Public Access Lakes
Directory of Ramps and Canals

Polk County Board of County Commissioners
Parks and Natural Resources Division

Updated: Spring 2014
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DISCLAIMERS

- This directory contains locations of public access lakes in Polk County. Ramps and canals are owned by local, state, and private entities. Therefore, the hours of operation, fees, and maintenance will vary.

- This directory should not be considered an all-inclusive document and is for information only. Status of public access may have changed since publication.

- Ramp and canal conditions will vary due to water levels. Use them at your own risk.

- Polk County Board of County Commissioners assumes no responsibility for the condition of ramps other than their own.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

These agencies provided information used in this directory:

City of Lakeland
City of Winter Haven
Lake Region Lakes Management District
Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
Southwest Florida Water Management District
U.S. Geological Survey
### LAKES LISTED IN THE DIRECTORY

Click on the name of the lake below to view its report:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lake</th>
<th>Town 1</th>
<th>Town 2</th>
<th>Town 3</th>
<th>Town 4</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Agnes</td>
<td>Echo</td>
<td>Little Agnes</td>
<td>Parker</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alfred</td>
<td>Elbert</td>
<td>Little Bonny</td>
<td>Pierce</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annie</td>
<td>Eloise (WHCL)</td>
<td>Little Crooked</td>
<td>Reedy</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arbuckle</td>
<td>Eva</td>
<td>Little Eagle</td>
<td>Rochelle (WHCL)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ariana</td>
<td>Fannie (WHCL)</td>
<td>Little Elbert</td>
<td>Rosalie</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Banana</td>
<td>Ft Meade Pits</td>
<td>Little Eloise</td>
<td>Roy (WHCL)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blue</td>
<td>Garfield</td>
<td>Little Hamilton</td>
<td>Saddle Creek Park</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bonny</td>
<td>Gibson</td>
<td>Little Winterset</td>
<td>Sears</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buckeye</td>
<td>Grassy</td>
<td>Lulu (WHCL)</td>
<td>Shipp (WHCL)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buffum</td>
<td>Haines (WHCL)</td>
<td>Marim</td>
<td>Silver</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Cannon</td>
<td>Hamilton</td>
<td>Mariana</td>
<td>Smart (WHCL)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carter Road X Pit</td>
<td>Hancock</td>
<td>Marie</td>
<td>Somerset</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carter Road Y Pit</td>
<td>Hartridge (WHCL)</td>
<td>Marion</td>
<td>Spring (WHCL)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clinch</td>
<td>Hatchineha (KWCL)</td>
<td>Martha</td>
<td>Summit (WHCL)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Confusion</td>
<td>Hollingsworth</td>
<td>Mattie</td>
<td>Surveyors</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conine (WHCL)</td>
<td>Howard (WHCL)</td>
<td>Maude</td>
<td>Swoope</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crago</td>
<td>Hunter</td>
<td>May (WHCL)</td>
<td>Tennessee</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Crooked</td>
<td>Idyl</td>
<td>McLeod</td>
<td>Thomas</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crystal</td>
<td>Idylwild (WHCL)</td>
<td>Menzie</td>
<td>Tiger</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daisy</td>
<td>Jessie (WHCL)</td>
<td>Middle Hamilton</td>
<td>Tracy</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Davenport</td>
<td>John</td>
<td>Mirror (WHCL)</td>
<td>Twin East</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deer</td>
<td>Juliana</td>
<td>Mudd</td>
<td>Twin West</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deeson</td>
<td>Lena</td>
<td>Ned</td>
<td>Wailes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eagle</td>
<td>Link</td>
<td>Otis</td>
<td>Weohyakapka</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Easy</td>
<td>Livingston</td>
<td>Pansy</td>
<td>Winterset (WHCL)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
DEFINITIONS

Canal Access Only – lake can only be reached by a canal.

Chain of Lakes – if checked, this lake is part of the Winter Haven Chain of Lakes.

FWC – Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

Lake Depth – lake depth varies depending on site of measurement and is affected by high and low lake levels.

Lake Type –
  • Landlocked – no inflow or outflow on the lake.
  • Inflow – some type on inflow into the lake, such as a stream or a ditch.
  • Outflow – some type of outflow from the lake, such as a stream or a ditch.
  • Inflow & Outflow – both inflow and outflow for the lake.

Lat/Lon – latitude / longitude for the approximate center of the lake.

Ramp Checked – month and year that the ramp was rated.

Ramp Directory Map Page – refers to the maps on pages 7-31 in this directory which provide a general location of the lake within the county.

Ramp Maint. Entity – party responsible for maintaining the boat ramp.

Ramp Rating – definitions for the ramp ratings.

Sport Fisheries and Rated by – rating of sport fishing in a particular lake and who conducted it.

S-T-R – stands for Section-Township-Range used on DOT maps.

Surface Area – historical surface area value, in acres, that will vary as lake levels change.

WHCL – Winter Haven Chain of Lakes.

Vessel Information – restrictions of vessel size or type for a lake.
BOAT RAMP RATING SYSTEM

This Rating System was developed to give boaters an idea of ramp conditions, which are always subject to change due to high or low waters or other unknown factors. It is possible that ramps have been upgraded as well, and may be in better condition than this directory reports. It is very important to inspect the ramp visually to confirm the condition.

FORMAT: (1) Relative Rating  (2) (Problem Characteristics)  (3) Construction

(1) Relative Rating Scale

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rating</th>
<th>Generalized Meaning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Excellent</td>
<td>4x4 vehicle not necessary, optimal launching depth, generally smooth surface, good parking</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Good</td>
<td>4x4 vehicle not generally necessary, good launching depth, ramp surface fairly smooth, adequate parking</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fair</td>
<td>4x4 vehicle recommended, less than optimal launching depth, ramp surface may be rough, minimal parking area</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poor</td>
<td>4x4 vehicle needed, poor launching depth, ramp surface rough or uneven, may have potholes, minimal or no designated parking area</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(2) Problem Characteristics

Rough Surface; Steep Ramp; Shallow Ramp; Drop Off; Potholes; Lack of Parking; Loose Dirt Around Ramp; Fee Required

(3) Construction

Paved; Sand; Clay; Unpaved (grass or dirt); Geoweb & railroad rock

EXAMPLES:

Excellent Paved
Good Clay Ramp
Fair (shallow ramp, loose dirt, potholes) paved
Good (steep ramp) paved
Good (loose dirt) paved
Poor (shallow ramp, drop off, pot holes) unpaved grass or “generic” dirt
Fair (lack of parking, pot holes, loose dirt) geoweb & railroad rock
Fair (shallow ramp) sand
Bathymetric maps were gathered from projects and reports of the following agencies:

Polk County Parks and Natural Resources Division
City of Lakeland Lakes Program
University of South Florida
Southwest Florida Water Management District
Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
U.S. Geological Survey
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Bromwell & Carrier, Inc.

For lakes that do not have contour maps, outlines have been provided to give the user an idea of the shape of the lake.
Map 1
Lake Region Lakes Management District  Current Boundary and Lakes
Map of Saddle Creek Park

- Approximate location of some of the boat ramps
- AP - Attended Park (trailer)
- HP - Handicapped fishing pier
- PG - Play ground
- BH - Beach
- P - Picnic area
- C - Camping
- T;BA - Tackle & Bait store
Lakeland Lakes

Public Boat Ramps in the City of Lakeland

Legend
- Lakeland City Limits
- Public Boat Ramps
Contacts for Additional Information on Polk County lakes

Polk County Parks and Natural Resources Division
http://www.polk-county.net/
863-534-7377
County Ramps
863-499-2613

Lakes Education / Action Drive (LE/AD)
http://www.le-ad.org/

Lake Region Lakes Management District
http://www.lakesmgmtdist.com/
863-293-1441

Lake Watch
http://lakewatch.ifas.ufl.edu/

City of Lakeland
http://www.lakelandgov.net/
863-834-8439

City of Winter Haven
http://www.mywinterhaven.com/
863-291-5881

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (Fishing Licenses and other information)
http://www.floridaconservation.org/
Boating Information
http://myfwc.com/RECREATION/boat_index.htm
863-648-3203

Florida Lakes Management Society
http://flms.net/index.html

Florida Department of Environmental Protection
http://www.dep.state.fl.us/
813-470-5700

Southwest Florida Water Management District
http://www.swfwmd.state.fl.us/recreation/
800-423-1476

South Florida Water Management District
http://www.sfwmd.gov/
800-432-2045