



Giant City State Park - Turkey Pond

2023 FISHERIES STATUS SUMMARY

LOCATION: Giant City State Park is located in Jackson and Union Counties south of Carbondale, IL. Turkey Pond is located on the southeast side of the park and can be reached after a short walk from the parking area.

DESCRIPTION: Turkey Pond is a 0.75-acre impoundment managed for quality Bluegill fishing. The perimeter of the pond is grown up with willows, although there are some clearings where shore anglers can fish. There are no docks or restrooms on site, although restrooms are available at the Giant City Visitors Center.

STATUS OF THE SPORT FISHERY – Turkey Pond contains a fish community that is typical for a small pond, which harbors an abundance of bass that drive fast Bluegill growth. To protect the fishery from overexploitation during the spawning season, a 15/day combined harvest limit for Bluegill/Redear will be effective April 1, 2023. The following is a summary of game fish populations based on a 6-minute community electrofishing survey conducted during spring of 2022 by IDNR:

Bluegill – The survey yielded low Bluegill numbers, as only 9 were collected. However, growth potential appears to very good, as the largest Bluegill collected was 10 inches long and weighed nearly 1 lb. Shore anglers should expect to find big Bluegills in this lake, although they appear few in number.

Largemouth Bass – Turkey Pond has a relatively good bass size structure for a small pond. Of the 21 bass collected, several were over 14 inches in length. The largest bass was 16.6 inches and weighed 2 lbs. The current population structure for bass is desirable given that high bass abundance helps drive Bluegill growth and leads to a quality size structure.

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.