Monday Cast live · Nov 16–18, 2026

Weather
National Weather Service forecast for Big Creek Lake area

Big Creek Lake

Iowa
Mon Nov 16 – Wed Nov 18, 2026 · Central Time · Largemouth

BITE ODDS · THIS CAST

6/10 — Fair odds

0 2 4 6 8 10

PRESSURE	STORMS	WIND	SKY / RAIN	BASS STAGE	CROWD
+ Mostly stable	+ No lightning	− Up to 17 mph · open-water chop	+ Clear / sunny (~18%)	~ Fall transition	+ Weekday · lighter traffic

WEEK Early-week setup on this water — highs **56–61°F**, lows **36–45°F**, rain chance up to **~18%**. Story is wind — pick banks the breeze is hitting and keep crossings short.

THREE-DAY WEATHER

MONDAY NOV 16

56° F high

LOW	36°F
SKY	Sunny
WIND	SSW 5–12 mph
RAIN	~0%
SUN	7:05 AM / 4:53 PM

Frame: Cold start — let the sun warm the shallows; the better bite often comes later in the day.

TUESDAY NOV 17

58° F high

LOW	42°F
SKY	Mostly Sunny
WIND	S 7–15 mph
RAIN	~0%
SUN	7:06 AM / 4:52 PM

Frame: Breeziest day — use ripple on wind-blown banks and points; open-water chop is higher risk.

WEDNESDAY NOV 18

61° F high

LOW	45°F
SKY	Sunny
WIND	S 14–17 mph
RAIN	~18%
SUN	7:07 AM / 4:52 PM

Frame: Breeziest day — use ripple on wind-blown banks and points; open-water chop is higher risk.

Window: Mon–Wed · Air: SSW → S · Bite window: dawn + last light

HOW TO FISH THIS WEATHER

MORNING

- Shallow cover, points, creek mouths
- **First light (7:05 AM CST) → ~9 AM**
- Use any ripple as cover

MIDDAY

- Shade lines, docks, deeper edges
- Electronics for bait height first
- Slow down once the sun is overhead

EVENING

- Revisit shallow shade as sun drops
- Topwater if the surface lays down
- Weekday traffic is lighter — work quiet pockets

FALL TRANSITION **Largemouth plan: Slow down: steep points, channel drops and remaining grass just outside the creeks, between the fall flats and the 15-30 ft winter depth; suspending jerkbait with long pauses, jig-and-pig or blade bait crawled down the slope.**

BIOLOGY

BASS STAGE

Largemouth are in the late fall transition — water under the mid-50s, so bass are sliding off the shallow flats toward steeper points and channel drops near their fall feeding areas.

Basis: estimated water ~54°F — 75-day observed air record (NOAA ACIS) lagged for a lake (14-day response); no water-temperature

NATURAL FORAGE

Weekday traffic at Big Creek State Park is softer than, but the beach banks and marina shoreline still draw after-work spinning rods from the Des Moines metro.

ALSO BITING

Crappie and bluegill are the bonus mix on Big Creek when the midday bass bite slows — keep a light jig ready for the same northwest-arm timber you are pitching for largemouth.

PRESSURE

Weekday traffic — lighter than the weekend. Fish early, give ramps and swim areas room.

gauge on the lake; air record trending falling

DAM & WATER — CONFIRM BEFORE YOU LAUNCH

FIXED Dam-controlled water. No shared generation/level feed this cycle — check the agency page the morning you fish; releases and pool levels change daily. Stay outside buoyed restricted zones.

ITEM	NOTE	SOURCE
Permit / regs	Bass regs (Iowa statewide inland summary): black bass 15-inch minimum length, 3 fish daily creel.	

ACCESS — BANK / KAYAK / BOAT

BANK

Fish the posted banks at Big Creek State Park beach, then walk marina public shoreline and the northwest-arm recreation banks as the sun climbs. The light SSE air keeps the first hour quiet — crawl a stickbait along beach wood and rock until the lake lights up, then rotate to marina riprap once shade shrinks.

KAYAK

Launch from the Big Creek State Park ramp and stay inside protected water when the SSW wind builds. The soft SSE pattern is ideal for a quiet paddle along the northwest arm before the main lake wakes up; parallel the timber line, then stake out on the best shade once the high climbs toward the low 70s.

BOAT

Launch at the Big Creek State Park ramp. Idle out under the soft SSE breeze, then work beach banks and secondary points while the air is still light; graph marina riprap and northwest-arm timber before you commit to a long spillway run.

LURE BOX

TOP

One topwater or small spoon when shad crash on points.

MID

Big Creek's box should cover marina riprap and northwest-arm timber: a chartreuse or white spinnerbait for SSW-wind rock. A squarebill for riprap transitions. A weightless stickbait for quiet beach banks.

BOTTOM

A compact jig and Texas-rig creature for timber in the arm. A shaky head or drop-shot for clear midday edges.