

## Kinderhook Lake Corp. (KLC)

The KLC 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. To assure that the Lake levels remained at an enjoyable depth during the summer season, about 200 residents joined together to form the KLC and purchased the dam and the bottom of the lake.

The main purpose of the KLC is to maintain and improve Kinderhook Lake and the Nivers Dam. The KLC is responsible for maintaining and operating the dam in an effort to control Lake water levels throughout the year. Over the past decade, the KLC has invested over \$300,000 in improvements to the dam. Both faces of the primary dam were structurally reinforced and refaced, the sluice gate was rebuilt, the sluice pipe was relined, and a new foot bridge across the top of the dam was erected for ease of maintenance. These improvements will assure the integrity and security of the dam for many years to come. The KLC also maintains the Route 28 launch site, monitors and treats the lake for water quality, harvests aquatic invasive species, and stocks game fish.

The KLC sponsors several social activities during the summer. On the Fourth of July there is a boat parade, a kayak rally (for any non-motorized watercraft), and a nighttime 'ring-of-fire'. The KLC also sponsors Lake Day on the first Saturday in August. This popular event brings together members, lake residents, and the community for an enjoyable afternoon of food, music, conversation, and fun, including great raffle prizes.

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 shoreline maintenance and helps to inhibit shore-line weed growth. The Lake is again raised to summer level early in the spring in accordance with DEC guidelines.

## KLC (continued)

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

The KLC maintains a website, [kinderhooklakecorp.org](http://kinderhooklakecorp.org), which contains useful news and information for KLC members and the community. The website provides access to important information about the Lake, the KLC, membership, directors, area maps, newsletters, recreation guidelines, important web links, a photo gallery, KLC merchandise, and a list of business sponsors.

The KLC also maintains a Facebook page, [facebook.com/kinderhooklakecorp/](https://facebook.com/kinderhooklakecorp/), which posts current lake news and information, and acts as a sounding board for member and community comments and questions.

In addition, the KLC publishes a newsletter, *The KLC News*, to help keep members informed about Lake issues.

## Membership Supports the KLC

The KLC's efforts to maintain the lake and dam are supported by private membership dues and donations only. The KLC does not receive funding from federal, state, or local governments or agencies. Therefore, annual membership in the KLC is encouraged for every Lake user, whether you live on or off the Lake. Membership applications are available on our website at [kinderhooklakecorp.org](http://kinderhooklakecorp.org). Members are also encouraged to donate to specific funds maintained by the corporation: the Dam Fund, Water Quality Fund, Weed Fund, and Fish Fund.

## Contact Information

By mail: PO Box 53, Niverville, NY 12130  
By email: [klcweb@archman8.com](mailto:klcweb@archman8.com)

# Welcome to the Kinderhook Lake Community

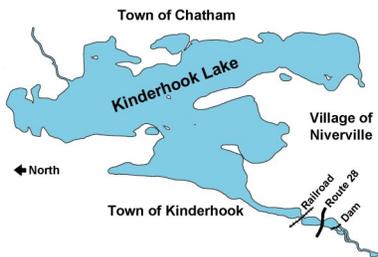


[kinderhooklakecorp.org](http://kinderhooklakecorp.org)  
[facebook.com/kinderhooklakecorp/](https://facebook.com/kinderhooklakecorp/)

*This pamphlet is published by the Kinderhook Lake Corporation as a tool to keep the community better informed about the KLC and the Lake.*

## Location

Kinderhook Lake is located in two towns in the northwest corner of Columbia County. The east side of the lake is in the Town of Chatham, while the west side of the lake is located in the Town of Kinderhook. Areas on the south side of the lake 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 375 acres, is approximately 1.6 miles long, has an average 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 dam flows to the Kinderhook Creek, which eventually winds its way to the Hudson River. Two islands of interest can be found on the Lake. 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. House Island contains a single private residence, which was the location of a tavern in the early 1900s.

## History

Kinderhook Lake is controlled by a dam of the Valatie Kill and its tributaries in Niverville. The dam supplied water to generate power for mills located there in the mid-1900s. The Lake gained notoriety in the early 1900's with the construction of an "Electric Park" at the northeast 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 KLC or found at several local libraries.

## Fishing



Kinderhook Lake contains a variety of pan fish, small and large mouth bass, northern pike, and carp. The KLC occasionally stocks the Lake with various species of game and feeder fish, and adds habitat structures to provide a better environment for game fish survival. Ice fishing is also a popular activity.

## Watercraft



All types of motorized and non-motorized watercraft can be seen on the Lake. Speed limits are regulated by Town ordinance. KLC maintains a launch site along Route 28 by the dam for trailered and cartop watercraft, however, due to limited space, parking at the launch is for KLC members only.

## 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 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.

Aquatic plants provide habitat for fish, food for waterfowl, help keep the sediment at the bottom of the lake, and play a critical role in maintaining water clarity. Most important, when aquatic plants grow, they produce oxygen and can absorb pollutants, both of which are critical for a healthy lake ecosystem. Overabundance of vegetation, however, can cause disruptions to boating and recreational activities. Therefore, to control an overabundance of native and/or invasive aquatic plants, the KLC may occasionally employ the use of herbicides and an Eco-Harvester, a unique aquatic weed harvester with the ability to harvest weeds along with their roots. All vegetation control is handled in strict accordance with DEC guidelines.

