



# Giant City State Park - Quail Pond

## 2023 FISHERIES STATUS SUMMARY

**LOCATION:** Giant City State Park is located in Jackson and Union Counties south of Carbondale, IL. Quail Pond is located on the south side of the park off of Giant City Park Rd.

**DESCRIPTION:** Quail Pond is a 1-acre pond managed for recreational fishing. Parking is available off the side of the road adjacent to the pond. The perimeter of the pond is mostly clear of brush and is mowed often to provide access for anglers. There are no docks or restrooms on site, although restrooms are available at the Giant City Lodge.

**STATUS OF THE SPORT FISHERY** – The following is a summary of game fish populations based on a fish community electrofishing survey conducted during May of 2021 by IDNR:

**Bluegill** – During the 2021 spring survey, 35 Bluegill were collected during 5 minutes of electrofishing. Bluegill in the sample ranged from 6 inches up to 7.5 inches in length. Bluegill body condition in Quail Pond was relatively poor in comparison to other ponds sampled, indicating poor growth rates. In summary, the Bluegill population in Quail Pond is overabundant and stunted. Supplemental stocking of Largemouth Bass should be conducted to help thin out the Bluegill population and increase size structure. The primary management goal is to maintain a quality panfish fishery with Bluegill at least 8 inches in length present. An attempt to establish American Pondweed (*Potamogeton nodosus*) is planned to provide desirable habitat for Bluegill and their invertebrate prey. Brush piles may also be placed in the pond for the same purpose.

**Redear Sunfish** – A total of 28 Redear were collected during the 5-minute spring survey. Redear in the sample ranged in length from 6 to 8 inches. Like Bluegill, Redear body condition was also relatively low in comparison to other ponds sampled, indicating poor growth rates. In summary, the Redear population structure is very similar to Bluegill and will need active management to drive up the size structure and achieve a quality panfish fishery.

**Largemouth Bass** – A total of 16 Largemouth Bass were collected during the 5-minute spring survey. The bass catch rate was the lowest of all 5 ponds sampled at Giant City State Park. Quail Pond also contained the largest bass of all ponds sampled, with 2 over 16 inches, one of which was 20.4 inches and weighed 5.5 lbs. In summary, the Largemouth Bass population is relatively low density and contains a small number of large individuals. Supplemental stocking of Largemouth Bass should be conducted to increase abundance and help thin out the Bluegill and Redear populations. The primary goal for the bass population is to maintain high abundance, which helps drive quality size structure for Bluegill and Redear.

**Channel Catfish** – One Channel Catfish was collected during the spring survey. The fishery for Channel Catfish is popular among anglers at Giant City State Park and is maintained by annual stockings.

### Fishing regulations:

Species	Creel Limit	Minimum Length Limit
Channel Catfish	6	None
Bluegill or Redear Sunfish	15	None
Largemouth Bass	6	15 inches
All Fish	2 Pole and Line Fishing Only	

**PHONE NUMBERS:** Illinois Department of Natural Resources Fish Biologist – Nick Abell 618-967-0952.