

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

2025 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 good. During the 2024 spring electrofishing sample, largemouth bass were collected at a rate of 64 fish per hour. Of the 32 bass collected, 34% were over 15 inches, 31% were over 16 inches, and 13% were over 18 inches. The largest bass collected in the 2024 survey weighed 4.3 pounds.

Crappie – Blazer Lake has an average crappie population consisting of both black and white crappie. Of the 25 crappie collected in the 2024 spring electrofishing survey, 28% were over nine-inches in length and 8% were over 10 inches in length. One white crappie over 12 inches was collected.

Bluegill Sunfish – The bluegill population is average. No bluegill over 8 inches were collected. Eighty-eight percent of the bluegill collected were between 5-7 inches.

Redear Sunfish – The redear population is rated as good. Seven redear sunfish were collected in the 2024 spring survey. All seven of the redear sunfish collected were over 8 inches with the largest measuring 10 inches and weighing over 0.75 pound.

Channel Catfish – The channel catfish population is poor. One channel catfish (21 inches) was collected in the 2024 spring survey. No channel catfish were stocked in 2024. Channel catfish will be stocked annually into this lake when available.

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.