



# Giant City State Park - Makanda Pond

## 2023 FISHERIES STATUS SUMMARY

**LOCATION:** Giant City State Park is located in Jackson and Union Counties south of Carbondale, IL. Makanda Pond is located on the northwest side of the park and can be reached after a short hike through the woods.

**DESCRIPTION:** Makanda Pond is a 1-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** – Makanda Pond contains a fish community that is typical for a small pond, which harbors an abundance of small 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 13 were collected. However, size was very good, as 7 individuals were over 8 inches and 3 were over 8.5 inches. The largest Bluegill was 8.8 inches in length. Shore anglers should expect to find big Bluegills in this lake.

**Largemouth Bass** – Makanda Pond has a high abundance of small bass in the 10”-14” range. A total of 32 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 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:**

<b>Species</b>	<b>Creel Limit</b>	<b>Minimum Length Limit</b>
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.