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

A. Legal Citation: M.L. 93, Chpt. 172, Art. 1, Sect. 14, Subd. 10(l)

Total Biennial LCMR Budget: \$1,000,000  
Balance: \$ 0

Appropriation Language: This appropriation is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources to accelerate access to lakes and rivers statewide. \$500,000 is for boat access to lakes and rivers, and \$500,000 is for shoreline access and fishing piers statewide.

B. LMIC Compatible Data Language: Not applicable

C. Status of Match Requirement: Not applicable

II. NARRATIVE: This program will provide the public with access to lakes and rivers statewide. Access includes fishing piers, and boat and shoreline access, and will provide fishing opportunities with or without a boat.

III. STATEMENT OF OBJECTIVES: This program will provide boat access to lakes and rivers that are in high demand by the public for many uses: boating, sailing, fishing, etc. Another component of the program is to provide angling opportunities for those without a boat including special populations: persons with disabilities, the elderly, and children, by providing fishing piers and shoreline improvements.

IV. OBJECTIVES:

A. Title of Objective: Boat access to high priority lakes and rivers

A1. Narrative: Some of Minnesota's lakes and rivers are so unusual they need to be given special consideration. They are in high demand by the public for many water recreation uses and are, in many cases, heavily developed with homes, cabins, and resorts. Needless to say, access acquisition and development costs are extremely high. Priorities include the Mississippi River from Saint Cloud to the Iowa border, Lake Vermillion, Rainy Lake, Clearwater Lake, the Gull Lake Chain, and others.

A2. Procedures: Acquisition and development will be based on the water access priority list, availability of property, and willing sellers.

A3. Budget:  
a. Amount budgeted: \$500,000  
b. Balance: \$0

A4. Timeline:

	July	Jan	June	Jan	June
	1993	1994	1994	1995	1995
Acquire 1 to 2 accesses	XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX				
Construct 1 to 2 accesses		XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX			

A5. Status: Acquired three public water access sites as follows: one on Lake Vermilion in St. Louis County, one on the Mississippi River in Wabasha County, and one on the Rainy River in Koochiching County. Developed one site on the Mississippi River in cooperation with the city of Lake City by expanding parking, rebuilding the launch ramps, and other improvements.

A6. Benefits: Access to Minnesota lakes and rivers continues to be in high demand. From the 1988 statewide boating survey conducted by the University of Minnesota, we know that three-fourths of the state's boat owners launch a boat at a free public water access site at least once each year. These sites provide a frequently used "place at the lake or river" for boaters who do not own waterfront property especially among boat owners residing in northern Minnesota. By providing boat access to the high priority lakes and rivers, we are targeting the most visible, most desirable boating and fishing waters for the public.

B. Title of Objective: Shoreline access and fishing piers

B1. Narrative: This program will provide anglers, who do not have a boat, fishing opportunities by constructing fishing piers or improving shoreline.

B2. **Processes:** Fishing piers and shoreline enhancements are barriers and, generally, operated and maintained through a cooperative effort with local units of government. Local units provide the land, ongoing maintenance, and, sometimes, partial construction funding. Fishing piers are built by Prison Industries at Stillwater and are installed by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

B3. **Budget:**  
a. Amount budgeted: \$500,000  
b. Balance: \$0

B4. **Timeline:**

	July	Jan	June	Jan	June
	<u>1993</u>	<u>1994</u>	<u>1994</u>	<u>1995</u>	<u>1995</u>
Construct and install 18 fishing piers	xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx				
Improve 10 shoreline sites	xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx				

B5. **Status:** Purchased 22 fishing piers from Stillwater Prison and installed them on lakes and rivers throughout the state. In addition, constructed three shorefishing sites in the Metro Area. All these projects were completed in cooperation with local governments.

B6. **Benefits:** This program provides angling opportunities for special populations including persons with disabilities, the elderly, and children. Metropolitan areas, especially the seven county metro area, will be emphasized due to the population base and intensive lake management by the Section of Fisheries. Fishing piers, built by Stillwater Prison Industries, are extremely popular, and there is a substantial backlog of requests from local governments and sportsmen's clubs.

V. **EVALUATION:** Success will be measured by purchase and development of boat access sites on high priority lakes and rivers, improvement of shoreline access sites, and installation of fishing piers.

VI. **CONTEXT:**

- A. This program accelerates acquisition and development of boat access sites that are very expensive to acquire and develop. These costs would be difficult at best to absorb in the regular budget of the water access program. It also provides fishing piers and shoreline access improvements which are not included in regular budgets.
- B. Being a continuation project, the intent is to serve water access needs of most populations especially those related to fishing. This biennium, as in the past, the project timeline is two years and is not dependent on future funding.

VII. **QUALIFICATIONS:**

- 1. Program Manager: Michael T. Markell, Supervisor, Water Recreation Section, Trails and Waterways Unit
  - 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 DNR.
- 2. Cooperators/Other Investigators  
Emphasis will be placed on using public land where available and suitable for access. Some boat access projects and most fishing pier and shoreline access projects will have local commitment of either land, maintenance, design assistance, or direct fund participation. Typical cooperators are county, city, and township governments, and the U.S. Forest Service.

VIII. **REPORTING REQUIREMENTS:**

Semiannual status reports will be submitted not later than January 1, 1994, July 1, 1994, January 1, 1995, and a final status report by June 30, 1995.

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II. NARRATIVE: This program will provide the public with access to lakes and rivers statewide. Access includes fishing piers, and boat and shoreline access, and will provide fishing opportunities with or without a boat.

III. STATEMENT OF OBJECTIVES: This program will provide boat access to lakes and rivers that are in high demand by the public for many uses: boating, sailing, fishing, etc. Another component of the program is to provide angling opportunities for those without a boat including special populations: persons with disabilities, the elderly, and children, by providing fishing piers and shoreline improvements.

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B1. Narrative: This program will provide anglers, who do not have a boat, fishing opportunities by constructing fishing piers or improving shoreline.

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