Baldwin Lake, located near Baldwin and within the Kaskaskia River State Fish & Wildlife Area, is a 2,018-acre perched cooling lake in Randolph and St. Clair counties. It's called a “perched” lake because it's formed by levees that rise above the surrounding land. The lake is owned by the Illinois Power Company and is leased to the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, which manages it for public recreational use. Fishing, boating, waterfowl viewing, picnicking and other activities are currently available. Please refer to the map for seasonal hours and areas restricted to the public.

The Lake
Baldwin Lake boasts excellent populations of largemouth bass, bluegill, hybrid striped bass and catfish. Individual catches of very large channel catfish, blue catfish and flathead catfish commonly occur. Power plant operation noticeably influences fish activity and fishing success. Fishes in Baldwin Lake experience a longer growing season than do those in surrounding lakes, therefore growth rates are accelerated for certain species. Fishing at Baldwin Lake is good year-round and is very popular during the winter months. Warm water areas of the lake may have temperatures in the 60s even in late January.

To maintain a stable elevation throughout the year, water from the nearby Kaskaskia River is pumped into the lake periodically. The lake averages a depth of 10 feet. However, old creek channels and ponds provide areas of 20 to 50 feet in depth.

Baldwin Lake and the adjoining lands are designated as a waterfowl and wildlife refuge. During the winter, peak populations of 10,000 geese and 50,000 ducks may be seen on the area. Waterfowl viewing is a popular activity along the refuge drive. There are approximately 200 resident giant Canada geese which nest on the lake levees. Broods of goslings may be seen on the area beginning in late April. Various other species of wildlife may also be observed along the refuge drive, including white-tailed deer, shorebirds, wild turkeys, hawks, various songbirds, and occasionally bald eagles.

Facilities
- Fishing—Excellent fishing opportunities exist for both the boat and bank angler. Posted site specific regulations for largemouth bass, hybrid striped bass and crappies are enforced. For safety and management purposes, restricted areas are posted and enforced on the lake and along the shoreline. While no concession is present on the site, bait, tackle and food services are available nearby. All fishing tournaments must be scheduled through the site office. The south half of the lake is closed to fishing during waterfowl hunting season. Check with the site office for questions about dates and times.
**Boating**—A two-lane launching ramp, boat docks and parking lot are provided. Motors of 50 horsepower or less are allowed. Sailboating, swimming and water skiing are prohibited. Due to the open nature of the lake, boat and water safety are urged, particularly on windy days.

**Picnicking**—Toilets and picnic facilities are available on the site. Please check with the site superintendent for locations and access information.

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**Baldwin Lake State Fish & Wildlife Area**

**Site Entrance**

**Picnic Shelter**

**Boat Launch**

**Handicapped Fishing Pier**

**North Levee Fishing**

**Spillway**

**Levee**

**Parking**

**Buoy – No trespassing inside Buoy areas.**

**Levee – No trespassing or fishing allowed.**

**Levee – Bank fishing permitted.**

**Hours:**

Feb. 16 - Oct. 31: 6 a.m.—9 p.m.
Nov. 1 - Feb. 15: 7 a.m.—5 p.m.