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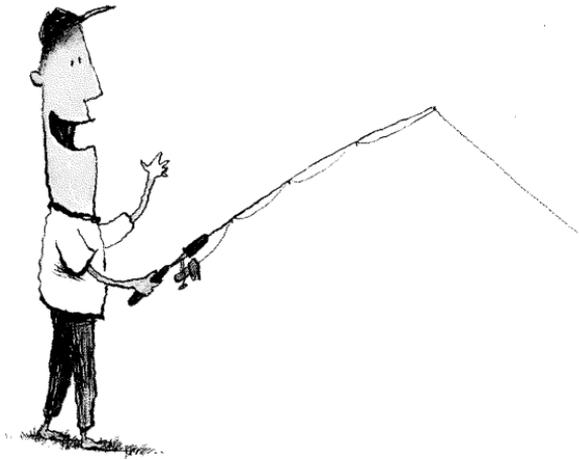


# ing Downtown

**A beginner's guide to shore fishing in Minneapolis/St. Paul**



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Natural Resources  
Produced by the Division of Fish and Wildlife

Illustrations by Jeff Tolbert

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## The Lakes

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If you haven't discovered all the good shore fishing right here in the Twin Cities, this booklet is for you.

Within just a few miles of the IDS building or the State Capitol, you can catch **crappies, catfish, walleyes, sunfish, northern pike, muskellunge, catfish, bass, carp, and more.**

You don't need a boat to catch these fish. This guide will show you how to catch them from shore. It tells how and where to fish the 23 best fishing waters closest to downtown St. Paul and Minneapolis.

You can get to most of these waters by bus, bicycle, or walking – so even if you don't have a car you can still go fishing anytime.

Anyone can use this guide, but it's mainly for **beginning anglers** who want to find a few nearby places to catch fish here in the Twin Cities.

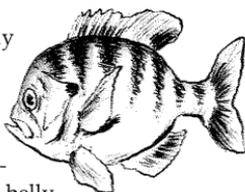
## What kind of fish is it?

With this guide, you can learn to tell one type of fish from another. Here are the most common species caught in the Twin Cities lakes and rivers:

### SUNFISH

*(also called bluegill or pumpkinseed)*

Round,  
flat body

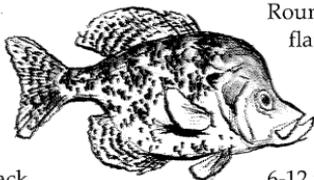


Orange-colored belly,  
green and blue body. 4-10 inches long

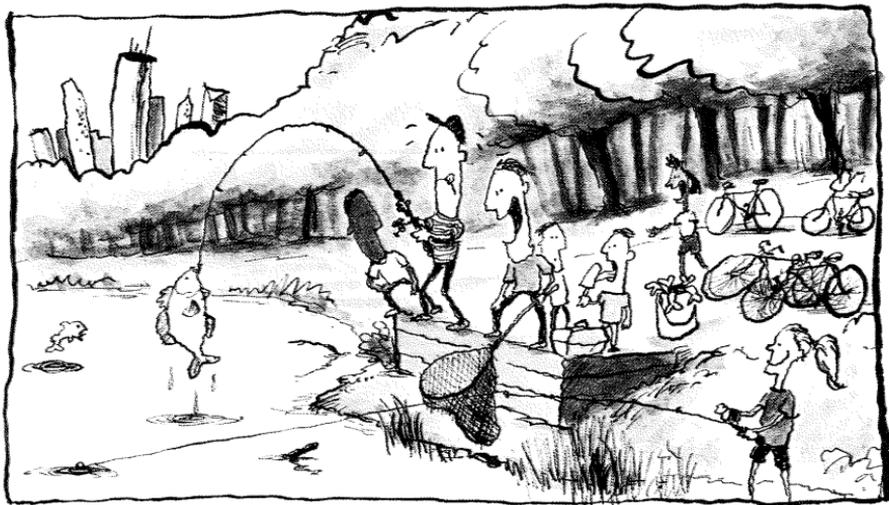
### CRAPPIE

*(two kinds: white and black)*

Round and  
flat body

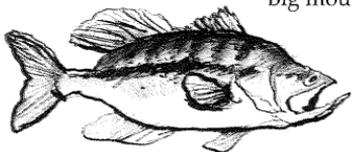


Black spots or lines on sides 6-12 inches long



## LARGEMOUTH BASS

Big mouth

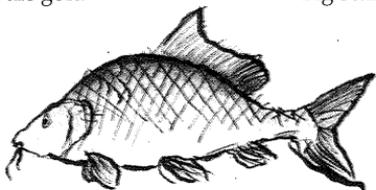


Green color, with dark line along sides 6-23 inches long

## CARP

Pale gold

Big scales

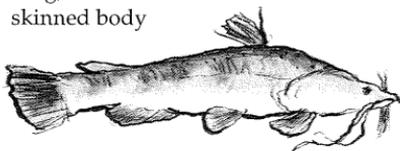


Whiskers on suckerlike mouth 12-36 inches long

## CATFISH

(channel and flathead)

Long, smooth-skinned body



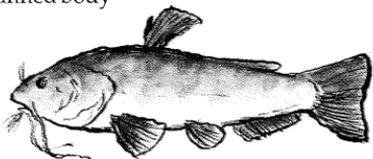
Whiskers

Stiff spine in top fin and side fins 10-40 inches long

## BULLHEAD

(brown, black, yellow)

Long, smooth-skinned body

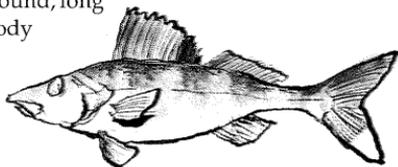


Whiskers

Stiff spine in top and side fins 6-14 inches long

## WALLEYE

Round, long body



Large, glassy eyes

Pale green body, white belly 10-30 inches long

## PERCH

Round, long body



Black bars on yellow body 6-14 inches long

## NORTHERN PIKE

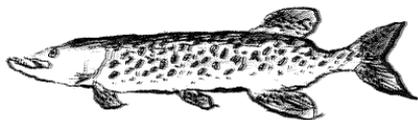
Sharp teeth Very long, round body



White marks on black body 12-42 inches long

## MUSKELLUNGE

Sharp teeth Very long, round body



Black bars on light body 12-45 inches long

### GO THIS WEEKEND!

Learning to fish is easy.  
Plan to give it a try next  
Saturday or Sunday.

## Fishing licenses

**B**efore you can fish, you need a Minnesota fishing license. Buy one from any store that sells fishing tackle or bait, such as K-Mart, Target, or Holiday. Also, ask for your free DNR fishing regulations.

Yearly licenses cost \$14 for adults. Kids age 15 or younger can fish for free. A senior's yearly fishing license costs \$5.50.

## Shore fishing equipment

**I**f you haven't done much fishing before, don't worry. It's not hard.

To catch fish, all you need is a fishing license, a rod, a reel, some hooks or lures, a bobber, a few sinkers, and a container of bait.

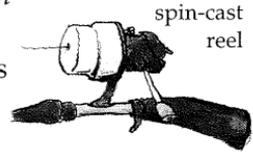
You'll also want to know the basic fishing laws and a few simple things about where fish live, what they eat, and when they are hungry. These are explained on pages 6-8.

## Equipment

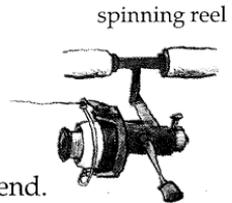
**Rod**—Almost any type will work. The basic fishing rod is 6 feet long and has a medium "weight" (which means it's a good all-purpose rod). A cane pole or even a long stick will work for crappies and sunfish.

**Reel**—The easiest ones to use are called *spin-cast* reels.

*Spinning* reels are popular, but they are a bit harder to use.



If you use a cane pole or a stick, just tie the line to the end.



**Line**—Line is sold according to its strength (called "test"), which ranges from 2-pound test up to more than 30-pound test. A good all-purpose line is 8-pound test.

**Note:** Only one line is allowed per person in the summer.

## Bait fishing

**Hooks**—Any type of hook will work. **But treble hooks are illegal in Minnesota unless they are part of an artificial lure.**



The smaller the number, the larger the hook. Look for hooks in sizes 4-10. Hooks with a long "shank" (the part between the eye and the barb) are easier to remove from fish with small mouths, such as sunfish.

Use a hook that fits the mouth of the fish you want to catch. Size 8 and 10 hooks are best for crappies, sunfish, and carp. Size 4 and 6 are good for wall-eyes, catfish, and northern pike.

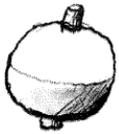
**Sinkers**—Also called split-shot, these lead balls keep your bait down near the lake or river bottom, where most fish swim.

For most shore fishing, pinch on one or two small weights the size of a BB, about 10 inches up from your hook.



Use only enough to sink the bait. If the fish feels too much weight it will drop the bait before you can set the hook.

**Bobber**—Usually the smaller and thinner bobbers work best. But don't use one so small that



the weight and bait sink it. When the bobber goes under the water surface,

you know that a fish has taken your bait. A bobber also adds weight to the line to help you cast farther.

**Bait**—There is a lot to choose from. For most fish, the best all-around baits are *nightcrawlers*, half a nightcrawler, or *worms*.

*Waxworms* work well for sunfish. To catch carp, try a kernel of *canned corn*. Catfish are partial to a piece of *turkey liver*.

*Minnows* are great fish-getters. Try tiny (1-inch-long) minnows for crappies and larger (2- to 6-inch-long) sucker and fathead minnows for walleyes and northern pike.

If you don't know what type of minnow to use, just ask the



person selling the bait.

Take along a needle-nosed pliers to remove the hook from the mouth of any fish you catch.

**Note:** Worms, minnows, and nightcrawlers die easily, and when dead they will no longer attract fish.

Keep worms and nightcrawlers in a cool, moist place, out of the sun. Put minnows in a bucket with a few small holes punched in the sides and keep it in shaded water nearby. To keep water from spilling out, transport the bait bucket in a larger bucket.

## Lures

Of the hundreds of lures on the market, the most popular are spinners (such as Mepps or Rooster Tails), crankbaits (such as Rapalas), and jigs with feathers or rubber bodies (such as Mister Twisters).

**Jig**—This is simply a hook with a lead ball near the eye.

Retrieve a jig by bouncing it along the bottom of the lake or river.



**Spinners**—These lures vibrate when retrieved through the water, attracting fish. They are easy to use and will catch a wide variety of fish.



**Spoons**—These heavy lures can be cast far out into a lake or river.

Spoons are mostly used for northern pike and muskies.



**Crankbaits**—More expensive than other lures, crankbaits are excellent for walleyes, pike, muskies, and bass.



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## How to fish from shore

**M**ost information in fishing books and magazines is about fishing from a *boat*. Fishing from shore is different.

In many ways, shore fishing is easier than boat fishing. You don't need as much equipment, it's cheaper, and usually there are restrooms and places to eat nearby.

One of the mistakes beginners make when fishing from shore is

they *don't move around enough*. Staying in one spot is fine if you want to relax or just take a nap. But don't expect to catch many fish that way.

Fish usually don't swim around too much. They like to stay in one place for much of the day. The trick is to keep casting your lure or bait to different spots as you move along the shore until you find a fish.

**Note:** Wading is a good way to reach fishing spots along the shore. Wear tennis shoes to protect your feet. If you don't swim well, wear a life preserver. And don't wade in big rivers, where the fast current can knock you off your feet.

## Where to fish

Fish anywhere along shore where there is *shade* or *cover*. Fish are afraid of people, birds, and sunlight, so they swim to the darkest hiding spots they can find. Try casting to water below overhanging trees or bushes, under boat docks or fishing piers, near lily pads, below bridges, or anywhere else you find shade.

You'll also find fish in deep water near shore. Since the water is shallower near shore than it is in the middle of the lake or river, there usually are only a few deep spots close to the bank. Some good spots to try are: anywhere a culvert or a stream flows into the

lake or river, under bridges, and near steep shorelines. Also, try fishing near "Warning, Deep Water" signs.



Fish also stay close to objects, such as underwater boulders or logs. Try casting to any big rocks or trees sticking out of the water.

## When to fish

**Time of day**—In the summer, fish in the early morning and in the evening just before sunset. That's when the sun is low and won't spook the fish, which usually avoid bright sunlight.

In the spring and fall, you can often fish any time of the day. The sun warms the shallow water near shore, attracting fish.

Cloudy days are usually good times to fish, and rainy days are even better. However, if you hear thunder or see lightning, stay away from the water to keep

from being hit by lightning.

Usually, the worst time to fish a lake is in the middle of a hot summer afternoon. Take a nap then, and fish later in the evening when the sun is lower in the sky.

**Season**—More fish are caught per hour in the *spring* than during any other season.

Fish are hungry after the long winter, and the water is warming, which makes the fish active. Also, fish are near shore laying their eggs, which makes them easier for shore anglers to catch.

Spring fishing for sunfish and crappies begins as soon as the ice has melted off the lakes, usually about the first week in April.

The season for walleyes and northerns doesn't legally open until mid-May. The bass season usually begins in late May or early June.

Shore fishing in the *summer* is tougher. By mid-June, the underwater plants in many lakes get too thick near shore for fishing.

Also, the water heats up and fish head to the deeper waters to find cooler temperatures.

In the summer, the trick is to locate deeper waters without too many underwater plants, and then fish in the morning or evening when the air and water are cooler.

**Note:** Rivers usually have great fishing in hot weather because they have fewer under-

water plants and stay fairly cool. Also, many fish such as carp, bullheads, and catfish actually prefer the warm water and are more likely to bite in the middle of hot days.

*Fall* is a great time to fish.

When the weather cools in September and October, fish start gobbling up food to prepare for winter. And because the water is cooler, fish swim closer to shore.

Another nice thing about fall is that underwater plants begin to die, opening up more water to shore anglers.

If you want to fish in the *winter* but don't have an auger (drill) to drill holes in the ice, look for holes drilled by other anglers the day before. Usually you can break through the ice that formed overnight with a hammer and a chisel.

Ice fishing is usually best for crappies and sunfish, so bring a bucket of minnows or some wax-

worms. For wintertime crappies, fish at sundown. Sunfish will bite at any time of day.

**Note:** The legal opening date for each fish species is in your DNR fishing regulations.

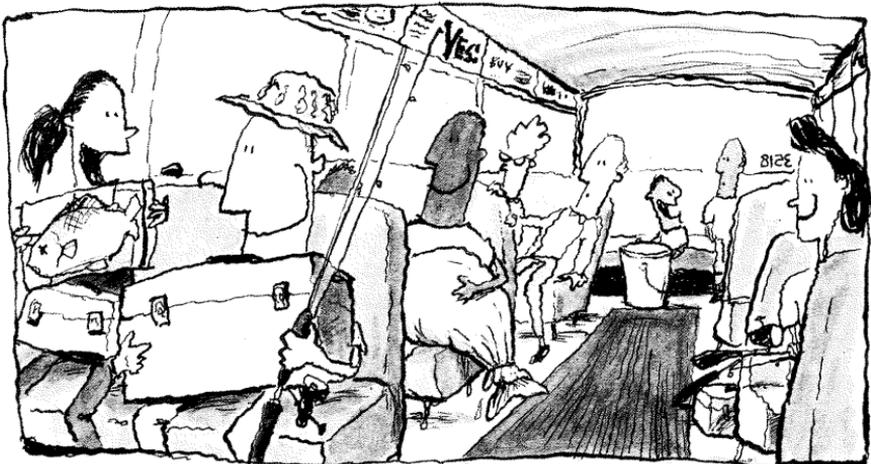
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## How to use the MTC to fish

**B**usses are an easy way to get to and from fishing waters. Listed next to each lake on pages 14–23 are the nearest bus routes. To find which bus to take from your home, call the MTC information line at 827-7733 and tell them where you are and where you want to go fishing.

Here are a few things to remember when fishing by bus:

- Make sure your rod is broken down and held together in a bag or case or with rubber bands. Keep hooks and lures in a box.



- Carry minnows in a bucket that has a tight-fitting lid. This will keep the bait cool and prevent it from spilling.
- When carrying fish on the bus, make sure they are in a plastic bag of some sort. The MTC asks that you don't bring stringers of fish onto a bus.

## Are fish safe to eat?

**F**ish are not always safe to eat. Here is a guide to eating fish caught from Twin Cities waters.

**Lakes**—Women who are pregnant or are planning to have children, and kids under 6, *should not eat carp, large walleyes, or large northern pike.*

Others should not eat carp, large walleyes, or large northern pike more than once a week.

It is safe to eat bluegills, crappies, small walleyes, and small northern pike.

**Rivers**—Women who are pregnant or are planning to have children, and kids under 6, *should not eat any fish from Metro rivers.*

Others should not eat any fish from these rivers more than once a month.

**Note:** These are only general guidelines and are based on a more-detailed report from the state Department of Health. For more information, call 627-5423.

## Catch-and-release

**S**ome anglers let some or all of their fish go. That way, they might get a chance to catch the fish another day.

To release a fish the correct way, follow these steps:

- Let the fish go at once. Don't keep it on a stringer or in a bucket and then decide to release it later. The fish will probably die.
- Try to release the fish while it is still in the water.
- Don't hold fish by the eyes or gills.
- Don't throw the fish back in the water. Slide it in gently.
- If the hook is deep inside the throat, don't yank on it. Cut the line. The hook will dissolve in a few days.

**Note:** It is illegal to leave any fish, **even roughfish such as carp, suckers, and drum (sheepshead),** on the bank to die. If you catch a fish, you must either take it home or put it back in the water you caught it from.

Also, you can't dump leftover minnows into a lake or river.

### FISH SAFELY!

**It's safer - and usually more fun - to go fishing with a buddy or two.**

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## Fishing from wheelchairs

**F**ew metro areas in the country have as much wheelchair access to good fishing as the Twin Cities does.

Fishing piers, paved paths, and lots of water give anglers with any type of disability plenty of opportunities to go fishing.

Each of the 23 waters listed in this guide is rated on the following scale for people with physical disabilities:

**Excellent**—Wheelchairs have complete and easy access to the water's edge. A fishing pier or deck is available.

**Fair**—Hard, level grass or dirt bank leading to the water's edge. Depending on their ability, some

wheelchair users may require help getting to the water.

**Poor**—Steep or uneven shoreline is difficult to traverse in wheelchairs.

**Note:** The DNR has special fishing licenses for some people with physical, sensory, or mental disabilities. To see if you qualify, call the DNR Information Center (see page 24).

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## Kids' fishing ponds

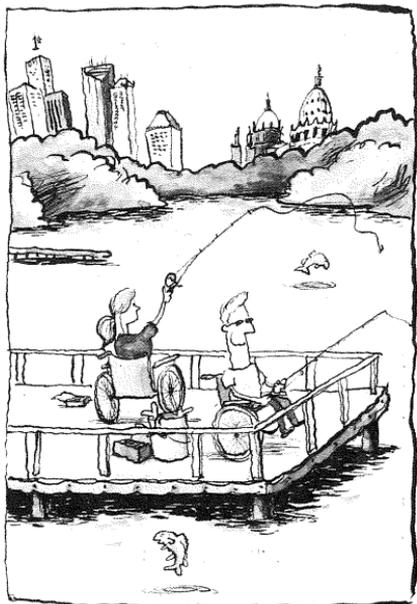
**E**ach spring, the DNR stocks 24 small ponds in the Metro area with sunfish, crappies, and bullheads. Although these ponds are legally open to anyone with a fishing license, they are intended for kids.

Several of the lakes in this booklet (Bennett, Powderhorn, and Wirth) are part of the DNR's Kids' Fishing Ponds program. To find out the names of the other ponds and when the stocking takes place, call the DNR's recorded message at 296-9131.

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## Catching BIG Fish

**O**f course, catching a lunker takes more time than catching a small fish does. One reason is that a lake or river has lots of little fish and only a few big ones. Also, one reason fish get big is because they were smarter than other fish and avoided lures



and baited hooks.

Although it might take a while, you can catch some huge fish from the lakes and rivers listed in this booklet. A few examples from recent years:

- 16-pound northern pike, Lake Nokomis, 1990
- 33.5-pound tiger muskie, Lake Calhoun, 1991
- 54-pound flathead catfish, Mississippi River, 1990.

To catch big fish, cast a big bait or lure to the deepest water you can find. Fish the first month of the fishing season or in the fall, when the water is cooler and more lunkers swim near shore. Keep at it. Eventually you'll catch a big one.

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## Bait shops

**Y**ou can buy fishing licenses, lures, line, and equipment at sporting goods stores and department stores such as Target, Holiday, and K-Mart. But only a few places in the central Metro area sell bait:

### ST. PAUL

Joe's Sporting Goods  
935 Dale Street North  
Phone: 488-5511

High Bridge Bait  
350 Water Street  
Phone: 290-0026

Gimp's Live Bait  
1239 Rice Street  
Phone: 487-9801

### MAPLEWOOD

Larry's Live Bait  
2626 White Bear Avenue  
Phone: 777-1731

Martin Sporting Goods  
2720 Maplewood Drive  
Phone: 483-4132

### RICHFIELD

B & D Bait  
1308 East 66th Street  
Phone: 866-5640

### PLYMOUTH

Harty's Boat and Bait  
1920 E. Medicine Lake Road  
Phone: 546-6711

Outpost Hunt and Sports  
11124 Highway 55  
Phone: 544-7376

### MINNEAPOLIS

Tackle Plus  
332 East Lake Street  
Phone: 827-4031

Bryn Mawr Phillips 66  
and Sport Center  
328 S. Cedar Lake Road  
Phone: 377-4743

### ROSEVILLE

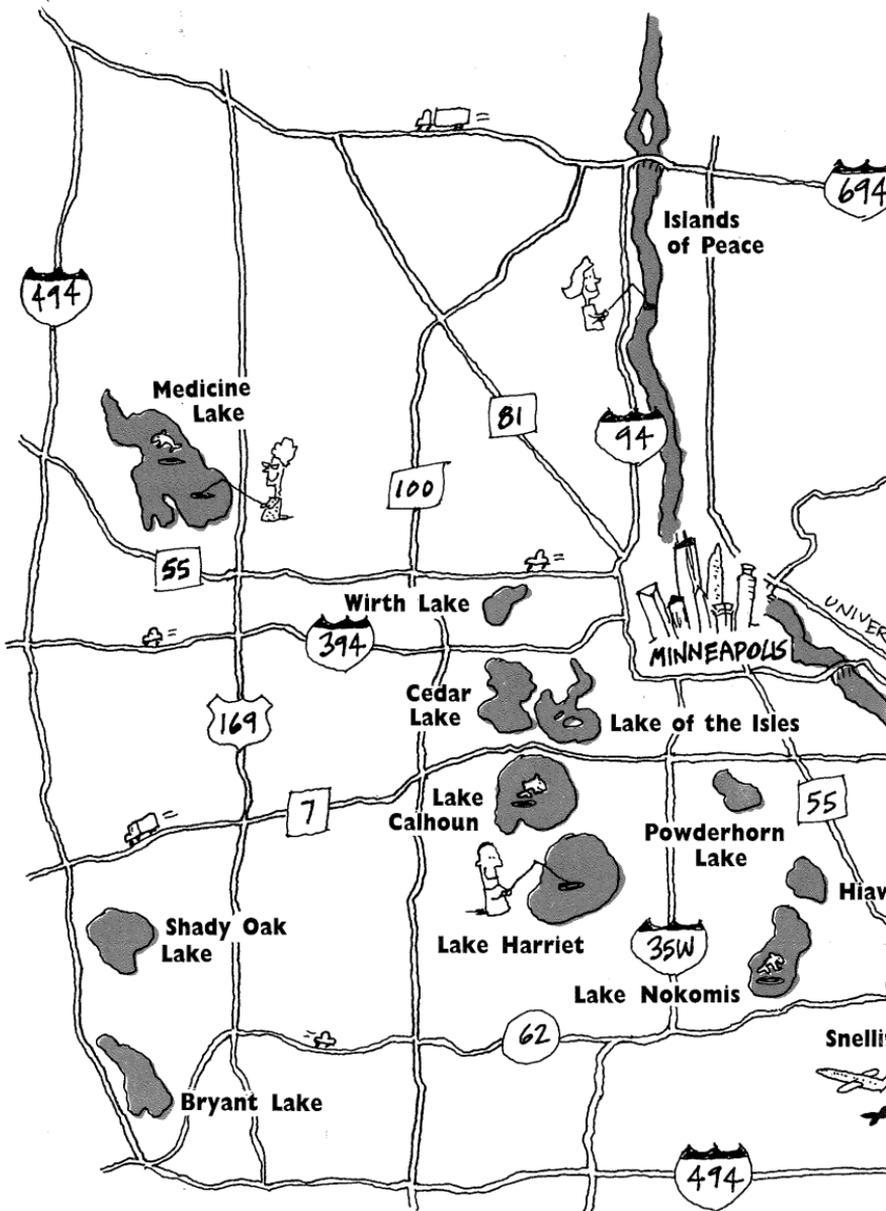
Lake Owasso Marina  
2774 Victoria St.  
Phone: 481-9722

### OAKDALE

Blue Ribbon Bait and Tackle  
1985 Geneva Ave.  
Phone: 777-2421

**Note:** There may be additional bait shops in the central Metro area besides the ones listed here. For more listings, see the Yellow Pages under "Fishing Bait."

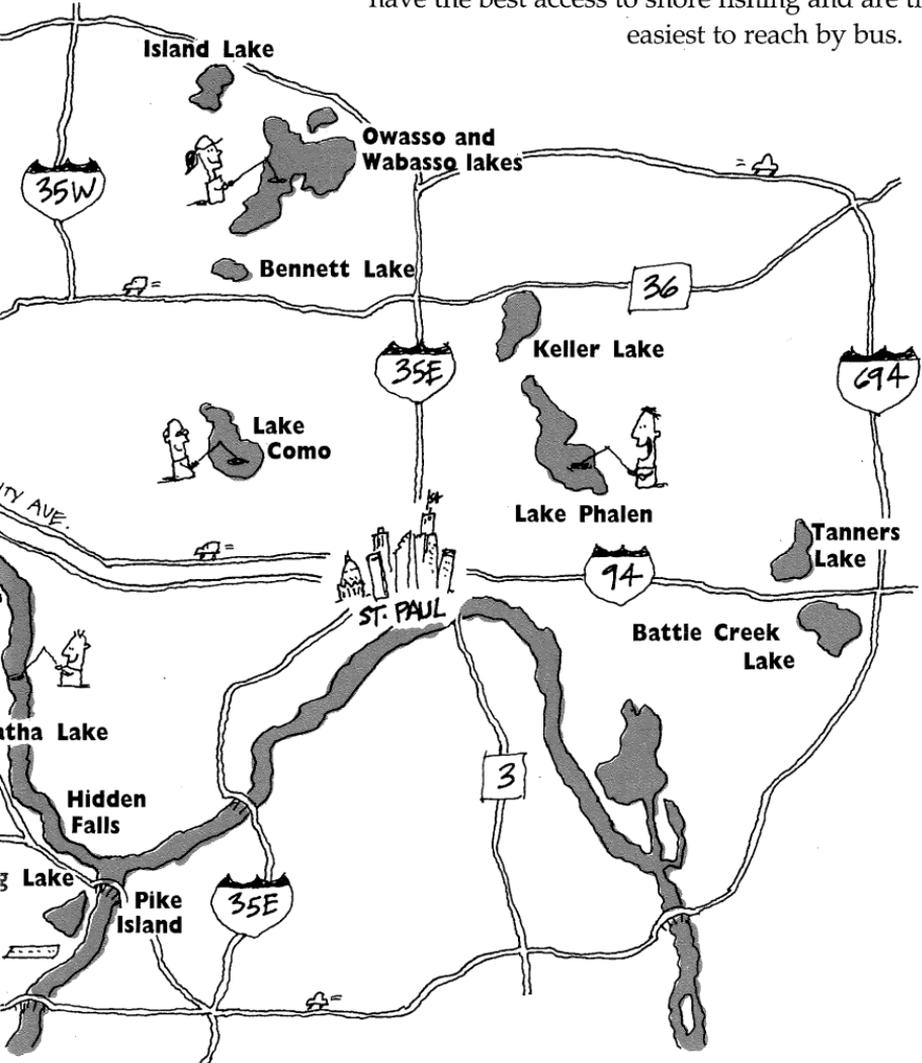
# Minneapolis/St. Paul



# Shore Fishing Hotspots

This map will give you a general idea of where to find good fishing lakes and rivers within the Twin Cities. To get to a fishing spot, you'll probably need to use a road map with more detail.

There are actually more lakes in the Twin Cities than are shown here. The ones on this map are those within the Interstate 494-694 loop that have the best access to shore fishing and are the easiest to reach by bus.



# The Lakes

## Species code:

- BLH – Bullhead
- Carp – Common carp
- CTF – Catfish  
(channel or flathead)
- C – Crappie
- Drum – Freshwater drum  
(sheepshead)
- LMB – Largemouth bass
- M(HYB) – Tiger muskie
- M – Muskie
- NP – Northern pike
- P – Perch
- S – Sunfish
- WB – White bass
- W – Walleye
- Other – Mooneye, gar, or bowfin

**Note:** Lakes with a \* sign are also kids' fishing ponds. Most lakes have wheelchair-accessible restrooms.

## I. Battle Creek Lake

**Location:** In Woodbury's Menomin Park, just south of Interstate 94 and east of County Road 120.

**Species:** NP, S, C, P, BLH.

**Wheelchair access:** Excellent.

**MTC bus:** None nearby.

**Park entrance fee:** No.

**Restrooms:** Yes, satellites.

**Parking:** Fair, only six spots.

**Picnic:** No.

**Playground:** No.

**Agency:** City of Woodbury, 731-5788.

**Fishing pier:** Yes.

**Comments:** This lake is known for its northern pike and bullheads. Walleyes and largemouth bass have been stocked in recent years, so don't be surprised if you land one of those species.

The entire shoreline is marshy, so the only good place to fish is from the pier. The lake gets too weedy to fish from mid-June to mid-September. It's a good one to try in the winter, when you can walk to anywhere you want on the lake. (This lake is aerated to prevent winterkill.)

## 2. Bennett Lake\*

**Location:** Roseville, off Lexington Ave. between Cty. Rd. B2 and Cty. Rd. C.

**Species:** S, BLH, M, C, NP, LMB.

**Wheelchair access:** Excellent.

**MTC bus:** Route 33 goes within 4 blocks.

**Park entrance fee:** No.

**Restrooms:** Yes.

**Parking:** Good.

**Picnic:** Yes.

**Playground:** Yes.

**Agency:** City of Roseville, 490-2289.

**Fishing pier:** Yes.

**Comments:** This lake is great for shore fishing. It has a pier and a paved trail that goes around the entire lake.

Bennett Lake is also good for summer fishing, because it

doesn't get too weedy. In July and August, fish the south side, where trees shade the water. A nearby pond to the southeast is filled with tiny sunfish.

**DON'T LITTER!**  
It's illegal. And trash looks ugly and can ruin fishing. Pick up your line, wrappers, cans, and bottles before you leave.

### 3. Bryant Lake

**Location:** Eden Prairie, near Interstate 494 and Hwy. 169.

**Species:** M(HYB), S, C, NP, BLH, P, Carp.

**Wheelchair access:** Fair. There is 150 yards of mowed lawn up to the edge of lake.

**MTC bus:** None nearby.

**Park entrance fee:** Yes.

**Restrooms:** Yes.

**Parking:** Yes (fee).

**Picnic:** Yes.

**Playground:** No, but there is a swimming beach.

**Agency:** Hennepin Parks, 559-9000.

**Fishing pier:** No.

**Comments:** This clear, shallow lake is best fished in spring or fall when there are fewer underwater plants near the shore to get in the

way. From June through September it's usually too weedy to fish. In the summer, you'll need to cast far to reach the deep water off shore. Use new, 4-pound-test line to increase your casting distance.

### 4. Lake Calhoun

**Location:** Minneapolis, approximately 3 blocks west of Lake St. and Hennepin Ave.

**Species:** LMB, NP, C, S, M(HYB), W, P, Carp.

**Wheelchair access:** Excellent.

The paved trail ringing the lake gives access to several grassy areas along the water.

**MTC bus:** Routes 6, 28, and 12 pass within two blocks of the lake.

**Park entrance fee:** No.

**Restrooms:** Yes.

**Parking:** Yes.

**Picnic:** Yes.

**Playground:** No, but there are three swimming beaches.

**Agency:** Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board, 348-5406.

**Fishing pier:** Yes.

**Comments:** This is a prime lake for muskies, bass, and walleyes in early summer and fall. The channel leading into Lake of the Isles is a good spot. And the pier lets you cast to deep water.

To catch walleyes, try fishing at sunset in late June. Cast a fathead minnow hooked 24 inches below a bobber into 8 to 10 feet of water.

Rental canoes are available.

A concession stand, open every day during the summer, sells food and drinks, but no bait.

## 5. Cedar Lake

**Location:** Minneapolis, just south of I-394 and east of Hwy. 100.

**Species available:** LMB, NP, C, S, M(HYB), P, Carp.

**Wheelchair access:** Excellent. Pavement along part of the lake gives access to several grassy areas along the water and to a fishing pier.

**MTC bus:** Routes 1, 17, and 9 all run within a few blocks.

**Park entrance fee:** No.

**Restrooms:** Yes.

**Parking:** Good.

**Picnic:** Yes.

**Playground:** No.

**Agency:** Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board, 348-5406.

**Fishing pier:** Yes.

**Comments:** Lots of deep water near shore makes this a good lake to fish all year – even in mid-summer. Anyone willing to bushwhack along the brushy banks can find some good largemouth bass fishing along the lake's north shore. Cast a

crankbait to water near overhanging branches, lily pads, or underwater plants.

## 6. Lake Como

**Location:** St. Paul, at Lexington Ave. and Como Ave.

**Species available:** LMB, S, BLH, W, Carp.

**Wheelchair access:** Excellent. There's a pier, and level grass areas run along much of lake's shoreline.

**MTC bus:** Routes 12 and 5 go to within 2 blocks.

**Park entrance fee:** No.

**Restrooms:** Yes.

**Parking:** Yes.

**Picnic:** Yes.

**Playground:** Some nearby. Also, lots of room to run around.

**Agency:** St. Paul Parks and Recreation, 488-7291.

**Fishing pier:** Yes.

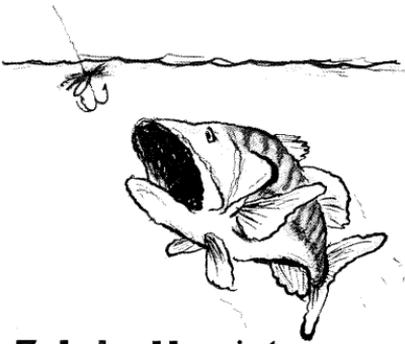
**Comments:** Good bass fishing in June. (**Note:** Como has special regulations for bass. Signs are posted at the lake). In mid-summer, when underwater plants grow thick, try casting and retrieving a weedless lure (ask for one at a bait shop or tackle store) across the top of the vegetation at dusk.

Como also has many small sunfish.

Weekly summer concerts in the lakeside pavilion add a musical touch to evening fishing.

### EASY ACCESS!

**Most lakes and rivers in this guide are near bus lines and are wheelchair accessible.**



## 7. Lake Harriet

**Location:** Minneapolis, 1 mile west of Lyndale Ave., just north of 50th St.

**Species available:** W, S, C, BLH, M, P, LMB, Carp.

**Wheelchair access:** Excellent.

There's a pier, many grassy areas near the water, and a paved trail that rings lake.

**MTC bus:** Routes 28 and 4 pass within four blocks of the lake.

**Park entrance fee:** No.

**Restrooms:** Yes.

**Parking:** Good.

**Picnic:** Yes.

**Playground:** Yes, and a swimming beach.

**Agency:** Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board, 348-5406

**Fishing pier:** Yes.

**Comments:** Great shore fishing for muskies, bass, sunfish, perch, and walleyes. The lake has boat rental and a concession stand.

In late fall, you can catch big walleyes at dusk by casting a large minnow hooked on a floating jig about 15 inches above a slip sinker. (Ask someone in a bait shop or tackle store to show you this rig.)

## 8. Hiawatha Lake

**Location:** Minneapolis, off Minnehaha Parkway, between Cedar and Hiawatha avenues.

**Species available:** NP, C, S, P, Carp.

**Wheelchair access:** Excellent.

**MTC bus:** Route 19 stops within 2 blocks.

**Park entrance fee:** No.

**Restrooms:** Yes.

**Parking:** Good.

**Picnic:** Yes.

**Playground:** Yes, and a swimming beach.

**Agency:** Minneapolis City Parks and Recreation Board, 348-5406.

**Fishing pier:** Yes, on the south side.

**Comments:** Good fishing all year long. The pier is a convenient place to catch crappies. Lots of northern pike and carp move in and out of the lake through Minnehaha Creek.

To catch the lake's bullheads, use a worm on a hook a few feet below a bobber. Cast anywhere.

## 9. Hidden Falls, Mississippi River

**Location:** St. Paul, at Hidden Falls Regional Park, just south of Ford Parkway.

**Species available:** W, CTF, C, S, WB, SMB, NP, LMB, Carp, Other.

**Wheelchair access:** Fair to Poor.

If the water level is high (spring),

anglers can fish from the grassy picnic area. But if it's low (summer), you must descend a steep bank to reach the water.

**MTC bus:** Route 9 passes within two blocks east of the park entrance.

**Park entrance fee:** No.

**Restrooms:** Yes.

**Parking:** Good.

**Picnic:** Yes.

**Playground:** No, but lots of room to run around.

**Agency:** St. Paul Parks and Recreation, 488-7291.

**Fishing pier:** No.

**Comments:** This is an excellent summer fishing spot. Fish with corn or worms to catch carp and drum. Several good fishing locations are upstream from the parking lot. Cast to where the river's current is slowed by rocks, logs, or underwater humps. Use enough weight to hold the bait down on the river bottom in the strong current.

**Note:** Check the fish consumption advisory, page 9.

## 10. Island Lake

**Location:** Shoreview, near the intersection of I-694 and Victoria St.

**Species available:** LMB, C, S,

**Wheelchair access:** Good.

**MTC bus:** None.

**Park entrance fee:** No.

**Restrooms:** Yes.

**Parking:** Good.

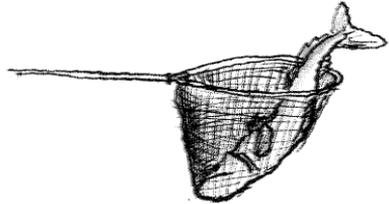
**Picnic:** Yes.

**Playground:** No.

**Agency:** Ramsey County Park and Recreation, 777-1707.

**Fishing pier:** Yes.

**Comments:** This lake has lots of fish and shoreline. Try the channel under the freeway. Anglers in wheelchairs can fish either from the pier or from the bridge on the service road that goes over the channel.



## 11. Islands of Peace, Mississippi River

**Location:** Fridley, just off East River Road.

**Species available:** W, CTF, C, S, SMB, Drum, Carp.

**Wheelchair access:** Excellent.

**MTC bus:** Route 27 stops one block from the park.

**Park entrance fee:** No.

**Restrooms:** Yes.

**Parking:** Good.

**Picnic:** Yes.

**Playground:** No.

**Agency:** Anoka County, 757-3920.

**Fishing pier:** No.

**Comments:** This is the best fishing spot on the Mississippi River for people with mobility

impairments. Several paved decks go to the water's edge.

There is some excellent backwater carp fishing here in May. Look for swirls or bubbles made by feeding fish. Cast a hook baited with corn or a doughball to the fish. Use as little weight as possible.

**Note:** Check the fish consumption advisory, page 9.

## 12. Keller Lake (East shore)

**Location:** Maplewood, near Hwy. 36 and Hwy. 61.

**Species available:** S, C, LMB, BLH, Carp.

**Wheelchair access:** Fair. Level mowed grass goes up to the edge of the lake in many spots.

**MTC bus:** None within walking distance.

**Park entrance fee:** No.

**Restrooms:** Yes.

**Parking:** Good.

**Picnic:** Yes.

**Playground:** No.

**Agency:** Ramsey County Park and Recreation, 777-1707.

**Fishing pier:** No.

**Comments:** This is a great lake for kids. There's lots of shoreline near picnic areas and loads of sunfish. Few underwater plants grow near shore, so the fishing is good all year long. Try fishing the east shore early, before the sun shines down on the water.

## 13. Lake of the Isles

**Location:** Minneapolis, just south of Franklin Ave., one mile west of Hennepin Ave.

**Species available:** S, C, LMB, M (HYB), NP, BLH, P, W, Carp, Other.

**Wheelchair access:** Fair. There's some grassy shoreline, and a paved trail rings the lake.

**MTC bus:** Routes 1 and 12 go to within two blocks of lake.

**Park entrance fee:** No.

**Restrooms:** Yes (satellites).

**Parking:** Fair, on city roads near the lake.

**Picnic:** No.

**Playground:** No.

**Agency:** Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board, 348-5406.

**Fishing pier:** No.

**Comments:** Try fishing for sunfish in May. Look for schools of spawning sunfish in the shallows. Stay low and move slowly so they won't spook. Cast a small jig (1/64-ounce) past the school and then retrieve it into the fish. Use light line (4-pound test).

**DON'T KILL FISH!**  
Unless you plan  
to take them home to  
eat, release fish alive  
back into the water.

## 14. Medicine Lake

(Clifton E. French  
Regional Park)

**Location:** Plymouth, north of Hwy. 55, west of Hwy. 169.

**Species available:** NP, S, C, LMB, BLH, W, Carp, Other.

**Wheelchair access:** Fair.

**MTC bus:** None nearby.

**Park entrance fee:** Yes.

**Restrooms:** Yes.

**Parking:** Yes.

**Picnic:** Yes.

**Playground:** Yes, and a swimming beach.

**Agency:** Hennepin Parks, 559-9000.

**Fishing pier:** Yes, but the fishing is good from here only in the spring.

**Comments:** This shallow lake is best fished in June by wading. Cast crankbaits, jigs, or spinners for bass. The channels on the north side attract northern pike, sunfish, and carp.

## 15. Lake Nokomis

**Location:** Minneapolis, south of Minnehaha Parkway, between Cedar and Hiawatha avenues.

**Species:** NP, C, S, M(HYB), Carp, BLH, P, W.

**Wheelchair access:** Excellent. Fishing pier, paved ring path, and accessible shoreline.

**MTC bus:** Route 19 passes within two blocks to the east of lake.

**Park entrance fee:** Yes.

**Restrooms:** Yes.

**Parking:** Good.

**Picnic:** Excellent.

**Playground:** Yes, and a swimming beach.

**Agency:** Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board, 348-5406.

**Fishing pier:** Yes, on the north side of the lake.

**Comments:** This is one of the best crappie lakes in the Twin Cities. In the spring, fish the north shore. Because it gets more sun and warms up quickly, the water here attracts fish. From the fishing pier, cast a small minnow hooked 2 feet below a bobber.

### BOATS NOT NEEDED!

In 1991, the state  
record 33.5-pound  
tiger muskie was  
caught from the shore  
of Lake Calhoun.

## 16. Owasso and Wabasso lakes

**Location:** Shoreview, near Rice Street and I-694.

**Species available:** NP, C, S, M (special regs), LMB, BLH, W, Carp.

**Wheelchair access:** Poor. Steep and weedy banks.

**MTC bus:** Route 35N passes between the lakes.

**Park entrance fee:** No.

**Restrooms:** No.

**Parking:** Fair, on a busy road.

**Picnic:** No.

**Playground:** No.

**Agency:** Ramsey County Park and Recreation, 777-1707.

**Fishing pier:** No.

**Comments:** Lake Owasso has excellent muskie and carp numbers, but the fish are hard to catch from shore. You can get to a small bay on the southeast side of the lake by hiking in on the railroad tracks (keep an eye out for trains!) from Rice Street. In the spring, the shallow water in the bay warms early and attracts fish.

## 17. Lake Phalen

**Location:** St. Paul, near the intersection of Larpenteur Ave. and Hwy. 61.

**Species available:** W, Carp, NP, S, C, LMB, M(HYB), P.

**Wheelchair access:** Excellent.

There's a pier and plenty of mowed grass shoreline.

**MTC bus:** Routes 14 and 10 passes within 4 blocks.

**Park entrance fee:** No.

**Restrooms:** Yes.

**Parking:** Excellent.

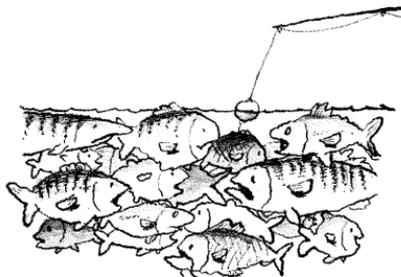
**Picnic:** Excellent.

**Playground:** Yes, and a swimming beach.

**Agency:** St. Paul Parks and Recreation, 488-7291.

**Fishing pier:** Yes.

**Comments:** Phalen is an excellent shore fishing lake that has 4 miles of fishable shoreline. The fishing for walleyes, sunfish, and carp is usually good all season long.



## 18. Pike Island, Mississippi River

**Location:** St. Paul, at Ft. Snelling State Park where the Minnesota and Mississippi rivers meet.

**Species available:** W, WB, C, SMB, Drum, Carp, CTF, Other.

**Wheelchair access:** Poor. There's a dirt trail along river and steep banks down to the water.

**MTC bus:** None

**Park entrance fee:** Yes, if by car.

**Restrooms:** Yes.

**Parking:** Yes.

**Picnic:** Yes.

**Playground:** No.

**Agency:** Ft. Snelling State Park (Minnesota DNR), 726-9247

**Fishing pier:** No.

**Comments:** Good early-season walleye fishing. The fish move upstream to spawn below Ford Dam. Try fishing where the

channel north of Pike Island meets the Mississippi River. In mid-summer, the fishing is good for carp, drum, catfish, and smallmouth bass.

**Note:** Check the fish consumption advisory, page 9.

## 19. Powderhorn Lake\*

**Location:** Minneapolis, at 36th St. near Portland and Cedar avenues.

**Species available:** Goldfish, BLH, C, S.

**Wheelchair access:** Excellent.

A paved trail follows close to the water's edge.

**MTC bus:** Routes 14 and 5 go to within 4 blocks.

**Park entrance fee:** No.

**Restrooms:** Yes, in the recreation center.

**Parking:** Yes, and on city streets.

**Picnic:** Yes.

**Playground:** Yes.

**Agency:** Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board, 348-5406.

**Fishing pier:** No.

**Comments:** The DNR stocks sunfish here in the spring, making this a great place to take first-time anglers.

### IT'S CHEAP!

**Compared to other hobbies, fishing is inexpensive. All you need is a license, a line, a hook, and a worm.**

## 20. Shady Oak Lake

**Location:** Hopkins.

**Species available:** S, C, LMB, BLH, NP.

**Wheelchair access:** Poor (rough dirt banks along the shoreline).

**MTC bus:** None nearby.

**Park entrance fee:** No.

**Restrooms:** No.

**Parking:** Good.

**Picnic:** Yes.

**Playground:** No.

**Agency:** Hopkins/Minnetonka Recreation Dept., 939-8203.

**Fishing pier:** No.

**Comments:** This lake has clear water and 100 yards of good shore fishing along an abandoned railroad grade.

## 21. Snelling Lake

**Location:** In St. Paul at Ft. Snelling State Park near where the Minnesota and Mississippi rivers meet.

**Species available:** LMB, C, S, NP, Carp, BLH, Other.

**Wheelchair access:** Excellent.

**MTC bus:** None

**Park entrance fee:** Yes, but only if by car.

**Restrooms:** Yes.

**Parking:** Excellent.

**Picnic:** Yes.

**Playground:** Yes.

**Agency:** Ft. Snelling State Park (Minnesota DNR), 726-9247.

**Fishing pier:** Yes.

**Comments:** Most of the shoreline is marsh and brush except for a 100-yard stretch on the east end where a road follows the lake. A culvert under the road here connects the lake to a pond, which has good fishing in the spring. The area around the pier is weedy by early summer, so to catch bass you'll probably need to use a weedless topwater lure (available at any bait or tackle shop). To reach good fishing water, try wading along the shallow water near shore, casting as you go.

## 22. Tanners Lake

**Location:** Oakdale, east of Hwy. 120 and north of I-94.

**Species:** C, S, LMB, NP, W, BLH, P.

**Wheelchair access:** Fair (a fishing pier).

**MTC bus:** Route 3 passes to within a half-mile to the east.

**Park entrance fee:** No.

**Restrooms:** Yes.

**Parking:** Excellent.

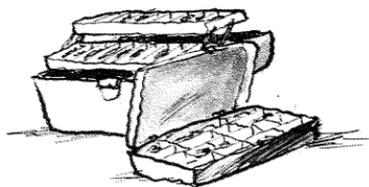
**Picnic:** Yes.

**Playground:** Yes, and a swimming beach.

**Agency:** City of Oakdale, 739-5086.

**Fishing pier:** Yes, but the ramp leading up to it is a bit rough and steep for most wheelchair users.

**Comments:** The fishing pier extends out past the edge of a sharp weedline. From the pier,



anglers can catch bluegills, perch, and northern pike throughout the summer. By July, the fish will be cruising the deep edge of the underwater plants.

## 23. Wirth Lake\*

**Location:** Minneapolis, in Wirth Park, just south of Hwy. 55.

**Species:** C, S, NP, CTF, W, Carp, BLH.

**Wheelchair access:** Excellent.

The lake has a good fishing pier.

**MTC bus:** Routes 34 and 9 go right past the lake.

**Park entrance fee:** No.

**Restrooms:** Yes.

**Parking:** Excellent.

**Picnic:** Yes.

**Playground:** Yes, and a swimming beach.

**Agency:** Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board, 348-5406.

**Fishing pier:** Yes.

**Comments:** This lake is near many inner-city neighborhoods and is stocked with catchable-sized bullheads and crappies. Catch them from the pier on the east side of the lake or from the shoreline just to the north of the fishing pier.

## Other information

### Fishing Licenses

DNR License Bureau  
500 Lafayette Road  
St. Paul, MN 55155  
Phone: 296-4506

### General Information

DNR Information Center  
500 Lafayette Road  
St. Paul, MN 55155  
Phone: 296-6157,  
1-800-766-6000  
Telecommunications for  
the Deaf: 296-5484

### Reporting Fishing Violations

Turn in Poachers (TIP) has a 24-hour hotline. Callers don't need to give their names. Cash awards are given for tips leading to arrests.  
Phone: 1-800-652-9093

### Lake Maps

Minnesota Bookstore  
117 University Avenue  
St. Paul 55155  
Phone: 297-3000

### MinnAqua

This free DNR\* program teaches kids and adults about fishing and water ecology. Call 297-4919.

\* Portions of MinnAqua are carried out in cooperation with the U of M Extension Service, Hennepin County Parks, and other agencies.

## Fishing books and magazines

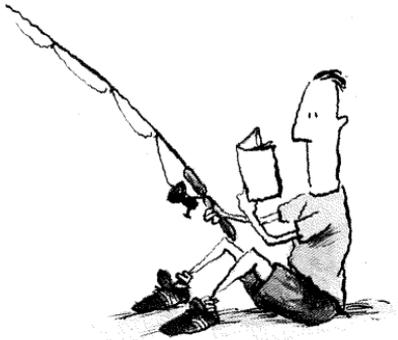
To learn more about catching fish from shore, look for these and other publications in your local library, bookstore, or bait shop:

### Books

- *Twin Cities Fishing Guide*  
by Sybil Smith.
- *Ron Schara's Twin Cities Fishing Guide*  
by Ron Schara.
- *The Art of Freshwater Fishing*  
by Dick Sternberg.
- *Walleye Wisdom*  
by In-Fisherman.
- *Fishing for Buffalo*  
by Rob Buffler and Tom Dickson.
- *Panfish*  
by Dick Sternberg and Bill Ignizio.

### Magazines

- "In-Fisherman"
- "Minnesota Sportsman"
- "Fishing Facts"





## **ABOUT THIS BOOKLET**

This beginner's guide to shore fishing in the inner Twin Cities area (within the Interstate 694-494 loop) was produced by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Division of Fish and Wildlife in cooperation with the Trails and Waterways Unit.

Its purpose is to introduce shore fishing to beginning anglers living in the inner St. Paul/Minneapolis urban area.

This publication is a pilot to a comprehensive map of more than 180 shore fishing access sites in the entire 7-county Metro area, to be produced by the DNR Trails and Waterways Unit by the fall of 1992. That map is part of a project funded by the Legislative Commission on Minnesota Resources to identify, inventory, and improve all Metro shore access sites.