



Illinois Department of Natural Resources

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JB Pritzker, Governor

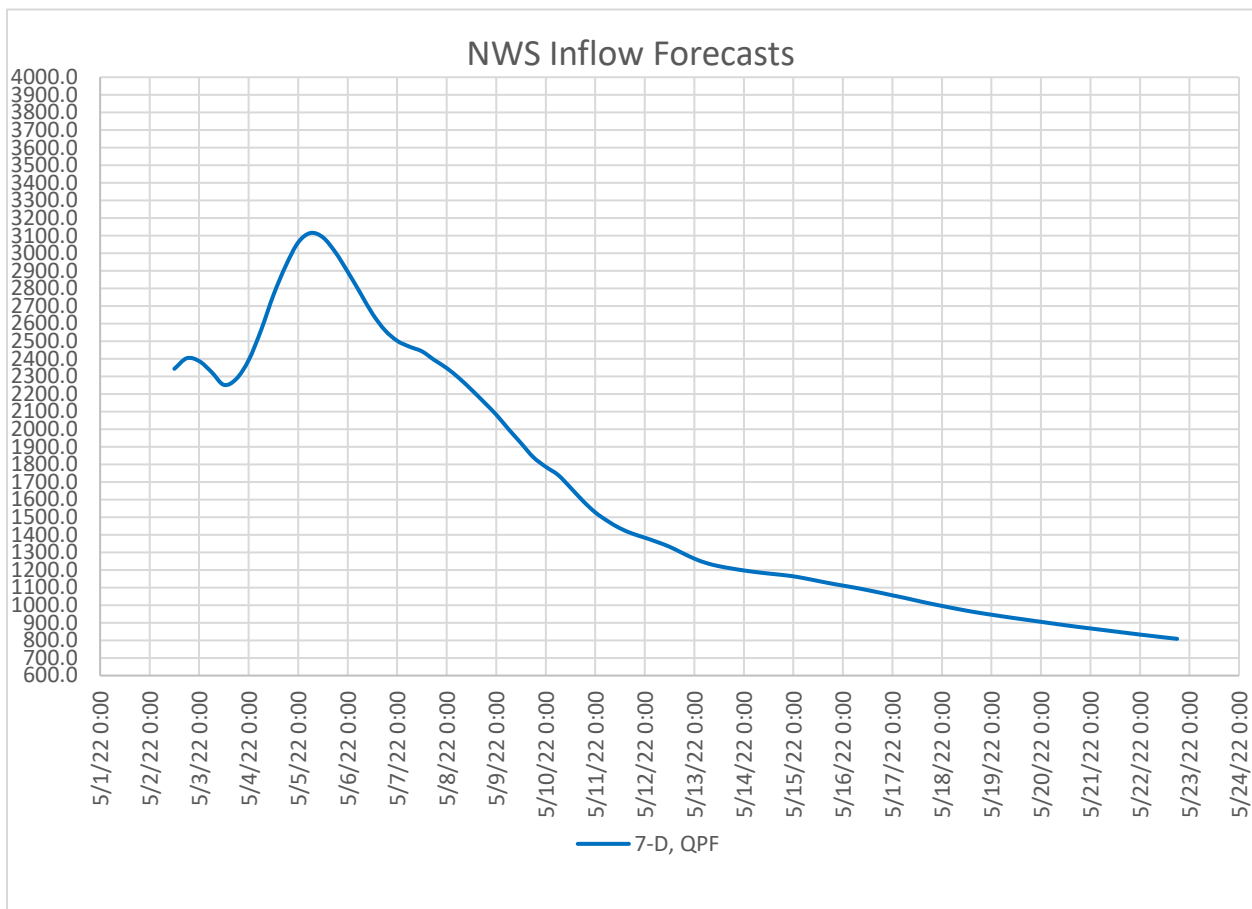
Colleen Callahan, Director

Fox River Status Update May 12, 2022

**This Update is based on the current forecast and will be adjusted based on future forecasts and rainfall.*

Summary: Current inflows are near 1480 cfs with dam outflows near 1500 cfs. Water levels are expected to remain just below 4.2 in the Chain and 2.6 in the Lower River for the duration of the weekend.

Figure 1: NWS Forecasted 7-Day Inflows (in cubic feet per second)



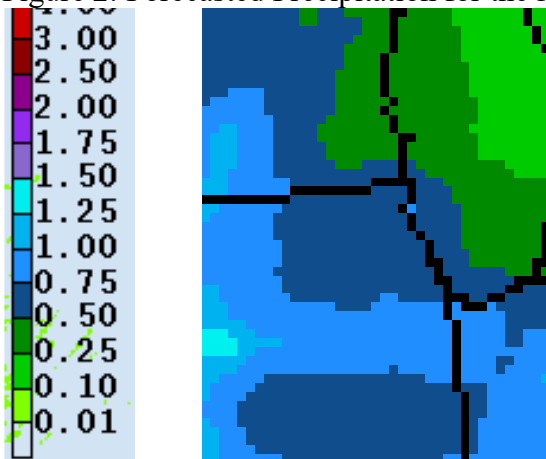
Current Conditions

Measured inflows on the Fox River near New Munster, WI are 864 cfs and Nippersink Creek near Spring Grove are 210 cfs. The National Weather Service (NWS) estimates local tributary inflows of 408 cfs. The total system inflows are around 1482 cfs, the outflows at Stratton Dam are 1499 cfs. The Fox Lake stage is 4.21 ft and falling; the Stratton Dam Tailwater stage is 2.53 ft. The Fox River at the Algonquin Dam Tailwater stage is 7.11 ft.

Forecast

Inflows are continuing to drop as shown above in Figure 1. The NWS 7-day forecast is predicting up to 0.5 inches of precipitation for the Fox River watershed as shown on Figure 2. The heaviest rains are forecasted to be on Saturday (0.25”).

Figure 2: Forecasted Precipitation for the Next 7 days (in inches)



Source: [Weather Prediction Center \(WPC\) Home Page \(noaa.gov\)](http://www.weather.gov)

Chain O' Lakes Outlook

Water levels are expected to remain between 4.1 and 4.2' at Lake Villa this weekend based on the forecast. Pending future rainfall forecasts, the lakes are forecasted to remain near the upper level for Summer Pool. This is being done in hopes of providing a more enjoyable boating experience.

McHenry Pool Area Outlook

The Upper River near the McHenry Pool should begin to increase as outflows are being reduced. The rising levels should allow boater's the ability to better navigate from their docks. Water levels are expected to hold near Summer Pool as forecasted rainfall amounts are negligible and inflows continue to drop.

Lower River Outlook

The Stratton Dam gates will be continuously monitored and adjusted to maintain a Stratton tailwater gage reading of 3.0 or below. High stages on the Chain have sufficiently subsided allowing for decreases in lower river levels. The Lower River has now returned to an acceptable level and is currently forecasted to remain steady.

Additional Studies

OWR is currently investigating options and costs to improve the Upper River's ability to move high rates of flow. The purpose of the study is to determine potential solutions that would provide the following benefits:

- Increase the ability to proactively drop water levels in the Chain more efficiently which would decrease peak stages during large rain events.
- Decrease the drawdowns to the McHenry pool area during times of high flow (see current conditions).
- Decrease the peak stage in the lower river by releasing more flow earlier.

This is only a study and does not guarantee future actions.

IDNR-OWR will continue to monitor conditions and will make changes as necessary pending future forecasts and conditions.

Thank you,

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Office of Water Resources

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