Monday Cast live · Nov 16–18, 2026

Weather
National Weather Service forecast for Hickory Grove Lake area

Hickory Grove Lake

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

BITE ODDS · THIS CAST — Fair odds

6/10

0 2 4 6 8 10

PRESSURE	STORMS	WIND	SKY / RAIN	BASS STAGE	CROWD
+ Stable pattern	+ No lightning	− Up to 24 mph · unsafe chop	+ Clear / sunny (~18%)	~ Fall transition	+ Weekday · lighter traffic

WEEK Early-week setup on this water — highs **52–58°F**, lows **37–43°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

52° F high

LOW	37°F
SKY	Sunny
WIND	SSW 8–15 mph
RAIN	~0%
SUN	—

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

TUESDAY NOV 17

56° F high

LOW	40°F
SKY	Mostly Sunny
WIND	S 10–18 mph
RAIN	~0%
SUN	—

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

WEDNESDAY NOV 18

58° F high

LOW	43°F
SKY	Mostly Sunny
WIND	S 17–24 mph
RAIN	~18%
SUN	—

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 (first light 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 ~53°F — statewide median of 23 lake estimates from the observed air record (NOAA ACIS) — no

NATURAL FORAGE

Pressure at Hickory Grove Lake should stay lighter than a weekend, but the Hickory Grove North Ramp corridor still draws after-work spinning rods.

ALSO BITING

No roster note on file for this water.

PRESSURE

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

coordinates on file for this lake; no water-temperature gauge on the lake; air record trending falling

WATER BOARD — LAKE CHEAT SHEET

FIXED Natural / small-impoundment water — no generation table. Check access rules and level notes with the managing agency before you go.

ITEM	NOTE	SOURCE
Permit / regs	Bass / inland regs (Iowa statewide summary): black bass 15-inch minimum length, 3 fish daily creel unless a water-specific posting says otherwise.	

ACCESS — BANK / KAYAK / BOAT

BANK

Walk the posted shoreline at the Hickory Grove North Ramp (Story County), then rotate to any open public banks you can reach without crossing private docks and the first north-ramp riprap you can cast from shore.

KAYAK

Launch from the Hickory Grove North Ramp and stay inside a short paddle of public shoreline for this window. The lighter air is workable if you keep the abort short — parallel north-ramp riprap near the ramp, then stake out on the best outside edge once the sun clears.

BOAT

Run out from the Hickory Grove North Ramp (Story County) and keep the plan compact. Graph north-ramp riprap, timber edges, and the first break before you burn fuel on a long open-water loop — this trip rewards a short list of edges.

LURE BOX

TOP

One walking topwater for calm dawn bait activity.

MID

Pack a weightless stickbait in green pumpkin. A 3/8–1/2 oz spinnerbait or squarebill for the windblown edges.

BOTTOM

A compact flipping jig with a craw trailer. A Texas-rig creature for thicker shoreline wood. A shaky head or drop-shot for clear midday water on the first break.