



Giant City State Park - Quail Pond

2024 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 – Quail Pond supports a multispecies fishery for Bluegill and Redear Sunfish, Largemouth Bass, and Channel Catfish (stocked). An electrofishing survey is completed once every three years to monitor the fish community. The following information on game fish is based on an 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 fishery is of lesser quality in comparison to other ponds in Giant City Park.

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.

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, but contains a small number of large individuals. Supplemental stocking of Largemouth Bass may be needed to help thin out the Bluegill and Redear populations to improve the fishery. 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	

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