



Fox River Status Update May 25th, 2023

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

Summary

There is currently no rain forecasted for the next seven days. Flow at New Munster is currently at 45% of the median and Nippersink Creek is 61% of the median for this date. Conditions on the lower river are going to be low and are expected to get worse.

Current Conditions and NWS Forecasts

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

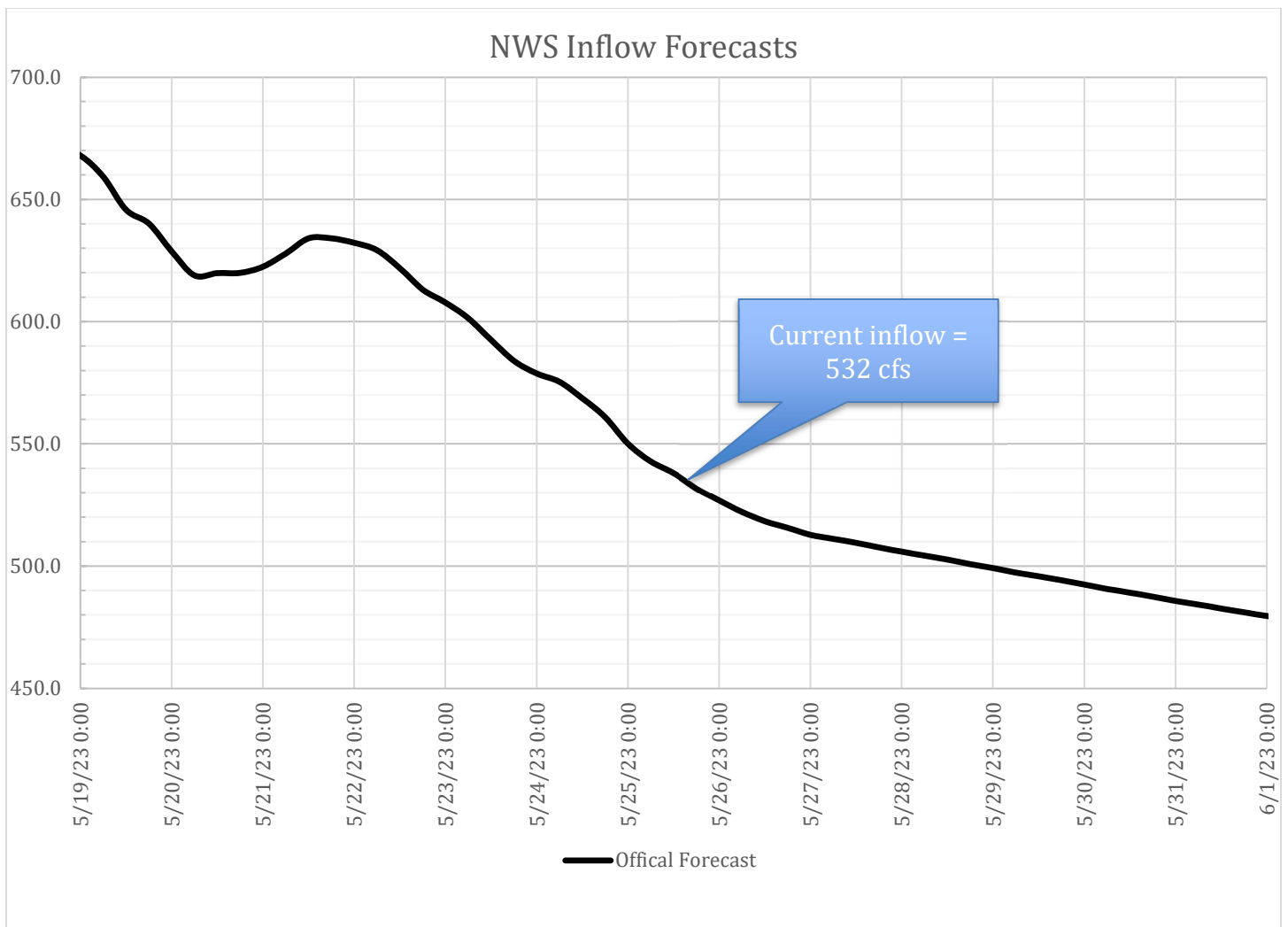
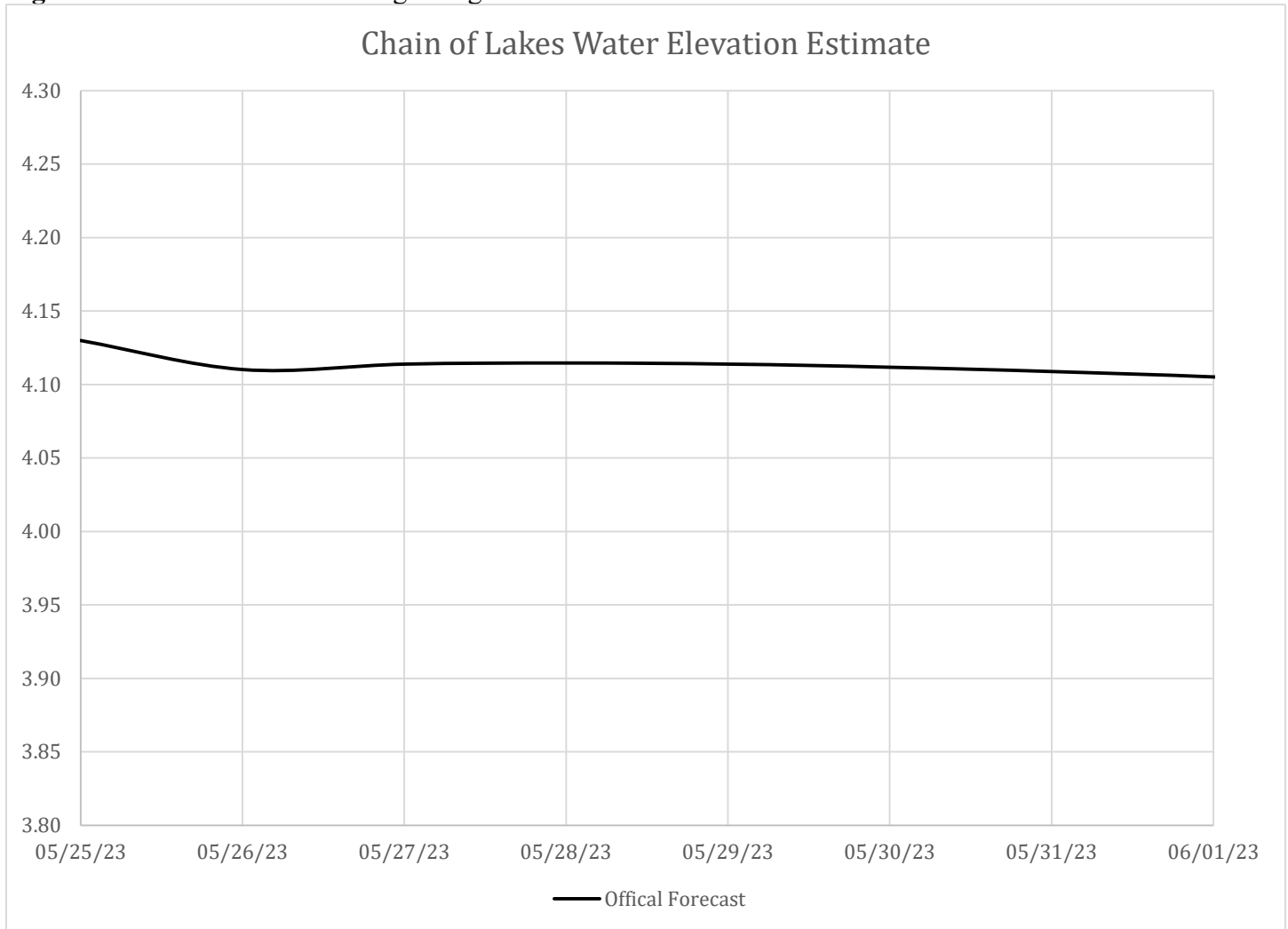


Figure 2: Estimated Fox Lake Gage Height



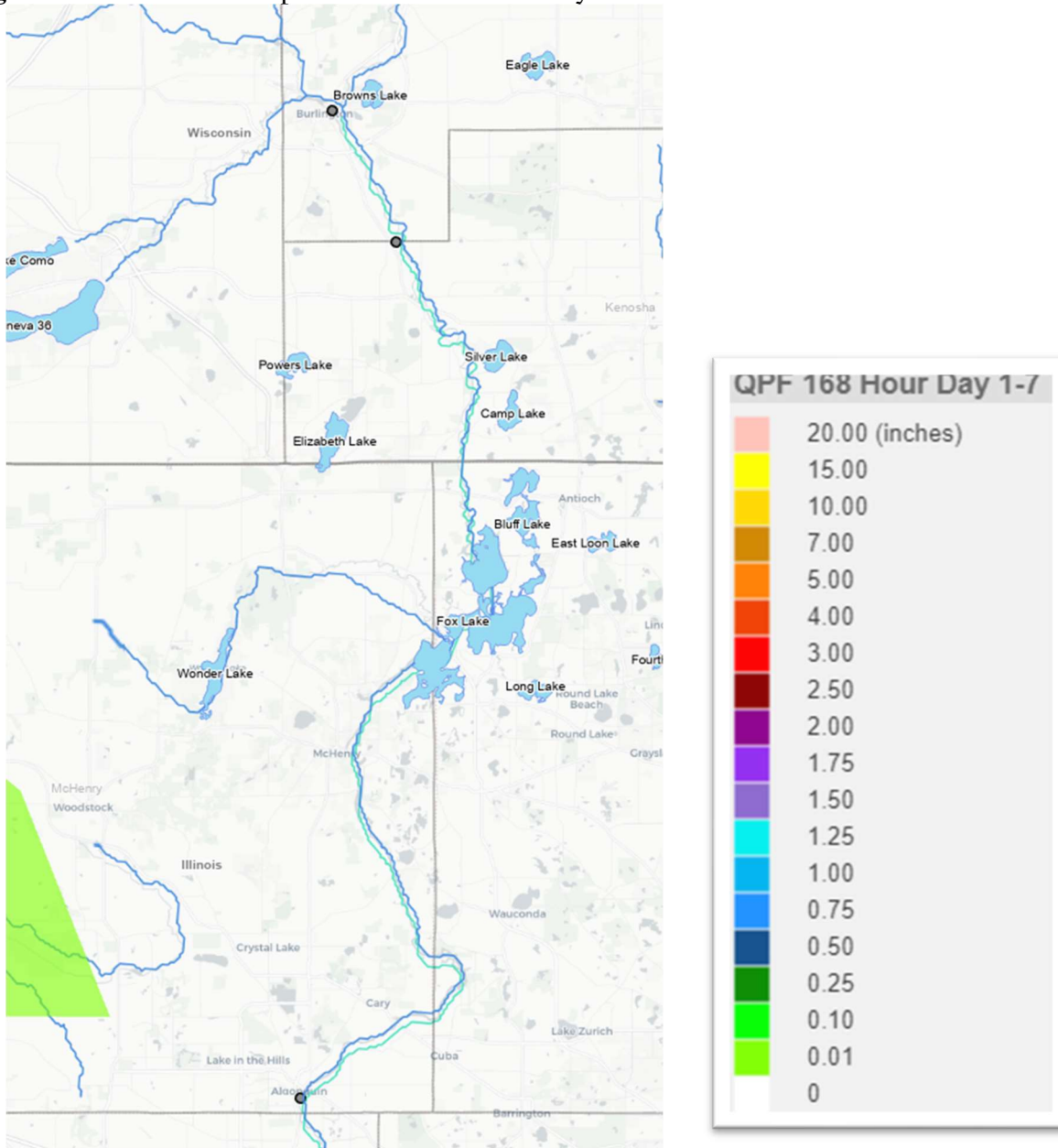
Current Conditions

Measured flow on the Fox River near New Munster, WI is 352 cfs and Nippersink Creek near Spring Grove is 91 cfs. The total net system inflows are 550 cfs; the outflows at Stratton Dam are 600 cfs. The Fox Lake stage is 4.13 ft; the Stratton Dam Tailwater stage is 1.08 ft. The Fox River at the Algonquin Dam headwater stage is 1.55 ft.

Forecast

Inflows are slowly decreasing, as shown above in **Figure 1**. Fox Lake and all areas of the system are holding steady shown above in **Figure 2**. The NWS 7-day forecast is predicting 0 inches of precipitation for the Fox River watershed as shown on **Figure 3**.

Figure 3: Forecasted Precipitation for the Next 7 days



Source:

<https://viewer.weather.noaa.gov/general#/layers=35225+40090+40146+40091+42149+42377+40134&x=-88.48082&y=42.38798&z=9.6&panel=layer>

System Outlook

Chain O' Lakes Outlook

Water levels are expected to hold near the current level for the forecast provided.

McHenry Pool Area Outlook

Water levels are expected to hold near the current level for the forecast provided.

Lower River Outlook

The Lower River should expect conditions to worsen without any rain in the forecast. Caution should be used while navigating the lower river.

U.S Drought Monitor (This week vs. Last Week)

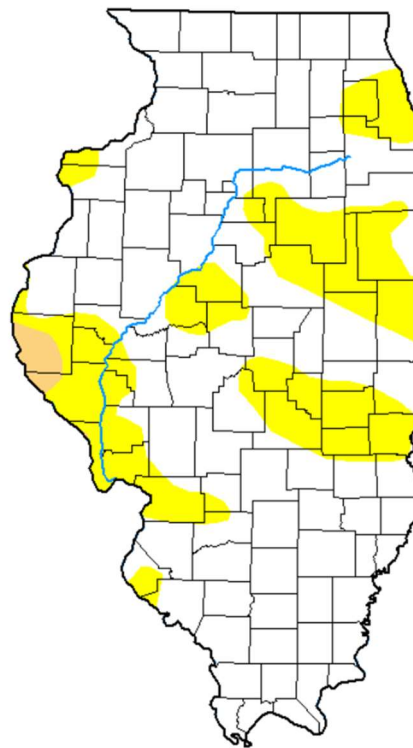
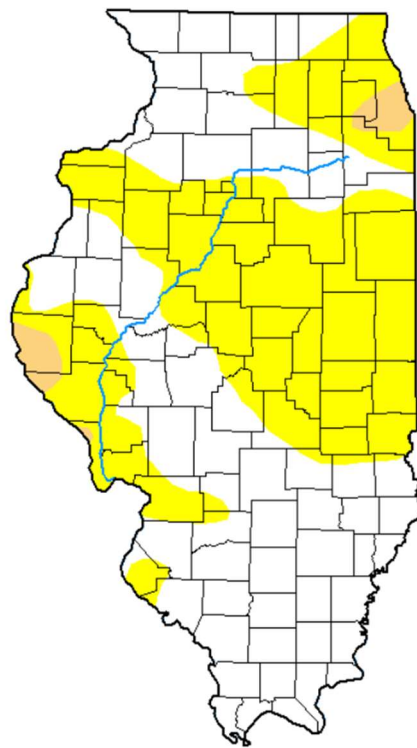
As can be seen in the images below, Northeastern Illinois is being increasingly impacted from the lack of precipitation. With no rain currently forecasted for the next 7 days, it would be expected to see the size and intensity increase. This will mean lower inflows and reducing outflows from the dam; further reducing water levels on the lower river.

This Week's

Last Week's

U.S. Drought Monitor Illinois

U.S. Drought Monitor Illinois



May 23, 2023

(Released Thursday, May. 25, 2023)

Valid 8 a.m. EDT

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	52.03	47.97	2.20	0.00	0.00	0.00
Last Week 05-16-2023	73.68	26.32	1.10	0.00	0.00	0.00
3 Months Ago 02-21-2023	91.42	8.58	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Start of Calendar Year 01-03-2023	35.34	64.66	3.98	0.00	0.00	0.00
Start of Water Year 09-27-2022	65.33	34.67	8.15	0.00	0.00	0.00
One Year Ago 05-24-2022	90.67	9.33	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Intensity:

None	D2 Severe Drought
D0 Abnormally Dry	D3 Extreme Drought
D1 Moderate Drought	D4 Exceptional Drought

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. For more information on the Drought Monitor, go to <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.aspx>

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

Thank you,

Aaron Rotherham
Office of Water Resources
Illinois Department of Natural Resources

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