

ISLAND LAKE DAM

CONSTRUCTION

UPDATE

ISLAND LAKE DAM RECREATION AREA WILL REMAIN OPEN IN 2018, CLOSE FOR PART OF 2019

Minnesota Power is replacing five gates at the Island Lake Main Dam as part of its continuing investment in Island Lake Reservoir. While work will move ahead in 2018, we have determined that the Island Lake Dam Recreation Area, including the boat launch and other facilities, can safely remain open during this phase of construction. Access to the dam will be restricted at times.

As the project continues in 2019, the Island Lake Dam Recreation Area will be closed from mid-July through the end of the year to ensure the safety of construction workers and the public. The closure will include all facilities at the area, including the boat launch, public beach, parking lots, canoe portage, and fishing pier that complies with Americans with Disabilities Act accessibility guidelines.

WATER LEVELS NOT AFFECTED

The construction activity will not affect water levels at Island Lake Reservoir. Water levels are dependent on spring snowmelt and rains, and the gate replacement project will allow for normal reservoir operations to capture that runoff into the reservoir.

ALTERNATE RECREATION SITES

- Abbott Road boat launch.
- Hideaway boat launch and picnic area.
- Island Lake Park pavilion, picnic area and beach. The Island Lake Park facilities are designed to be accessible to people with disabilities.

DOWNLOAD A MAP

A map of Island Lake Reservoir and its recreation sites is available at mpland.com.

THE PROJECT

Five cast iron sluice gates at the Island Lake Main Dam are being replaced. The gates allow dam operators to control the discharge of water from the dam's outlet structure. Original to the construction of the dam in 1914 and 1915, the gates are nearing the end of their service life.

Island Lake Reservoir is part of Minnesota Power's hydroelectric system and provides water for wintertime energy generation at Minnesota Power's downstream hydroelectric generating stations—Knife Falls, Scanlon, Thomson, and Fond du Lac. The reservoir also provides water regulation to help mitigate high downstream flows and water for recreational opportunities and aquatic habitat in the reservoir and downstream.



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