

Parks and beaches in northwestern Lower Michigan

ANTRIM COUNTY

Barnes Park Just west of Eastport. Beautiful sandy Lake Michigan beach with gradually sloping lake bottom.

Elk Rapids Municipal Beach Off River St. near downtown Elk Rapids.

Richardi Park Beach (Pronounced "Richard-eye.") Off Bridge St. in Bellaire, this beach is unusual in that it is on the Intermediate River rather than a lake.

Whitewater Township Park South of Elk Rapids on Elk Lake Rd., then east on Park Rd. Beach on Elk Lake.

BENZIE COUNTY

Elberta Bluffs At the end of the road west of Elberta, which is across Betsie Bay from Frankfort.

Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore The mother of all beaches. Part of the National Park system, the Lakeshore includes miles of beach.

Beulah Village Park In Beulah on the eastern end of Crystal Lake. Beach house, public boat launch, picnic tables, pavilion, playground.

CHARLEVOIX COUNTY

Depot Beach Adjacent to the old train depot museum on Lake Charlevoix, at the south end of Mercer Boulevard of U.S. 31.

Elm Pointe In East Jordan along M-66.

Ferry Avenue Beach On Lake Charlevoix.

Fisherman's Island (Bells Bay) South of Charlevoix in Fisherman's Island State Park.

Lake Michigan Beach Immediately south of the pier near downtown Charlevoix.

Mount McSauba Half a mile north of the Pine River channel.

Peninsula Beach In Boyne City, a small sandy beach on Lake Charlevoix.

Whiting Park Just west of Advance, which is west of Boyne City, on Lake Charlevoix.

Young State Park Beach on Lake Charlevoix. Playground, grills, picnic area, volleyball court.

EMMET COUNTY

Petoskey State Park On Little Traverse Bay. Camping.

Sturgeon Bay Take Lakeview Rd.

east of Carp Lake, or head north from Cross Village on Lakeshore Dr.

Zorn Park Lake Michigan beach in Little Traverse Bay, off West Bay St. in Harbor Springs.

GRAND TRAVERSE COUNTY

Arbutus Lake Off Arbutus Lake Rd. north of Mayfield.

Bayside Park In Acme on East Grand Traverse Bay. Just south of the intersection of U.S. 31 North and M-72.

Boardman River Technically, not a beach, but many locals enjoy swimming in the river at various access spots.

Bryant Park On West Grand Traverse Bay in Traverse City, off Peninsula Dr. just west of M-37 (Garfield Rd.).

Clinch Park Beach On West Grand Traverse Bay in Traverse City, off Grandview Parkway.

East Bay Park Beach On East Grand Traverse Bay off East Bay Boulevard South in Traverse City at the base of Old Mission Peninsula.

Gilbert Park Sandy beach on Long Lake about eight miles west of Traverse City. Head west on Front St., which turn into North Long Lake Rd.

Haserot Beach In the community of Old Mission on M-37 on East Grand Traverse Bay.

Interlochen State Park Off M-137 South, south of Interlochen.

Old Mission Lighthouse Park beach Off M-37 at the tip of Old Mission Peninsula.

Power Island In West Grand

Traverse Bay off Bowers Harbor, this park island is ringed with sandy beaches.

Sunset Park On West Grand Traverse Bay behind the senior center in Traverse City, off Hope St.

Traverse City State Park Across U.S. 31 North from the huge Traverse City State Park campground.

West End Beach Along Grandview Parkway in downtown Traverse City, just west of the Open Space Park.

LEELANAU COUNTY

Cold Brook Beach On the south end of Lake Leelanau, near the town of Fouch.

Elmwood Township Park Off M-22 on West Grand Traverse Bay, a mile north of M-72.

Empire Beach Lake Michigan Beach and Cannon Park. Just west Empire.

Leelanau State Park 15310 North Lighthouse Point Rd., north of Northport.

North Bar Lake In the Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore, north of Empire.

Peterson Park In the village of Northport.

Suttons Bay Municipal Park and Beach Downtown Suttons Bay. Beach, picnic area, adjacent marina.

MANISTEE COUNTY

First St. Beach/Douglas Park In the City of Manistee.

Fifth Avenue Beach At the end of Monroe St. in the City of Manistee.

Lake Michigan Recreation Area Manistee National Forest, nine miles south of City of Manistee on U.S. 31, then another nine miles west on Forest Trail.

OTSEGO COUNTY

Otsego Lake County Park Off West Otsego Lake Dr. in Gaylord. Beach, picnic tables, grills, playground, pavilions.

WEXFORD COUNTY

Cadillac Lakefront Park. One block west of downtown Cadillac on Lake Cadillac.

Kenwood Heritage Park On North Boulevard off M-115 in Cadillac, just northeast of Mitchell State Park.

Missaukee County Park Sandy, shallow beach on Lake Missaukee in Cadillac.

William Mitchell State Park In Cadillac.



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