

## Kinderhook Lake Corp. (KLC)

The Corporation was formed in 1953, as a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. At that time, the Valatie Mills Corporation controlled the dam and would lower the Lake level as a means of generating power for the mills. In order to control the water level to assure that the Lake remained at an enjoyable level during the summer, about 200 residents joined together to form the KLC, and they purchased the dam and the bottom of the lake.

The main purpose of the KLC is to maintain and improve Kinderhook Lake. To that end, the KLC maintains and operates the dam in an effort to control Lake levels, helps maintain the Route 28 launch site, monitors and treats the lake for water quality, and stocks game fish.

The KLC sponsors several social activities during the summer: a Fourth of July boat parade, a non-motorized watercraft gymkhana, and a kid's fishing derby. The KLC also sponsors an annual chicken barbeque / fund-raising event. This popular event brings together members, lake residents, and the community for an enjoyable evening of music, conversation, and fun, including great raffle prizes donated by local businesses.

In mid-October, the KLC lowers the level of the Lake, as approved by DEC, to protect shoreline areas and docks from damage during snow and ice thaw. This also allows for shore-line maintenance and helps to inhibit shore-line weed growth. The Lake is again raised to summer level during the spring, usually within a few weeks after ice melt.

In the spring the KLC organizes a NYS Boater Safety Course, free to all members and the community.

## KLC *(continued)*

The KLC is administered by a volunteer, twelve-member Board of Directors, which is elected for a three year term at its annual membership meeting each August.

The KLC publishes a quarterly newsletter, *The KLC News*, to keep members informed about Lake issues.

The KLC also maintains a website, [kinderhooklakecorp.org](http://kinderhooklakecorp.org), which is updated with useful news and information about and around the Lake. The website provides access to important information about the Lake, the KLC, membership, Directors, area maps, recent newsletters, recreation guidelines, important web links, a photo gallery, KLC logo merchandise, list of business sponsors, and a comments page.

## Membership Supports the KLC

Membership dues provide the largest source of income allowing the KLC to continue to maintain and improve the Lake. Therefore, annual membership in the KLC is encouraged for all Lake users, whether they live on or off the Lake. Members are also encouraged to donate to specific funds maintained by the corporation: the Dam Fund, Water Quality Fund and Fish Stocking Fund.

You can become a member by going to the Membership page at [kinderhooklakecorp.org](http://kinderhooklakecorp.org). There, you can either join online or download a membership application to mail to the KLC.

***Without the dam there would be no lake;  
without the KLC, there would be no dam!***

## Contact Information

By mail: KLC, PO Box 53, Niverville, NY 12130  
By email: [klcweb@archman8.com](mailto:klcweb@archman8.com)  
By website comment: [www.kinderhooklakecorp.org](http://www.kinderhooklakecorp.org)

Welcome  
to  
Kinderhook  
Lake



*This brochure is published by the Kinderhook Lake Corporation as a tool for new and potential residents to be better informed about the Lake, the Lake community, and the Kinderhook Lake Corporation.*

## Location

Kinderhook Lake is located in two towns in the northeast corner of Columbia County. Generally, the east side of the lake is in the Town of Chatham, while the west side of the lake is in the Town of Kinderhook. Areas at the south end of the lake (off Hawley Rd.) are located in the Village of Niverville in the Town of Kinderhook.

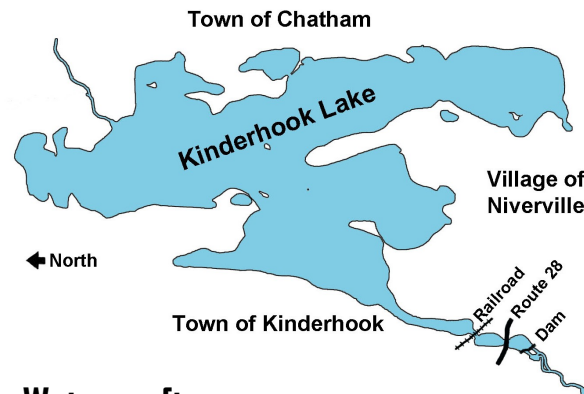


## Features

The Lake is irregular in shape with several bays and coves. The Lake is 288 feet above sea-level, covers 350 acres, is approximately 1.6 miles long, has a mean depth of about 15 feet (32 feet at its deepest), and has approximately 8.1 miles of shore line. Kinderhook Lake is fed by the Valatie Kill (Creek), which is in turn fed by a 41 square mile watershed that extends as far north as the southern edge of Crooked Lake in the Town of Sand Lake in Rensselaer County. The outflow from the Kinderhook Lake dam flows to the Kinderhook Creek, which eventually winds its way to the Hudson River. Several islands can be found on the Lake, with two of particular interest. House Island contains a single residence which was the location of a tavern in the early 1900s. One Tree Island, appropriately named for its single tree, is a favorite location for mooring boats and swimming in the surrounding gravel-bottom shallow waters.

## History

Kinderhook Lake is controlled by a dam of the Valatie Kill and its tributaries in Niverville. The dam originally supplied water to generate power for mills located there in the mid-1900s. The Lake gained popularity in the early 1900s with the construction of an "Electric Park" at the north east end (in the vicinity of Electric Park Road). The park became a destination along the Albany Hudson electric railroad. As one of the first amusement parks powered by electricity, patrons of Electric Park enjoyed carousels, a Ferris wheel, a water slide into the lake, boat rentals, and a bridge spanning the lake to access taverns located on Hawley Point and House Island. For a complete history of Kinderhook Lake, please see "Kinderhook Lake - Its Glorious Past", a copy of which can be purchased from the Kinderhook Lake Corporation or found at several local libraries.



## Watercraft

All types of motorized and non-motorized watercraft can be seen on the Lake. Speed limits are regulated by Town ordinance (40mph daytime, 5mph after sunset and within 100' of shoreline and docks). DEC, in agreement with the KLC, maintains a public launch site at Route 28 by the dam for non-motorized watercraft.

## Water Quality

According to the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), the Lake has a water quality classification "B" and is suitable for recreational water activities, swimming, and supports an environment for fish propagation and survival. In accordance with DEC guidelines, the Kinderhook Lake Corporation (KLC) monitors the water quality of the Lake periodically throughout the summer and has DEC approval to treat the water with copper sulfate to control blue-green algae bloom. DEC approved treatments of copper sulfate are for the sole purpose of algae control during the months of June, July, and August only. The KLC also has approval to cut water chestnuts (an invasive species) prior to their blooming early in the summer; however, the KLC does not have DEC approval to cut and/or harvest any other weeds from the Lake.



## Fishing

Kinderhook Lake contains a variety of pan fish, small and large mouth bass, northern pike and tiger musky, a hybrid species developed by combining northern pike and muskellunge pike. The tiger musky is stocked by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) as a means of controlling the extensive white perch population (considered an invasive species) and to provide a better environment for game fish survival. Anglers are encouraged to practice catch and release. Ice fishing is also a popular activity.