



Illinois Department of Natural Resources

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

JB Pritzker, Governor

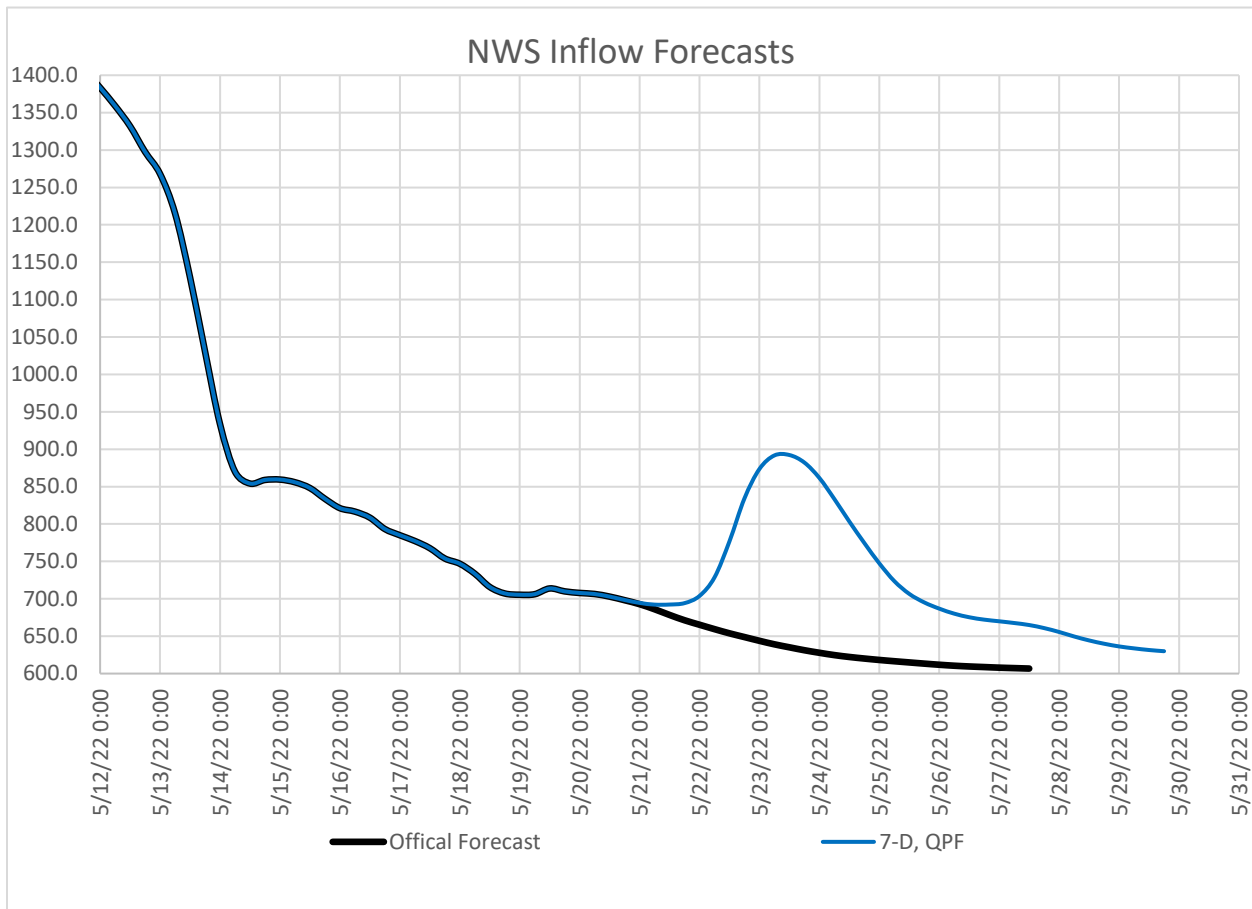
Colleen Callahan, Director

Fox River Status Update May 19, 2022

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

Summary: Current inflows are near 825 cfs with dam outflows near 681 cfs. Water levels are expected to rise to near 4.2 in the Chain and 1.6 in the Lower River based on the forecasted rainfall for Friday and Saturday.

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



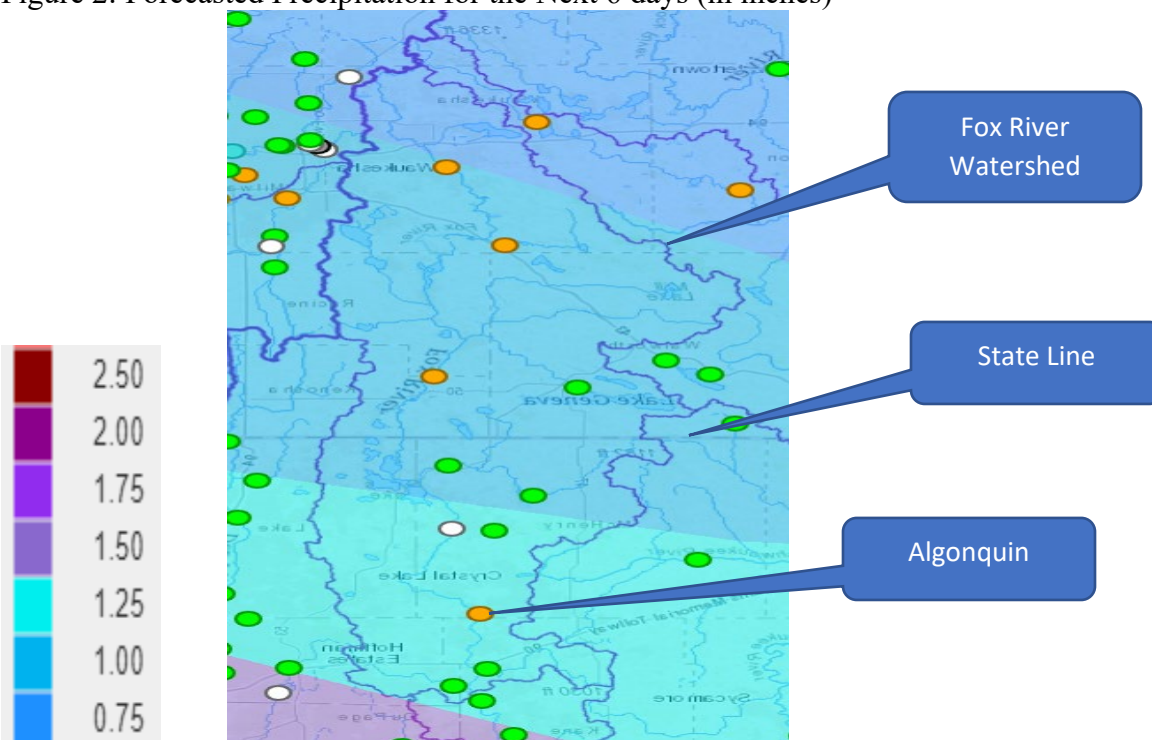
Current Conditions

Measured inflows on the Fox River near New Munster, WI are 421 cfs and Nippersink Creek near Spring Grove are 161 cfs. The National Weather Service (NWS) estimates local tributary inflows of 243 cfs. The total system inflows are around 825 cfs, the outflows at Stratton Dam are 681 cfs. The Fox Lake stage is 4.12 ft; the Stratton Dam Tailwater stage is 1.41 ft. The Fox River at the Algonquin Dam Tailwater stage is 5.50 ft.

Forecast

Inflows are continuing to drop as shown above in Figure 1. The NWS 7-day forecast is predicting up to 1.5 inches of precipitation for the Fox River watershed as shown on Figure 2. The heaviest rains are forecasted to be on Saturday (0.70”).

Figure 2: Forecasted Precipitation for the Next 6 days (in inches)



Source:

<https://viewer.geospatial.weather.gov/general#/layers=35225+40090+40146+40091+42149+42377&x=-88.41196&y=42.20301&z=8.6&panel=layer>

Chain O' Lakes Outlook

Water levels are expected to rise to near 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 in the following 7 days.

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 predicted to hold pool levels near 4.0.

Lower River Outlook

The Stratton Dam gates will be continuously monitored and adjusted to provide Stratton tailwater gage as much flow as possible. With the rainfall amounts forecasted, some water will be retained in the Chain to prolong higher water levels for the Lower River as long as possible.

Additional Studies

Upper River Conveyance Study (*study described in previous updates*) – Conceptual investigation results have been identified show decreased water surface differences between McHenry Pool and Chain of Lakes based on dredging options. Further options are being identified and a limit study report is being compiled.

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

Thank you,

Wes Cattoor, P.E., CFM

Wes.cattoor@illinois.gov

Office of Water Resources

Illinois Department of Natural Resources

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