

Site 2: Shimek Lab

The 5 stone labs are an iconic part of Lakeside. They were built in 1935 & 1936 by the Civilian Conservation Corps and are among the 11 buildings listed on the National Register of Historic Places on Lakeside's campus.



Site 3: Bird Feeders

Birds of all shapes and sizes like to use these birdfeeders. Try being an ornithologist (a scientist who studies birds)! What colors do you notice these birds have? Can you spot Iowa's state bird, the American goldfinch?



Site 4: Limnology Lab

This building was originally a boathouse built in 1935 by the Civilian Conservation Corps. In 1960, it was expanded into the Limnology Lab you see today. Limnology is the study of inland waters, such as lakes, streams and rivers.



Site 5: Woodland Trail

West Okoboji is Iowa's deepest lake and super clear! Scientists and volunteers test the water to check clarity, nutrients and algae, helping us understand the lake and keep it healthy for wildlife and generations to come.



Site 6: Forested Bridge

Lakeside's campus is divided into three parts: teaching (labs and lecture halls), residential (housing and dining) and ecological (natural areas). This bridge separates Lakeside's teaching campus from the residential campus.



Site 7: Fire Pit

West Lake Okoboji was formed by glaciers and is known for its clear blue water. Because sound travels well across open water, you might hear things from far away—pause, listen closely and notice what you hear.



Site 8: Wetland Bridge

Wetlands like swamps, fens, and marshes are a very important part of our ecosystem! They act as a buffer between bodies of water and land, and they offer protection to sensitive organisms like amphibians. Can you spot a leopard frog?



Site 9: Prairie Lookout

Take a seat and enjoy the view! Prairies are a very threatened ecosystem with incredible biodiversity. Here you might find whitetail deer, coyotes, wild turkeys, garter snakes, toads, grasshoppers, dragonflies, and many kinds of birds.



Congratulations!

You've finished the treasure hike! Now assemble your sticker puzzle to find out how many species of turtles live in Iowa! Where do you think you could find a turtle at Lakeside?

Be sure to check out our website for all the latest events happening at Lakeside!
www.iowalakesidelab.org

Visit us again soon!

Iowa Lakeside Laboratory

Treasure Hike

2026

How to use this map

Use this map to explore Lakeside's campus! Along the trails are 9 marked sites where you can find hidden treasure boxes, each with a sticker inside. Collect the stickers to assemble the puzzle below!



Site 1: Diatom Sculpture

Lakeside Lab has been leading the study of diatoms for 60 years, but these little organisms are not very well-known. Diatoms are a single-celled algae with a glasslike shell. They use photosynthesis to create about a third of the oxygen we breathe.

How many species of turtles live in Iowa?

Find all the stickers and place them below to find out!

