

The Enchanting Woman Lake Chain: A Minnesota Gem

Nestled in the heart of Cass County, Minnesota, lies a captivating chain of four lakes joined by the Boy River: Woman Lake, Girl Lake, Child Lake, and Little Woman Lake.

A Chain of Opportunities

The interconnected lakes make it easy to explore by boat, offering diverse fishing structures and shoreline views. Boaters and anglers can enjoy days navigating from the larger waters of Woman Lake to the more sheltered bays of Girl Lake.

The clear waters and sandy shorelines are ideal for swimming, kayaking, paddleboarding, sailing, pontoon rides, and other water sports. The surrounding Chippewa National Forest creates a beautiful backdrop for hiking and wildlife watching. In winter, the frozen surfaces are great for ice fishing, snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, and snowmobiling.

Woman Lake: The Heart of the Chain

Covering **5,520 acres and with over 30 miles of shoreline**, it is the centerpiece of this network. Its name, rooted in local legend commemorating Ojibwe women, reflects the rich history behind these waters. With a maximum depth of 54 feet and water clarity over 14 feet, it is famous for its walleye but also hosts a variety of other species. Broadwater Bay is the largest bay, covering about 1,000 acres, and connects to Girl Lake. Access to Child Lake is on the north side of Bungey Bay. Lantern Bay is a shallow, pristine ecosystem known for its abundant wild rice and vital habitat for fish and wildlife. Otter Bay is known for excellent crappie fishing.

Girl Lake: Bays and Depth

Connected to Woman Lake by a wide, deep, navigable channel, it is routinely used by pontoons and large, deep-water boats. Girl Lake offers a smaller, more intimate setting with several small bays. Covering about **428 acres with 9 miles of shoreline**, it reaches depths of up to 85 feet. This depth helps keep the water clear, with visibility over 14 feet, making it another top fishing spot within the chain. The area around Girl Lake features lakeshore homes and cabins, providing a peaceful lakeside lifestyle.

Girl Lake comes right into downtown Longville, where the city docks are located. Come by boat, shop local stores, and grab an ice cream cone or a bag of groceries. Few places in the world offer this luxury.

Child Lake: A Smaller Haven

Moving west from Woman Lake via the Boy River, boaters will reach the smaller Child Lake. Covering about **285 acres, 4 miles of shoreline**, with a maximum depth of 29 feet, Child Lake also provides for recreational activities. While connected to the larger chain, it has its own distinct character.

Managed by the Minnesota DNR for species like northern pike, bluegill, crappie, and largemouth bass, Child Lake also supports muskellunge, walleye, tullibee, and yellow perch. Regulations, such as a protected pike slot, help sustain fish populations.

A south-shore access provides entry into Child Lake. Two public water accesses/boat launches on Woman Lake and one on Girl Lake.

Little Woman Lake: A Quiet Retreat

The smallest, Little Woman Lake spans under **36 acres** with a max depth of 14 feet. Despite its size, it offers a peaceful environment and supports abundant plant life due to its littoral zone.

DNR surveys find various fish species, including walleye, northern pike, bluegill, pumpkinseed, rock bass, largemouth bass, and crappie. Its small size makes it ideal for quiet activities like kayaking and canoeing, offering seclusion within the chain.

