



Illinois Department of **Natural Resources**

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Pat Quinn, Governor
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Storm Damage Closes Some Facilities at Giant City State Park

Makanda, IL – The Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) today announced that some areas of Giant City State Park in southern Illinois are closed to park visitors until further notice while cleanup continues from damage done at the park as a result of a tornado that struck the region on Feb. 29.

The tornado struck the Giant City State Park area at approximately 4:20 a.m. on Feb. 29, uprooting and damaging trees and causing damage to the park's Shelter #3 Picnic Area. Because of the damage, a number of areas of Giant City are unsafe for visitors.

The following areas of Giant City State Park are closed to the public for their safety: Shelter #3 Picnic Area, Giant City Trail, Shelter #2 Picnic Area (including picnic areas to Albart Lane), Devil's Standtable Trail and parking lot area, the Giant City Lodge Road from Stone Fort Road to Church Road, Post Oak Trail and bluff area (which includes the bluff line along Giant City Lodge Road), the Indian Creek Trail, the Arrowwood Trail, the Red Cedar Hiking Trail, and the Giant City Equestrian Trail.

Non-compliance with the closures will result in tickets being issued by IDNR Conservation Police Officers. Tickets will also be issued for destruction of signs or barricades.

The following facilities at Giant City State Park are open: the Giant City Lodge and Cabins, the Giant City Stables, the Giant City State Park Visitor Center, the Giant City campground, the youth campground, Shelter #1 area, Trillium Trail, Stone Fort Trail and area, Shelter #4, Shelter #5, and the Equestrian Campground (which is normally closed this time of year).

IDNR staff will work as quickly as possible to reopen affected areas and make them safe for public use. For the latest closure information Please visit the DNR website at <http://www.dnr.illinois.gov/closures/Pages/default.aspx> or contact the Giant City Visitor Center at 618-457-4836.

