



# Illinois Department of Natural Resources

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JB Pritzker, Governor

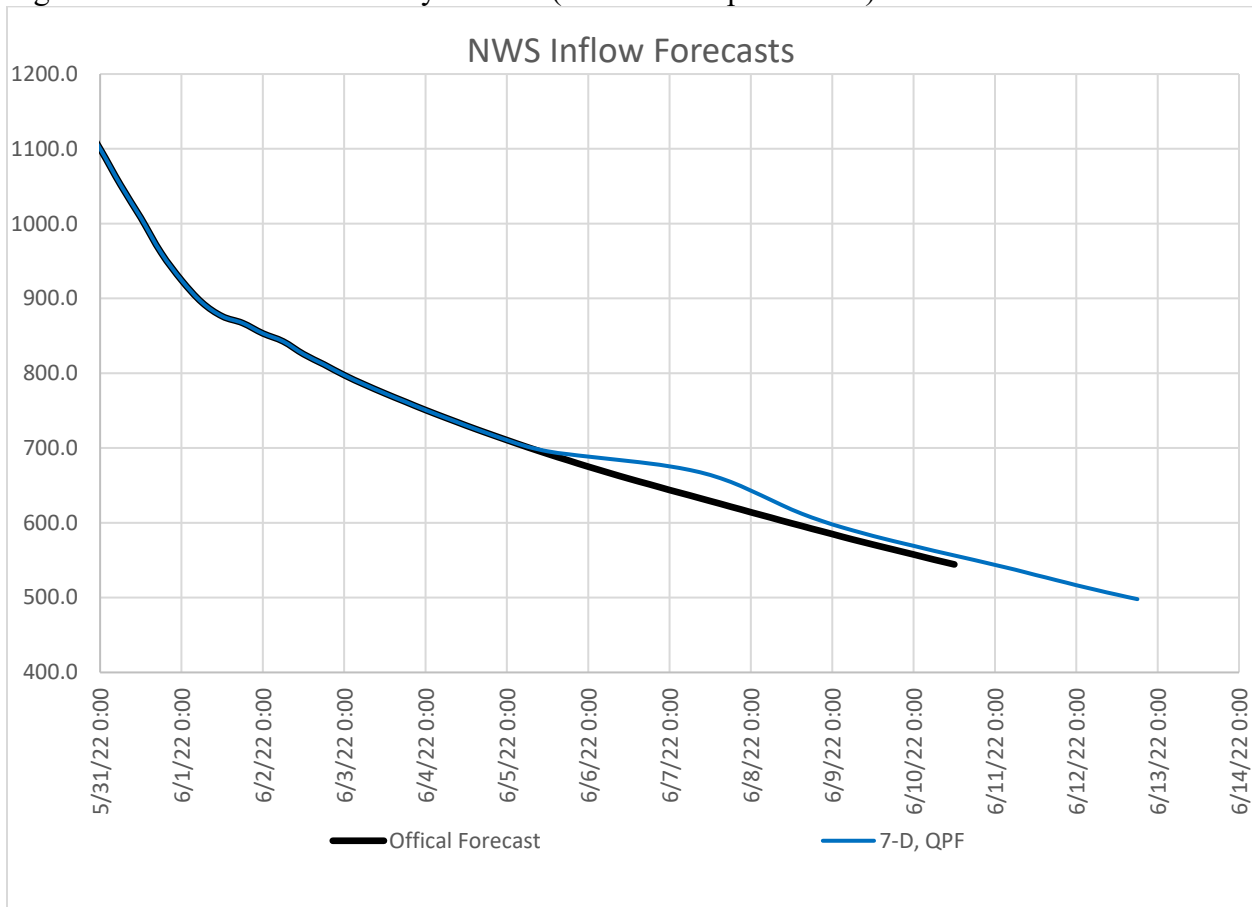
Colleen Callahan, Director

## Fox River Status Update June 02, 2022

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

**Summary: The Fox River and Chain of Lakes are currently experiencing dry conditions that are predicted to continue for the next 7 days. Current inflows are near 825 cfs with dam outflows near 809 cfs. Water levels are expected to hold near 4.15 in the Chain and 1.6 in the Lower River based on the forecast. The lack of forecasted inflows and rainfall will require raising of the gates to maintain acceptable water levels in the chain.**

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



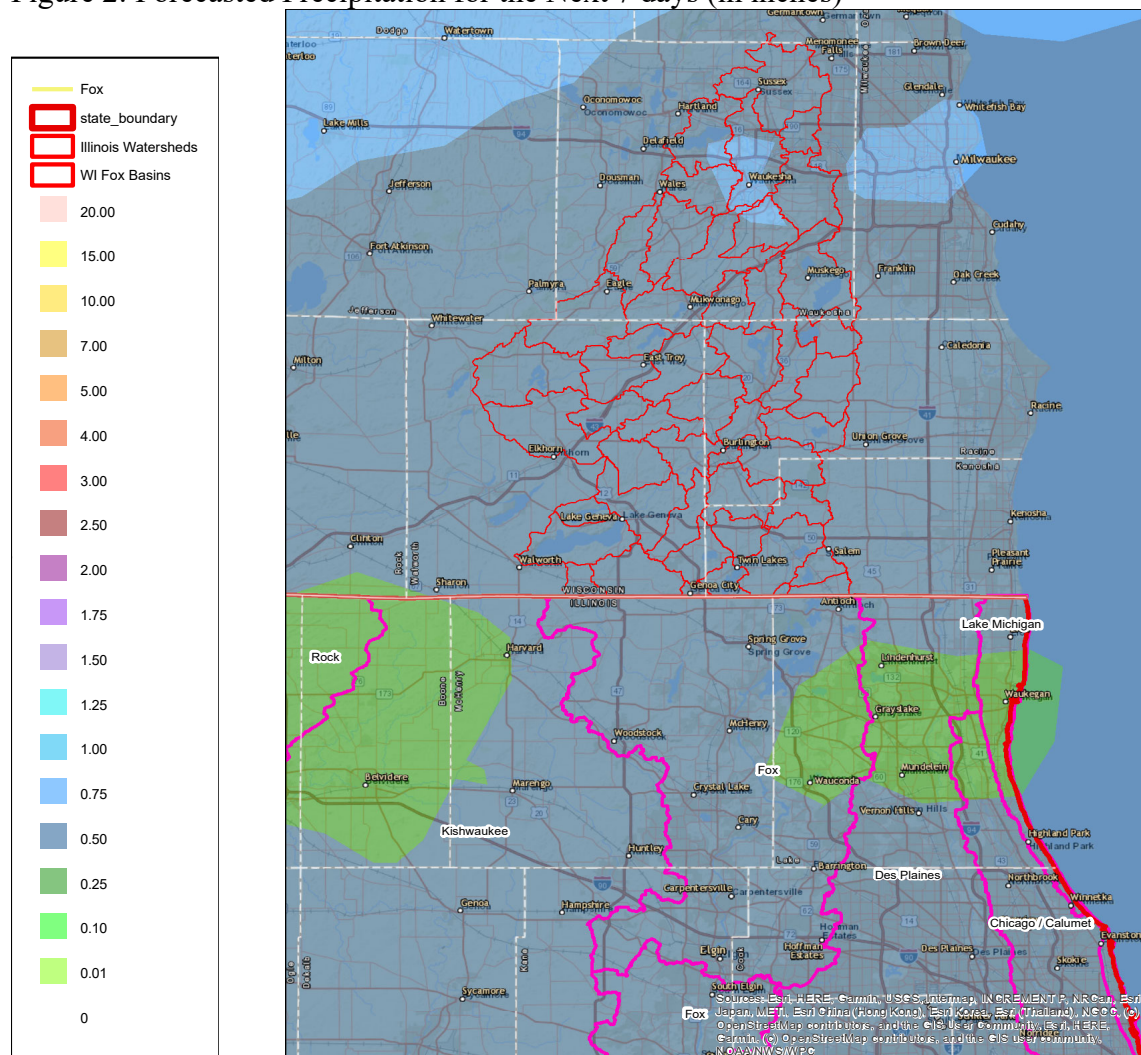
## Current Conditions

Measured inflows on the Fox River near New Munster, WI are 514 cfs and Nippersink Creek near Spring Grove are 153 cfs. The National Weather Service (NWS) estimates local tributary inflows of 158 cfs. The total system inflows are around 825 cfs; the outflows at Stratton Dam are 809 cfs. The Fox Lake stage is 4.13 ft; the Stratton Dam Tailwater stage is 1.72 ft. The Fox River at the Algonquin Dam Tailwater stage is 6.10 ft.

## Forecast

Inflows are forecasted to continue to drop as shown above in Figure 1. The NWS 7-day forecast is predicting up to 0.50 inches of precipitation for the Fox River watershed as shown on Figure 2. The heaviest rains are forecasted to be Saturday (.15"). The Chain O'Lakes is expected to hold steady near 4.15.

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 hold near 4.15' at Lake Villa this weekend based on the forecast. Pending future rainfall forecasts, the lakes are forecasted to remain at this level for the upcoming week.

**McHenry Pool Area Outlook**

The Upper River near the McHenry Pool should stay near 4.0 for the upcoming week as gates are adjusted to balance outflows with the forecasted inflows.

**Lower River Outlook**

Due to the lack of inflow and predicted precipitation, the gates at Stratton Dam had to be raised. This will cause the tailwater drop to near 1.60 and the gate at Algonquin was raised to keep as much water in the lower river as possible. The gates will be continuously monitored and adjusted to provide the Lower River maximum available flow.

**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. Currently cost/benefit analysis is being conducted to investigate viability. Further options are being identified based on refinements 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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