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The Official Newspaper of  
 Otter Tail Lakes  
 Property Owners  
 Association



Volume 55 - No. 3  
 - June 2025 -



# Lakeshore News



The Otter Tail County AIS Inspectors are hard at it checking boats and ready for another season. Submitted photo



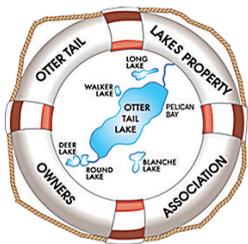
A Great Catch!  
 Submitted photo



It's always fun playing games inside while the weather is a little suspect outside. Submitted photo

## • What's Inside •

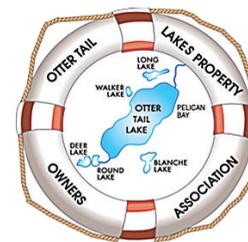
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# Lakeshore News

The Official Newspaper of Otter Tail Lakes Property Owners Association

Volume 55 - No. 3 • June 2025 • Battle Lake, MN



## Otter Tail Lakes Property Owners Association (OTLPOA) Mission Statement

The object and purpose of this corporation shall be to promote the community welfare and civic development of all areas of Otter Tail County bordering on or approximate to the shoreline of Otter Tail Lake and such other land areas further removed therefrom as its members shall from time to time determine, and to assist the property owners within said area in the preservation of their civic areas and those of Otter Tail Lake itself, including the planting and promulgation of fish therein and the protection and preservation of wildlife on the land areas adjacent to Otter Tail Lake as may be determined by the members, to promote and develop the horticultural development of the areas described, to promote the cultural and social lives of the inhabitants of said area and to provide a vehicle by which legal or political problems common to the areas and the inhabitants thereof, including tax problems, may be resolved in any manner provided by law for the common welfare of the members of this corporation; and to that and this corporation may acquire by purchase or other means such real or personal property as may be necessary in carrying out its stated objectives and to mortgage or sell or exchange the same and to do any and all other acts permitted by the laws of the State of Minnesota in furtherance of its stated purposes.

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## – OTLPOA President's Eric Gerken's Corner –

a motorized boat, including personal watercraft like jet skis.

- Key Points:
- Who needs a permit? Initially, boaters born after June 30, 2004 must obtain a permit. The requirement will gradually expand until July 1, 2028 when it will apply to anyone born after June 30, 1987.
  - How to get a permit? Boaters must complete an online safety course, pass an exam, and pay a one-time fee of \$34.95.
  - Rental boaters included: Anyone renting a boat must have a permit, regardless of age.
  - Supervised operation: Young boaters under 12 can operate boats under 75 hp if accompanied by a licensed adult.
  - Exemptions: Those with a valid U.S. Coast Guard License or a Canadian Pleasure Craft Operator's Card are exempt.

fatalities in recent years. You can find more details on the Minnesota DNR website. We are planning have local law enforcement at our annual meeting August 7th to answer any questions you may have regarding this new law. I have attached the online link below.  
<https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/safety/boatwater/education.html>

OTLPOA is planning a "Clean Up Our Waters Day" and are looking for volunteers that want to help clean up our lakes, shorelines and water ways to beautify our lakes! We are looking at prizes for this event and

hope to have lots of participation making this an annual event. Planning is taking place right now and we are tentatively looking at dates in August with more to come on this exciting event!

We appreciate our members spreading the word about OTLPOA and ask their friends to become members and get involved. Thank you for helping to grow our organization!

Enjoy our beautiful resource and have a fantastic summer on the lakes!

## Welcome To Summer Everyone!

I really would like to thank all you members who support the OTLPOA. Without your support for our lakes, we might not have these beautiful resources available for us and our guests.

Heads Up everyone, if you have not heard yet the state of Minnesota now requires certain boaters to complete a Boating Safety Education Course and carry a proof of certification while operating motorized watercraft. This will ultimately apply to anyone born after July 1, 1987 who operates

The law aims to increase safety and reduce boating accidents, even though Minnesota has seen historically low boating

**Check Out Our OTLPOA Website At OTLPOA.com**

# OTLPOA 2025 Meetings

Mark Your Calendars!

June 26 • July 24

August 28 • September 25 • October 23

Ottertail City Community Center 6 p.m.

If any member wants to address the board with any questions or issues, please notify secretary or any board member to be added to the agenda.

## Annual Meeting August 7 at Thumper Pond

(more detail to come)

### Calendar of Events 2025

June 18-22	Perham's 20th Turtle Fest
June 21	TriCity Junk Jaunt - Battle Lake, Henning, Ottertail Rummage Sales
July 11	Relay for Life of East Otter Tail County in Perham
July 12-13	Phelps Mill Arts Festival
TBA	Downtown Fergus Falls Shop Move'n Groove
TBA	Ottertail Business & Community Association Annual Auction
July 16-19	West Otter Tail County Fair - Fergus Falls
July 24-27	East Otter Tail County Fair - Perham
July 26-27	Battle Lake's Wenonga Days
July 31-August 3	Parkers Prairie Fall Festival & Bull Ride Vergas' Loony Days
August 1-2	Perham Crazy Days
August 2	East Otter Tail County Breakfast On The Farm
August 16-17	Perham Pioneer Days
August 7-9	WE Fest - Detroit Lakes
August 8-9	Silver Sage Pro Rodeo - Clitherall
August 9	Art & Craft Affair - Battle Lake
August	Rod & Gun Club Demo Derby - Ottertail
August	Ottertail City's Otter Fest
August 18	Vining Watermelon Day
August 29-30	Underwood's Harvest Festival
August 30	Battle Lake Area Community Fund's Gathering of Planes
September 5-7	Lake Region Pioneer Threshermen's Reunion - Dalton
September 13	Woodstack - Prospect House & Museum, Battle Lake

Events are subject to change.

To submit an event, contact [blreview@arvig.net](mailto:blreview@arvig.net)

## Art of the Lakes Area Art Events This Summer



submitted by Kristi Kuder, Art of the Lakes Chair

Art of the Lakes is sponsoring four big Summer 2025 art events in our OTLPOA region: A Glendalough Art exhibit, Prairie Lakes Plein Air Festival, Studio Tour and Art & Craft Affair.

**Nature's Gem:** Glendalough is a free art exhibition inspired by Glendalough State Park. The exhibition runs until August 9 at the Creative Arts Center in Battle Lake. A public reception was Friday, June 13.

**Prairie Lakes Plein Air** is a summer-long festival of art education, exhibition, and competition. It brings dozens of artists to Otter Tail County to paint outdoors and mingle with residents and visitors alike. This year's festival runs from June through August.

The Art of the Lakes Studio Tour is one of the Midwest's largest rural art crawls with over 4,000 art enthusiasts driving our back roads in search of unique creations and face-to-face connections with artists. This is their 25th year of the Tour, which will take place July 18, 19 and 20.

And August 9, our one-day **Art & Craft Affair** will bring over 5,000 people to Railroad Park in Battle Lake for music, food and imaginative hand-made artistry.

We invite you to join us as we greet friends, family and visitors - with the arts! Learn more at [artofthelakes.org/events](http://artofthelakes.org/events).



# How To Catch and Release Fish

To properly catch and release fish in Minnesota, it's crucial to minimize stress and harm. Unhook and release the fish in the water, support its weight with hands or a net, and avoid lifting it vertically. If you can't release it in the water, cradle it gently in the water to help it revive.

Here's a more detailed breakdown:

## 1. Minimize Stress & Handling:

- Keep the fish in the water as much as possible: This reduces stress and allows the fish to recover more quickly.
- Unhook the fish while it's in the water: Use needle-nosed pliers or forceps to remove hooks.
- If the hook is deeply embedded, cut the line and release the fish: The hook will eventually dissolve.
- Avoid grabbing the fish by its gills or gill plates: These are very fragile.
- If the fish is large, support it with both hands or a net while out of the water: Never lift it vertically.
- Use wet hands when handling the fish: This helps protect the fish's mucus coating.
- Don't put fish you plan to release in a live well or on a stringer: These can cause stress and injury.

## 2. Revive the Fish (if needed):

- Cradle the fish under its belly and gently move it forward in the water: This helps the fish regain its balance and swim away.
- Move the fish in a gentle "S" shape to pass water over its gills: This ensures proper gill function.

## 3. Don't Release Damaged Fish:

- Do not release fish that are bleeding heavily or cannot right themselves: These fish are likely injured and will not survive.
- If you are unsure about a fish's condition, it's best to keep it: You can release it later once its condition improves.

## 4. Other Important Considerations:

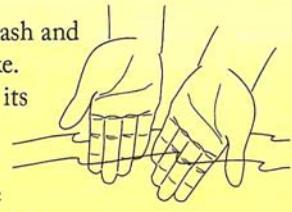
- Use barbless hooks: These make unhooking fish much easier and cause less damage.
- Minimize time out of the water: Keep the fish in the water for as little time as possible during the photo and measurement phase.
- Use a soft, knotless mesh net: These cause less damage to the fish's eyes, fins, and scales.

If you are unsure how to catch and release a fish, seek advice from experienced anglers or Minnesota DNR representatives.

How long can YOU hold YOUR breath? With no lungs, fish must run water through their gills to get oxygen. Keep fish in the water as much as possible.

### Keep the slime on the fish... not on your hands

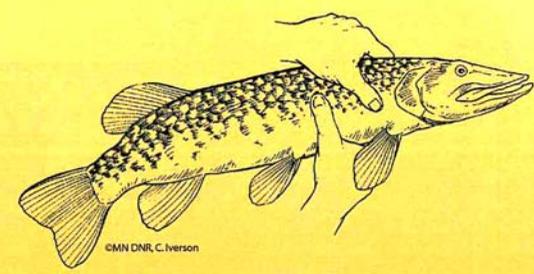
Before handling a fish, wash and wet your hands in the lake. A fish produces slime on its body to protect it from disease. If your hand wipes away the slime, the fish can become sick and die.



### Grasping the fish

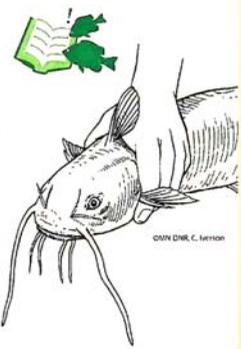
Grasp fish firmly, but be careful not to squeeze it too tightly.

Handle most fish by grasping around the body. Be ready for the fish to thrash.



### Did you know?

Many people think it's the whiskers on a catfish or bullhead that can sting you, but it's not true. The whiskers (or barbels) are for feeling and tasting at the bottom of the lake. It is their sharp spines that can hurt you.



### Watch out for spines!

Most fish have bones (called spines) in their fins to help them work properly. To avoid getting poked, simply "pet" the fins down before grasping the fish.

### Be careful of gills and eyes

Don't grasp a fish by putting your fingers into its gills or eye sockets. This will injure or kill the fish.



Graphic by MnDNR

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## Why Does Our Lake Continue To Get More Weeds

OTC COLA recently published a Water Quality Analysis Ranking Report of 96 participating lakes in Otter Tail County. The analysis included testing results for phosphorus, chlorophyll a and secchi readings as well as for calcium. Phosphorus, chlorophyll a and secchi readings contribute to the Trophic State Index, a classification of nutrition or vegetative growth potential. The calcium tests are considered to be an indication of supporting zebra mussel infestation.



Lake property owners and Lake Associations often complain of the proliferation of plants and weeds in lakes. Though the health of a lake is not necessarily determined by its amount of vegetation, too much vegetation is often viewed as undesirable for swimming and water sports.

The elephant in the room appears to be the amount of phosphorus in the water. The Trophic State Index components of chlorophyll a reading and secchi disk measurement are directly connected to phosphorus. Phosphorus feeds the growth of algae, which in turn produces chlorophyll, which in turn will cause shallower secchi disk readings. Also, of the three components of the Trophic State Index the best candidate for being “controllable” is phosphorus.

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency says it this way:

“Phosphorus is a common element in agricultural fertilizers, manure, and organic wastes in sewage and industrial discharges. Excess phosphorus in lakes, rivers, and streams causes algae to grow. Algae-covered water is less attractive for fishing and swimming – highly valued pastimes in Minnesota and uses that are protected under the federal Clean Water Act. In addition, phosphorus can fuel toxic blue-green algal blooms, which are harmful to people and pets.”

<https://www.pca.state.mn.us/water/phosphorus>

Lake property owners and Lake Associations often lament; “What can we do to clean up our lake?” It appears that a significant area of investigation is how the amount of phosphorus going into the lakes can be controlled.

Phosphorus finding its way to lakes comes from primarily three sources: animal waste, human waste and fertilizers. Progress regulating runoff from feed lots and farm crop fertilizers has been made due to enhanced and effective regulations on commercial entities. Regulations affecting human waste from lake properties are also being addressed but aggressive progress is hampered by more slowly implemented compliance measures imposed on lake property owners. The remaining controllable and least complied with source is fertilizer used on lake shore lawns that contain phosphorus.

What can you do? If you aren’t doing so already only use zero-phosphorus lawn fertilizer on lake properties. It’s already a law in Minnesota to not use fertilizers containing phosphorus on lawns, with only limited exceptions. In much of Otter Tail County, soils are naturally high in phosphorus so lawns don’t need extra phosphorus. When shopping for fertilizer, buy a brand that has a middle number of zero i.e. 22-0-15. The Minnesota law does not prohibit retailers from selling phosphorus fertilizers, and even though most retailers are carrying more zero phosphorus fertilizers, it’s up to you to make sure you comply with the law.





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HWY 210 W  
218-862-3625





**RAISING  
EXPECTATIONS  
ONE LIFT  
AT A TIME**

## Beginner's Guide To Minnesota State Parks and Trails

You're invited to explore Minnesota's state parks and trails—no experience needed! Whether you're curious about hiking, eager to camp for the first time, or just looking for a peaceful place to unwind, we've got beginner-friendly tips, tools, and inspiration to help you get started with confidence.

Already a seasoned explorer? Consider forwarding this newsletter to a friend or family member who's just getting started. You might be the reason they fall in love with Minnesota's great outdoors. Let's help more people feel welcome in wild places—because every journey starts with a first step.



### 5 Beginner-Friendly Adventures to Try

#### 1. Plan a Day Trip with a Picnic –

Sometimes the best way to start is to keep it simple. Pack a lunch, grab your water bottle, and head to a nearby state park for a low-key day of relaxing and exploring. Most parks have picnic areas with tables, flush restrooms, and nearby hiking trails that lead to scenic overlooks or lakeside views. No reservation needed!



#### 2. Bike, Roll, or Stroll a Paved State Trail –

Minnesota's state trail system includes hundreds of miles of paved, mostly flat trails—perfect for bikes, rollerblades, strollers, wheelchairs, or walkers. Options like the Gateway, Paul Bunyan, and Root River state trails offer rest stops, towns, and shaded stretches ideal for your first outing. Grab a friend or the family for a state trail stroll. Go your own pace for as far as you'd like while enjoying the scenery!



#### 3. Join an I Can! Program –

If you're curious about camping, fishing, paddling, archery, or mountain biking, the I Can! programs are the perfect place to start. Hosted in Minnesota state parks, these hands-on, beginner-friendly classes provide the gear and the guidance—you just show up ready to learn and have fun! They're especially great for families.



#### 4. Attend a Naturalist Program –

Let a knowledgeable guide lead the way! Many parks offer free naturalist-led programs like wildflower walks, birding hikes, or animal tracking adventures. These are especially great for curious minds and anyone who wants to learn more about Minnesota's natural wonders. Prefer to explore on your own? Stop by the park office for a Junior Ranger booklet to learn and explore independently.



#### 5. Pick an Iconic Minnesota Water Feature to Explore –

If you're not sure where to go or what would be exciting to see, start with what Minnesota is known for—water! Minnesota state parks are home to some of the most incredible water features in the country. Stop by Itasca State Park and dip your toes in the very beginning of the Mississippi River at the headwaters. Pack a swimsuit and towel to enjoy the swimming beach at Father Hennepin or Lake Carlos state parks. You can also view the spectacular underground Turquoise Lake at Forestville/Mystery Cave State Park on a cave tour—yes, it really is turquoise! Last but not least, Minnesota has no shortage of waterfalls to explore, from Minneopa to Grand Portage, the curtains of rushing water are sure to inspire.



### Try a Tour! Expert-led experiences are perfect for first-time visitors.

If you're just getting started with Minnesota state parks, guided tours are one of the easiest and most rewarding ways to explore. Led by expert naturalists, these tours take the guesswork out of your visit and introduce you to the landscapes, wildlife, and natural history that make each park unique. Check out the events calendar and tours webpage to find detailed date information and how to make reservations.



#### Potholes Guided Tour –

Explore glacial potholes and unique geology! Join a naturalist-led tour at Interstate State Park to explore the park's famous glacial potholes—some of the deepest in the world. Uncover stories hidden within scenic river views. Discover how massive lava flows, glacial rivers, and human interest in the area shaped the landscape. Expect rocky terrain and short stairs on this 1/4-mile walk. Tours are free.

#### Mystery Cave Tours –

Venture into the hidden underground world of Minnesota's longest cave. Mystery Cave at Forestville/Mystery Cave State Park covers over 13 miles of underground passages created as water dissolves the rock. Each tour walks you through different cave paths with a knowledgeable guide and will showcase natural wonders like stalactites, stalagmites, flowstone, fossils, and beautiful underground pools. Walking tour options range from one hour to six hours. Prices vary by age and tour.

#### Prairie and Bison Tour –

Experience the beauty of native Minnesota prairie as you travel into the bison range on an educational 90-minute tour. Blue Mounds State Park is home to part of the Minnesota Bison Conservation Herd, which is managed to protect wild bison. The open-sided prairie tour vehicle holds 12 passengers. Tour dates and reservation information can be found on the park's website. Tickets are \$15 for ages 13+ and \$10 for ages 4-12.

#### Soudan Surface Tours –

After an extreme flooding event in 2024, the underground tours at Lake Vermilion/Soudan Underground Mine State Park were suspended. Park staff are working hard to repair the damage and ensure the safety of the route. In the meantime, visitors are invited to tour the mine's buildings and features on the surface. Every day from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. you can join a naturalist for a tour of the crusher house, headframe, rescue room, and so much more! Tours are free and start at the top of the hour. Meet at the Dry House/Visitor Center to get started.

### What's a Vehicle Permit & How Do I Get One?

2025 State Park Vehicle Permit featuring the waterfalls at George H. Crosby State Park.

If you're driving into a Minnesota state park or recreation area, you'll need a vehicle permit. You can choose a one-day permit for \$7, or a year-round permit for \$35.

Year-round permits are valid for one year from the month of purchase. For example, if you buy a permit today (June 5, 2025), your new permit will be valid through June 30, 2026.

Permits can be purchased online or in person at park offices. If you buy your permit online, display your order confirmation number on your vehicle's dash when you are in a park until your sticker arrives.

A variety of discount permits are available, such as for people with disabilities, active military member households, or second vehicle permits. Review all discounts on our website.

### What If I Get Lost?

#### GeoPDFs show where you are—even without cell service.

Do you worry about getting lost when you're out in the woods or on the water? Discover geoPDF maps and never lose your way! When you use geoPDF maps on your mobile device,



a blue dot will show your location on the map as you move—even when your phone has NO service! This feature is available for every Minnesota state park, state trail, and state water trail.

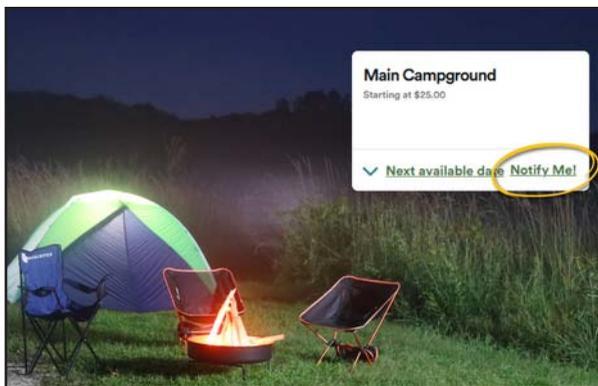


The first step is downloading the free Avenza app to your mobile device. Next, you will download the park or trail map that you are visiting. In Avenza, search "MNDNR" plus the state park or trail name you are looking for. All state park and trail maps are free.

## Claim Your Campsite

Explore availability, set notifications and reserve your stay online.

You can reserve Minnesota state park campsites up to 120 days in advance on the reservation website. Use the online map to explore parks, check availability, and compare site types (tent, RV, camper cabins, electric, and more). You can also purchase your state park vehicle permit from the same website, so you're ready to go when you arrive.



If the campsite you want is already booked, don't give up! Try the "Notify Me" feature on the reservation site. Just click "Notify Me" for your desired dates and site, and you'll receive an email if that site becomes available—perfect for last-minute openings or cancellations.

Once you make a reservation, remember that check-in is required by 11 a.m. the morning after your reservation starts. For example, if your reservation begins Friday, you must check in or be set up by 11 a.m. Saturday morning. If you can't arrive by then, be sure to call or email the park office to let them know. If park staff don't hear from you, your reservation will be canceled without refund.

## Adventure for All!

Variety of accessibility options available to state park visitors.

Minnesota state parks should be accessible for everyone to enjoy. Studies continue to show the health benefits of time spent in nature. Last year, the DNR announced plans for accessibility improvements across state parks, including trails, naturalist programming and facility modernizations. These improvements further expand Minnesotans' recreation opportunities!

### Adaptive Outdoor Equipment –

New adaptive equipment will be added to multiple state parks in the coming year. There are now 24 state parks with all-terrain track chairs. These electric-powered chairs help visitors explore more rugged areas of the parks. Some parks will receive floating beach chairs, accessible beach mats, accessible kayak launch ramps, non-motorized all-terrain chairs, color vision glasses, and adaptive listening devices. Reserving equipment is free and available to anyone who has a need.



### Language Access –

Did you know state park visitors can request language access services? By contacting park staff or a program coordinator, the DNR will make a reasonable effort to ensure visitors have access to the accommodation they need, such as an interpreter. The DNR's Language Access Plan was implemented in 2022 to help visitors request language interpretation for classes, guided hikes, and informational documents.

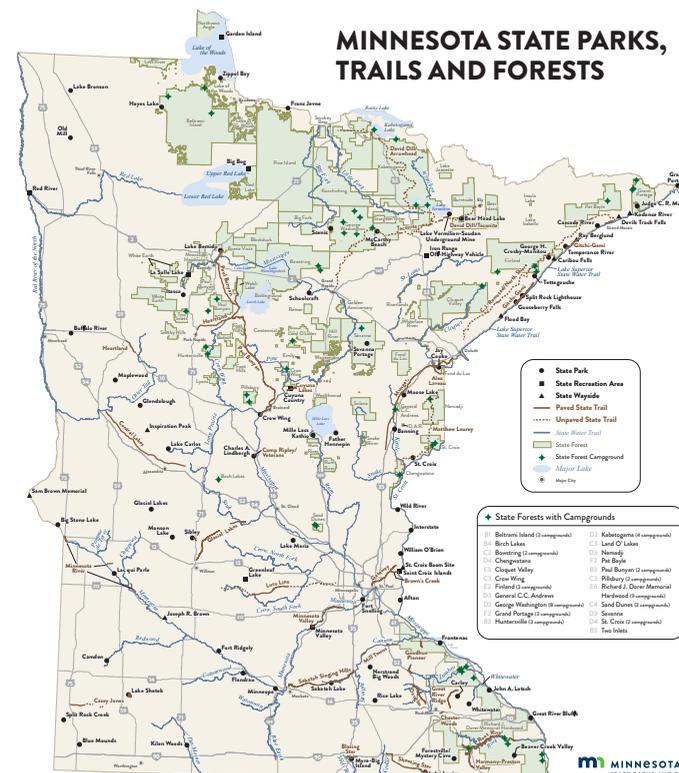
### Camping –

Visitors can reserve accessible campsites and camper cabins on the state parks reservation page. When making a reservation, visitors can look for the ADA icon (♿) to reserve a camping spot designed to accommodate those with physical disabilities. For Minnesota residents with physical disabilities, half-priced camping is available Sunday through Thursday nights. It does not apply to any cabins or group sites.

### Exhibits and Signage –

Educational exhibits and park signage are becoming more accessible and interactive. Simple design features like large text, high-contrast colors, and accessible heights improve ADA compliance. Multisensory exhibit elements incorporate tactile objects, audio elements, braille translations, and even scents! Audio description tour devices are also available at select visitor centers, pre-loaded with exhibit information. And, to better help neurodiverse visitors, state parks now offer sensory kits that include fidgets, earmuffs, and calming tools. Check a park's webpage under the amenities tab or contact the park to see what accommodations they have.

## Where Will You Explore?



ParkFinder guides visitors to hidden gems and amazing overlooks.

Need help picking what state park or trail to explore? We've got you covered!

ParkFinder is an interactive map that allows you to zoom into the area of the state you're looking to visit. You can also filter by different options like paved trails, waterfalls, rentals, fire towers, and more.

## We Are the Champions

Devil's Kettle Trail voted number 1 in the nation!

You will find many geological wonders along Lake Superior's North Shore, but only one waterfall surrounded by decades of mystery, where half the river seemingly disappears into a bottomless hole. The Devil's Kettle Trail at Judge C.R. Magney State Park has officially been named Best Hiking Trail in the U.S. by USA Today's 10Best Readers' Choice Awards! Voters nationwide chose Devil's Kettle Trail as the best among 19 best hiking trail nominees.



The scenic two-mile trail leads hikers along the Brule River and up a wooden staircase to the iconic Devil's Kettle, where the river splits at the top of the falls. One side plunges 50 feet into a pool, while the other vanishes into a massive rock pothole. For years, visitors and geologists alike were stumped. Where did the water go?

In 2017, DNR hydrologists came to a scientific conclusion, confirming that the 'lost' water doesn't travel far. It re-emerges within 500 feet downstream.

# New Boat Ed Requirements

## Effective July 1, 2025

Starting July 1, 2025, a new law will require some adults and youth who operate motorboats—including personal watercraft—to have a valid watercraft operator's permit. People who already have a watercraft operator's permit are not affected by the law, which is designed to make boating safer by ensuring everyone operating a motorized watercraft knows the rules and is properly trained. Here's a breakdown of the key points:

### Adult operators:

- **Permit requirement:** Some adults (defined below) will need a valid operator's permit to drive any motorboat or personal watercraft starting July 1, 2025.
- **Exemptions:** Some adults are exempt from this requirement. Check the law for specific exemptions.
- **Supervised operation:** People without a permit still can operate a boat, but only if there's an accompanying operator (defined below) onboard.

### Young operators:

- **Restrictions on high-powered watercraft:** Young operators (people less than 12 years old), can't operate a personal watercraft or any motorboat with a motor over 75 horsepower.
- **Low-powered motorboats:** Young operators can operate a motorboat that's not a personal watercraft and has a motor under 75 horsepower as long as there is an accompanying operator in the motorboat.

### Who is considered an adult operator?

- Is 12 years old or older, and
- Was born after these dates:
  - June 30, 2004 (starts July 1, 2025)
  - June 30, 2000 (starts July 1, 2026)
  - June 30, 1996 (starts July 1, 2027)
  - June 30, 1987 (starts July 1, 2028)

This means people born after June 30, 2004 will need a permit to operate a boat starting in 2025. The permit requirement will gradually apply to older age groups over the next few years.

### Who is considered an accompanying operator?

- A person 21 years of age or older who:
  - Is in a personal watercraft or other type of motorboat;
  - Is within immediate reach of the controls of the motor; and
  - Possesses a valid operator's permit or is an exempt operator.

### Who is considered an exempt operator?

"Exempt operator" means a motorboat operator, including a personal watercraft operator, who is 12 years of age or older and who:

- Possesses a valid license to operate a motorboat issued for maritime personnel by the United States Coast Guard under Code of Federal Regulations, title 46, part 10, or a marine certificate issued by the Canadian government.
- Is not a resident of the state, is temporarily using the waters of the state for a period not to exceed 60 days, and:
  - meets any applicable requirements of the state or country of residency; or
  - possesses a Canadian pleasure craft operator's card;
  - is operating a motorboat under a dealer's license according to section 86B.405; or
  - is operating a motorboat during an emergency.

### Key takeaways:

- **Adult and youth permits:** Young operators and some adults need a valid operator's permit to operate certain motorized watercraft. For adults born after June 30, 2004, the requirement starts in 2025. The law will extend to older age groups over time.



- **Youth restrictions:** Young operators can't operate boats with more than 75 horsepower. They can operate boats (that are not PWC) with less than 75 horsepower if they're with an accompanying operator.
- **Gradual rollout:** The law will phase in over the next few years. The operator permit requirement starts in 2025 and gradually expands through 2028.

This new law aims to improve safety on the water by making sure everyone operating a motorized watercraft is trained and qualified.

### Rentals:

- **18 and older:** Must have a valid watercraft operator's permit.
- **Under 18:** Cannot rent watercraft.

### SIGN UP NOW with this link

<https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/safety/boatwater/education.html>

### FAQS –

**Will I be required to have a watercraft operator's permit if I was born before July 1, 1987?** No. People born before July 1, 1987, are not required to have a valid watercraft operator's permit, unless: They rent a motorboat or personal watercraft. They serve as an "accompanying operator" for people without a valid watercraft operator's permit, or for people under the age of 12 and not eligible to obtain a permit.

**How can I get my Minnesota watercraft operator's permit?** You can obtain your Minnesota watercraft operator's permit in 4 easy steps: Visit <https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/safety/boatwater/education.html>; Pay the one-time fee of \$34.95 – free unlimited retries of the final exam; Study the Minnesota boater's safety course, and pass the final exam; Print your Certificate of Completion, and receive your permanent Minnesota watercraft operator's permit in the mail within 3 weeks

**If I already have my watercraft operator's permit from Minnesota or another state, do I need to take the course and exam again?** No. People who already possess a valid watercraft operator's permit from Minnesota or another state do not need to obtain a new permit to meet these requirements.

**I've taken a boater safety course but have lost my certification. How can I get a new card?** Contact the online vendor (BoaterExam): 866-688-2628 or [info@boaterexam.com](mailto:info@boaterexam.com). Alternately, you can email the DNR at Camp Ripley at [sara.pusc@state.mn.us](mailto:sara.pusc@state.mn.us) or call 320-412-1171. Please include the name, address and date of birth. If you have taken the online course, you can also check [ilostmycard.com](http://ilostmycard.com) for a replacement.

**How much does the boater safety course cost?** There is a one-time fee of \$34.95 paid to BOATERexam.com®. It includes unlimited attempts at the final exam.

**I do not have a driver's license. Can I still get the Minnesota watercraft operator's permit?** Yes. You are not required to have a state driver's license in order to obtain a watercraft operator's permit.

**How long is the boater safety course and operator's permit good for?** The operator's permit is good for life.

**What are the benefits of getting my operator's permit?** In many countries, including Canada, having a boating license is a legal requirement if you're operating motorized boats. It ensures you meet the necessary safety and regulatory standards. Many insurance providers offer lower premiums for boaters who have completed a certified boating safety course. The reduced risk associated with having a licensed operator means lower costs for you. Check with your insurance provider!

# Swimmers Itch Very Big Concern With Association

*There has been a very big concern about swimmers itch in Otter Tail Lake and surrounding lakes. Your Lake Association (OTLPOA) has a Swimmers Itch Committee.*

## Swimmer's Itch (Cercarial Dermatitis) –

Swimmer's itch, also called cercarial dermatitis, appears as a skin rash caused by an allergic reaction to certain microscopic parasites that infect some birds and mammals. These parasites are released from infected snails into fresh and salt water (such as lakes, ponds, and oceans). While the parasite's preferred host is the specific bird or mammal, if the parasite comes into contact with a swimmer, it burrows into the skin causing an allergic reaction and rash. Swimmer's itch is found throughout the world and is more frequent during summer months.

## Symptoms of swimmer's itch may include:

- Tingling, burning, or itching of the skin
- Small reddish pimples
- Small blisters

Within minutes to days after swimming in contaminated water, you may experience tingling, burning, or itching of the skin. Small reddish pimples appear within 12 hours. Pimples may develop into small blisters. Scratching the areas may result in secondary bacterial infections. Itching may last up to a week or more, but will gradually go away.

Because swimmer's itch is caused by an allergic reaction to infection, the more often you swim or wade in contaminated water, the more likely you are to develop more serious symptoms. The greater the number of exposures to contaminated water, the more intense and immediate symptoms of swimmer's itch will be.

Be aware that swimmer's itch is not the only rash that may occur after swimming in fresh or salt water.

## Treatment –

Most cases of swimmer's itch do not require medical attention. If you have a rash, you may try the following for relief:

- Use corticosteroid cream
- Apply cool compresses to the affected areas
- Bathe in Epsom salts or baking soda
- Soak in colloidal oatmeal baths
- Apply baking soda paste to the rash (made by stirring water into baking soda until it reaches a paste-like consistency)
- Use an anti-itch lotion

Though difficult, try not to scratch. Scratching may cause the rash to become infected. If itching is severe, your health care provider may suggest prescription-strength lotions or creams to lessen your symptoms.

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- Use an anti-itch lotion.
- Apply cool compresses to the affected areas.



## Transmission –

### How does water become infested with the parasite?

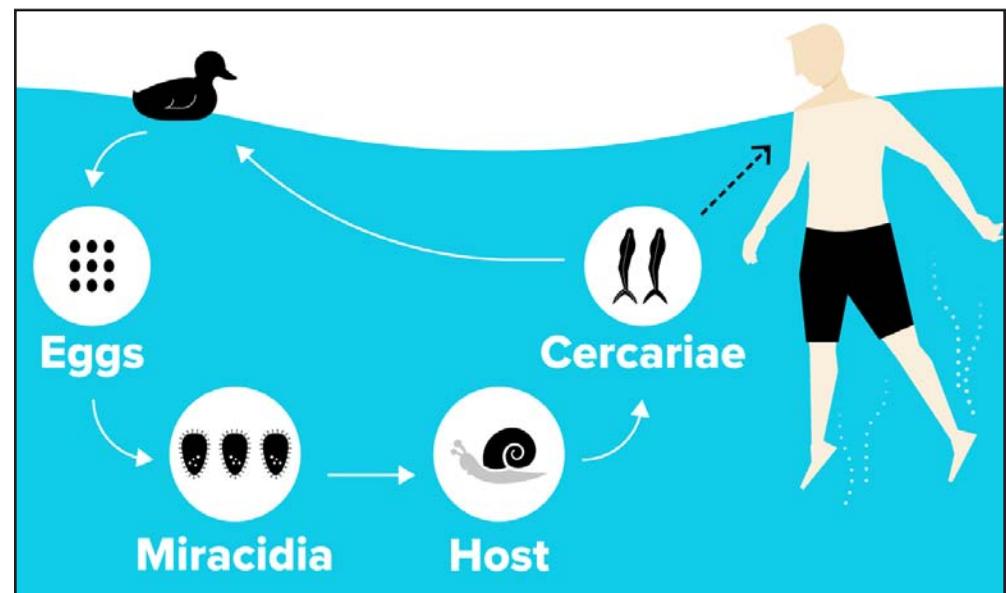
The adult parasite lives in the blood of infected animals such as ducks, geese, gulls, swans, and certain mammals such as muskrats and raccoons. The parasites produce eggs that are passed in the feces of infected birds or mammals.

If the eggs land in or are washed into the water, the eggs hatch, releasing small, free-swimming microscopic larvae. These larvae swim in the water in search of a certain species of aquatic snail.

If the larvae find one of these snails, they infect the snail, multiply and undergo further development. Infected snails release a different type of microscopic larvae (or cercariae, hence the name cercarial dermatitis) into the water. This larval form then swims about searching for a suitable host (bird, muskrat) to continue the lifecycle. Although humans are not suitable hosts, the microscopic larvae burrow into the swimmer's skin, and may cause an allergic reaction and rash. Because these larvae cannot develop inside a human, they soon die.

Once an outbreak of swimmer's itch has occurred in water, will the water always be unsafe?

No. Many factors must be present for swimmer's itch to become a problem in water. Since these factors change (sometimes within a swim season), swimmer's itch will not always be a problem. However, there is no way to know how long water may be unsafe. Larvae generally survive for 24 hours once they are released from the snail. However, an infected snail will continue to produce cercariae throughout the remainder of its life. For future snails to become infected, migratory birds or mammals in the area must also be infected so the lifecycle can continue.



## How is swimmer's itch spread?

Anyone who swims or wades in infested water may be at risk. Larvae are more likely to be present in shallow water by the shoreline. Children are most often affected because they tend to swim, wade, and play in the shallow water more than adults. Also, they are less likely to towel dry themselves when leaving the water. Swimmer's itch is not contagious and cannot be spread from one person to another.

## Prevention –

To reduce the likelihood of developing swimmer's itch:

- Do not swim in areas where swimmer's itch is a known problem or where signs have been posted warning of unsafe water.
- Do not swim near or wade in marshy areas where snails are commonly found.
- Towel dry or shower immediately after leaving the water.
- Do not attract birds (e.g., by feeding them) to areas where people are swimming.

## More Information –

- MNDNR: Swimmer's Itch: Information from the Department of Natural Resources about swimmer's itch including information about how to apply for a permit to use copper sulfate.

Do you suspect that you have a foodborne or waterborne illness? Visit reporting suspected foodborne/waterborne illnesses.

## Meet Our State - Flower and Butterfly

*The Lady's Slipper was adopted as the State Flower in 1902.*

The pink and white Lady's Slipper (Cypripedium reginae), also known as the Showy Lady's Slipper or Queen's Lady Slipper, was adopted as the state flower in 1902. Found living in open fens, bogs, swamps, and damp woods where there is plenty of light, Lady's Slippers grow slowly, taking up to 16 years to produce their first flowers. They bloom in late June or early July. The plants live for up to 50 years and grow four feet tall. A century ago, the Showy Lady's Slipper was a favorite adornment in rural church altars during the summer. Since 1925 this rare wildflower has been protected by State Law (it is illegal to pick the flowers or to uproot or unearth the plants). The specimens pictured were growing near Chaska.



*The Monarch was adopted as the State Butterfly in 2000.*

The Monarch Butterfly (Danaus plexippus), also known as the milkweed butterfly, was adopted as the State's Official Butterfly in 2000. The monarch is one of the few butterfly species that migrates north and south like birds do. Approximately four generations of monarchs are born in Minnesota each summer and live roughly four weeks; the exception is the last generation of the season, which survives about six months. Each fall, members of this last generation migrate to Mexico and spend the winter in a state of semi-hibernation. Monarch caterpillars appear to feed exclusively on milkweed, which grows throughout Minnesota. This male Monarch distinguishable from his female counterparts by the thin black webbing throughout his wings and two highly visible black spots on his hind wings) was photographed on Lake Superior's north shore near Illgen City.



## ~ RECIPE CORNER ~

### 10 Mouthwatering S'Mores Recipes

S'Mores are the perfect ending to a day in the northwoods.

**Ingredients:**

- 1 graham cracker split in half
- 3/4 oz. milk chocolate candy bar about 1/2 of a single serving 1.5 oz. bar
- 1 marshmallow



Once the campfire has glowing embers, place a marshmallow on a long fork and rotate until golden and puffy.

Variations make the common campfire treat even more exciting!

**Wild For Chocolate** = Roasted Marshmallow + Dark Chocolate Candy Bar + Chocolate Graham Crackers

**Tropical Therapy** = Roasted Marshmallow + White Chocolate Coconut Candy Bar + Graham Crackers

**Crazy For Bacon** = Roasted Marshmallow + Salted Caramel Chocolate Candy Bar + Crispy Bacon + Graham Crackers

**Chocolate Covered Strawberry** = Roasted Marshmallow + Sliced Strawberry + Dark Chocolate Candy Bar + Graham Crackers

**Sweet And Salty** = Roasted Marshmallow + Milk Chocolate Candy Bar + Pretzel Crisps. Pretzels are one of my favorite ways to add salt to a sweet dessert. Just make sure you use the

flat pretzel crisps for this smores recipe because they make the perfect hand-held sandwich.)

**Amazing Andes** = Roasted Marshmallow + Andes Mint And Chocolate Candy + Chocolate Graham Crackers

**Shortbread Sensation** = Roasted Marshmallow + Milk Chocolate Candy Bar + Shortbread Cookies

**Nuts Over Nutella** = Roasted Marshmallow + Nutella Spread + Graham Crackers

**Remarkable Reese's** = Roasted Marshmallow + Reese's Peanut Butter Cup + Graham Crackers

**Cozy And Classic** = Roasted Marshmallow + Milk Chocolate Candy Bar + Graham Crackers

Recipes are from [campingforfoodies.com](http://campingforfoodies.com)



**We're looking for your favorite recipe to share**

Submit to Battle Lake Review at [blreview@arvig.net](mailto:blreview@arvig.net)

# Lakes Area Church Directory

### ~ Baptist ~

**Basswood Baptist Church BGC**   
38188 340th St., Richville 218-495-3771  
Bert Holmquist, Pastor 218-4953800

**Sundays** – Sunday School 9:30 a.m., refreshments following  
Worship Service 10:45 a.m.  
Potluck Dinner (2nd Sunday)

**Wednesdays** – Bible Study, Youth Group and Kids Club 7 p.m.

**Thursdays (third)** – Ladies' Bible Study

**Saturdays (first)** – Men's Prayer Breakfast 7 a.m.

#### First Baptist Church

An American Baptist Church

"Little Brown Church on the Hill"

121 Lake Ave. N., Battle Lake 218-864-5319

[www.firstbaptistbattlelake.org](http://www.firstbaptistbattlelake.org)

**Sundays** – Worship services 9:30 a.m.

### ~ C & M Alliance ~

**Battle Lake Alliance Church**   
401 W. Gilbertson St. 218-864-5539  
[www.battlelake.org](http://www.battlelake.org)

**Sundays** – Worship Service 10 a.m. or online

**Wednesdays** – Kids 4 Truth Youth with meal 5:20 p.m.

Club 6-7:30 p.m.

### ~ Catholic ~

**St. James, St. Edwards and Our Lady of the Lake Catholic Churches** Father George Michael 218-864-5619

**St. James Catholic (Maine)** -  
32009 Cty. Hwy. 74, Underwood 

**Mass** – Saturdays 5 p.m. and Wednesdays 9 a.m.

**Confessions** – Saturdays 4:30 p.m. and Wednesdays 8 a.m.

**Holy Hour** – Wednesdays 8 a.m.

**Bible Study** – Fridays 9 a.m.

**Sewing Group** – Tuesdays 9 a.m.

**St. Edwards Catholic Church**  
201 Douglas Ave., Henning

**Mass** – Sundays 8:30 a.m. and Fridays 8:30 a.m.

**Confessions** – Sundays 8 a.m. and Fridays 8 a.m.

**Holy Hour** – Friday 9 a.m.

**Our Lady of the Lake Catholic** -  
407 N. Lake Ave., Battle Lake 

**Mass** – Sundays 10:30 a.m. and Thursdays 8:30 a.m.

**Confessions** – Tuesdays 6:30 p.m. and Thursdays 8 a.m.

**Holy Hour** – Thursdays 9 a.m.

**Men of Mary** - Saturdays 8 a.m.

**Sunday School** – Sundays 9:15 a.m.

**Mission Sewing** – Tuesdays 9:30 a.m.

**Edge/Life Teen** – Wednesdays 5:30 p.m.

– Parish Notes –

**Battle Lake Good Samaritan Center** – Rosary Mondays 3:15 p.m. and Mass Tuesdays 3:15 p.m.

### ~ Lutheran ~

**BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH** 

Battle Lake Campus - 21744 State Hwy. 78, Battle Lake

Pastor Nick Laven Visit [bethellutheran.church](http://bethellutheran.church)

**Sunday Worship** – 8:15 a.m. and 10:45 a.m.

**Sunday School** (all ages) 9:30 a.m.

#### Camp Nidaros Church

In The Woods

Stan Satre, Chaplain 218-205-1447

39411 Camp Nidaros Trail, Richville

**Sundays** – Worship in July 10 a.m. (Parking on Cty. Rd. 1)

**FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH** 

Lynn Melchior, Pastor

505 W. Holdt St., Battle Lake - 218-864-5686

**Thursdays** – TOPS 8 a.m.

**Sundays** – Worship 10 a.m. (and online)

Communion 1st and 4th

Coffee Fellowship 11 a.m.

**Mondays** – Quilters 9 a.m.

**SVERDRUP LUTHERAN CHURCH**

Tammy Jacobson, Pastor 

[www.SverdrupLutheran.org](http://www.SverdrupLutheran.org)

209 Southern Ave. E., Underwood 218-8826-6919

**Sundays** – Worship 9 a.m.

**TINGVOLD LUTHERAN CHURCH**

Tammy Jacobson, Pastor 218-826-6487

2801 Cty. Rd. 35, Underwood

**Sundays** – Worship: Sept.-May 11 a.m., June-Aug. 10:30 a.m.

### ~ Lutheran ~

**ZION LUTHERAN-AMOR** 

office@zionamor.org 36051 Co. Hwy. 74, Battle Lake

Chris Mathiason, Pastor

[www.zionamor.org](http://www.zionamor.org) 218-495-2563

**Sundays** – Confirmation 9 a.m. - 10th Graders; Worship 10 a.m.

(Traditional with Communion 1st and 4th; Contemporary with

Prairie Team 2nd and 3rd); Fellowship 11 a.m.

**Mondays** – Quilting 9 a.m.

**Tuesdays** – Bible Study 10 a.m.; Chair Yoga 12 noon

**Wednesdays** – Praise Team 4 p.m.

**Thursdays** – Chair Yoga 1 p.m.

### ~ Methodist ~

**Ottertail United Methodist Church**

104 Shores Drive, Ottertail 218-367-2270 

Ricardo Alcoser, Pastor

**Sunday** – Worship 8:45 a.m. Coffee Fellowship following.

**Richville United Methodist Church**

130 SW 1st Ave., Richville Rod Turnquist, Pastor

**Sundays** – Worship 10:30 a.m.

Coffee Fellowship following (2nd and 4th Sundays).

**Wednesdays** – School 6 p.m.

### ~ Presbyterian ~

**Maine Presbyterian Church** 

Bob Kersten, Pastor

30761 Co. Hwy. 45 Underwood - 218-495-2539

[www.mainepresbyterianchurch.org](http://www.mainepresbyterianchurch.org)

**Sunday Worship** – June-August 9:30 a.m. September-May

10 a.m. Communion 1st Sunday

Coffee following worship June-August.

**Join Us In Worship!**

# MN State Bird - Common Loon



The Loon (*Gavia immer*) became Minnesota's State Bird in 1961.

The loon (*Gavia immer*) became Minnesota's State Bird in 1961. It is known also as the Common Loon. Loons are large black and white birds with red eyes. They have wingspans up to five feet and body lengths up to three feet. They are clumsy on land because their feet are situated toward the back of their bodies, but they are high-speed flyers and excellent underwater swimmers—they will dive to depths of 90 feet in pursuit of fish to eat. Loons are known for their soliloquy of cries, wails, and yodels; their eerie, echoing calls are a distinctive feature of Minnesota's northern lakes. Approximately 12,000 of this waterfowl make their summer homes in the state; the one pictured here nests on Larch Lake, near the Gunflint Trail.

## Protecting Loon Habitat –

A loon nest comprised of lake foliage. There are two eggs in the nest. The Nongame Wildlife Program's top priority for the MN Loon Restoration Project is protecting lakeshore habitat through habitat acquisition and easements. Permanently protecting natural lakeshore and providing quality habitat is the best strategy for ensuring loons successfully breed, nest, forage, and rear young. We are focusing our efforts on areas with active nests and deep, clear lakes that are resilient to climate change and threatened by human encroachment.

We are working with the United States Geological Survey (USGS) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to identify key lakeshore in our project focus area.

## Restoring and Conserving Minnesota's Loons –



When the Deepwater Horizon drilling unit exploded in April 2010, hundreds of wildlife species were impacted, including Minnesota's common loons. The Nongame Wildlife Program created the Minnesota Loon Restoration Project to help this beloved species.

Our goal is to help Minnesota's common loons survive and thrive. To accomplish this goal, we are:

1. Protecting loon breeding habitat.
2. Providing artificial nesting platforms in strategic locations.
3. Engaging communities in loon conservation activities like the Loon-Friendly Lake Registry Program.
4. Monitoring loons on Minnesota lakes.

Proceeds from the Minnesota United license plate help fund this project. Our partners in this project include the Department of Interior, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Geological Survey, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency and you. Together, we can make a difference for Minnesota's loons!

## Why Protect Lakeshore?

Lakeshore plays a critical role in the life cycle of loons—for nesting, rearing young, and migrating.

**Nesting:** Male and female loons use reeds and grasses along shorelines to build their nests. Once the nest is complete, the pair takes turns incubating the eggs. Chicks emerge in 28-30 days.



**Rearing Young:** Adult loons initially rear their young close to shore where their nests are located. Chicks swim and dive alongside their parents. The adults also carry their chicks on their back, most likely to protect the young from predators.



**Migration Staging:** Lakeshore also provides important migration staging areas. Loons rest and feed along shorelines as they travel to and from wintering grounds.

## What you can do to support loon habitat –

**Score your shore:** We all love a view of the lake, but removing vegetation along shorelines can have negative impacts on water quality by increasing nutrient runoff and shoreline erosion, and it removes wildlife habitat. Score Your Shore is an easy way to test the condition of your shoreline and it provides tips on how to make shoreline improvements that are both beautiful and beneficial.

- The Score Your Shore tool will enable you to:
- Assess the amount of habitat at developed lake sites
- Generate awareness of what makes a high quality functioning shoreline buffer
- Provide a system to recognize landowners with functioning shoreline buffers.

**Maintain natural shoreline areas:** Natural shoreline is vital to lake health, but we are losing our natural shorelines at an alarming rate. Protecting and maintaining natural shoreline areas from disturbance and development is one of the best ways you can support Minnesota lakes. You can also preserve your natural shoreline for future generations with a conservation easement.

**Restore your shore:** Restoring your shore is another great way you can support Minnesota loons and lakes. Our Restore Your Shore program has many resources to guide you through the process. Your local Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) may also have additional information on guidance related to your area.

Restore Your Shore will enable you to:

- Develop a deeper understanding of shoreland ecosystems and natural shoreland management.
- In Shore Lore, discover how lakeshore problems similar to your own have been resolved through innovative approaches.
- In the Plant Guide, use the Native Plant Encyclopedia, to create your own plant list from nearly 400 native plants (photos included!). Select natives suitable for planting in your area. Find out what to plant and what not to plant.
- Watch your project unfold and be amazed by the transformation. Steps and Techniques will guide you step by step through the design and implementation process.

**Be Loon Aware:** Loons nest on shoreline or near shoreline areas beginning in May each year. Human disturbance can interrupt their incubation and potentially cause nest failure. Give loons plenty of space during the summer and Be Loon Aware (PDF).

## Questions? Contact MLRP.DNR@state.mn.us –

Restoration of Common Loons in Minnesota (Minnesota Loon Restoration Project) is funded by the Open Ocean Trustee Implementation Group through the Natural Resource Damage Assessment Deepwater Horizon settlement.



Enjoying time by the firepit

Submitted photos



Zebra Mussel removal from Dan Carlisle's hi-elevation shoreline on Otter Tail Lake. Quite a project involving people, a crane service, dump trailer and a DNR Permit to transport to landfill.



## - Land Transfers (May 1, 2025 to May 31, 2025) -

Name	Description	Sale Date	Seller	Buyer	Sale Amount	Type
Girard Twp	560138 - E BATTLE-FF	05-22-2025	DARON E KLEIN	CORY & JENNIFER HOERNEMANN	\$ 512,177.00	Seasonal Rec
Girard Twp	560239 - W BATTLE-FF	05-13-2025	SUSAN M VITALIS	DAMON & PAULA REITZ	\$ 650,000.00	Residential
Girard Twp	560239 - W BATTLE-FF	05-19-2025	JEFFREY D HULL	BETTY JO RESLEY	\$ 260,000.00	Seasonal Rec
Otter Tail Twp	560207 - SHERMAN (OT)-FF	05-29-2025	DEBORAH J REMER	MICHAEL & BETH DEVLAEINCK	\$ 135,000.00	Seasonal Rec
Ottertail City	560201 - LONG(OTCITY & TWP)-FF	05-16-2025	SCOTT ABRAHAM	ANTHONY & PAIGE DAHL	\$ 835,000.00	Seasonal Rec

### SAY SOMETHING?

*(Who to tell)*  
 Once you **see something**, how do you **say something**? Below are helpful hints on how to report it – it could save your life.

### Describing "Something Suspicious"

Tell the authorities who, when and where you saw something, and specifically what you saw. Be sure to note the number of the bus or train, or name of the transit station. Explain why you thought there was cause for suspicion.

### Tell...

- POLICE OR SECURITY OFFICER
- EMPLOYEES OR OFFICIAL PERSONNEL
- TRANSIT DRIVERS
- CALL 9-1-1 IF NO ONE IS AVAILABLE.

Lead-free tackle protects our state bird, the common loon.

Facebook: /leadoutMN  
 Instagram: @leadoutMN

MINNESOTA POLLUTION CONTROL AGENCY  
[www.pca.state.mn.us/leadout](http://www.pca.state.mn.us/leadout)

# June Is Great Outdoors Month



During June, the DNR is offering special programs and incentives to encourage Minnesotans to get outdoors. For example, the DNR hosted a Free Park Day on Saturday, June 14, which allows free entrance to all state parks and recreation areas in Minnesota. There's a state park or recreation area within 30 miles of most Minnesotans. The entrance fee waiver for Free Park Day does not cover amenity or user fees for activities like camping or watercraft rentals. Details are on the Free Park Day webpage ([mndnr.gov/freeparkdays](http://mndnr.gov/freeparkdays)).

"Outdoor recreation is central to Minnesota's quality of life," said Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Commissioner Sarah Strommen. "Through the Get Out MORE initiative, we're modernizing and expanding access to our outdoor spaces—so all Minnesotans can enjoy the benefits of nature, no matter how they choose to get outside."

In addition to offering popular activities such as hiking, biking, camping, swimming, paddling and birding, a variety of state park interpretive programs are open to all visitors. Most interpretive programs are free, but some require pre-registration. Find state park programs online at the state parks and trails events calendar ([mndnr.gov/ptcalendar](http://mndnr.gov/ptcalendar)).

The annual Take a Kid Fishing weekend was celebrated June 6-8. Minnesotans 16 or older who take a child 15 or younger fishing don't need a fishing license, making this another great way to spend time outside during Great Outdoors Month. More information is available on the Take a Kid Fishing webpage ([mndnr.gov/takeakidfishing](http://mndnr.gov/takeakidfishing)).

A no-registration riding weekend on motorized state and Grant-in-Aid trails was June 14-15. This weekend allows Minnesotans with an all-terrain vehicle registered for private or agricultural use to ride public trails without paying the registration fee. Find ATV trails on the trail locations map ([mndnr.gov/ohv/map.html](http://mndnr.gov/ohv/map.html)).

Spending time outdoors during a Minnesota summer often means enjoying our many lakes and rivers—boating, paddling, swimming, and fishing are all part of the experience. To make the most of your time on the water, always make safety a priority. Don't just bring a life jacket—wear it. Simple precautions like this can save lives and help ensure everyone has a safe and enjoyable outing. Learn more about life jacket types and regulations on the DNR boat and water safety webpage ([mndnr.gov/safety/boatwater](http://mndnr.gov/safety/boatwater)).

Those who want to get outdoors but don't know how can learn skills for a future outdoor activity through the Minnesota Outdoor Skills and Stewardship webinar series. Several courses are offered in June, and there's no cost to register. Find webinar descriptions and register on the DNR website ([mndnr.gov/discover](http://mndnr.gov/discover)).

### More ways to enjoy the great outdoors:

- **Go fishing** – Go or try fishing for the first time. The Minnesota DNR has a fishing web-

page ([mndnr.gov/fishing](http://mndnr.gov/fishing)) with a variety of helpful information for anyone who wants to go fishing. There's also a learn to fish page ([mndnr.gov/gofishing](http://mndnr.gov/gofishing)) with helpful guides on places to fish and how to catch a variety of species.

- **Get on the water in a boat, canoe or kayak** – Minnesota's lakes and rivers offer endless opportunities for boating and paddling. Starting July 1, 2025, a new law aimed at improving boating safety will take effect. It will require more individuals to complete boater education before operating a motorboat or personal watercraft in Minnesota. For full details about who needs to obtain an operator's permit, visit the new boater education law webpage ([mndnr.gov/safety/boatwater/boater-education-law.html](http://mndnr.gov/safety/boatwater/boater-education-law.html)).
- **Visit a wildlife management area, scientific and natural area, or state forest** – Explore Minnesota's diverse landscapes. Learn more about these public lands and how to responsibly enjoy wildlife management areas ([mndnr.gov/wmas](http://mndnr.gov/wmas)), scientific and natural areas ([mndnr.gov/snas](http://mndnr.gov/snas)), and state forests ([mndnr.gov/state\\_forests](http://mndnr.gov/state_forests)).
- **Join a naturalist program** – Take part in one of over 200 naturalist-led events happening in state parks throughout June. Most programs are free and offer hands-on experiences for all ages. Find upcoming events at [mndnr.gov/state\\_parks/events.html](http://mndnr.gov/state_parks/events.html).
- **Check out a library pass** – Can't make it to a park on Free Park Day? No problem. Check out a pass at a participating public library and visit a state park on your own schedule. Get details at [mndnr.gov/state\\_parks/minnesota-state-parks-library-program.html](http://mndnr.gov/state_parks/minnesota-state-parks-library-program.html).
- **Take a state park tour** – Reserve a spot on a guided tour at one of three Minnesota state parks. These tours require a small fee and offer memorable, affordable ways to explore nature with an expert. See availability and make reservations at [mndnr.gov/state\\_parks/tours.html](http://mndnr.gov/state_parks/tours.html).
- **Try an I Can! Program** – New to outdoor adventures? The I Can! series offers beginner-friendly programs in camping, paddling, rock climbing, and more—all led by experienced instructors. Learn how to get started at [mndnr.gov/state\\_parks/ican](http://mndnr.gov/state_parks/ican).
- **Browse the summer activities guide** – Discover even more ways to enjoy the outdoors with the DNR's online summer activities guide. It's packed with ideas for all interests and skill levels. Explore the guide at [mndnr.gov/state\\_parks/starter\\_kit](http://mndnr.gov/state_parks/starter_kit).

Gov. Tim Walz has proclaimed June 2025 as Great Outdoors Month in Minnesota, encouraging Minnesotans to explore the state's natural treasures and take part in the wide array of outdoor activities available across public lands and waters. The proclamation highlights the vital role outdoor recreation plays in the state's identity, economy, and quality of life, and celebrates key initiatives like Get Out MORE (Modernize Outdoor Recreation Experiences).

The Get Out MORE appropriation, passed by the state legislature and signed by Gov. Walz in 2023, provides funding for a variety of upgrades and enhancements to outdoor recreation in Minnesota, including modernizing boating access and camping infrastructure, enhancing fisheries and fishing infrastructure, and enhancing access and accessibility of outdoor recreation. There will be improved shore fishing opportunities, repaired roads, new signage and maps, improved trails and more adaptive equipment available to visitors which will all make opportunities to recreate in Minnesota's great outdoors easier for more people. More information about these investments is available on the DNR's Get Out MORE webpage ([mndnr.gov/aboutdnr/get-out-more](http://mndnr.gov/aboutdnr/get-out-more)).

Celebrated in Minnesota since 2008, Great Outdoors Month highlights the diversity of public lands throughout the state and the benefits they provide.

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## Campfires For All Occasions

Humorously enough, many websites and self-proclaimed experts claim that one fire is "the best" because of some quality that it holds over another fire. It should be noted that EVERY fire has some advantages, and some disadvantages. A teepee is great for lighting up the darkness, but can you imagine trying to dutch over cook with one? There are many different types of campfires - some varieties of fire are more likely to survive a rain storm, some are easier to build, and some provide better heating for those around you. Choosing the appropriate fire for the right situation is a sign of outdoor skills and wilderness savvy.

### Only you can prevent wildfires.

Whether you're in a state forest or in your backyard, campfires should be constructed and maintained with safety in mind. Use a designated fire ring or build a campfire in an area cleared of combustible materials 5 feet in all directions around the fire. Campfires must be 3 feet or less in diameter and not more than 3 feet in height.

### Building and Putting Out a Campfire

- Think before you strike. Check the burning restrictions for your area before lighting a campfire.
- Select a level spot a safe distance away from trees, low overhead branches, shrubs, dry grass, or logs to prevent the fire from escaping, and clear all combustibles within 5 feet.
- Have a shovel and water available at the campfire site for extinguishing campfires.
- Supervise the fire at all times. Even a light breeze could cause the fire to spread.
- Extinguish the campfire with water using the "drown and stir" method.

**The Teepee** doesn't do well in a rain storm - all of the coals are exposed to the rain. It doesn't generate nearly the outward heat of some other types of campfire, as much of the heat tends to shoot upward. It takes a long time for this fire to be ready for bigger logs,

so it consumes a large amount of kindling and smaller fuel to get the fire going. Most teepee fires eventually "implode" by falling into themselves. When this occurs it can send sparks flying and burning wood rolling so be sure to have a solid fire ring and not grow too sleepy as you sit around your fire. This fire is high-maintenance, so expect to spend quite a bit of time getting wood.



**Log Cabin** provides good outward heat and is a great coal-producing fire (essential if you plan to do some dutch oven cooking and didn't bring a bag of charcoal). It burns for quite a bit longer than the teepee, so it takes less maintenance to keep this fire going. It builds best if you use moderately-sized logs at the bottom of your teepee, and get a bit smaller as you build. If you want your fire to burn a bit longer and have better rain survivability then "fill in the floor" of each layer of your log cabin with fuel wood placed parallel to wood in it's layer (and perpendicular to the wood in the layer above and below it). Light the log cabin on the top if you want it to be a slow-burning fire, and on the bottom if you'd like it to burn through the wood a bit quicker.



**Classical Lean-To** fire is created by placing our tinder at the base of the middle of a log. We then lean our kindling against the log (and over our tinder). This fire builds quickly and does not require much planning to get it going. It survives a rain storm pretty well, as coals tend to hide under our large log. The Lean-To has the advantage of channelling the wind on a calm day by laying it in the direction of the predominant wind. On a windy day we can use the large log as a wind-break so that we can get our fire started easily and keep it at a safer size. Because our fire begins with a large log, about the time it is burning through we can often place a few more logs onto the top and create an oversized teepee.



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To create a **Parallel Fire** we place two logs parallel to one another and place our tinder in between them. Our kindling can be teepeed over our kindling between the logs or placed across both logs if there is sufficient tinder. The parallel fire can be used with or without a trench - the trench requires extra work, though, and can scar the land; unless there are extremely high winds it's unnecessary. Much like the lean-to, we can use the logs to block strong winds or channel weak breezes. In the event of a rainstorm a parallel fire has a great advantage - just push the logs together and let your coals burn the large logs from underneath. If you have a good number of coals it will last out even heavy rains. Another nice advantage of this fire is that a cooking pot or grill can be placed between the logs and over the kindling, thus providing a natural level cooking surface. Because this fire takes a long time to get going and has two large logs to burn through once it takes hold, this is a low-maintenance fire.



**Star Fire** is created by placing long logs in a star-shaped design all meeting at a single area. In that area we place our tinder and kindling, often in the shape of teepee or a crisscrossing fashion. As the fire burns we push the logs toward the center point, thus feeding the fire a constant supply of wood. The advantage of this is that you can often get your firewood for the entire day and have it ready to burn throughout the day. In the event of a rainstorm all logs can be pushed together, thus providing some protection from the water. This fire will continue burning throughout the day and requires very little maintenance other than an occasional push; it is hard to imagine a lower-maintenance fire.



**Council Fire** is a combination of two previously discussed fire types - the teepee and the log cabin. We begin by creating a teepee with a break at one point to access our tinder. Unlike a normal teepee we are going to wait to light the fire until after building the majority of our fire. We continue to grow our teepee in size until it is several feet high, being sure to provide adequate tinder and small kindling to light each successive layer. Finally we build a hollow log cabin using large logs around our teepee. If the fire is to be lit at some point in the future it would be wise to lay a tarp over your carefully-constructed fire (and place some stakes or large rocks at the corners of the tarp).

**A Final Note About Lighting Your Fire:** It should be noted that I have witnessed MANY older Scouts reduce themselves to starting their fires with lighter fluid or kerosene (often with the excuse that they are too busy to take the time to build it properly). It takes at most fifteen to twenty minutes (and some knowledge) to construct one of these fires properly. I once had a 14 year old inform me, quite confidently, that he had learned on Boy Scout staff that the "proper way" to get a fire going was with kerosene, and that if I didn't use it then my fire probably wouldn't

light. The dim-witted boy was wrong, and so were the role models that taught him such ugly habits. Allow yourself sufficient time to build your fire and be prepared with additional tinder and kindling if needed.

Taken from <https://sites.google.com/site/shelbytroop406/home/scout-lessons/fires/types-of-campfires>

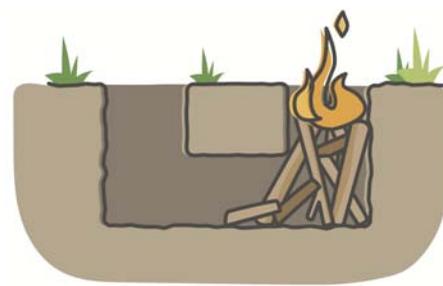
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**T Fire**



**Keyhole Fire**



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### Fireworks ... What's Legal, What's Not

The sale, possession and use of certain non-explosive and non-aerial consumer fireworks is permitted in Minnesota.

- Wire or wood sparklers of not more than 100 grams of mixture per item

### EXAMPLES OF FIREWORKS THAT ARE NOW LEGAL TO SELL, POSSESS AND USE BY THE PUBLIC ON OR AFTER APRIL 30, 2002 AS PERMITTED BY MINNESOTA STATUTE 624.20 (C):



Other sparkling items which are nonexplosive and nonaerial and contain 75 grams or less of chemical mixture per tube or a total of 500 grams or less for multiple tubes and include:

- Cylindrical fountain Upon ignition, a shower of colored sparks or smoke and sometimes a whistling effect is produced.
- Cone Fountain The effect is the same as that of a cylindrical fountain. When more than 1 cone is mounted on a common base, total pyrotechnic composition may not exceed 500 grams
- Illuminating Torch
- Wheel - Pyrotechnic device intended to be attached to a post or tree by means of a nail or string. Upon ignition, the wheel revolves, producing a shower of color and sparks and, sometimes, a whistling effect
- Ground Spinner - Small device venting out an orifice usually on the side of the tube. Similar in operation to a wheel but intended to be placed flat on the ground and ignited. The rapidly spinning device produces a shower of sparks and color.
- Flitter Sparkler - Narrow paper tube attached to a stick or wire that produces color and sparks upon ignition. The paper at one end of the tube is ignited to make the device function.
- Flash/Strobe - Emit a bright light Novelty items such as snakes and glow worms, smoke devices or trick noisemakers which include paper streamers, party poppers, string poppers, snappers, and drop pops, each consisting of not more than 2500 grains of explosive mixture.

### EXAMPLES OF FIREWORKS THAT CONTINUE TO BE ILLEGAL TO SELL POSSESS AND USE, EXCEPT AS PERMITTED UNDER MINNESOTA STATUTE 624.20

- Any fireworks that are explosive
- Any fireworks that are aerial
- Firecrackers (any size)
- Ladyfingers
- Sky rockets
- Bottle rockets
- Missile type rockets
- Helicopters, aerial spinners, planes, UFOs
- Roman Candles
- Mines or shells (heavy cardboard or paper tube(s) attached to a base – upon ignition stars, balls or reports are propelled into the air)
- Chasers
- Parachutes
- 1.3G Display (special or class B) Fireworks
- Aerial shells
- Theatrical pyrotechnics (see Minn. Stat. 624.20 to 624.25)

Basically, any fireworks listed above are still not legal for public sale, possession or use, except with a permit and by a certified operator according to Minnesota Statute 624.20. (i.e. these fireworks are still not legal unless a permit has been issued by the local jurisdiction and they are used by a state certified operator)



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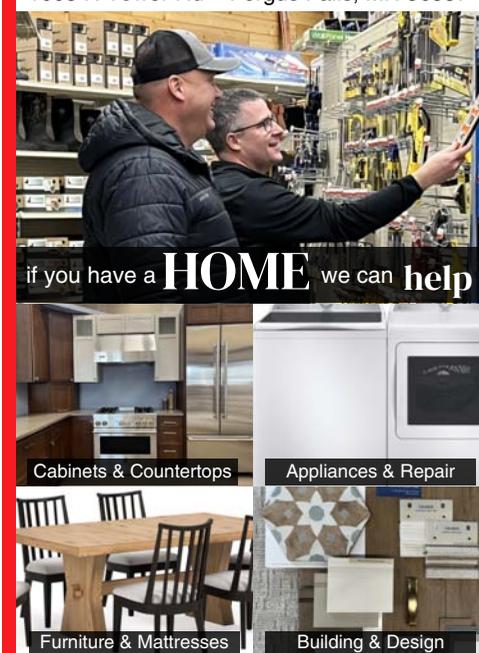
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### • IMPORTANT NOTES •

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources will collect your social security number when you apply for a non-commercial hunting or fishing license. License prices listed do not include any additional fees or the \$1 agent fee. Commercial licenses applications require a Federal Employer Identification number, Minnesota Tax Identification number or Social Security Number. Commercial licenses are issued at the DNR license center.

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