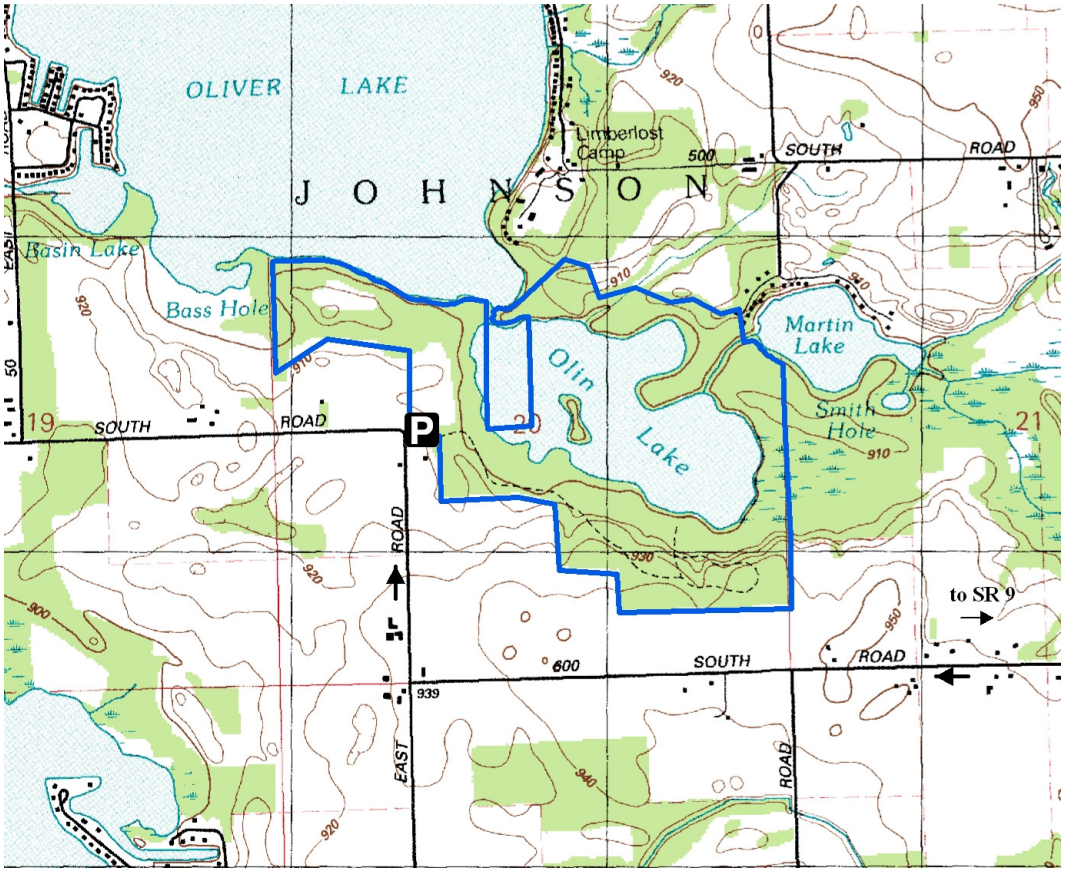
Olin Lake Nature Preserve

County: LaGrange Size: 269 acres
Ownership: Nature Preserves - IDNR; Mr. & Mrs. Mark Peterman

Location and Access

Parking lot and trail. From Wolcottville, go north 2 mi. on S.R. 9. Turn left on Co. Rd. 600S. Proceed 2 mi., then turn right on Co. Rd. 125E and go north 0.5 mi. to a marked parking lot. A hiking trail leads to the lakeshore.



Description:

At just over 100 acres, Olin Lake is the largest lake in Indiana with an undeveloped shoreline. The entire shoreline is protected by this preserve.

Most of the shoreline is low and marshy, which undoubtedly contributed to the lack of development. Swamp forest along the shoreline includes tamarack, silver maple, red maple, and green ash. Skunk cabbage abounds in low mucky spots. Aquatic vegetation is sparse because the lake bottom is covered with marl, a white calcareous substance precipitated from the water.

On the upland portion of the southeast shore is the remnant of a once large woods. Many large tulip, oak, and walnut trees were removed in the late 1960s. There are however, still large specimens of sugar maple, beech, hackberry, and red oak surrounding the stumps of once larger residents.

Further Information:

Division of Nature Preserves. 402 W. Washington St., Rm W267. Indianapolis, IN 46204. 317-232-0209.
www.in.gov/dnr/naturepr