Muskegon Beach Wedding Venues: 5 Lake Michigan Spots to Say "I Do"

> **Quick answer:** Five beach wedding venues around Muskegon are Pere Marquette Park (City of Muskegon), Muskegon State Park (North Muskegon), P.J. Hoffmaster State Park (Muskegon), Michillinda Lodge (Whitehall) and the city's Harbour Towne Beach and Kruse Park. NOTE: City beaches are reserved through Muskegon's Special Event Application at least 45 days ahead. State parks take a DNR event use permit at least 60 days ahead.

Why Choose a Muskegon Beach Wedding?

Muskegon sits on some of the most beautiful Lake Michigan shoreline in the state, with soft sand, big dunes and sunsets over open water. The City of Muskegon alone owns 2.5 miles of Lake Michigan frontage, and two state parks nearby add miles more. Beach ceremonies here can be as simple as a few rows of chairs on the sand or as polished as a full lodge weekend with a tented reception. The key is knowing which spaces are public parks that need a permit and which are private venues that handle the details for you.

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5 Beach Wedding Venues Around Muskegon

1. Pere Marquette Charter Park (Muskegon)

- Location: 1651 Beach St, Muskegon (the park's frontage is listed at 3510 Channel Drive). It's the northern end of the city's 2.5 miles of Lake Michigan shoreline and is bordered on the north by the Muskegon Channel.
- Setting: A 27.5-acre park with a sandy beach the city surf-rakes daily, plus a 200-foot accessible walkway.
- Amenities (per city): Restrooms, picnic tables, a restaurant and snack bar, sand volleyball courts and access to the Lakeshore Trail.
- Reserving: The city says beach and park areas are reserved through its Special Event Application. Applications must arrive at least 45 days ahead, and first-time events at Pere Marquette Beach need 75 days. The fee is $100 if you apply 60 or more days ahead or $250 at 46–59 days. You also need proof of $1,000,000 liability insurance naming the City of Muskegon as an additional insured. Alcohol needs separate approval from the Michigan Liquor Control Commission and Muskegon Police.
- Official page: muskegon-mi.gov/parks/pere-marquette/ · Applications: muskegon-mi.gov/city-services/public-works/special-events/

2. Harbour Towne Beach & Kruse Park (Muskegon)

- The city names these as its two other popular beach parks. Kruse Park is the county's only dog beach, a nice fit if your pup is in the wedding party.
- Reserving: Use the same Special Event Application process as Pere Marquette. Contact Public Works at (231) 724-4100 or specialevents@shorelinecity.com.
- Source: muskegon-mi.gov/parks/pere-marquette/

3. Muskegon State Park (North Muskegon)

- Setting: About 3 miles of shoreline (2 miles on Lake Michigan and 1 on Muskegon Lake), forested dunes and the historic CCC-built blockhouse on the highest point in Muskegon County.
- Amenities: A buoyed Lake Michigan swim area, an accessible walkway to the water, a beach wheelchair and a reservable pavilion. The DNR lists the 2026 pavilion base rate at $32–$53, reservable May 4 to October 4.
- Note: The DNR reports that the new Lake Michigan beach house has been under construction with no firm completion date, so check restroom status for your date.
- Official page: www.michigan.gov/recsearch/parks/muskegon · Phone: 231-744-3480

4. P.J. Hoffmaster State Park (Muskegon)

- Location: 6585 Lake Harbor Rd, Muskegon. The park has 3 miles of Lake Michigan shoreline and towering dunes.
- Setting: The Dune Overlook Trail climbs about 220 steps to an observation platform with panoramic lake views, a stunning photo spot. The day-use area also has two beach houses with restrooms.
- Pavilion: The day-use picnic shelter can be reserved 12 months ahead at MiDNRReservations.com. The DNR lists the 2026 base rate at $53, reservable April 22 to October 21.
- Official page: www.michigan.gov/recsearch/parks/hoffmaster · Phone: 231-798-3711

5. Michillinda Lodge (Whitehall)

- Location: 5207 Scenic Dr, Whitehall, north of Muskegon. It's a 22-acre estate on Lake Michigan.
- Capacity (per venue): Ceremony-deck seating for 150–175 overlooking Lake Michigan, a white tent for up to 175 reception guests and on-site lodging for up to 110.
- Packages (per venue website): Package A is $5,500 and Package B is $6,000. Both include the ceremony and reception sites with tents, the chalet bar, a dance floor and kitchen, and tables and chairs. Couples who skip the preferred vendor list pay a $300 fee.
- Website: www.michillindalodge.com/weddings · Directory listing: westmiweddingplanner.com/browse/9/9

Booked your beach? Find Muskegon photographers, caterers and rentals → westmiweddingplanner.com/browse/7

State Park Weddings: How Permits Work

At Michigan state parks, a pavilion is reserved at MiDNRReservations.com or by phone at 1-800-447-2757, up to 12 months ahead. The DNR notes that additional permits may be required for events, tents, chairs and inflatables. If your wedding goes beyond typical shelter use, file a DNR event use permit application with the park manager at least 60 days before the date. Every vehicle also needs a Recreation Passport to enter. Call the park office first to confirm the right location and permit for your group. (DNR: www.michigan.gov/dnr/managing-resources/public-land/permission/events)

Tips for a Smooth Lake Michigan Beach Wedding

1. **Watch the wind.** Lake breezes can be strong, so skip loose veils and lightweight décor, and weigh down programs.
2. **Time it for sunset.** Muskegon faces west over the lake, which makes golden-hour photos beautiful.
3. **Plan for public access.** City and state beaches stay open to the public, so expect beachgoers nearby.
4. **Think about footing.** Sand is tough on heels and older guests. Ask about accessible walkways, like Pere Marquette's 200-foot walkway or the state parks' beach wheelchairs.
5. **Have a rain plan.** Reserve a pavilion, tent or indoor reception venue as a backup.

Muskegon Beach Wedding Checklist

- ☐ Pick a city beach, state park or private lakefront venue
- ☐ Submit the City application 45+ days ahead (75 for first-time Pere Marquette events) or the DNR permit 60+ days ahead
- ☐ Get the $1M liability insurance certificate (City events)
- ☐ Reserve a pavilion or backup venue (westmiweddingplanner.com/browse/7/9)
- ☐ Book rentals for chairs and arch (westmiweddingplanner.com/browse/7/17)
- ☐ Book a photographer for sunset (westmiweddingplanner.com/browse/7/15)

- ☐ Line up caterers (westmiweddingplanner.com/browse/7/4) and a DJ (westmiweddingplanner.com/browse/7/14)
- ☐ Hold guest rooms (westmiweddingplanner.com/browse/7/12)
- ☐ Track it all in the free Planner (westmiweddingplanner.com/planner)

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Can you get married on the beach in Muskegon?
Yes. The City of Muskegon reserves beach and park space, including Pere Marquette Park, through its Special Event Application. State parks like Muskegon State Park and Hoffmaster use DNR pavilion reservations and event use permits.

Q: How far in advance do I need to apply for a Pere Marquette Park wedding?
At least 45 days. First-time events at Pere Marquette Beach need 75 days. The city fee is $100 at 60 or more days out and $250 at 46–59 days.

Q: Do I need a permit for a wedding at a Michigan state park?
It depends on your setup. Pavilions are reserved at MiDNRReservations.com, and the DNR says additional permits may be required for events, tents and chairs. Event use applications are due at least 60 days ahead.

Q: Can we serve alcohol at a Muskegon beach wedding?
At city events, alcohol needs separate approval from the Michigan Liquor Control Commission and the Muskegon Police Department. Some state park locations restrict alcohol, so ask the park about an alcohol permit.

Q: Is there a private beach wedding venue near Muskegon?
Yes. Michillinda Lodge in Whitehall is a 22-acre Lake Michigan estate with a ceremony deck, a reception tent for up to 175 and on-site lodging.

Q: When is the best time for a Muskegon beach wedding?
Late spring through early fall. State park pavilions are reservable roughly April or May through October, and summer sunsets over Lake Michigan are spectacular.

Ready to Plan Your Lakeshore Wedding?

Browse Muskegon venues → westmiweddingplanner.com/browse/7/9 · Start your free Planner →

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Are you a Muskegon-area venue or vendor? Reach couples planning West Michigan weddings by listing your business → westmiweddingplanner.com/advertise

Details come from official City of Muskegon, Michigan DNR and venue websites as of November 2, 2026. Fees, dates and rules change, so confirm directly before booking.

Alt-text suggestions: "Sunset beach wedding ceremony at Pere Marquette Park, Muskegon"; "Lake Michigan view from the Dune Overlook at Hoffmaster State Park"; "Couple on the Lake Michigan shoreline at Muskegon State Park"; "Ceremony deck overlooking Lake Michigan at Michillinda Lodge, Whitehall" (use only photos you have rights to).

Appendix B: Sources (checked Nov 2, 2026)

- City of Muskegon – Pere Marquette Charter Park: https://muskegon-mi.gov/parks/pere-marquette/
- City of Muskegon – Special Events / application: https://muskegon-mi.gov/city-services/public-works/special-events/
- Michigan DNR – Muskegon State Park: https://www.michigan.gov/recsearch/parks/muskegon
- Michigan DNR – Muskegon SP beach house update: https://www.michigan.gov/dnr/faqs/state-parks-and-camping/muskegon-beach-house
- Michigan DNR – Hoffmaster State Park: https://www.michigan.gov/recsearch/parks/hoffmaster
- Michigan DNR – Pavilion rates & dates 2026: https://www.michigan.gov/dnr/places/state-parks/pavilion-operations-schedule
- Michigan DNR – Use of state land for events: https://www.michigan.gov/dnr/managing-resources/public-land/permission/events
- Michigan DNR – Permission to use public land (60-day rule): https://www.michigan.gov/dnr/managing-resources/public-land/permission
- Michillinda Lodge – Weddings: https://www.michillindalodge.com/weddings
- Directory – Muskegon Venues: https://westmiweddingplanner.com/browse/7/9
- Directory – Whitehall & Montague Venues (Michillinda): https://westmiweddingplanner.com/browse/9/9