



Giant City State Park - Piney Pond

2024 FISHERIES STATUS SUMMARY

LOCATION: Giant City State Park is located in Jackson and Union Counties south of Carbondale, IL. Piney Pond is located on the southeast side of the park and can be reached after a 0.5-mile hike.

DESCRIPTION: Piney Pond is a 1-acre impoundment which supports a quality multispecies fishery for Bluegill and Redear Sunfish, Largemouth Bass, and Channel Catfish (stocked). The perimeter of the pond is clear of brush and mowed 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 – Piney Pond contains a fish community that is typical for a small pond, containing an abundance of small bass that drive fast growth rates of Bluegill and Redear. Channel Catfish are stocked annually to maintain a population and increase angling opportunities. An electrofishing survey is completed once every three years to monitor the fish community. The following information on game fish is based on a 5-minute electrofishing survey conducted during spring of 2022 by IDNR:

Bluegill – The survey yielded very low Bluegill numbers, as only 7 were collected. However, size was very good, as 2 individuals were over 8 inches. The largest Bluegill was 8.4 inches in length. Two Bluegill x Redear hybrids were also collected, one of which was over 9 inches and weighed 0.62 lbs.

Redear Sunfish – Only 3 Redear were collected during the survey. Like Bluegill, size was very good and 2 of the 3 Redear in the sample were over 9.5 inches.

Largemouth Bass – Piney Pond has a high abundance of small bass in the 10”-14” range. A total of 40 Largemouth Bass were collected during the electrofishing survey. Bass in the sample ranged up to 14.4 inches in length. The current population structure for bass is desirable given that high bass abundance helps drive growth and leads to a quality size structure for Bluegill/Redear.

Channel Catfish – Channel Catfish are stocked annually. However, no Channel Catfish were collected during the survey.

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.