

Manistee’s First Street Beach Nominated for ‘Best Beach in Michigan’... Again Two-time defending winner seeks third straight title in USA Today readers’ poll

MANISTEE COUNTY, Mich. (April 20, 2026) – Back on the ballot, and back in the spotlight. Manistee’s First Street Beach has been nominated once again for “Best Beach in Michigan” by USA Today’s 10Best Readers’ Choice Awards, marking its third consecutive nomination.

After claiming the top spot in both 2024 and 2025, First Street Beach now looks to make it three in a row as public voting opens today and runs through May 19.

Selected by a panel of travel experts, the annual Readers’ Choice Awards highlight must-visit destinations across the country, with winners determined by popular vote. First Street Beach previously placed third in 2018 before rising to claim back-to-back titles.

Vote for First Street Beach until May 18 here:

<https://10best.usatoday.com/awards/first-street-beach-manistee-michigan/>

“Back-to-back wins puts a target on your back, but they also prove what we already know,” said Sammie Lukaskiewicz, executive director of the Manistee County Tourism Authority. “First Street Beach delivers an experience people love. Now we have the opportunity to show that wasn’t a fluke. It’s who we are. We’re asking everyone to rally again and help us make it three in a row.”

One of the largest and most popular beaches in Manistee County, First Street Beach offers a wide stretch of Lake Michigan shoreline paired with a full range of amenities. Visitors will find multiple parks and playgrounds, a full-service concession stand, ball fields, fish cleaning stations and permanent restrooms. Clean, spacious and accessible, it’s a beach designed for families, travelers and locals alike.

Parking is free, with a \$5 fee for boat launch access.

First Street Beach is anchored by Douglas Park, featuring baseball and softball diamonds, basketball and tennis courts, four playgrounds and the award winning “Origins” art walk, which tells the story of Manistee through interpretive sculptures and educational signage.

While dogs are not permitted on the main beach between Memorial Day and Labor Day, the area includes a dedicated dog beach and an upgraded dog park.

Additional amenities include picnic areas with charcoal grills, an 18-hole disc golf course, boat launch access, Rocket Park, Lighthouse Park, showers, a fish cleaning station, the Lake Gulls concession stand, and a waterfront hotel with a full-service restaurant.

The iconic 16-foot slide further enhances the visitor experience and brings out the kid in us all.

“What makes a great beach depends on what you’re looking for,” Lukaskiewicz added. “Some want energy and activity, others want space and scenery. First Street Beach offers both, and that’s what continues to set it apart.”

The beach is ADA-accessible and includes a safety station with life vests available for all ages. Maintained by the City of Manistee, it serves as a year-round gathering place for concerts, fireworks, fishing tournaments and community events.

First Street Beach also connects to the Manistee Riverwalk and is part of ongoing long-term planning efforts to enhance the experience for future visitors.

For more information, to view a live beach cam, or to plan your visit, go to www.VisitManisteeCounty.com.

About Manistee County Tourism Authority

The Manistee County Tourism Authority through its Manistee Tourism brand, is a private, not-for-profit organization whose mission is to enhance Manistee County’s position as a premier northern Michigan travel destination. Formerly known as the Manistee County Convention and Visitors Bureau, the leads in the development and promotion of a prosperous tourism economy through marketing, education and collaboration.

###

Media Contact: Sammie Lukaskiewicz, Executive Director
Manistee County Tourism Authority
m: (517) 673-4177
e: sammie@visitmanisteecounty.com