

Burning Star State Fish and Wildlife Area – Blazer Lakes 1-4

2024 FISHERIES FACT SHEET

LOCATION: Blazer Lake is located in Jackson County at the Burning Star State Fish and Wildlife Area just east of DeSoto, IL.

DESCRIPTION: Blazer Lake is a series of four smaller lakes totaling 123 acres. There is a small gravel parking lot and a gravel boat ramp at Blazer Lake #4. Blazer Lakes 1, 2, 3, and 4 are connected and anglers can access each of these lakes from the single boat ramp located at Blazer Lake #4. All fishing at Blazer Lake and the entire site is closed from November 1 through the end of February.

STATUS OF THE SPORT FISHERY – The following is a brief summary of the major sport fish species based on annual fish population surveys conducted by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources.

Largemouth Bass – The largemouth bass population in this lake is average. During the 2023 spring electrofishing sample, largemouth bass were collected at a rate of 51 fish per hour. Of the 34 bass collected, 25% were over 15 inches, 18% were over 16 inches, and 12% were over 18 inches. The largest bass collected in the 2023 survey weighed 4.9 pounds.

Crappie – Blazer Lake has an average crappie population consisting of both black and white crappie. Of the 53 crappie collected in the 2023 spring electrofishing survey, 40% were over nine-inches in length and 11% were over 10 inches in length. Two white crappie over 12 inches were collected.

Bluegill Sunfish – The bluegill population is average at best. One bluegill over 8 inches was collected in the 2023 spring survey. This represented the first bluegill over 8 inches collected in the 4 fish surveys in this lake.

Redear Sunfish – The redear population is rated as good. Nine redear sunfish were collected in the 2023 spring survey. Seven of the redear sunfish collected were over 8 inches with the largest measuring 9.8 inches and weighing over 0.5 pound.

Channel Catfish – The channel catfish population is poor. One channel catfish (20 inches) was collected in the 2023 spring survey. No channel catfish were stocked in 2023.

Fishing regulations:

Species	Creel Limit	Minimum Length Limit
Largemouth Bass	5 under 14” and 1 over 18”	14-18 inch protected slot (no possession)
Channel Catfish	6	None
Crappie	25	None
Bluegill or Redear Sunfish	25	None
All Fish	2 Pole and Line Fishing Only	Bow Fishing is Allowed

CLOSED FISHING SEASON – No fishing from November 1 through the end of February.

Anglers must park in designated parking areas. Gas motors are allowed but must be operated at no wake speed.

PHONE NUMBERS: Illinois Department of Natural Resources Fish Biologist – Shawn Hirst 618-559-5009. Burning Star State Fish and Wildlife Area 618-521-8873.