



# Illinois Department of Natural Resources

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JB Pritzker, Governor

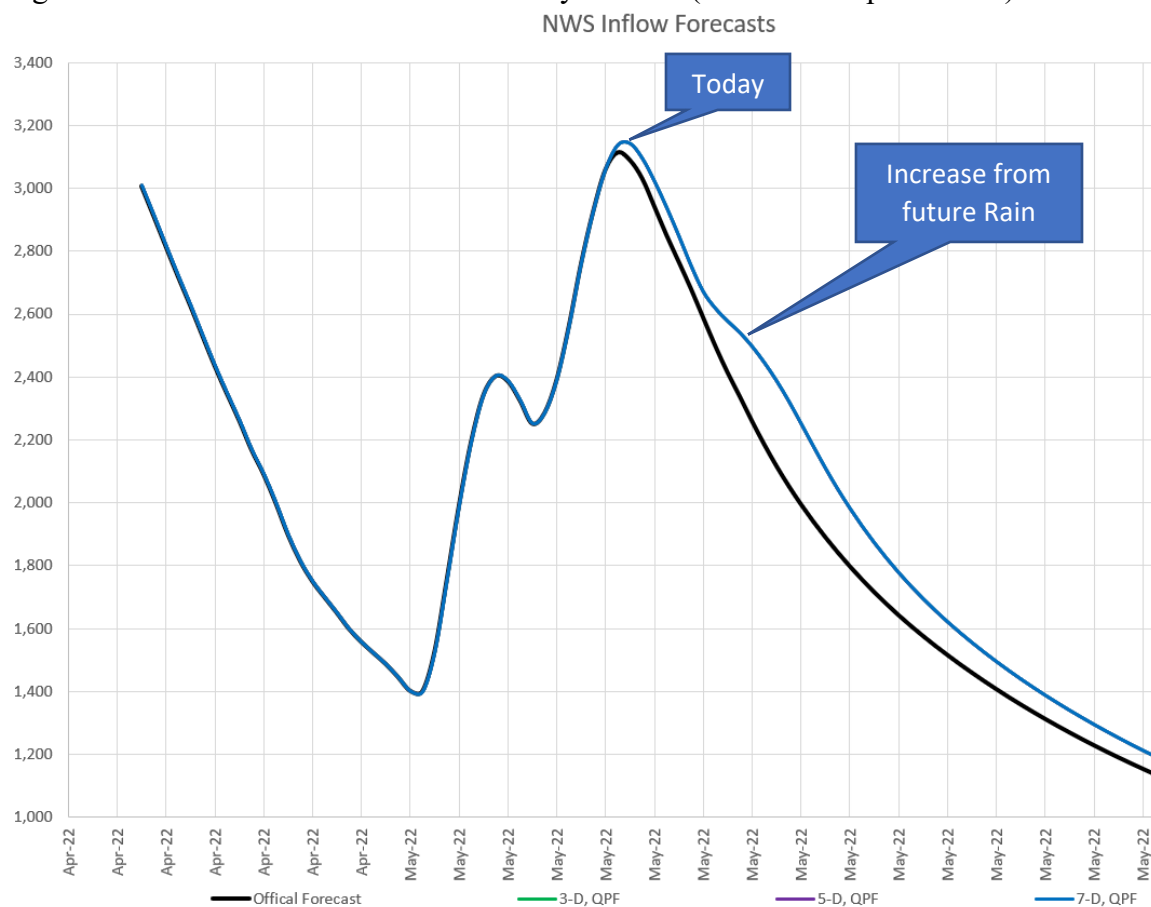
Colleen Callahan, Director

## Fox River Status Update May 5, 2022

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

**Summary: Current inflows are peaking near 3150 cfs with dam outflows near 2550 cfs. Water levels are expected to reach out of bank low lying areas in both the Chain and Lower River. Lake levels will be near 4.75 on Saturday. Lower River Stages will remain below 3.8. Areas near the McHenry pool will experience low levels while moving high rates of water through the system.**

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



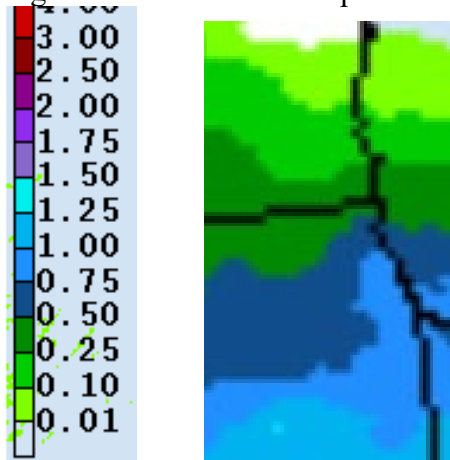
### Current Conditions

Measured inflows on the Fox River near New Munster, WI are 1900 cfs and Nippersink Creek near Spring Grove are 614 cfs. The National Weather Service (NWS) estimates local tributary inflows of 576 cfs. The total system inflows are around 3240 cfs, the outflows at Stratton Dam are 2538 cfs. The Fox Lake stage is 4.44 ft and climbing; the Stratton Dam Tailwater stage is 3.63 ft. The Fox River at the Algonquin Dam Tailwater stage is 8.86 ft.

### Forecast

Inflows are forecasted to peak today 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 Friday (0.3”).

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 peak around 4.75' at Lake Villa on Saturday based on the forecast. Pending future rainfall forecasts, the lakes may reach normal pool the following weekend. Water is being removed from the Chain at high rates to reduce potential out of bank impacts.

### McHenry Pool Area Outlook

The Upper River near the McHenry Pool are experiencing low stages due to high rates of water being moved out of the Chain O' Lakes. The drawdown is caused by the limitation of the upper river to move these high rates of flow. Levels may hinder boater's ability to navigate from their docks. Water levels are expected to slowly increase until suitable levels are reached in the Chain, then water levels will increase at higher rates up to summer pool.

### Lower River Outlook

The Stratton Dam gates will be continuously monitored and adjusted to maintain a Stratton tailwater gage reading of 3.8 or below. Pending rainfall, water levels will slowly drop once peak

stages on the Chain have passed and will significantly drop once high stages on the Chain have sufficiently subsided.

### **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

Illinois Department of Natural Resources

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