



LAKE LIFE

CHIPPEWA NATIONAL FOREST | USDA FOREST SERVICE

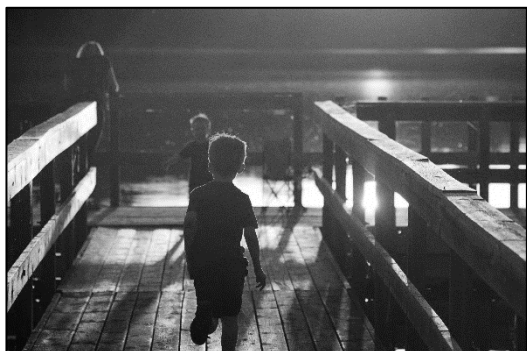


Lake life in northern Minnesota is a year-round experience. Water is abundant on the Chippewa National Forest, with over **1,300** lakes, **925** miles of streams and **400,000** acres of wetlands. Opportunities to enjoy the water are plentiful. Some visitors seek out the slow tempo of paddling down the Mississippi River, while others relish the spray of water while skiing. Anglers rush to catch that first walleye of the season, while some enjoy a quiet evening on the lake surrounded by fall colors. Whatever your lake life pace, you'll find it on the Chippewa National Forest.

FISHING

The walleye fishing opener officially kicks off the summer season. Many fishing enthusiasts try their luck on Cut Foot, Winnie and Cass lakes, but smaller lakes are popular for sunfish and bass. Visitors can try their hand at fly fishing for pan fish or bundle up to ice fish in the winter. There are many family fishing events hosted by local community and fishing groups throughout the year. The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources regulates fishing seasons and a fishing license is required. Fishing Licenses can be purchased at local bait shops, sporting goods stores or the Minnesota DNR website.

FISHING PIERS



Visitors don't need a boat to enjoy fishing in northern Minnesota. Look for more than a dozen fishing piers located throughout the Forest. All fishing piers are handicap accessible.

Fishing Piers	Nearest Town
Cass Lake Wayside Rest Area on Cass Lake	Cass Lake
Mission Bridge on northwest side of Cass Lake	Cass Lake
Benjamin Lake off scenic Highway Co. 39	Blackduck
Gilstad Lake off scenic Highway Co. 39	Blackduck
Leech Lake off Highway 371/ Shingobee Bay	Walker
Kego Lake	Longville
Leech Lake	Onigum
Boy River Crossing at Co. 8	Federal Dam
Clubhouse Lake Campground	Marcell
Little Cut Foot Sioux Lake off Hwy 46	Deer River
Bowstring River off Co. 35	Inger
Lake Ranier, Edge of Wilderness	Marcell

SWIMMING

Who needs a pool? The Chippewa National Forest has three of Minnesota's largest lakes on the Forest. Go jump in the lake at the day use and camping areas at Cass Lake, Leech Lake or Lake Winnibigoshish.

Swimming Areas	Nearest Town
East Seelye Picnic Area on Cut Foot Sioux	Deer River
Stony Point beach on Leech Lake	Walker
Norway Beach Recreation Area on Cass Lake	Cass Lake
Benjamin Lake Wayside Rest	Blackduck
Mabel Lake Campground	Walker/Remer
Clubhouse Campground	Marcell
North Star Campground	Marcell



BOAT ACCESS

Most area lakes have some type of boat access. A great resource is the public water access maps by county. Go to www.dnr.state.mn.us/wateraccess or pick up a map at a Forest Service or Minnesota DNR office. Look for Beltrami, Cass or Itasca County maps.

CANOEING

Travel the routes of the Anishinabe and early explorers. The Chippewa National Forest has more than 900 miles of rivers and

offers several canoe routes, ranging from the mighty Mississippi to the slow-moving Boy River and other small creeks.

These canoe routes offer excellent opportunities to view bald eagles, loons and a variety of northern Minnesota wildlife. Walleye, northern and pan fish are good along most of the routes. Primitive campsites are located along most of the rivers.

Canoe Route	Area	Miles	Access Points
Big Fork River DNR Map Available	Marcell	165	Three access points on the Forest including Dora Lake and Harrison boat landings and Highway 14 carry-in access. River flows north to the Rainy River.
Boy River	Walker	23	Three carry in access points on the Forest, including two off Co. 129 and one near the town of Boy River. Boat landing access on Boy Lake.
Mississippi River DNR Map Available	Cass Lake Deer River	55	Multiple boat accesses and carry-in access from Cass Lake to White Oak Lake near Deer River.
Pike Bay Connection	Cass Lake	8	Access on Cass Lake, Pike Bay and Steamboat Lake.
Turtle River	Blackduck Cass Lake	16	Access from Gull Lake off Co. 22, off FR 2392 and on Big Rice Lake

ASK THE RECREATION TEAM

Where can I rent a boat?

Visitors can rent boats through many of the local resorts. Check the area Chamber of Commerce brochure for a listing of resorts and the types of boats available.

Can I bring my boat and trailer into the campsite?

Campers can bring their boat and trailer into the campsite. Campground hosts may also be able to assist in finding a place for your boat trailer if there is not enough space at your campsite.

Are there any trout lakes on the Forest?

Yes, there are a number of trout fishing opportunities on the Forest. Check out Benjamin Lake near Blackduck, Diamond, Hazel and TeePee lakes near Walker, and six lakes in the Marcell area, including the well-named Trout Lake.

Do I need to wear my lifejacket?

Minnesota state law requires all children under 10 years to wear a life jacket and a readily accessible lifejacket for each person on the boat. The Chippewa National Forest is 50 percent water and encourages all visitors to wear a properly-fitted life jacket. Life jackets are key to keeping a visit safe and enjoyable.

Where can I get a lake map?

Local bait stores sell area lake maps. Another resource is the Minnesota DNR Lakefinder webpage or mobile app. Look up specific lake and fisheries information at: www.dnr.state.mn.us/lakefind/index.html