

1996 Manitou Days Treasure Hunt
Bellaire Park, White Bear Township

Clue #1:

*It's time to renew and mend your ways
After all, it's Manitou Days!
June 19th is the date
So let's begin without wait.*

*For 16 years we've provided pleasure
For all those in search of treasure.
Twice-a-day until the weekend's close
Clues will lead to the location we've chose.*

Explanation:

This clue stated that the medallion hunt had begun.

Clue #2:

*When it ends, it may be a surprise
Where, in fact, the treasure lies.
Lots of green from trees and grass
Give our site a lot of class.*

Explanation:

The first half of the clue placed the medallion in an area with wooded and grassy areas. "A lot of class" pointed to nearby Bellaire Elementary.

Clue #3:

*Mounds and hills will greet you there
When you make your selection.
And another hint, just to be fair
Is to keep a southern direction.*

Explanation:

The wooded area of Bellaire Park is quite hilly, as is referenced in the first line of the clue. "Southern direction" placed the medallion in the southern reaches of White Bear Lake, White Bear Township – or even Birchwood or Mahtomedi.

Clue #4:

*We think of ourselves as pretty wise
But we saw no need to create a disguise.
A living object holds the spoil
About four feet or so above the soil.*

Explanation:

This clue told hunters how the medallion was hidden: within the hole of very large oak tree (lightly covered with wood debris) about four feet off of the ground.

Clue #5:

*A southern state with grass that's blue
Comes to you as another clue.
But before you begin choosin' and pickin'
Our southern state is tied to chicken.*

Explanation:

The "southern state" that is "tied to chicken" is Kentucky. A shed within site of the treasure's location had "Kentucky Fried Chicken" painted on its side.

Clue #6:

*When there is an excess of rain
Our site is served by a certain drain.
But when the drain is not in need
It gives birth to grass and weed.*

Explanation:

Water from the upper portion of Bellaire Park is moved to the lower by means of a cement drain, located within feet from the oak holding the medallion.

Clue #7:

*Bring a bat or bring a glove
And ponder a different kind of love.
Aged are the facilities that you view
And newer ones are very few.*

Explanation:

Both baseball and tennis facilities are offered at Bellaire Park/Elementary, but they are rather old.

Clue #8:

*Kids, swings, and bells in the air
Give our hunt a little flare.
No matter how tough this hung may be
Try to keep your mind thinking elementary.*

Explanation:

"Kids" and "elementary" referred to Bellaire Elementary. "Swings" referred to the swingset in view from the treasure site. Perhaps most helpful is "bells in the air" – from which you could arrive at Bellaire, the name of the park.

Clue #9:

*It's hard to determine once upon the land
Where school and park boundaries stand.
Now, begin to think of a specific name
Because both locations are called the same.*

Explanation:

Bellaire Park and Elementary share facilities and it is hard to know where (if?) one stops and the other begins. The clue also reveals the park and school share a name.

Clue #10:

*You really don't have to use your brain
Just cross that path is used to drain.
At Bellaire Park, on a large knoll
It's tucked away in an oak's hole.*

Explanation:

Final hints to the treasure's location.

Treasure's Exact Location:

