

LAKE ACCESS

Tribal and State Sites

Bigfork Fishing Access (MFWP)

Activities: boating and fishing
Facilities: dock and concrete boat ramp
Notes: Seasonal closures during winter. No boat launch when lake elevation drops below 2890 feet. Contact the regional MFWP office for open and closure dates (call: 406-752-5501).

Big Arm State Park (MFWP)

Activities: boating, fishing, swimming, camping (available from 5/1 to 9/30), picnicking, bicycling, group use, hiking (2.5 mile hiking trail), wildlife viewing
Facilities: dock, concrete boat ramp, camp host, campground, group site, tent site, RV site, yurt rentals, boat trailer parking, extra vehicle parking, firewood, ice, drinking water, garbage bins, showers, toilets
Notes: Floating docks may be pulled from the water from mid-Dec. through Jan. Check Regional MFWP Office for status (call: 406-752-5501).

Blue Bay Campground (CSKT)

Activities: boating, fishing, swimming, camping, picnicking, bicycling, group use
Facilities: boat ramp, boat-slip rentals, dock, lodge rentals, camp host, campground, RV/trailer site, tent site, toilet, drinking water, ice, firewood, showers
Notes: For information on fees and seasons, contact the Tribes (call: 406-253-3813 or 406-883-2888)

DuCharme Fishing Access (MFWP)

Activities: boating and fishing
Facilities: Undeveloped site with no restroom. This site can be used for launching smaller boats at high water.
Notes: Seasonal site. Contact the regional MFWP office for open and closure dates (call: 406-752-5501).

Elmo Fishing Access Site (MFWP)

Activities: boating and fishing
Facilities: dock, concrete boat ramp
Notes: Seasonal site with winter closures. No boat launch when the lake elevation drops below 2890 feet. Contact the regional MFWP office for open and closure dates (call: 406-752-5501).

Finley Point State Park (MFWP)

Activities: boating, fishing, swimming, camping, picnicking, bicycling
Facilities: dock, concrete boat ramp, hookup, marina, pumpout, picnic site, camp host, campground, RV/trailer site, tent site, drinking water, toilets, disabled accessible
Notes: Seasonal. Contact the regional MFWP office for open and closure dates (call: 406-752-5501).

Salish Point (CSKT) and Riverside Public Parks

Activities: boating, fishing, swimming
Facilities: public parks with dock, boat ramp, boat slips, restrooms, and park/picnic areas.
Notes: Boat ramp is accessible year round. Floating dock may be pulled during winter months. Contact the Tribes (406-883-2888).

Somers Fishing Access (MFWP)

Activities: boating and fishing
Facilities: dock, concrete boat ramp, toilet, drinking water
Notes: Seasonal site with closures during winter. No boat launch when lake elevation below 2890 feet. Contact the regional MFWP office for open and closure dates (call: 406-752-5501).

Talking Water (CSKT)

Activities: fishing
Facilities: dock
Notes: Highway pull-off above a dock.

Walstad Fishing Access (MFWP)

Activities: boating and fishing
Facilities: dock, concrete boat ramp, toilet
Notes: Seasonal site with closures during winter. No boat launch when lake elevation below 2890 feet. Contact the regional MFWP office for open and closure dates (call: 406-752-5501).

Wayfarers State Park (MFWP)

Activities: boating, fishing, swimming, camping, picnicking, bicycling, group use, wildlife viewing, hiking
Facilities: dock, concrete boat ramp, pumpout, dump station, toilet, camp host, campground, RV/trailer site, tent site, drinking water, showers, hiking trail
Notes: Camping from 5/1 to 9/30. Contact the regional MFWP office for further information (call: 406-752-5501).

West Shore State Park (MFWP)

Activities: boating, fishing, swimming, camping, picnicking, bicycling, hiking
Facilities: dock, concrete boat ramp, pumpout, dump station, toilet, camp host, campground, tent/RV site, drinking water, showers, hiking trail
Notes: Camping from 5/1 to 9/30. Contact the regional MFWP office for further information (call: 406-752-5501).

Wild Horse Island State Park

Activities: boating, fishing, swimming, hiking, wildlife viewing, photography
Facilities: six public boat landing sites (no public docks), hiking trails, toilet.
Notes: Access to the island is via boat only. Camping not allowed on the island. Fires and barbecues prohibited. Contact the regional MFWP office for further information (call: 406-752-5501).

Woods Bay Fishing Access (MFWP)

Activities: boating and fishing
Facilities: dock, concrete boat ramp, toilet
Notes: This is a seasonal site with closures during winter. No boat launch when the lake elevation drops below 2890 feet. Contact the regional MFWP office for open and closure dates (call: 406-752-5501).

Yellow Bay State Park

Activities: boating, fishing, swimming, camping, picnicking, bicycling, wildlife viewing
Facilities: dock, concrete boat ramp, camp host, tent site, toilet, drinking water, sheltered picnic table
Notes: Floating docks may be pulled from the water from mid-December through January to prevent damage from ice. Contact the regional MFWP office for status (call: 406-752-5501).

MAP LEGEND

-  Access Site
-  Landing
-  Marina
-  Fall Lake Trout Fishing Hot Spot
-  Spring Lake Trout Fishing Hot Spot

Green access icons are Tribal or state sites; smaller blue icons are county sites. Lake-depth contours are in feet. Lake levels vary, depths are relative.

FLATHEAD LAKE

County Sites

Armo Villa (county)

From Hwy 93 take Melita Island Road 0.3 miles, turn left on Bella Lane, then keep right on gravel road to lake. Walk-in access. Limited and restricted light-duty gravel boat ramp.

Big Arm Townsite - 5th St. (county)

Gravel road that ends at concrete boat ramp across highway from boat ramp (medium to high water boat ramp).

Big Arm Villa - Central (county)

Gravel road leads to grass and trees at lake. Dock on or near parcel. Gravel ramp access for small boats with very limited parking.

Chuck Dixon 4-H Co. Park (county)

Paved access via Rocky Point County Road to Kings Point Road. Turn right on Wolf Point Way to County Park Sign at end of road (0.7 miles to park). County park with vault toilets, dock, picnic shelter and tables. No access for boats or vehicles to shoreline.

Dayton Fireman's Ramp (county)

Concrete boat ramp and safety dock on 2nd Street.

East Thurston Lane (county)

Three miles northwest of Hwy 35 (1/4 miles north on North Finley Point Road. East Thurston Lane gravel road that ends at boat ramp (high water ramp).

Grinde Villa (county)

Undefined road to off-site parking with walk-in lakeshore access. Lawn maintained to lake.

Lakeside County Park Boat Ramp (county)

Concrete boat ramp with safety dock off Highway 93.

Mellet Point - North (county)

Access via Finley Point Road to Lindburg Lane. Narrow access road to level, wooded shoreline with gravel beach. Off-site parking, hand launch for small water craft.

Sunrise Estates, Marie's Lane (county)

Rough gravel road to dirt road with locked gate marked private. Off-site parking with walk-in lakeshore access.

Ramp and Boat Safety

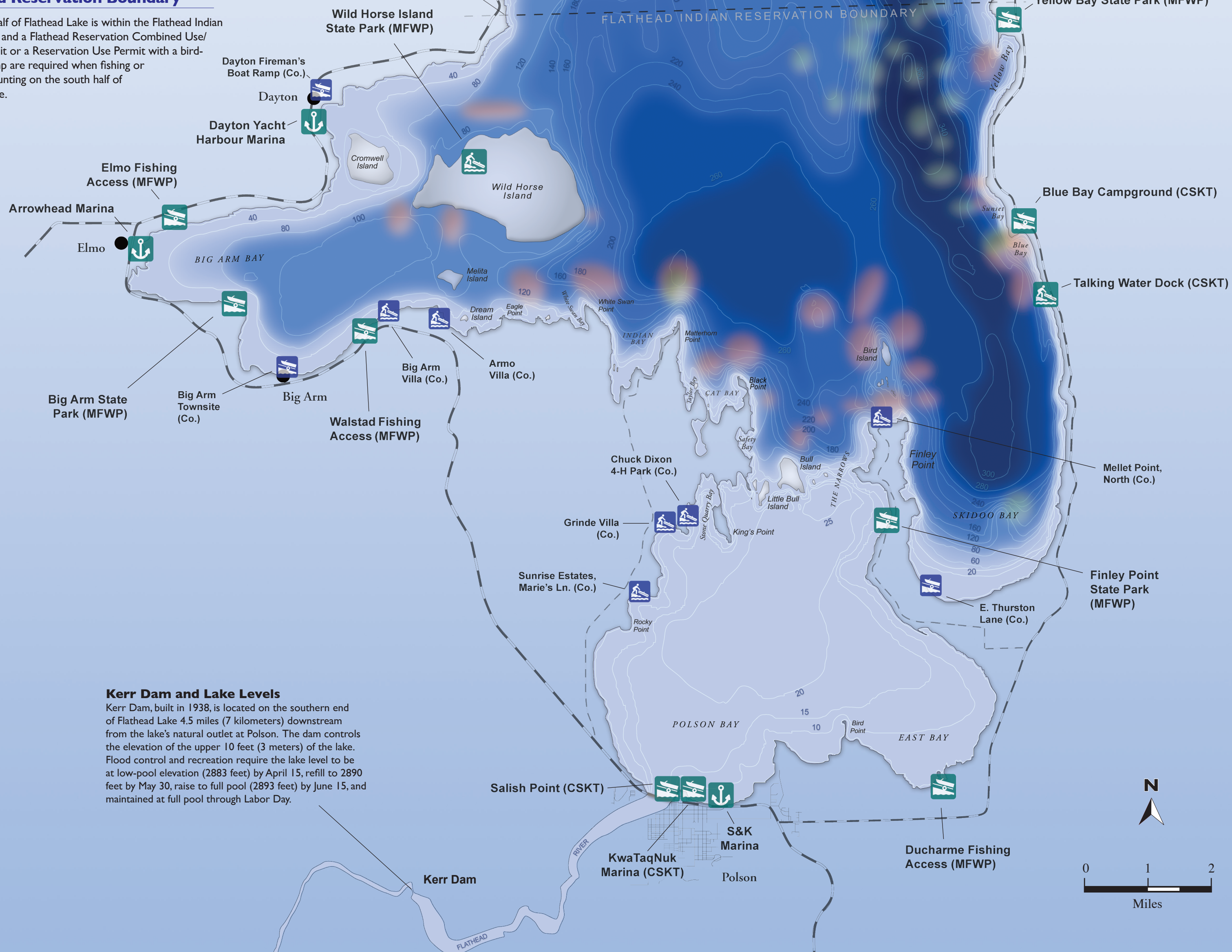
Launching a boat must be done from established launching areas if provided. Boat owners should prepare their boat before pulling up to the ramp area. Take the cover off the boat, load supplies and equipment, and do a safety check before backing down the ramp area. Do not allow children or others to get into the boat until it is safely in the water. After you launch your boat, move your vehicle so others can use the ramp.

PFDs (life jackets) should be worn by all persons on board the boat. Legally, there must be a wearable PFD for each person onboard. Montana law requires a PFD on all children under 12 years of age on a boat less than 26 feet in length that is in motion.

Check the weather before you go. Pay attention to clouds, wind direction, or other changing conditions. Weather in Montana is unpredictable. If you see a storm approaching give yourself plenty of time to reach your launch area or a safe place. Keep in mind there may be several boats at once waiting to load at the ramp area.

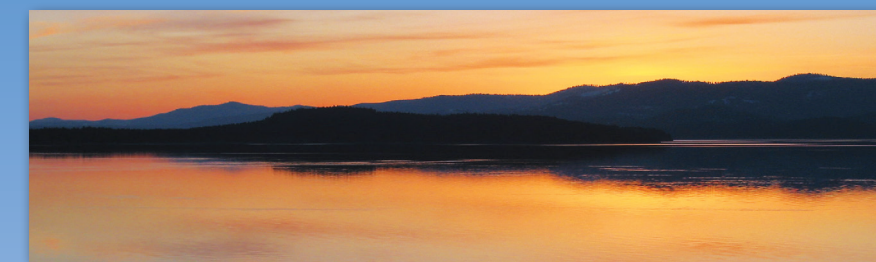
Flathead Reservation Boundary

The south half of Flathead Lake is within the Flathead Indian Reservation, and a Flathead Reservation Combined Use/Fishing Permit or a Reservation Use Permit with a bird-hunting stamp are required when fishing or waterfowl hunting on the south half of Flathead Lake.



Kerr Dam and Lake Levels

Kerr Dam, built in 1938, is located on the southern end of Flathead Lake 4.5 miles (7 kilometers) downstream from the lake's natural outlet at Polson. The dam controls the elevation of the upper 10 feet (3 meters) of the lake. Flood control and recreation require the lake level to be at low-pool elevation (2883 feet) by April 15, refill to 2890 feet by May 30, raise to full pool (2893 feet) by June 15, and maintained at full pool through Labor Day.



FLATHEAD RESERVATION

FLATHEAD LAKE MAP & USE REGULATIONS



VISITING FLATHEAD LAKE

The south half of Flathead Lake is within the Flathead Indian Reservation. An overview of Tribal regulations governing recreational use follows. For more complete information, please consult the Tribal fishing, hunting, and recreation regulations, available from the Tribes and vendors selling Tribal permits.

The Flathead Lake and River System is uniquely important to people of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes. As you visit the lake, please keep in mind that the land and water and the native fish and wildlife they support are vital to the survival of the Salish, Pend d'Oreille, Kalispel, and Kootenai people and are an integral part of our cultures and spiritualities. We ask that you treat the lake and its community of life with respect.

Recreation License

All non-members 12 years and older fishing on the south half of Flathead Lake must have a Flathead Reservation Combined Use/Fishing Permit (valid only for individuals engaged in fishing on the south half of the lake). Non-members engaged in bird hunting are required to have a valid Reservation Use Permit and the appropriate activity stamp.

Fishing and Boating

Refer to the annual fishing regulations before fishing. In addition to all applicable CSKT regulations, boaters must comply with regulations of the United States Coast Guard and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, including, but not limited to, the use of personal flotation devices and boater safety.

Camping

Camping is allowed in established campgrounds or semi-developed use sites as evidenced by tables, toilets, fire rings, hitch racks, or other improvements associated with camper/recreational use. Camping is prohibited within 100 feet of a lake shore or stream bank except in established campgrounds. Certain Tribal campgrounds may charge a separate fee without the requirements to possess a valid Permit and/or Flathead Reservation camping stamp (notices will be posted on site).

Restricted Areas

Access and use of the Flathead River and shoreline within 560 feet upriver from Kerr Dam and within 250 feet downstream from Kerr Dam powerhouse is prohibited. In addition, the following areas are closed to entry to non-members of the Tribes, except that a non-member spouse and non-member children of a member of the Tribes may accompany that member for purposes other than hunting and fishing if they possess a valid recreation permit:

- The Wolf Point Tribal Park near Polson, Montana
- Kupawicqnuq Tribal Park near Elmo, Montana
- Polson Tribal Park in Polson, Montana

Prohibited Activities

- It is prohibited to boat on Flathead Lake without Coast Guard approved life jackets.
- Discharging any firearm in a negligent manner or in any campground area is prohibited.
- Guiding, outfitting, or any form of commercial activity not permitted by the Tribes is prohibited.
- Leaving campfires unattended is prohibited.
- Using or cutting live vegetation (including trees) for campfires is prohibited.
- Leaving a camp unattended for twenty-four hours or longer is prohibited.
- Allowing pets or livestock to run unattended is prohibited.
- Destroying, defacing, injuring, removing, or otherwise damaging any natural or improved property is prohibited.
- Leaving refuse, litter, or waste materials or disposing of any refuse (other than human waste) in sanitation units is prohibited.

Flathead Lake Marine Mileage Chart (distances rounded to the nearest statute or land mile)

| | Angel Point | Big Arm | Bigfork | Bird Island | Blue Bay | Cedar Island | Finley Point | Lakeside | Polson | Somers | Wayfarers | West Shore | Wildhorse Island | Woods Bay | Yellow Bay |
|------------------|-------------|---------|---------|-------------|----------|--------------|--------------|----------|--------|--------|-----------|------------|------------------|-----------|------------|
| Angel Point | 0 | 17 | 7 | 13 | 13 | 6 | 16 | 4 | 21 | 7 | 6 | 3 | 10 | 6 | 10 |
| Big Arm | 17 | 0 | 22 | 11 | 13 | 9 | 12 | 20 | 18 | 24 | 21 | 14 | 3 | 18 | 14 |
| Bigfork | 7 | 22 | 0 | 18 | 18 | 12 | 21 | 7 | 26 | 8 | 1 | 9 | 16 | 7 | 15 |
| Bird Island | 13 | 11 | 18 | 0 | 3 | 8 | 3 | 17 | 8 | 21 | 18 | 12 | 6 | 14 | 6 |
| Blue Bay | 13 | 13 | 18 | 3 | 0 | 8 | 7 | 17 | 11 | 21 | 15 | 12 | 8 | 13 | 4 |
| Cedar Island | 6 | 9 | 12 | 8 | 8 | 0 | 10 | 10 | 14 | 13 | 12 | 4 | 3 | 9 | 7 |
| Finley Point | 16 | 12 | 21 | 3 | 7 | 10 | 0 | 20 | 6 | 23 | 20 | 14 | 7 | 17 | 9 |
| Lakeside | 4 | 20 | 7 | 17 | 17 | 10 | 20 | 0 | 25 | 4 | 7 | 6 | 14 | 9 | 14 |
| Polson | 21 | 18 | 26 | 8 | 11 | 14 | 6 | 25 | 0 | 28 | 25 | 18 | 11 | 22 | 14 |
| Somers | 7 | 24 | 8 | 21 | 21 | 13 | 23 | 4 | 28 | 0 | 7 | 10 | 17 | 11 | 18 |
| Wayfarers | 6 | 21 | 1 | 18 | 15 | 12 | 20 | 7 | 25 | 7 | 0 | 8 | 15 | 6 | 14 |
| West Shore | 3 | 14 | 9 | 12 | 12 | 4 | 14 | 6 | 18 | 10 | 8 | 0 | 8 | 7 | 10 |
| Wildhorse Island | 10 | 3 | 16 | 6 | 8 | 3 | 7 | 14 | 11 | 17 | 15 | 8 | 0 | 12 | 8 |
| Woods Bay | 6 | 18 | 7 | 14 | 13 | 9 | 17 | 9 | 22 | 11 | 6 | 7 | 12 | 0 | 10 |
| Yellow Bay | 10 | 14 | 15 | 6 | 4 | 7 | 9 | 14 | 14 | 18 | 14 | 10 | 8 | 10 | 0 |