

Simonton Lake Ecozone-Where is it? Why do we have one?

For those of you who have lived at the lake for a while, the Ecozone is something that is not new to you. But, for anyone who has moved in within the last five years, a little review of this key area is a good thing.

Per Indiana Code IC 14-15-7-3 an **“Ecozone”** designates an area where motorized watercraft are limited.

- Ecozones include wetlands, marshes, and shallow areas.
- Ecozones function as a NATURAL WATER FILTER, filtering out nutrients and sediments that hurt water quality.
- Ecozones function as self-sustaining fish nurseries.

Simonton Lake Ecozone

- **No motorized watercraft.**
Trolling motors are allowed
- **No anchoring**

Marked with buoys and a floating sign



In 2011 a *Lake Diagnostic Feasibility Study* was completed by the State of Indiana for Simonton Lake. The water quality in the lake was determined to be particularly good. However, three recommendations were made to continue to improve the water quality.

One of the three recommendations was the establishment of an **Ecozone**. We had the perfect spot: the southeast corner of Little Simonton, a shallow area already growing non-invasive and water filtering aquatic plants.

The Lake Association established a committee which went through the Indiana DNR process to establish an **Ecozone**. Final approval came in January of 2014.

The Simonton Lake Ecozone is protected by the Indiana DNR and the rules are enforced by Conservation Officers.



Aqua Drive

Lily Creek

Ecozone