

# Fishing...

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the river through private land. The rest of our streams are privately owned, but some reaches are leased by the department through the [Fish Impoundments and Stream Habitats \(F.I.S.H.\) Program](#), while other reaches are in public ownership. Many streams provide excellent channel and flathead catfishing, and those in the east and southeast may also hold [spotted bass](#). A little research using the [Fishing Atlas](#) and legwork visiting with landowners could open some great stream fishing.

More than 150,000 privately-owned farm [ponds](#) also provide outstanding fishing opportunities. Tucked away in beautiful prairie settings, these secret fishing holes are largemouth bass, crappie, bluegill, and channel cat hotspots. Permission from the landowner is needed to fish on any private water, except those waters enrolled in the department's [F.I.S.H. program](#).

The F.I.S.H. program works like the popular [Walk-In Hunting Area program](#). The department leases

pond and stream access from private landowners and opens it to public fishing. The leases run from March through October and allows fishing only from sunrise to one half hour after sunset.

Other special programs include the [trout program](#), which provides catchable-size trout in select waters across the state from October through April. A trout permit is required of all anglers who fish for trout during the season. The [urban program](#) stocks catchable-sized channel catfish in select urban lakes. Check out the [Fishing Forecast](#), which is a compilation of biologists' sampling efforts and can help you decide where to fish according to the type of fishing you prefer. For up-to-date information, look up the [fishing report](#) for the lake of your choice. Field staff update the fishing reports each week through the fishing season, reporting on fishing success, lake levels, water temperatures, and other important information.

Anglers can specialize in catfish or crappie, wipers or walleye, or better yet, they can fish for them all!



Crystal Richards, Andbe Home activity director, bundled up Bob Shick. The weather was cooler than expected, but Mr. Shick enjoyed the outing for Andbe Home residents at Sebelius Lake anyway. He said he hasn't been fishing since 1989.

— Telegram photo by Erica Bradley

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