



# Illinois Department of Natural Resources

One Natural Resources Way Springfield, Illinois 62702-1271  
www.dnr.illinois.gov

JB Pritzker, Governor

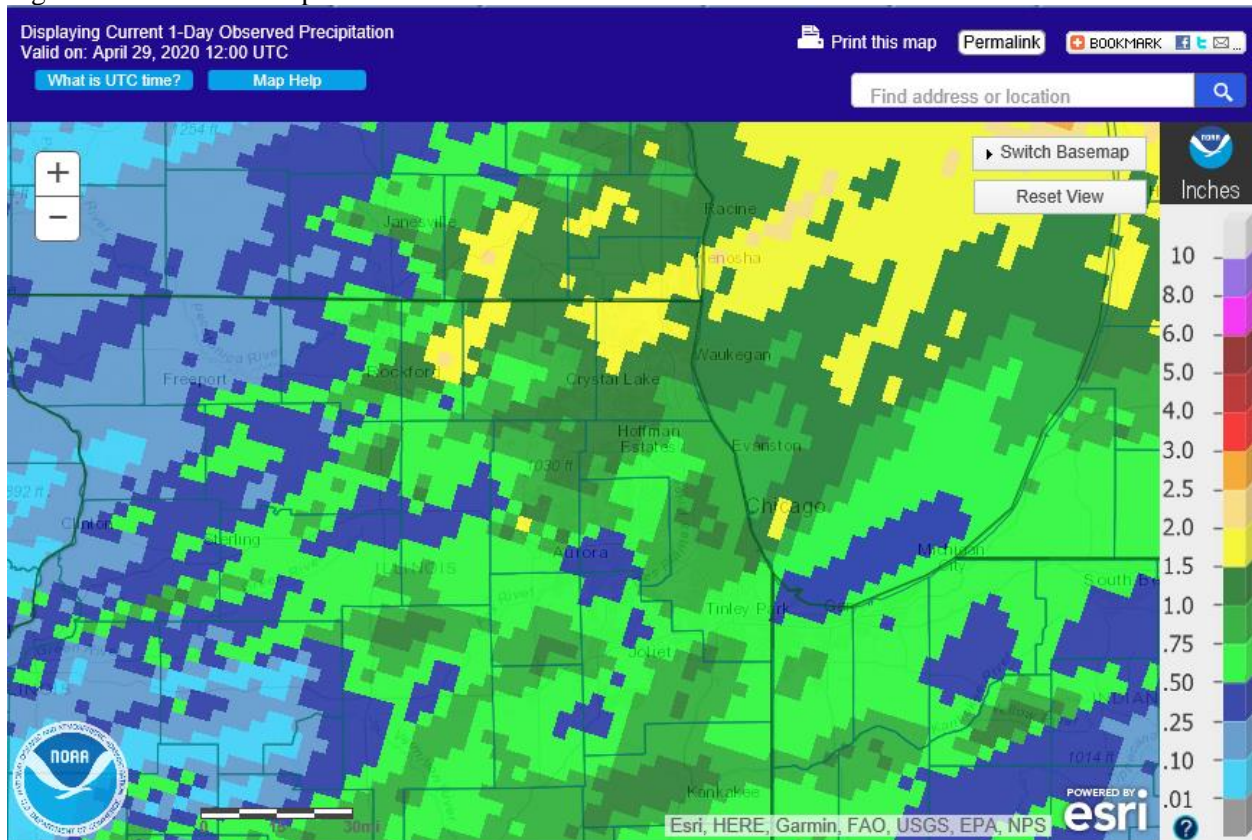
Colleen Callahan, Director

## Fox River Status Update April 29, 2020

### Current Conditions

Fox River watershed received precipitation in the amounts ranging from 1½” to 2” within the last 24 hours as shown on Figure 1. Heavier localized precipitation in excess of 2” was also reported. Please note that the yesterday’s precipitation forecast from the National Weather Service (NWS) only called for 1”-1¼” of rain in the watershed while the revised forecast is showing totals of 2½”-4½”. The unexpected high precipitation event has resulted in sudden rise in inflows and stage levels. Measured inflows on the Fox River near New Munster, WI are 1140 cfs and rising; flows on Nippersink Creek near Spring Grove are 892 cfs and rising. The Fox Lake stage is 4.24 ft and the Stratton Dam Tailwater stage is 2.23 ft. The Fox River at the Algonquin Dam Tailwater stage is 7.17 ft.

Figure 1: Observed Precipitation



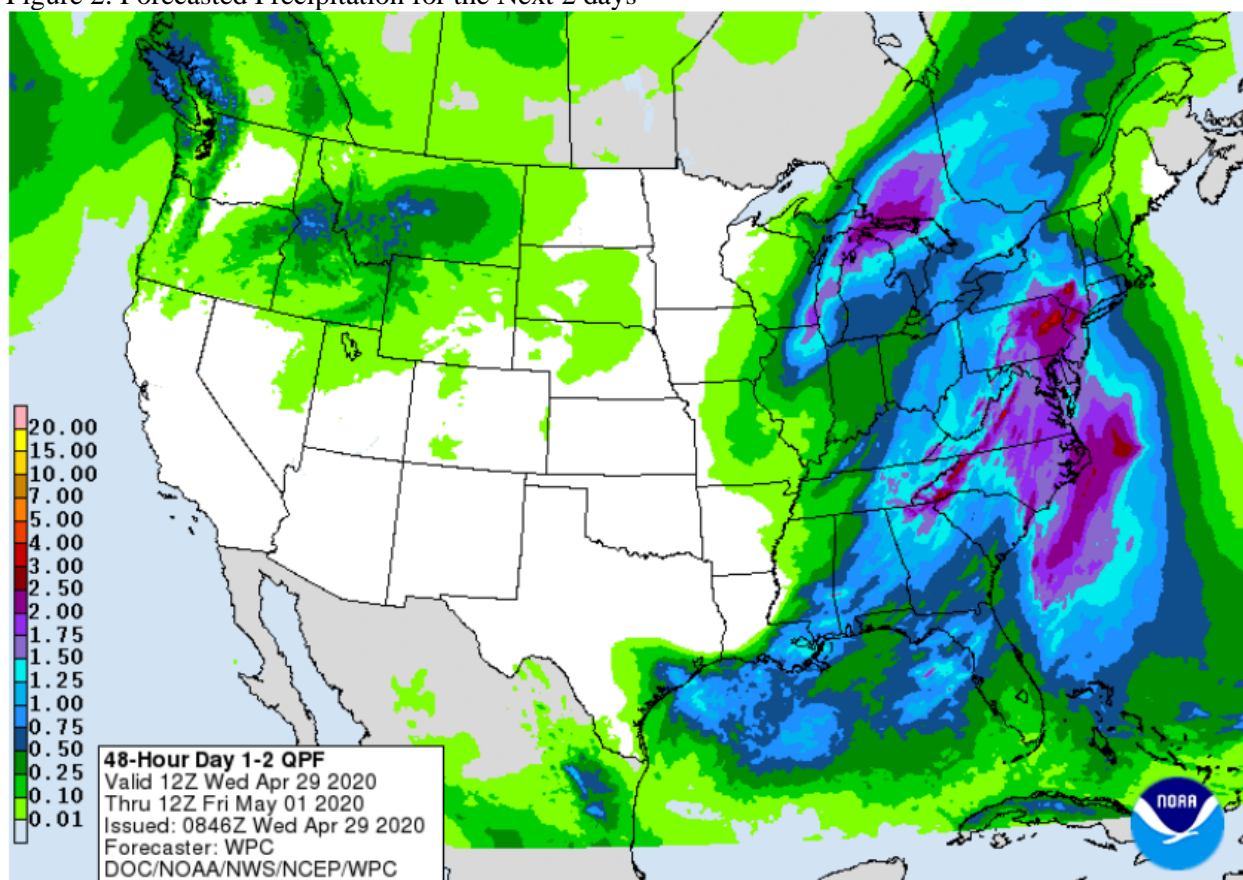
### Comments from the National Weather Service on this Event:

You probably noticed that this morning's river forecasts now show flooding that was not in our forecasts yesterday morning or last night. There was a fairly narrow corridor of rainfall that move eastward just south of the IL/WI border last night, impacting the Fox and Des Plaines River Basin headwaters. The overnight rain would have been enough to cause some significant river rises, but likely not flooding. Unfortunately, today we have this band of rainfall lingering across northeast Illinois. Latest forecasts indicate that this rainfall may stay over the general area of northeast Illinois and far southeast Wisconsin for most of the day today, and forecast rainfall totals increased this morning. The potential for this rainfall to occur in the same areas as heavy rainfall last night is why we now have river forecasts showing the potential for minor to moderate flooding in the Fox and Des Plaines basins.

### Forecast

The NWS is predicting an additional 1½” to 1¾” of precipitation for the next 2 days in the Fox River watershed as shown on Figure 2. The NWS is forecasting that the Fox River near New Munster, WI will crest at a stage of 12.0 ft on May 1. The NWS is forecasting that the Fox River at Algonquin Tailwater will crest at a stage of 10.4 ft on May 3 with a flow of 4600 cfs.

Figure 2: Forecasted Precipitation for the Next 2 days



**System Conditions and Operations**

All gates at Stratton Dam and Algonquin Dam are completely opened to pass as much flow as possible. Based on today's river forecast from the NWS, our estimates indicate that Fox Lake may surpass 5.5' stage level and Stratton Dam Tailwater may surpass 5' stage level by Saturday.

Munib Ahmad, P.E.

Office of Water Resources

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<https://www.dnr.illinois.gov/WaterResources/Pages/StrattonLockandDam.aspx>