



Michigan City Parks and Recreation Department

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2022 Annual Beach Management Report

Washington Park Beach

Submitted by Shannon Eason, Assistant Superintendent

Beach Marking System

The north and south sides of each pole have a reflective street sign with the flag's location.



**Michigan City Parks & Recreation Department
Beach Location Map**

SIGN & FLAG LOCATION	4-WHEEL DRIVE VEH. ACCESS	FLAG POLES	FLAG POLES ENGLISH	FLAG POLES SPANISH	FLAG COLOR ENGLISH	FLAG COLOR SPANISH	COLOR	GPS COORDINATES	GPS COORDINATES
JUNIOR CENTER PAT- RIDERS ALLEY EAST	YES				WHITE	AZUL		41 degrees 41' 24" N	85 degrees 56' 00" W
CAHILL OAKMA AVE NE STOP 1	YES				WHITE	BLANCO		41 degrees 41' 24" N	85 degrees 56' 00" W
NEPTUNE ROAD NE STOP 2	NO	1	one	uno	BROWN	MARRON		41 degrees 41' 52.02" N	85 degrees 52' 35.85" W
LAKE SHORE AVE 2 - BUS STOP 3	YES	2	two	dos	PINK	ROSA		41 degrees 41' 55.24" N	85 degrees 52' 24.36" W
CARDINAL AND HILL STOP 4	NO	3	three	tres	ORANGE	NARANJA		41 degrees 41' 58.52" N	85 degrees 52' 13.02" W
OLSON & HILL STOP 5	YES	4	four	cuatro	GREEN	VERDE		41 degrees 41' 50.73" N	85 degrees 52' 12.40" W
STOP 7 AND 8 STOP 6	NO	5	five	cinco	BLACK	NEGRO		41 degrees 41' 32.14" N	85 degrees 52' 03.47" W
STOP 9 AND 10 STOP 7	NO	6	six	seis	RED	ROJO		41 degrees 41' 35.36" N	85 degrees 52' 02.96" W
STOP 11 AND 12 STOP 8	NO	7	seven	siete	ORANGE	NARANJA		41 degrees 41' 30.05" N	85 degrees 52' 02.76" W
STOP 13 AND 14 STOP 9	NO	8	eight	ocho	PURPLE	PURPURA		41 degrees 41' 15.01" N	85 degrees 52' 02.84" W

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Beach Safety Signage

Three-sided sign kiosks are located in high traffic areas at Washington Park beach and the Senior Center beach path.

Side 1: Location on Beach



Side 2: Regulations & Tips



Side 3: Rip current and Shelf ice warnings



Beach location signs contain a QR, or quick response code. When scanned with a smart phone, the QR code will take the user directly to our website www.emichigancity.com, where they have instant access to current beach conditions, water quality test results, beach rules and regulations, events, and more information about the Park Department.

Water Quality Testing and Notification Program

The Park Department was the recipient of a \$28,500 Beach Act Grant through The Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) funded through the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for monitoring and notification activities that were conducted in LaPorte County adjacent to Lake Michigan Coastal Recreational Waters during the 2022 beach monitoring season.

Water testing was performed by the Sanitary District of Michigan City. Program dates were May 15th through September 5th, 2022.



Notification of test results were posted daily by Park Staff:

- Beach Hotline 219.873.1406
- Park Department website www.emichigancity.com
- IDEM's Beach Guard website <https://portal.idem.in.gov/BeachAlert/>
- Beach Notification Signs (6 signs in Washington Park)
- Washington Park Entry Gates at Lot#1 and Lot#2

Testing sites included:

- Washington Park – 3 samples 7 days per week
- Stop 2 – California Avenue – 3 samples 7 days per week
- Stop 7 – Beachwalk – 1 sample 7 days per week

Beach Sanitary Surveys

As requested by IDEM, the Sanitary District completed Beach Sanitary Surveys during their water testing which monitored temperature, waves, wind direction, rain fall events, number of birds, number of sun bathers and swimmers, number of boats, amounts of litter, etc.

WASHINGTON PARK

Washington Park	2018	2018	2019	2019	2020	2020	2021	2021	2022	2022
Total Samples	339		339		345		342	342	333	
Total Exceedances	18		18		27		15	15	22	
Total Actions	9		12		22		10	10	12	
1-234 OPEN	104	92%	101	89%	93	81%	104	91%	109	98%
234-999 ADVISORY	6	5%	12	11%	15	13%	10	9%	10	9%
1,000 CLOSED	3	3%	0	0%	7	6%	0	0%	2	2%

STOP 2 AT CALIFORNIA AVENUE

Stop 1 California Avenue	2018	2018	2019	2019	2020	2020	2021	2021	2022	2022
Total Samples	339		339		345		342	342	333	
Total Exceedances	6		8		10		15	15	6	
Total Actions	4		5		6		8	8	5	
1-234 OPEN	109	96%	108	96%	109	95%	106	93%	111	100%
234-999 ADVISORY	4	4%	5	4%	4	3%	8	7%	5	5%
1,000 CLOSED	0	0%	0	0%	2	2%	0	0%	0	0%

STOP 7 AT BEACHWALK

Stop 7 Beachwalk	2018	2018	2019	2019	2020	2020	2021	2021	2022	2022
Total Samples	113		113		115		114		333	
Total Exceedances	3		4		4		6		1	
Total Actions	3		4		4		6		1	
1-234 OPEN	110	97%	113	96%	111	97%	108	95%	111	100%
234-999 ADVISORY	3	3%	4	4%	4	3%	5	4%	1	1%
1,000 CLOSED	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	1	1%	0	0%

We will apply for the IDEM grant for the 2023 beach season and request testing seven days per week at all three locations.

Beach Management Practices

- 2009 Resolution No. 4058 prohibiting the feeding of wildlife on Park Department and Port Authority properties
- 2009 Revised beach sanitation methods (deep tinning)
- 2009 Covered trash barrels (IDNR Grant)
- 2010 Goose Eradication Program

- Bird bangers, rubber coyotes, and plastic alligators were used throughout Washington Park and the Port Authority to deter geese
- Tall grasses were incorporated in the plantings along the marina walkway to deter geese
- 2011 NOAA Rip Current Observation Report
- 2012 Beach marking system implemented
- 2012 Beach safety signage installed
- 2013 USGS Predictive E-coli Model Implemented
- 2017 Installed life rings at Millennium Plaza and along the lighthouse pier
- 2018 “Monday Mornings” beach clean-up program was implemented
- 2019 (4) Electronic Message Board Signs were installed in Washington Park
- 2019 Installed designated beach path markers
- 2020 Beach Path Erosion Control and Public Access Project: The Park Department was awarded an Indiana Department of Natural Resources Lake Michigan Coastal Program Grant in the amount of \$44,500 to install 4 beach access mats at California, Louisiana, Georgia, and Illinois Avenues in Michigan City.
- 2021 Stay on Designated Trails Project: The Park Department was awarded an Indiana Department of Natural Resources small grant in the amount of \$1,050.00 to post “Stay on Designated Trails” signs on all designated beach access paths.



Lifeguard Operation

Management of the Lifeguard Team was transferred to the Michigan City Fire Department by Mayor Parry in 2022.

Monday Mornings!



The Monday Mornings beach cleanup event resumed in April of 2022 and continued through October. In June the cleanup was moved to 5:30 pm on Mondays so more working families could participate.