



FRESHWATER CAST · MONDAY CAST · CONNECTICUT · ET

Highland Lake: Cool Nights, Dawn Edges & Early-Fall Shift

Highland Lake · Mon Sep 21 – Thu Sep 24, 2026 · bank / kayak / boat

Highs ~65° Mon → ~61° Thu (NWS OKX)

Baro KBDR ~29.92 inHg

Cool nights · NE breeze midweek

Soft recreational · no named trail event pulled

Highland: clear-water finesse and shaded docks after cool nights.

• MIDWEEK OUTLOOK

Land-point forecast near Winchester / Winsted keeps Highland Lake in a **late-summer → early-fall cool-down** through the Monday **Cast** window (Mon Sep 21 – Thu Sep 24, 2026ET). Daytime highs roughly **65° → 59° → 60° → 61°F** with overnight air often dipping into the upper 40s–50s (CT) or mid-50s–60s (DE south) depending on the water. Showers stay in the conversation midweek (~26% on Tue Sep 22) but are not a washout signal by themselves.

For **Largemouth bass**: lean **dawn and dusk** on shallow edges, pads, wood, and wind-blown banks while nights stay cool; once the sun climbs, slide to shade, docks, channel swings, and any soft current seams. Clarity is **unconfirmed** this gather — treat stain as wind/rain dependent. **No named trail event** (B.A.S.S. / MLF / major open) pulled for this product on Sep 21–24. Soft weekday recreational pressure only.

Seasonally this is the week northeastern ponds and river stairways start to feel like September again. Cool overnight air slows the midday shutdown that defined midsummer, so the first 90 minutes after sunrise matter more than a long idle at noon. If Tuesday–Wednesday showers arrive, treat the first hour after a cell passes as a fresh edge — baitfish push shallow, and bass often follow before the next sun climb. Keep a rain shell and a dry bag; cancel only for lightning or unsafe wind, not for a routine shower threat.

Pressure stays soft on weekdays if no club blast-off appears locally. That favors bank and kayak lanes that get walked off on Saturdays. Boat anglers should still idle through park no-wake zones and give rented pontoons a wide berth on DE state-park ponds. For river / Housatonic products, soft current is a bonus only when it is legal and safe — never crowd a spillway boil for a cast.

MON SEP 21

~65°F

Low ~47° · ~1% precip · NE 5 to 8 mph

Partly Sunny

Sunrise **6:40 AM**Sunset **6:52 PM** ET

Best bite: first light—~9 AM ET; second window late day if clouds or wind hold

Partly sunny, with a high near 65. Northeast wind 5 to 8 mph.

TUE SEP 22

~59°F

Low ~45° · ~26% precip · NE 8 mph

Chance Rain Showers

Sunrise **6:41 AM**Sunset **6:50 PM** ET

Best bite: first light—~9 AM ET; second window late day if clouds or wind hold

A chance of rain showers before 2pm. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 59. Northeast wind around 8 mph. Chance of precipitation is 30%. New rainfall amounts less than a tenth of an inch possible.

WED SEP 23

~60°F

Low ~45° · ~7% precip · NE 12 mph

Partly Sunny

Sunrise **6:42 AM**Sunset **6:48 PM** ET

Best bite: first light—~9 AM ET; second window late day if clouds or wind hold

Partly sunny, with a high near 60.

THU SEP 24

~61°F

Low ~47° · ~15% precip · NE 8 to 13 mph

Partly Sunny then Slight Chance Rain Showers

Sunrise **6:43 AM**Sunset **6:47 PM** ET

Best bite: first light—~9 AM ET; second window late day if clouds or wind hold

A slight chance of rain showers after 2pm. Partly sunny, with a high near 61.

● WATER & CONDITIONS CHEAT SHEET

Natural / park-style freshwater. Live pool elevation and Secchi clarity were **not confirmed** at gather for this product — treat level and stain as **qualitative**. Re-check USGS / state lake pages and park pages before committing to a ramp. No hydro generator board applies.

HIGHLAND LAKE MON-THU

Level: qualitative only at gather — watch recent rain pulse midweek

Wind: NE breeze can stack chop on open pockets; fish protected edges

Forage cue: baitfish dimples, bluegill in pads, craw on hard spots

ACCESS NOTES

Primary access near Winchester / Winsted — hours/fees verify live with CT DEEP / park

Soft weekday crowd; park ponds see more afternoon bank traffic

PFDs; fog possible on cool mornings

Local cue for this water: if the first bank stretch is empty of bait dimples, do not camp — make a full lap of the next windward point or pad line before noon. Early-fall fish are mobile on cool nights; covering water with a bladed jig often finds them faster than finesse on the first stop.

● HOW TO FISH IT — BANK / KAYAK / BOAT

BANK

Shared: Cool mornings — layer up. Stay off private shoreline.

Highland Lake: Work visible cover, pads, laydowns, and windward banks at dawn/dusk near public access around Winchester / Winsted. Verify park hours and any seasonal closures live. Hydrate; Tuesday–Wednesday shower chances can build fast on DE waters. Re-check park gate times; some CT/DE parks open at dawn seasonally. Carry a headlamp for the walk-in and leave no trash on the bank.

KAYAK

Target transitional depths, quiet coves, and weed edges; use the NE breeze to drift banks when safe. Wear a PFD. Avoid dam discharge / spillway water on river products. On park ponds, launch early before recreational traffic. Spotter or whistle helps when NE breeze stacks small chop on open pockets. Stay inside marked swim areas only where fishing is allowed.

BOAT

Plan: first light–9 AM ET on shallow edges / points / pads; midday shade, docks, channel swings, and soft current seams; evening revisit shallow when light falls. Idle near ramps; watch blast-off lanes only if a local club event appears (none named at pull). Soft crowd this Mon–Thu window. Map a second ramp in case the primary lot fills after a weather delay. Livewell water stays cool on these mornings — good for catch-and-release handling.

● LURE BOX

TOP

Walking topwater (chrome / bone / white)

Hollow-body frog (white or black) on pads

Poppers on baitfish dimples at first light

MID

Bladed / vibrating jig (white or chartreuse shad)

Squarebill or medium crank (craw / shad)

Soft swimbait on points and channel swings

BOTTOM

Finesse or football jig (green pumpkin / brown craw)

Ned / shaky / drop-shot (green pumpkin / smoke)

Soft craw on wood and riprap once wind builds

Stain / clear match: Clarity unconfirmed. Lean natural / smoke / green on clearer days; darker craw / juniebug if midweek showers dirty the edges.

If water dirties after midweek rain, upsize profile slightly and slow the retrieve; if it stays clearer than expected, downsize to a Ned or smaller walking bait and lengthen pauses. Always let the first five casts after a wind shift tell you whether bait is on the bank or holding mid-depth.

● BASS LIFE STAGE

Early-fall transition on Highland Lake. Nights are finally cool enough to widen the morning window, but this is still **not** a full fall creek-run. **Largemouth bass** relate to shallow cover at dawn, then shade/wood/weed as the sun climbs. Also in the mix: smallmouth · panfish.

What's on the menu: Dated hatch reports for this exact window are thin — most likely forage is **baitfish (shad/shiners where present), bluegill / sunfish** in pads and docks, and **crawfish** on hard spots and riprap. Match profile and size; do not invent a specific hatch. Start on shad/bluegill imitators; keep a craw-colored jig ready for rock once wind or soft current scrapes bottom.

Practically: open with a walking bait or buzz along the first wind-blown bank you can reach legally, then rotate a bladed jig through the same lane once the sun clears the trees. If you mark bait mid-depth without followers, slide to a shaky or drop-shot on the next break rather than burning the shallow stretch again.

● ALSO HOT / ALSO IN SEASON

PANFISH · PICKEREL

Bluegill / crappie: pads, brush, and creek channels — small jigs/worms. Chain pickerel: weed edges on the same dawn window as bass.

ALSO IN SEASON

smallmouth · panfish. Soft language only — confirm live regs and seasons on CT DEEP freshwater fishing guide (live).

CROWD / HEAVY TRAFFIC

No named trail event pulled for Highland Lake Sep 21–24. Soft weekday recreational pressure. Re-skim calendars before Friday's window.

Regs live-link only: CT DEEP freshwater fishing guide (live). Do not hardcode inches or creel.

Looking ahead (next 1–3 weeks): If nights keep easing and highs settle in the 60s, expect a more honest early-fall feel — shad pushes into creek backs, less midday dead water, and better topwater windows. Watch midweek shower stains after Tuesday–Wednesday. **No named championship** on this product in the next 1–3 weeks at pull. Next **Cast:** Friday window Fri–Sun. Keep an eye on overnight lows — another 5°F drop would accelerate the fall feel. Re-pull Pure-Gas.org before a long trailer haul; E0 availability changes without notice.

ETHANOL-FREE FUEL NEAR THIS WATER

Current prices (as of Sun Sep 20, 2026 · ~9:55 PM ET) — may change; verify at the pump. Pure-Gas.org does not publish pump prices; do not invent dollars.

Grunders Farm Equipment — 876 New Harwinton Rd, Torrington, CT · ~10.3 mi · 860-489-9001 · UNBRANDED**93 octane E0** — We sell small engine fuel, quarts, gallons, and 5 gallon cans. Regular fuel and 50:1 2 cycle fuel.price not listed — verify at pump

Goff's Equipment — 620 Us Hwy 202, Litchfield, CT · ~12.0 mi · 860-482-3600 · SUNOCO**98/110 octane E0** — In 5 Gallon Pailsprice not listed — verify at pump

New England Racing Fuel — 271 Spielman Hwy, Burlington, CT · ~14.0 mi · 860-673-9555 · SUNOCO**94/98/110 octane E0** — retails and distributes Sunoco fuels throughout the northeast.price not listed — verify at pump

Lime Rock Park Raceway — 60 White Hollow Rd, Lakeville, CT · ~15.6 mi · 860-435-5000 · VP RACING**100/110/112 octane E0** — VP Racing MS95 available at the Track for \$6.50 on 9/25/14price not listed — verify at pump

Listed **E0** stations from Pure-Gas.org (crowdsourced) pulled Sun Sep 20, 2026 · ~9:55 PM ET near Highland Lake. Call ahead — availability changes. Prefer the posted octane on the Pure-Gas card.

Sources: NWS land forecast near Winchester / Winsted (NWS OKX / BOX / PHI land grids) · Sun Sep 20, 2026 · ~9:55 PM ET; METAR baro KBDR ~29.92 inHg; USGS / state lake pages (level qualitative); Pure-Gas.org E0 listings · Sun Sep 20, 2026 · ~9:55 PM ET; trail calendars skimmed — no named event. Schedules and prices change — re-check before launch. Freshwater Cast · CT/ · Monday **Cast** · Drafted Sun Sep 20, 2026 · ~9:55 PM ET · Schedules change — re-check before launch.