

Directions for LAND and WATER-BASED Scavenger Hunts Mohegan Lake 2021

Directions:

Find the spots in our community that are described in the clues. Take a picture of yourself at each location (try to get plenty of the background in the photo so we can see where you are). When you are finished, send an email to LakeMohegan@gmail.com with the photos of you at each location. Be sure to include the clue number with each photo so that we know what we should be looking for in each picture. Submissions will be accepted until 7 PM on Sunday, July 18.

We would love to highlight your images from the scavenger hunt. May we have permission to use your submitted photos on the MLID website moheganlake.org and/or Facebook page? Please let us know by pasting the appropriate line into your submission emails:

I give permission to MLID to use this photo on the MLID website moheganlake.org and/or MLID Facebook page.

OR

I do not give permission to MLID to use this photo on the MLID website moheganlake.org and/or MLID Facebook page.

There will be two prize drawings for each of the scavenger hunts (LAND and WATER): one for people who correctly identified and photographed all 7 clues, and one for everyone who correctly identified and photographed at least 4 clues (so, if you solve all 7 clues, you have 2 chances to win!).

Please practice appropriate COVID precautions.

Good luck and have fun!

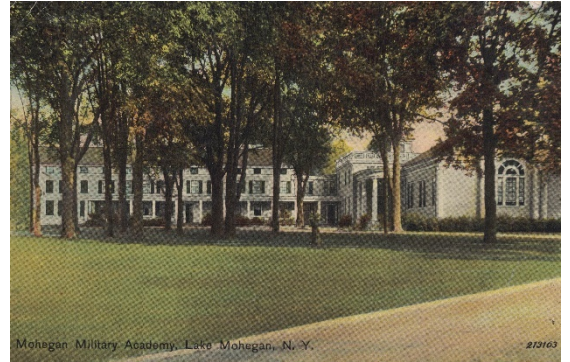
2021 Lake Day Scavenger Hunt: On Land!

CLUE 1:

From approximately the 1880s until 1934, Mohegan Lake had a military academy for boys which trained some of the leaders of the day—including Robert Moses, who was the architect of much of modern New York. The school drew students from around the US and even Mexico, Cuba, and Europe. While the original buildings are all gone, they have been replaced with a school for much younger children and a building in which you can save your money. The lake behind



and the Main St. in front of the property remain.



GPS coordinates: 41.32175 N, -73.85310 W

For this clue, take a picture of yourself with one of the new buildings in the background.

CLUE 2:

This kind of tree provides a home and food for over 500 different species of butterflies and moths right in our backyards! And this doesn't even cover all the birds that nest in this tree and other animals that rely on it. Squirrels, in particular, love to collect and bury the nuts of this tree. This kind of tree is a keystone species—in other words, it is so important that without it, the ecosystem would collapse. What's more, these trees—and the ecosystem they support—are crucial to Lake Mohegan's health. A healthy ecosystem means a healthy lake with fewer algae blooms.

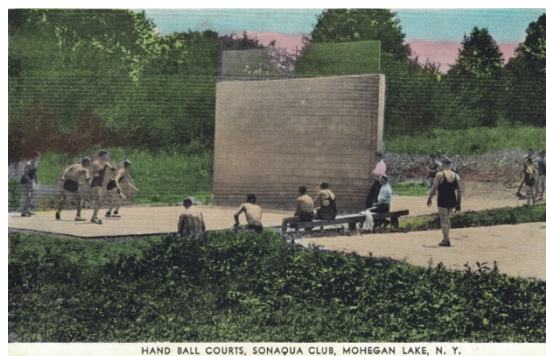
For this clue, take a picture of yourself with this kind of tree in the background.

CLUE 3:

Many people came to Lake Mohegan in the summer to enjoy “fun in the sun,” including activities like tennis and handball. While the tennis and handball courts at the Sonaqua club (formerly near Mohegan Ave and Christine Rd on the east side of the lake) are long gone, the southern-most lake



association still has handball courts—although these days they get used more for movies than for playing handball...



GPS coordinates: 41.30816 N,
-73.85233 W

For this clue, take a picture of yourself while standing on the handball court showing the wall of the handball court.

CLUE 4:

Most of the water that ends up in Lake Mohegan begins as rainwater. As the water flows off our streets, houses, and yards, it makes its way into the lake. If rain falls on *non-permeable surfaces* like asphalt, concrete, stone, and roofs, it quickly flows off, gathers nutrients along the way, and rushes into storm drains. Within minutes, this water—and the excess nutrients that feed algae blooms—enter the lake. *Permeable surfaces*, on the other hand, are healthier for our lake. Rain penetrates these surfaces, allowing the water to soak into the ground. It may eventually reach the lake via underground springs, but it takes years for that to happen—and the excess nutrients get filtered out by soil and plants in the process. Harmful runoff can be greatly reduced if we use permeable surfaces such as gravel, permeable pavers, special pervious concrete, or porous asphalt in our hardscaping and incorporate more rain gardens and naturally planted areas into our landscapes.

For this clue, take two pictures of yourself: one with a non-permeable surface that quickens the flow of water (and nutrients) into the lake, and another with a permeable surface that slows the flow of water (and nutrients) going into the lake.

CLUE 5:

Mohegan Lake had many hotels and cottages for vacationers or summer residents in the late 1800s and the start of the 1900s. Perhaps the largest was the St. Nicholas Hotel, which was on the north shore of Mohegan Lake where some of the condos now sit. It was up to six stories tall, over 300 ft long, and could accommodate 500 guests. The hotel burned in 1908, the same year that Ford started manufacturing the Model T. Since cars were not commonly available while the hotel existed, stables for horses and carriages were needed. The remains of what was probably a stone stable for the St. Nicholas Hotel can still be seen at the **back** of a building that is now used to treat much smaller animals in downtown Mohegan Lake.



GPS coordinates: 41.31911 N, -73.85780 W

For this clue, take a picture of yourself with the stone wall that was part of the stable in the background.

CLUE 6:

Flowers that are native to our region are especially beneficial to our lake's health. They support the bees, butterflies, birds, and other insects that serve crucial roles in our ecosystem, and they are especially good at taking up excess nutrients before they make their way into the lake. Some native flowers that may be blooming this week include Black-Eyed Susans, Anise Hyssop, Milkweed, Monarda (Bergamot or Bee Balm), Joe Pye Weed, Coneflower (*Echinacea*), native Honeysuckle (*Lonicera sempervirens*), Trumpet Vine (*Campsis radicans*), and Coreopsis (Tickseed).

For this clue, take a picture of yourself next to a native flower. Please don't pick the flowers—leave them for the bees and butterflies to enjoy!

CLUE 7:

While many of the large hotels and inns around Mohegan Lake disappeared by the mid-1900s, some of the summer “camps” stayed in business for much longer. Camp Nabby, for example, is still in operation. Another camp, Tall Timber, was a “bungalow colony” that was in operation from the 1940s through the early 1970s. It was on the northeast side of the lake, just south of Jones Hill. While the buildings are all gone, part of the steps and railing in the picture still remain. Plans are in progress, however, to add hiking trails to the Tall Timber and Jones Hill properties, so hopefully people will once again be able to enjoy wandering through these woods and fields as the campers did years ago...

GPS coordinates: 41.31807 N, -73.84567 W

For this clue, take a picture of yourself with the step railing in the background.



Photo from “Tall Timber Tales” website
<https://buddybuddy.com/7-ttt.html> which includes stories, images, and memories from the camp when it was in operation.

2021 Lake Day Scavenger Hunt: On Water!

CLUE 1:

Blue-green algae, or cyanobacteria, is the largest threat to Lake Mohegan. Large algae blooms can release toxins, posing threats to swimmers, dogs, fish, turtles, and other animals that rely on the lake. Blooms are caused by excess nutrients, which are delivered to the lake via runoff from our homes, yards, and streets. Fertilizers, animal waste, unmaintained septic tanks, leaves in the streets and storm drains, an abundance of paved surfaces, and oversalting our roads all contribute to excess nutrients ending up in the lake and feeding the algae. Harmful algae blooms may make the water look like green pea soup, or they may rest on the surface, appearing like a slick of green paint. Big blooms can also produce a pungent, rotting smell. To learn how you can help lessen algae blooms in Lake Mohegan, see our brochure at: <https://moheganlake.org/bmps>

For this clue, take a picture of yourself with an algae bloom in the background. Don't put any part of your body in the affected water!

CLUE 2:

Visitors to Lake Mohegan often enjoyed the peace and beauty of boating on the lake—much as you are now. Many of the postcards from decades past include images of boats tied up along the shore. Many people still keep boats along the lake, ready to enjoy on warm summer days.



For this clue, take a picture of yourself with boats on or stored near the lake in the background.



CLUE 3:

At least one creek and several stormwater drains deliver water into Lake Mohegan. These inlets are the primary spots where excess nutrients, swept up by rainwater, enter the lake. In turn, the nutrients feed the blue-green algae, resulting in toxic algae blooms. MLID is currently exploring ways to improve our stormwater infrastructure and filter excess nutrients out of these inlets before they reach the lake.

For this clue, take a picture of yourself with one of these inlets in the background.

CLUE 4:

William Jones, who gave Lake Mohegan its name in 1859, owned about 300 acres of land on the north east side of the lake. He started the Mt. Pleasant Hotel with a beautiful view of the lake and a winding trail to its boat house (which sold ice cream and rented boats) on the shore. Now, a house sits where the hotel once was, and a dock with a red umbrella sits off the point where the boat house used to be.



GPS coordinates: 41.31750 N, -73.84700 W

For this clue, take a picture of yourself with this spot in the background. Note that the image in the second postcard was taken from the St. Nicholas hotel, which stood where the brown condo buildings are now on the north shore of the lake.

CLUE 5:

The lake's shoreline can help lessen toxic algae blooms—or it can make them worse. A dense buffer of native plants or forested land is crucial for soaking up runoff and excess nutrients, stabilizing the lake edge, preventing erosion, providing shelter for fish and birds, and deterring undesirable birds like Canada geese (whose poop worsens cyanobacteria blooms). Alternatively, if the shoreline has large stretches of lawn, gravel, sand, or wood chips, water easily flows off these surfaces and quickly delivers excess nutrients (and all that goose poop) to the lake, which feed the algae blooms.

For this clue, take two pictures of yourself: one with a landscape that is healthy for the lake in the background, and one with a landscape that worsens algae blooms in the background.

CLUE 6:

One tactic for fighting toxic algae blooms includes aeration. Pumping air to the bottom of the lake and releasing it as tiny bubbles helps prevent excess phosphorus in the sediment from feeding the algae. There are several aeration units in Lake Mohegan that run during the summer, and MLID is currently exploring ways to expand and enhance our aeration system.

For this clue, take a picture of yourself with the bubbles from an aeration pump in the background.

CLUE 7:

Native wetland plants have evolved for thousands of years to work in concert with our lake's soil, microbiome, insects, birds, and mammals. As a result, they are the healthiest for the ecosystem and our lake's health. More native wetland plants means fewer toxic algae blooms. An added bonus of native wetlands plants: they will also attract more butterflies and songbirds! Some native wetlands plants that may be blooming or especially visible this week include Button Bush, Summersweet, Swamp Milkweed, Cattails, and Pickerelweed.

For this clue, take a picture of yourself with native wetland plants in the background.