



# Giant City State Park - Allen Pond

## 2023 FISHERIES STATUS SUMMARY

**LOCATION:** Giant City State Park is located in Jackson and Union Counties south of Carbondale, IL. Allen Pond is located on the East side of the park past the Indian Creek trailhead.

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

**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, only 2 Bluegill were collected during 6 minutes of electrofishing. Bluegill in the sample ranged from 2 inches up to 9 inches in length. The larger Bluegill was nearly 9 inches and weighed 0.8 lbs. For a small pond, the electrofishing catch rate for Bluegill was very low at 20/hour, indicating heavy predation by Largemouth Bass. In summary, the Bluegill fishery in Allen Pond is characterized by low abundance, but excellent growth. Bluegill body condition in Allen Pond appears to be the highest among all ponds in the park. Although growth potential is very high, Bluegill abundance should be increased to enhance the recreational fishery. Complex structures placed in the lake during April of 2021 should assist with increasing Bluegill recruitment, as young-of-year fish will likely use these structures to hide from predators. Very little fish habitat existed in the lake prior to placing structures in April. Additional habitat enhancements (brush piles and gravel beds) are planned for the winter of 2021/2022 to further improve Bluegill recruitment.

**Redear Sunfish** – Similar to Bluegill, only 2 Redear were collected during the spring survey. Both Redear were around 10 inches in length. Redear body condition was very high as well, indicating fast growth. Therefore, the population structure is very similar to Bluegill. Recommendations for future management are consistent with those for Bluegill as well.

**Largemouth Bass** – During the 2021 spring survey, a total of 21 Largemouth Bass were collected during 6 minutes of electrofishing. The majority of bass were between 10 and 15 inches in length. The largest bass was 14.7 inches and weighed 1.2 lbs. Body condition was considered poor. In summary, Largemouth Bass are abundant in Allen Pond, but growth is relatively poor. However, the current population structure for bass is desirable, as high bass abundance helps drive a quality size structure for Bluegill and Redear, which is the primary management goal in Allen Pond.

**Channel Catfish** – No Channel Catfish were collected during the spring survey. However, the fishery for Channel Catfish is popular among anglers and is maintained by annual stockings. Anglers have been observed catching and harvesting Channel Catfish from Allen Pond.

### **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.