



Fox River Status Update
June 15th, 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. The recent rains were not enough to provide any relief from the drought. Based on the current forecasts, it is expected that the dry conditions will worsen.

Current Conditions and NWS Forecasts

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

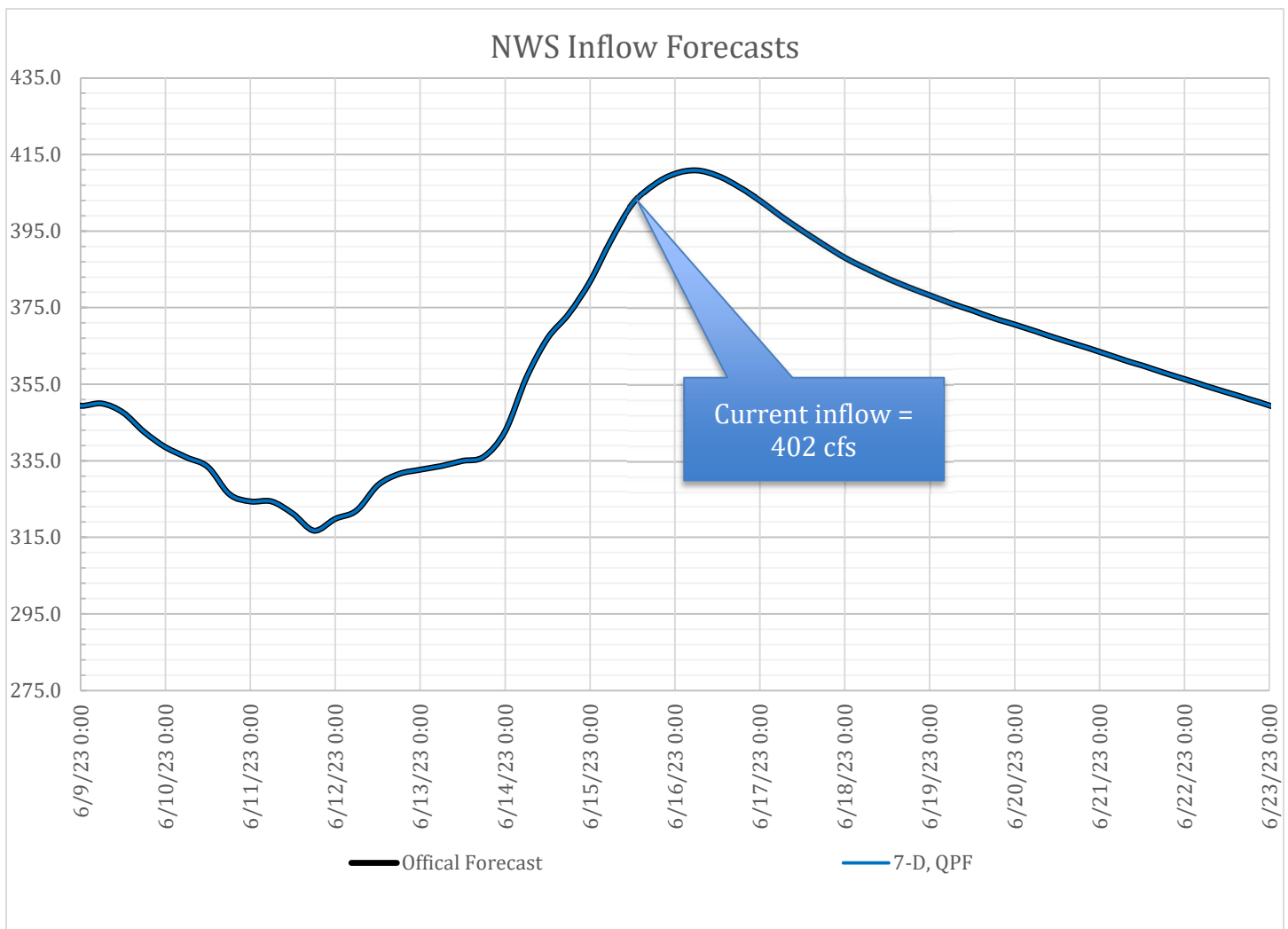
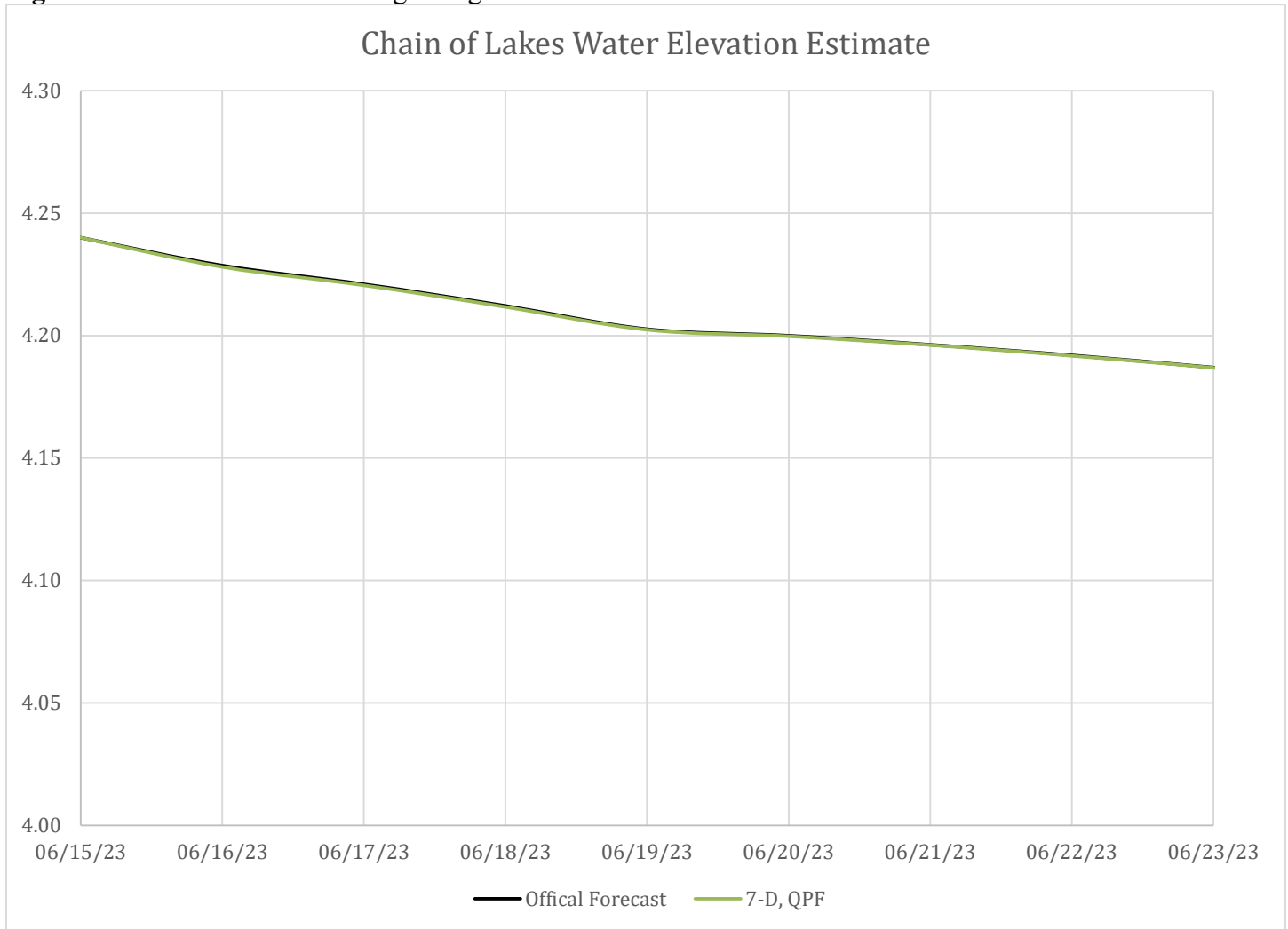


Figure 2: Estimated Fox Lake Gage Height



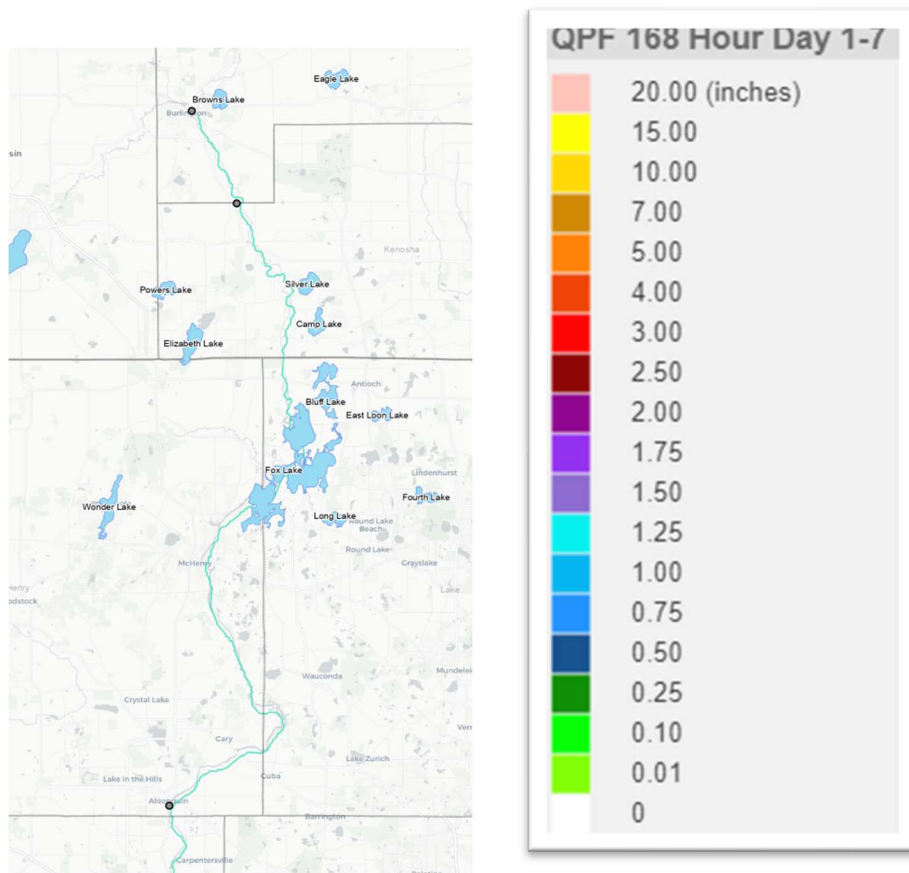
Current Conditions

Measured flow on the Fox River near New Munster, WI is 278 cfs and Nippersink Creek near Spring Grove is at 78 cfs. The total net system inflows are 405 cfs; the outflows at Stratton Dam are 411 cfs. The Fox Lake stage is 4.24 ft; the Stratton Dam Tailwater stage is 0.77 ft. The Fox River at the Algonquin Dam headwater stage is 1.34 ft.

Forecast

Inflows are seeing a slight increase from the rainfall but will quickly drop off, as shown above in **Figure 1**. Fox Lake and all areas upstream of the dam are holding fairly steady shown above in **Figure 2**. The NWS 7-day forecast is predicting NO 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.

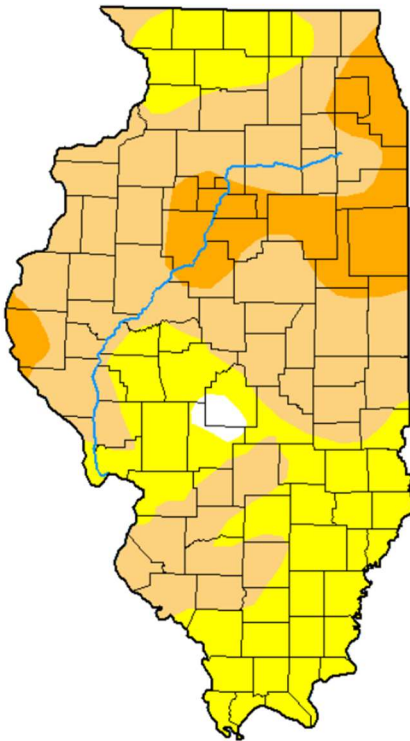
Lower River Outlook

The Lower River has seen no measurable increase in water levels from the rain that was received during the past week. The dam is being adjusted to match outflows with system inflows as closely as possible. Unfortunately, inflows are approximately half of what is typical for this time of year and are expected to drop further.

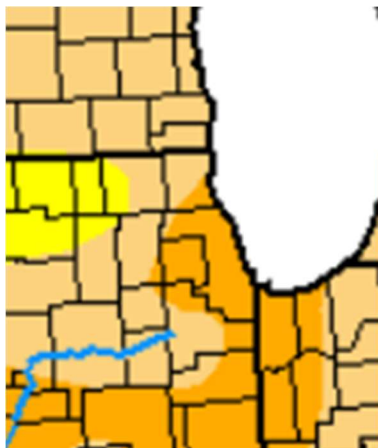
U.S Drought Monitor (This week vs. Last Week)

The 0.8" of rain received in the area for the last 7-Days has had a minimal impact on the water levels for the system. As seen below, drought conditions are worsening across the area. The included 30-Day forecast is currently predicting less than 25% of the normal rainfall for the watershed. Given this information, expectations are extremely low for any improvement.

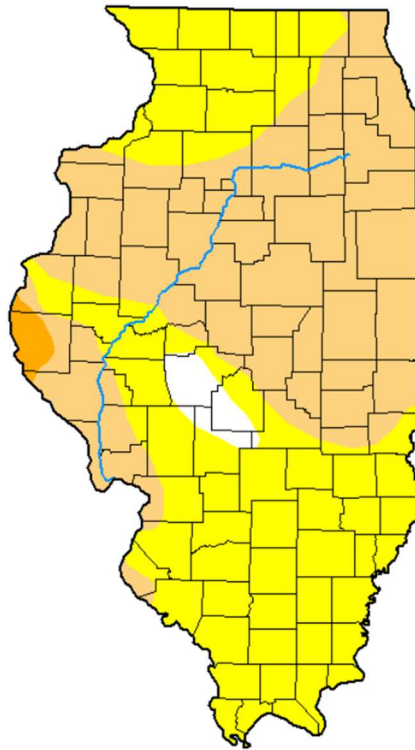
This Week's
U.S. Drought Monitor
Illinois



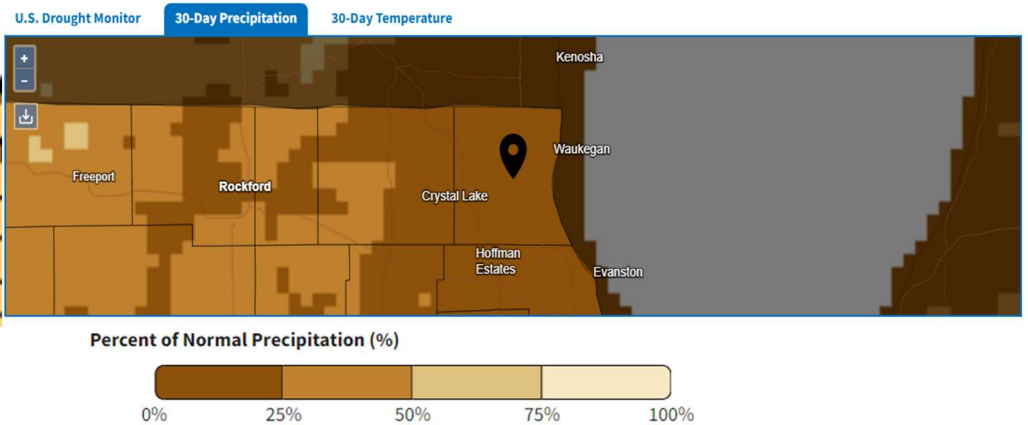
Chain Watershed



Last Week's
U.S. Drought Monitor
Illinois



30-Day Precipitation Forecast



June 13, 2023
(Released Thursday, Jun. 15, 2023)
Valid 8 a.m. EDT

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	0.88	99.12	64.99	14.68	0.00	0.00
Last Week 06-06-2023	2.26	97.74	50.11	1.08	0.00	0.00
3 Months Ago 03-14-2023	100.00	0.00	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 06-14-2022	82.71	17.29	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Intensity:

- None
- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Moderate Drought
- D2 Severe Drought
- D3 Extreme 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>