Monday Cast live · Nov 16–18, 2026

Weather
National Weather Service forecast for Minnetonka area

Minnetonka

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

BITE ODDS · THIS CAST

6/10 — Fair odds

0 2 4 6 8 10

PRESSURE	STORMS	WIND	SKY / RAIN	BASS STAGE	CROWD
+ Stable pattern	+ No lightning	− Up to 20 mph · unsafe chop	+ Clear / sunny (~13%)	~ Fall transition	+ Weekday · lighter traffic

WEEK Early-week setup on this water — highs **54–58°F**, lows **41–45°F**, rain chance up to **~13%**. Story is wind — pick banks the breeze is hitting and keep crossings short.

THREE-DAY WEATHER

MONDAY NOV 16

54° F high

LOW	41°F
SKY	Sunny
WIND	SSW 10–15 mph
RAIN	~0%
SUN	7:12 AM / 4:44 PM

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

TUESDAY NOV 17

56° F high

LOW	45°F
SKY	Partly Sunny
WIND	S 15 mph
RAIN	~0%
SUN	7:14 AM / 4:43 PM

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

WEDNESDAY NOV 18

58° F high

LOW	45°F
SKY	Mostly Sunny
WIND	S 15–20 mph
RAIN	~13%
SUN	7:15 AM / 4:42 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 (7:12 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 ~48°F — 75-day observed air record (NOAA ACIS) lagged for a lake (14-day response), adjusted by 1 nearby

NATURAL FORAGE

Bluegill, perch and small shad and shiners are the main forage for bass on Minnetonka, and crayfish keep smallmouth on rock. In fall, baitfish group up in the bays and along weed edges, and bass follow.

ALSO BITING

Minnetonka has a strong muskie fishery, and fall is prime. Cast bucktails, rubber baits and gliders along weed edges and points in the afternoon, and keep a big net and long pliers ready.

PRESSURE

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

USGS lake gauge; 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
Confirm	Managing agency page for this water	

ACCESS — BANK / KAYAK / BOAT

BANK

Lake Minnetonka Regional Park in Minnetrista has an accessible fishing pier and shore fishing at its boat launch, and Orono's Maxwell Bay access has a fishing pier. Both are good walk-up spots for bass, sunfish and crappie.

KAYAK

Kayaks fit the quieter bays on calm mornings. Launch at Lake Minnetonka Regional Park and work the weed edges and shallow flats of the west end, or put in at Maxwell Bay and fish docks and weedlines along the shore. Wear a PFD, use a bright flag or light, and paddle along the shore, not across the big bays.

BOAT

Launch at Grays Bay for the lower lake, Spring Park Bay (three lanes beside the Sheriff's Water Patrol) for the middle, or Maxwell Bay for the upper lake; the regional park launch needs a Three Rivers trailer pass.

LURE BOX

TOP

Walking bait or popper along weed edges at first light for largemouth. Buzzbait over shallow flats on calm, warm afternoons. Large topwater or prop bait for muskie on the warm, breezy afternoon.

MID

Bladed jig or spinnerbait along the outside weed edge in the wind. Swim jig through the tops of the weeds and along dock rows. Suspending jerkbait on rock and reefs for smallmouth.

BOTTOM

Jig or Texas-rigged creature bait pitched to docks and weed clumps. Drop-shot or ned rig on deeper weed edges and rock. Tube on rock and reefs for smallmouth.