



Illinois Department of Natural Resources

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JB Pritzker, Governor

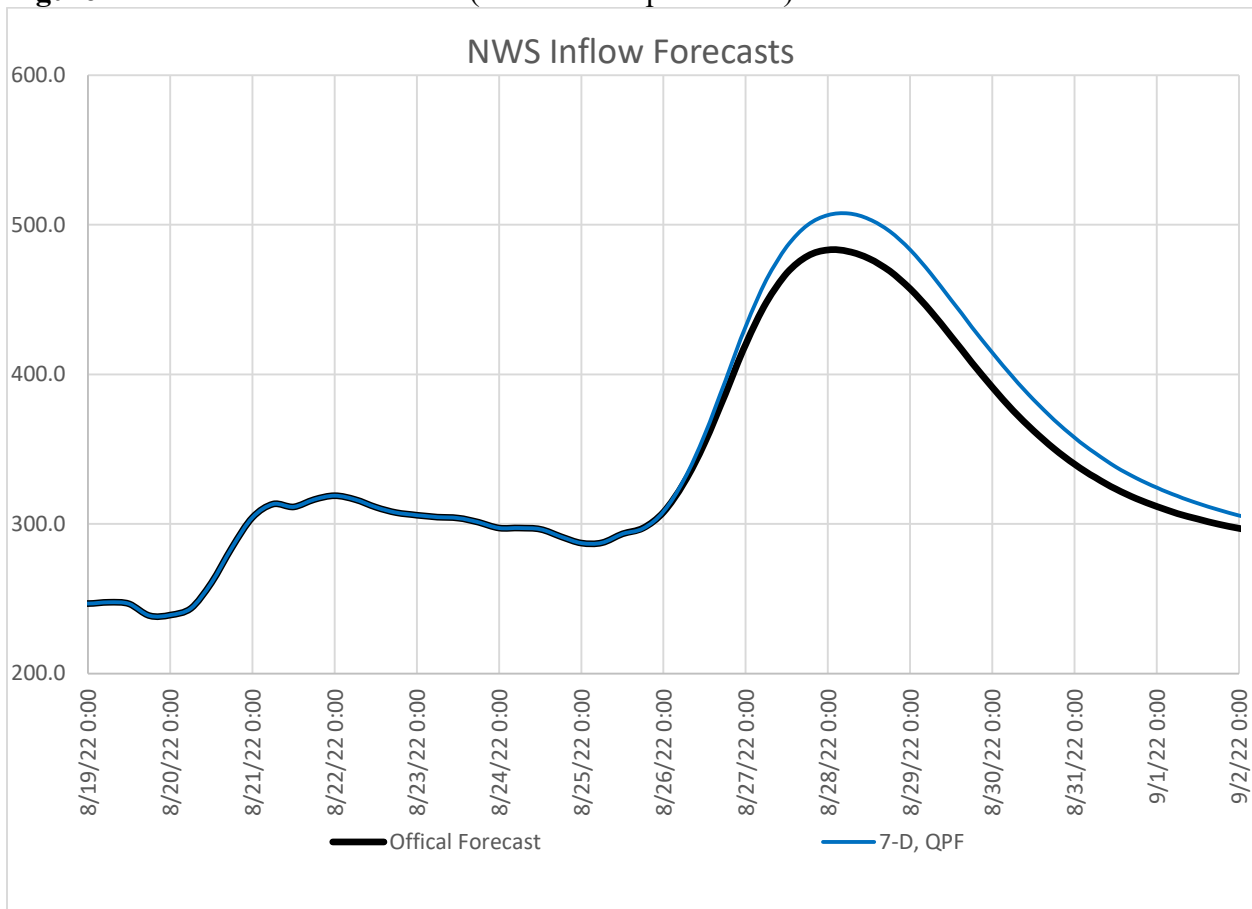
Colleen Callahan, Director

Fox River Status Update August 25, 2022

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

Summary: Currently there is near 0.25” of rainfall forecasted in the watershed for the next 7 days. The system is still in low flow conditions for now, with inflows just above 300 cfs. They are currently forecasted to increase to near 500 cfs. This will allow the gates to be lowered slightly to help increase the tailwater elevation.

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



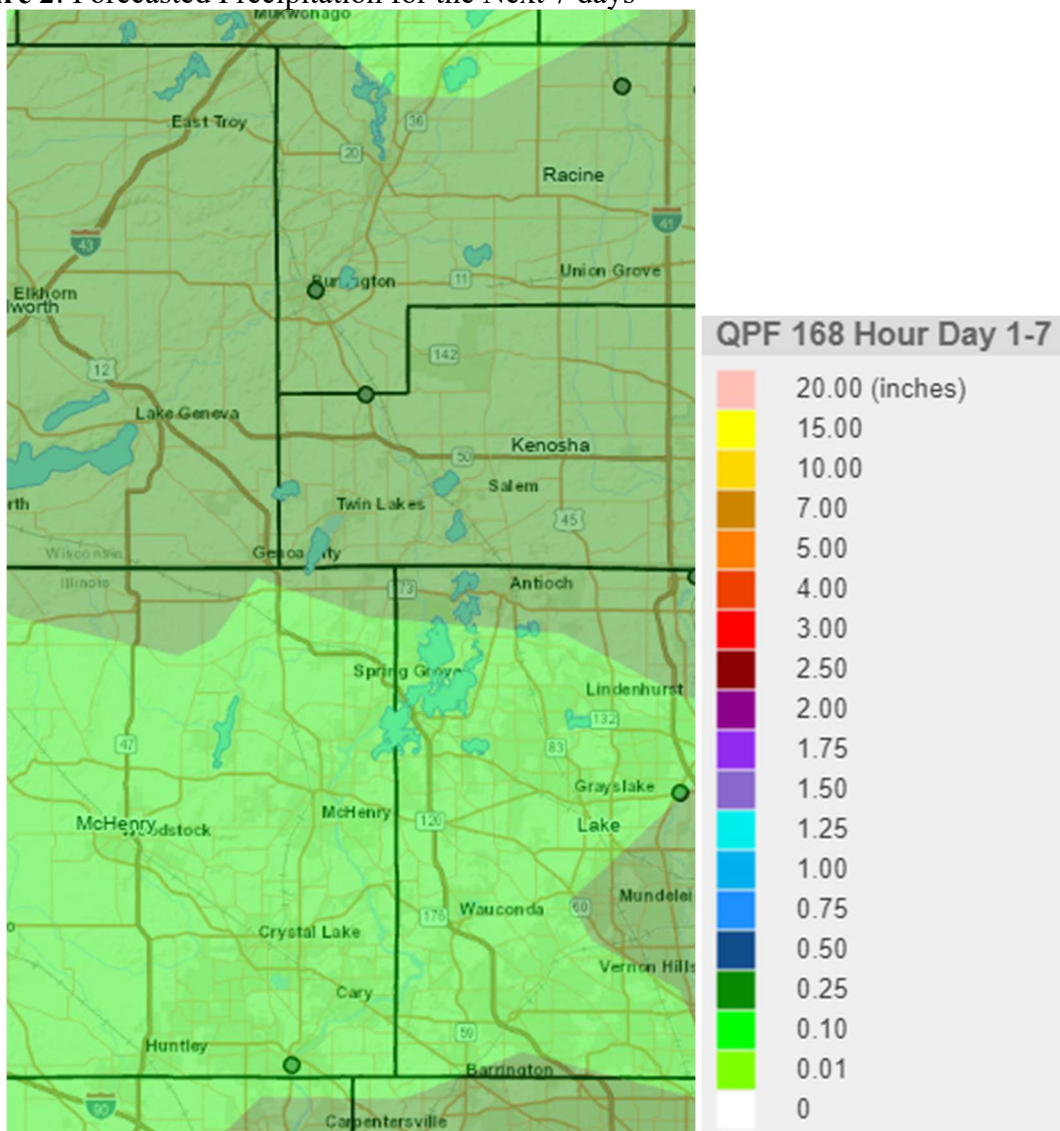
Current Conditions

Measured flow on the Fox River near New Munster, WI is 206 cfs and Nippersink Creek near Spring Grove is 69 cfs. The National Weather Service (NWS) estimates local tributary inflows of 19 cfs. The total net system inflows are 303 cfs with the minimum required outflow at 199 cfs; the outflows at Stratton Dam are 411 cfs. The Fox Lake stage is 4.20 ft; the Stratton Dam Tailwater stage is 0.58 ft. The Fox River at the Algonquin Dam headwater stage is 1.40 ft.

Forecast

Inflows are forecasted to receive a boost due to the rain in the upper most portion of the watershed, as shown above in **Figure 1**. The NWS 7-day forecast is predicting near 0.25” of precipitation for the Fox River watershed as shown on **Figure 2**. The Chain O’Lakes is forecasted increase slightly to 4.18’.

Figure 2: Forecasted Precipitation for the Next 7 days



Source: <https://dashboard.waterdata.usgs.gov/>

Chain O' Lakes Outlook

Water levels are expected to hold near 4.18' after the current and forecasted rainfall. The outflows will be adjusted to maintain this level for as long as possible.

McHenry Pool Area Outlook

The Upper River near the McHenry Pool will be roughly the same as the lakes but a slightly lower elevation.

Lower River Outlook

Since inflows to the system are expected to climb as the rain in the northern portion of the watershed reaches the system, as shown in **Figure 1**, the lower river will rise slightly over the next week.

Drought Forecast

The Fox River watershed in Kenosha and Racine counties in Wisconsin are slowly exiting the abnormally dry conditions due to current rainfall amounts. The rain will help to boost inflows for a short period of time.

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>