



FRESHWATER CAST · FRIDAY CAST

Chatfield: Rain Chances, South Platte Edges & Smallmouth Lead

Chatfield Reservoir · Fri Oct 2 – Sun Oct 4, 2026 · bank / kayak / boat · times in MT

Mild weekend · Fri ~81° → Sat–Sun ~84–82° MT

Primary: smallmouth bass

Verify dam boards before you go

Soft Friday recreational · no named trail event pulled

Chatfield's midweek cools under rain chances — pack a shell, fish the first rock at light, and let the graph tell you which point is alive between showers.

● WEEKEND OUTLOOK

National Weather Service Boulder's point forecast for Chatfield Reservoir frames a dry, mild weekend for the **Fri Oct 2 – Sun Oct 4, 2026** window. Read every clock in this Cast as **MT**. Friday opens near **81°F** after overnight air near **47°F** (sunny, 3 to 9 mph SSE). Saturday climbs to about **84°F / 51°F** (sunny, 3 to 8 mph E). Sunday holds near **82°F / 51°F** (sunny, 6 mph SSE). No active watches or warnings were highlighted for this pull. Barometer was not logged station-by-station on every arm; treat pressure as steady-fair under this quiet pattern.

For **smallmouth bass**, that pattern favors fishing hard around storm edges rather than waiting for a bluebird day. **First light and the hour after a cell clears** are the primary windows when thunder is not overhead. Midday plans should stay flexible — duck into a protected pocket or the truck when radar lights up. Friday is the softer traffic day; Saturday and Sunday recreational pressure builds around popular ramps, and **no named national trail event was pulled** for this water on Oct 2–4.

Carry more layers than you think you need — highs fall through the midweek on many Front Range and plains waters, and wet wind feels colder than the number on the phone. A simple three-rod rotation covers almost every bank you will fish. When a pocket goes quiet, make one short move to the next point that shows bait on the graph rather than a long empty run.

FRIDAY OCT 2

~81°F

Low ~47° · dry · 3 to 9 mph
SSE

Sunny

Sunrise ~6:56 AM · Sunset
~6:39 PM MT

*Best bite: first light—~10 AM;
softest weekend traffic*

SATURDAY OCT 3

~84°F

Low ~51° · dry · 3 to 8 mph
E

Sunny

Sunrise ~6:57 AM · Sunset
~6:37 PM MT

*Best bite: first light—~10 AM;
shade and structure after 11
AM*

SUNDAY OCT 4

~82°F

Low ~51° · dry · 6 mph SSE
Sunny

Sunrise ~6:58 AM · Sunset
~6:36 PM MT

*Best bite: dawn edges; mid-
day slow under cover*

● LEVEL & FLOW CHEAT SHEET

Colorado Parks and Wildlife / Chatfield State Park pages are the live source for pool and park notices on Chatfield. Fixed Fri–Sun recreational generator calendars are often thin for Colorado reservoirs — treat any elevation, release, or advisory as live. Failover: check the agency and park page the morning you launch, and call the marina or park desk if you need a same-day condition read. Advisories can change without notice.

WATER	OBSERVED	FLOW / BOARDS	HOW TO FISH IT
Chatfield Dam / pool	Verify live CPW / park pool and recreation notices before you launch	No fixed Fri–Sun recreational release calendar pulled	Fish rock points and wind seams; treat any flow change as a live check, not a schedule

Dam and restricted zones stay off-limits whether flows are quiet or moving. If a local advisory, fire restriction, or temporary closure appears on the park or agency page, that overrides any general weekend outlook here.

● HOW TO FISH IT — BANK / KAYAK / BOAT

BANK

Public shoreline inside **Chatfield State Park** puts riprap, rock points, and cove edges in casting range near day-use access. Fan-cast first light with a tube or spinnerbait along rock, then slow down with a Ned or drop-shot once the sun climbs or a shower passes. Stay on posted park shoreline, give swim beaches and busy trails room, and skip closed banks. If one point shows bait or craw activity, stay and rotate search and finesse baits before hiking farther. Carry a small rain shell on the hike — showers can arrive faster than the walk back to the truck — and keep casts tight to the first break when wind turns a bank on.

KAYAK

Launch early at a park ramp and paddle onto the nearest rock point or riprap seam before metro boat traffic builds. Chatfield rewards a slow graph-and-cast morning inside one sector. Wear a PFD, watch afternoon wind and rain showers, and duck into a protected cove when radar lights up. Keep a tube, a small swimbait, and a Ned ready. Fish the bait you mark thoroughly instead of paddling a huge empty loop. If a cell builds while you are mid-lake, turn toward the nearest protected shoreline early rather than finishing “one more cast” under dark sky.

BOAT

Park ramps put you on rock points, islands, and South Platte-influenced edges quickly. Start shallow on rock at dawn with a topwater or spinnerbait when showers allow, then rotate to tubes, Neds, and small swimbaits on the break. Midday, fish protected rock rather than open-water chop under dark sky. Keep a spotter when running, give ski traffic space, and honor dam restricted zones. After a cell clears, fish the next stable hour hard before you relocate. Keep a simple run plan on the graph: launch, fish the nearest baited structure, then expand only if marks stay empty.

● PURE-GAS.ORG E0 · THIS WATER

Closest public **ethanol-free (E0)** listings from Pure-Gas.org near Chatfield. Listings can change — confirm the E0 grade at the pump if that matters for your motor. No pump prices in this Cast.

- Murphy 8855 — Littleton, CO · ~4.6 mi · MURPHY · E0 octane 87 · 720-358-0468
- Maverik — Littleton, CO · ~5.8 mi · MAVERIK · E0 octane 87 · 720-828-8595
- Murphy 7969 — Littleton, CO · ~6.4 mi · MURPHY · E0 octane 87 · 720-832-0014
- Quiktrip Store #4237 — Littleton, CO · ~6.5 mi · QUIKTRIP · E0 octane 87 · 720-920-4078

Call ahead when you can — E0 availability changes. Distances are rough estimates to this water.

● LURE BOX

TOP

Walking bait and small popper on rock at dawn when storms allow.

MID

Spinnerbait or small swimbait on wind-blown rock; tube ready for the same cast.

BOTTOM

Tube, Ned rig, and compact jig on the first break and shaded riprap.

Match size to **crawfish and small baitfish along rock and riprap**. Size down when fish short-strike; size up when you mark bigger bait. Primary species this week is **smallmouth bass**.

● SMALLMOUTH BASS LIFE STAGE

Spawn is long over. This midweek window is about **post-summer smallmouth** on rock, riprap, and wind seams. Cooler air and shower edges can sharpen the bite when lightning is not overhead. Match the bait you mark.

What's on the menu: crawfish and small baitfish along rock and riprap are the most likely menu this week. Public hatch reports are often thin — lead with the forage above, and match the bait you mark on the graph or see dimpling on the surface.

Watch for bait dimpling on calm mornings and for birds working a point or riprap seam. Those clues beat a generic deep-only rule this week. If fish short-strike, downsize before you abandon the spot; if they flash and leave, try one size larger or a different profile on the next cast.

● ALSO HOT / ALSO IN SEASON

Largemouth in the backs of coves and **walleye** on deeper breaks for anglers who switch. Smallmouth lead this Cast.

● PRESSURE, CLARITY & BITE WINDOWS

Clarity swings with wind and showers — a stained bank can sit next to clearer main-lake rock. Start with natural colors in clearer water and switch to a darker, slower profile when a pocket muddies. Decision tree for this midweek: **low light / storm edge** = points and riprap with a search bait; **stable cloud** = slower bottom baits on the break; **lightning** = off the water, no debate. Weekday recreation is softer than weekend traffic — launch early, fish the plan, and treat crowd pressure as soft weekday recreation unless a named event shows on the calendar.

Heavy Traffic: no named trail event pulled for Mon–Wed on this water. Soft Friday recreational; Saturday–Sunday builds at popular ramps only.

● ROCK-AND-RADAR GAME PLAN

Pick a rock sector near your launch and fish it thoroughly between showers. Empty long runs under building rain waste the best windows. Keep PFDs ready and clear open water early if lightning is close. Downsize when fish short-strike after a cold shower; size up when bait marks bigger on the graph.

Keep notes on which bank produced and what the graph showed — early-fall patterns often repeat the next morning if nights stay cool and the wind direction holds. If Wednesday's storms arrive early, shorten the open-water window and commit to closer structure sooner.

● ACCESS NOTES & SAFETY

Regs change by water and season. Use the live CPW licensing and regulation pages for bag limits and gear rules before you fish. Park fees, mussel inspections, and metro hours can change — verify before you go. Wear a PFD when the boat is on plane, keep a spotter in busy lanes, and give swimming beaches room. If lightning builds, get off exposed water early.

Trailer lights, spare PFDs, and a basic tool kit belong in the truck on any midweek hop — small failures cost more fishing time than almost any lure change. Tell someone your launch and return window when you fish alone, and leave with enough daylight for the drive if Wednesday storms run long.

● GEAR & PACING NOTES

On a wet Colorado midweek, pace matters more than covering every mile of shoreline. Fish a productive bank thoroughly, then make one deliberate move to the next point that shows bait on the graph. Keep rain shells, spare socks, and a dry bag in the truck so a soaking cell does not end the day. A calm, safe plan between storms beats a rushed lake-wide tour under lightning risk.

Match lure size to the bait you mark after each shower — cold rain can shrink the bite for an hour, then turn it back on along the same seam. If Wednesday's coverage stays high, shorten the open-water plan and commit to structure you can reach quickly from the ramp.

● LOOKING AHEAD

Next 1–3 weeks: watch the first true cool, stable autumn stretch and any weekend tournament calendars that would stack Heavy Traffic on Chatfield. As nights keep dropping, expect smallmouth bass to spend more of the morning on bait and edges. Confirm mussel rules, park hours, and storm patterns as the calendar flips.

● SOURCES

NWS Boulder point forecast · Colorado Parks and Wildlife / Chatfield State Park · Pure-Gas.org
E0 listings. Elevations, advisories, and station lists change — verify dam boards and pump grade before you go.