

## **Park/Beach Usage Policies/Guidelines**

The City of South Haven allows use of public beaches and parks for events sponsored by private groups or individuals such as wedding ceremonies, family reunions, birthday parties or organized picnics. There is no cost for use of the park or beach but we ask that you respect the area.

**USE OF ANY PORTION OF THE BEACH OR PARK CANNOT BE RESERVED OR GUARANTEED BUT PLEASE CONTACT THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS TO BE PLACED ON THE EVENT CALENDER.**

The beaches and parks are public property and the City of South Haven will not restrict the public from use of any portion of the park or beach; because public property is being used, no reservations are taken. **All areas are on a "first come, first serve" basis. Therefore, members of the public may be observing.**

**The City of South Haven discourages having weddings on a holiday or special event weekend as it is a super busy time.**

**Below is a list of City Parks and Beaches:**

### **Beaches**

Dyckman Access  
Newcome Access  
Oak Street Access  
Packard Park  
Woodman Access  
North Beach  
South Beach  
Van Buren Access  
Blue Stairs Access

### **Parks**

Stanley Johnston  
Elkenburg Park  
Riverfront Park  
Kids Corner  
Optimist Tot Lot  
Cable Street Tot Lot  
Hartman Park  
Dyckman Park  
Historic Monroe Park  
Ellen Avery

Location maps can be found on the city's website: [www.south-haven.com](http://www.south-haven.com)

### **Park Rules/Beach Rules**

- Park Hours – Sunrise – 10pm
- Beach Hour – Sunrise – 11pm
- No overnight camping
- Clean up after animal (in Park)
- No littering
- Campers or trailers are prohibited
- Noise Ordinance enforced
- Curfew enforced
- No alcohol allowed
- No animals allowed on beach
- No glass allowed on beach
- No open flames

### **Policies/Guidelines to follow when planning an event:**

The City of South Haven will not put up reserved signs or block off and area. "Roping off" or otherwise limiting access to a section the beach or park for an event is not allowed. Other beach patrons cannot be required to move to accommodate the event.

### Participants

- No more than 30- 40 people at Van Buren Overlook
- I try to discourage weddings over 150 people (we just don't have space for parking, etc.).

### Time Limit

The city schedules a 1-2 hour block of time per event unless asked for more time.

### Decorations

Decorations brought in for the ceremony must be removed after the ceremony. Decorations can be things such as flowers, arches, chairs, etc.

- Decorations that can not be used:
  - Decorations with an open flame
  - Chinese lanterns, etc.
  - Glass
  - Anything that will end up in Lake Michigan or littering the beach

All decorations must be removed immediately following the event

### Shade Tents

- Shade tents shall not be larger than 10'x10'
- Limit two tents (or one 10'x20')
- We request tents not be used at the Van Buren Overlook access site

### Music

- Music may be allowed but please consider others around you
- Remember the City does have a Noise Ordinance (please refer to City Code Section 30-30)

### **The following should be considered when planning an event:**

- The pay and park program at the beach is in effect daily from May 15<sup>th</sup> – September 15<sup>th</sup> until 6:00 p.m.
- The city cannot guarantee parking spaces or offer parking waivers for attendees of an event. We do not allow people to prepay for parking spots.
- The city recommends avoiding scheduling events during regular Special Events/Festivals or holidays.

**\*\*\*\*Guidelines/Policies are subject to change at any time\*\*\*\***