

Proposed Somers Beach Project - North Shore public access and state park:

Currently, there are 13 public access sites along Flathead Lake's 185 miles of shoreline, servicing a population of over 100,000 and many tourists. The existing Somers Fishing Access Site, on the west side of town, is popular and very overcrowded, especially in the summer months with a growing number of users launching boats, swimming, and enjoying the lake.

This access site is only two acres in size, with a narrow, short strip (50-75 feet wide and 250 feet long) along a busy highway, and next to a crowded boat ramp used as a swimming area. The site is typically filled to capacity, with boat trailers parked along US Highway 93 as overflow. All this summer activity at this site presents significant safety hazards.

The proposed new access site and state park would spread out public use by including a launch site for non-motorized boats, and provide a much safer swimming area away from the highway and boat and car traffic congestion.

This site would provide other recreational opportunities throughout the year, including bird watching and walking. It would also protect 0.4 miles along the shoreline of Flathead Lake, 60 acres of wetlands, 69 acres of 100-year floodplain, and relatively natural habitat for fish and wildlife.

