



# Illinois Department of Natural Resources

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JB Pritzker, Governor

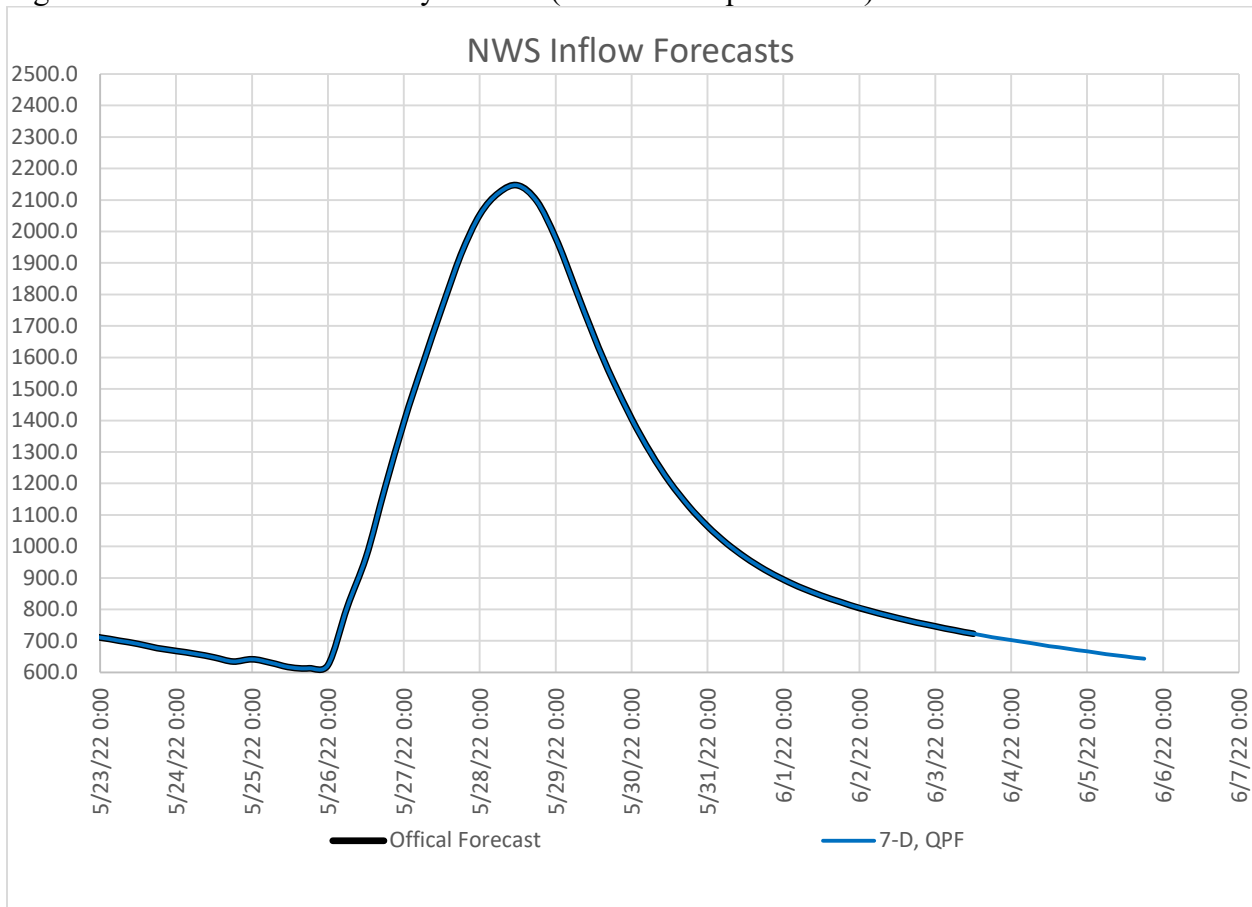
Colleen Callahan, Director

## Fox River Status Update May 26, 2022

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

**Summary: Current inflows are near 1078 cfs with dam outflows near 1820 cfs. Water levels are expected to rise to near 4.4 in the Chain and 2.7 in the Lower River based on the additional forecasted rainfall for Today. The rainfall received should allow for additional water depth through the entire system. All areas are expected to remain unrestricted and be great boating conditions for all during the holiday weekend.**

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



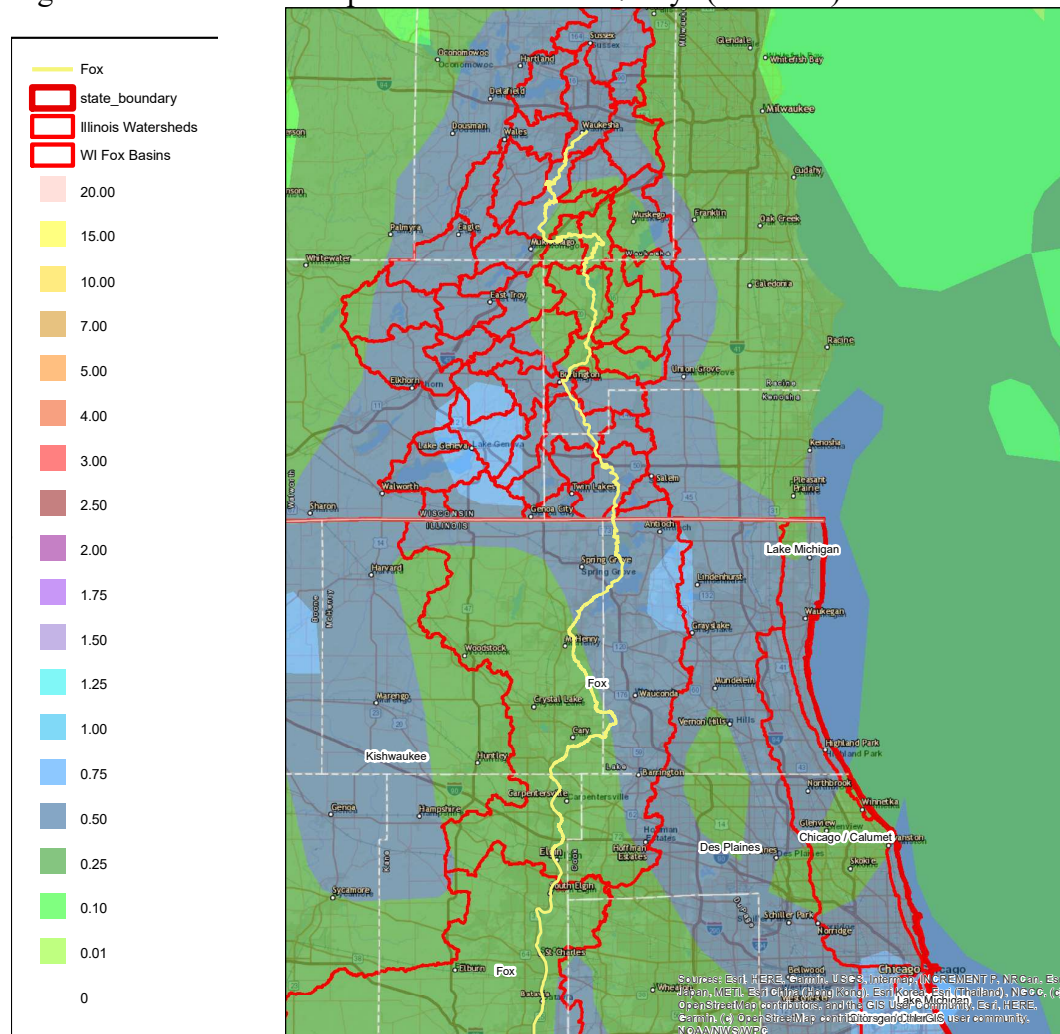
## Current Conditions

Measured inflows on the Fox River near New Munster, WI are 569 cfs and Nippersink Creek near Spring Grove are 294 cfs. The National Weather Service (NWS) estimates local tributary inflows of 215 cfs. The total system inflows are around 1078 cfs, the outflows at Stratton Dam are 1619 cfs. The Fox Lake stage is 4.36 ft; the Stratton Dam Tailwater stage is 2.29 ft. The Fox River at the Algonquin Dam Tailwater stage is 7.19 ft.

## Forecast

Inflows are forecasted to peak on Saturday at near 2300 cfs as shown above in Figure 1. The NWS 7-day forecast is predicting up to 0.75 inches of precipitation for the Fox River watershed as shown on Figure 2. The heaviest rains are forecasted to be Today (0.5"). The Chain O'Lakes is expected to crest Sunday below 4.4.

Figure 2: Forecasted Precipitation for the Next 7 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 4.4' at Lake Villa this weekend based on the forecast. Pending future rainfall forecasts, the lakes are forecasted to peak on Sunday and then return to Summer Pool levels as early as Monday evening.

**McHenry Pool Area Outlook**

The Upper River near the McHenry Pool should range between 3.9 to 4.1 as the received rainfall moves through the system. The rising levels should peak on Sunday as well. This will allow boater's the ability to better navigate from their docks. Water levels are expected to mirror the lakes for the upcoming week.

**Lower River Outlook**

With the rainfall amounts received, the gates on the dam were lowered. This will allow for more depth on the Lower River without achieving No Wake conditions. The Stratton Dam tailwater is expected to remain between 2.5 and 2.7 for the weekend. The gates will be continuously monitored and adjusted to provide the Lower River excess flow to drop levels while providing optimum boating conditions.

**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,

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Office of Water Resources

Illinois Department of Natural Resources

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

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