



Fox River Status Update
June 22nd, 2023

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

Summary

There is currently just over 0.25” of rain forecasted for the Lakes during the next seven days. Based on the 7 Day Inflow forecast, this will have no impact on the water levels in the system. Severe drought conditions have moved into the central portion of the watershed. Lacking a substantial rainfall event, the Lakes and Upper River will begin to start experiencing the effects of the drought.

Current Conditions and NWS Forecasts

Figure 1: NWS Forecasted Inflows

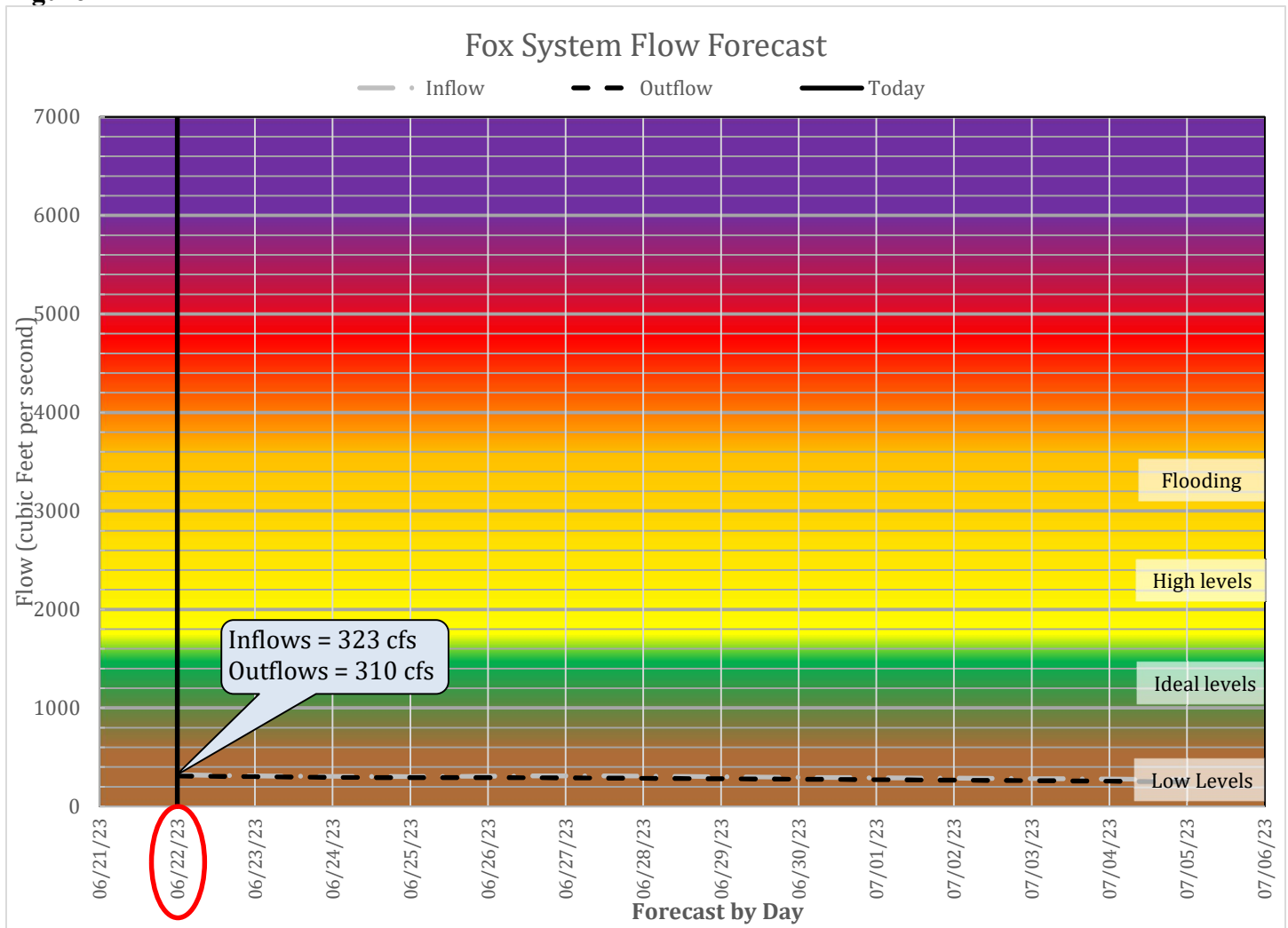


Figure 2: Estimated Upstream Gage Heights

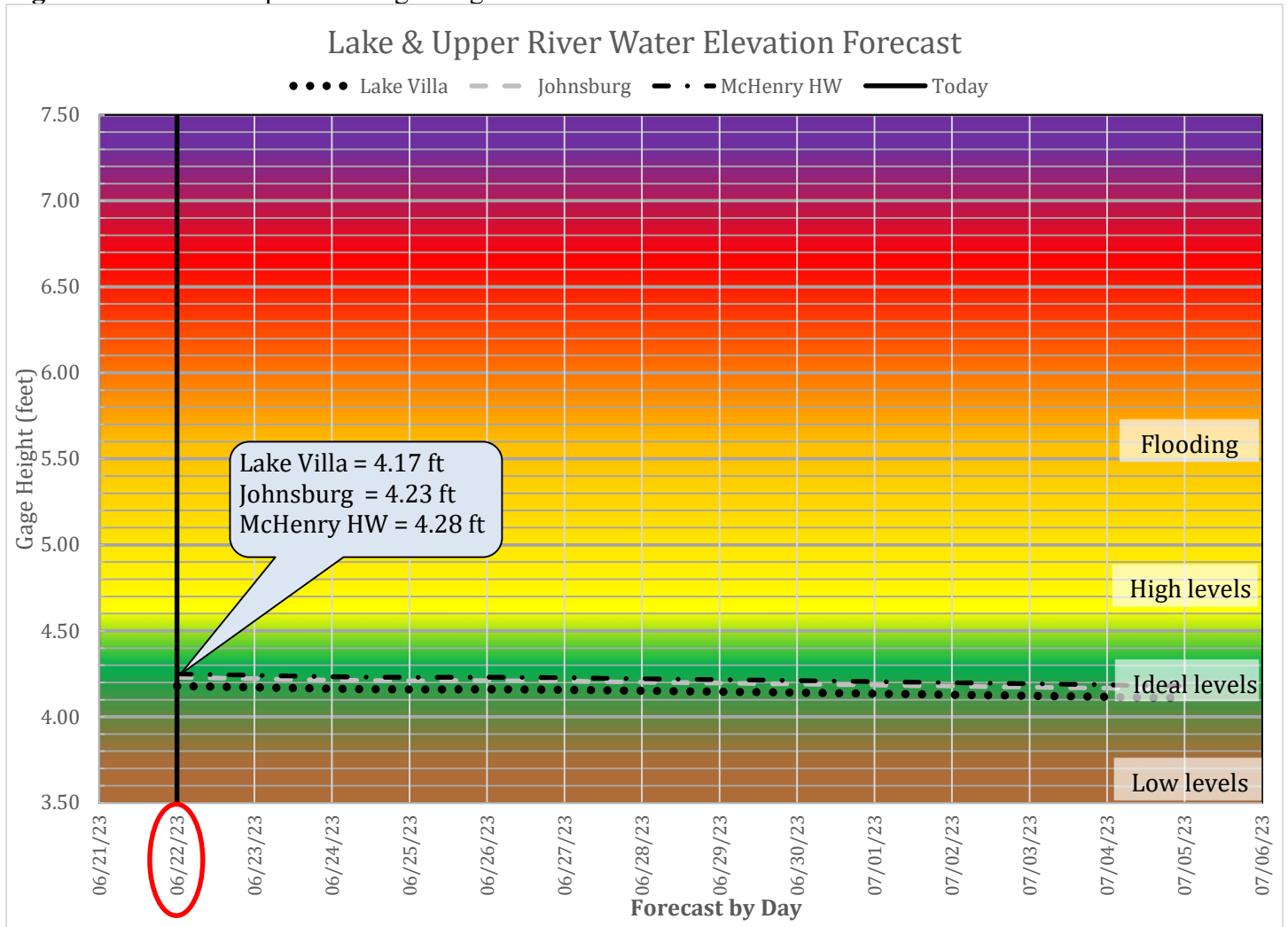
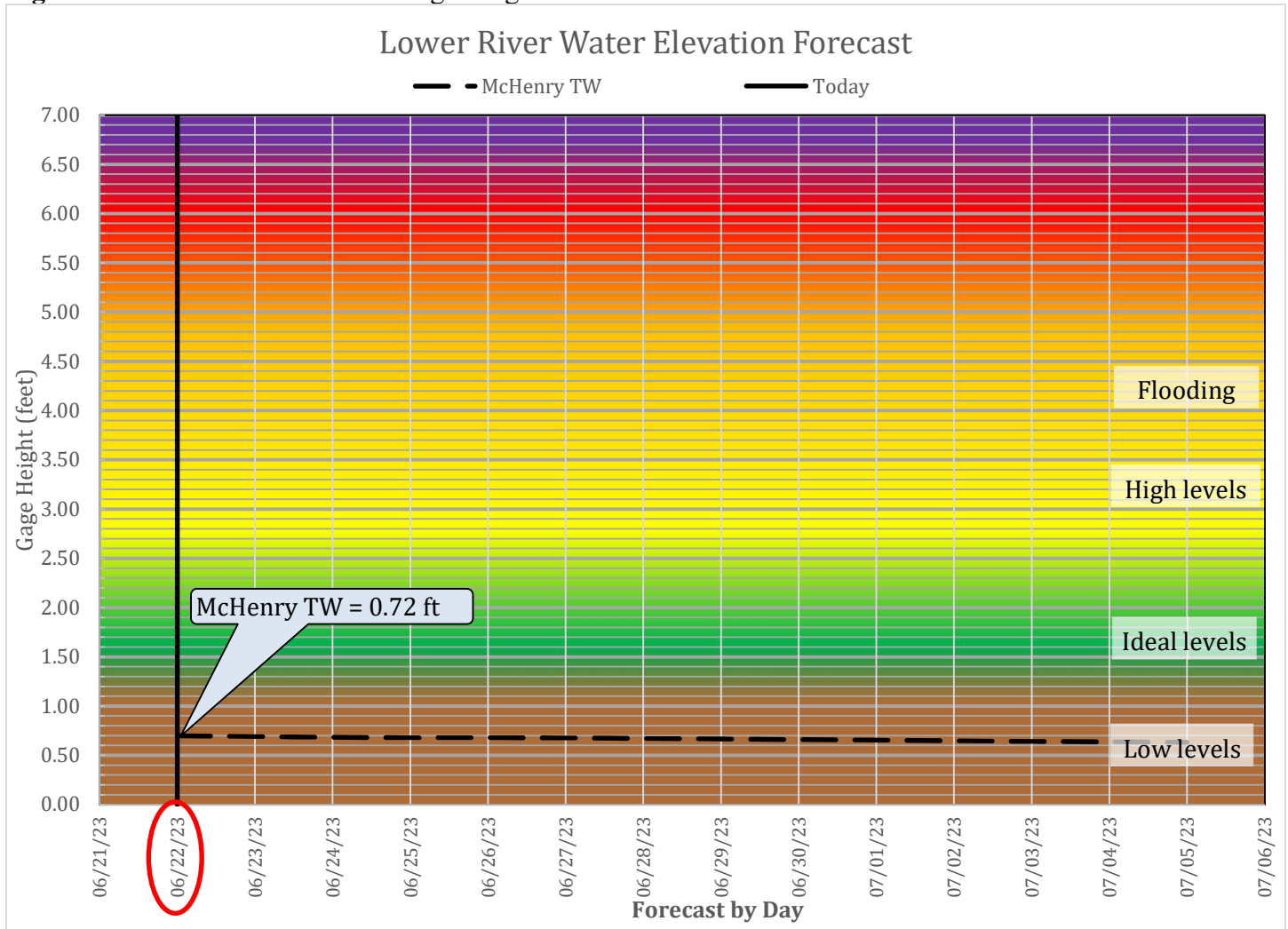


Figure 3: Estimated Downstream Gage Height



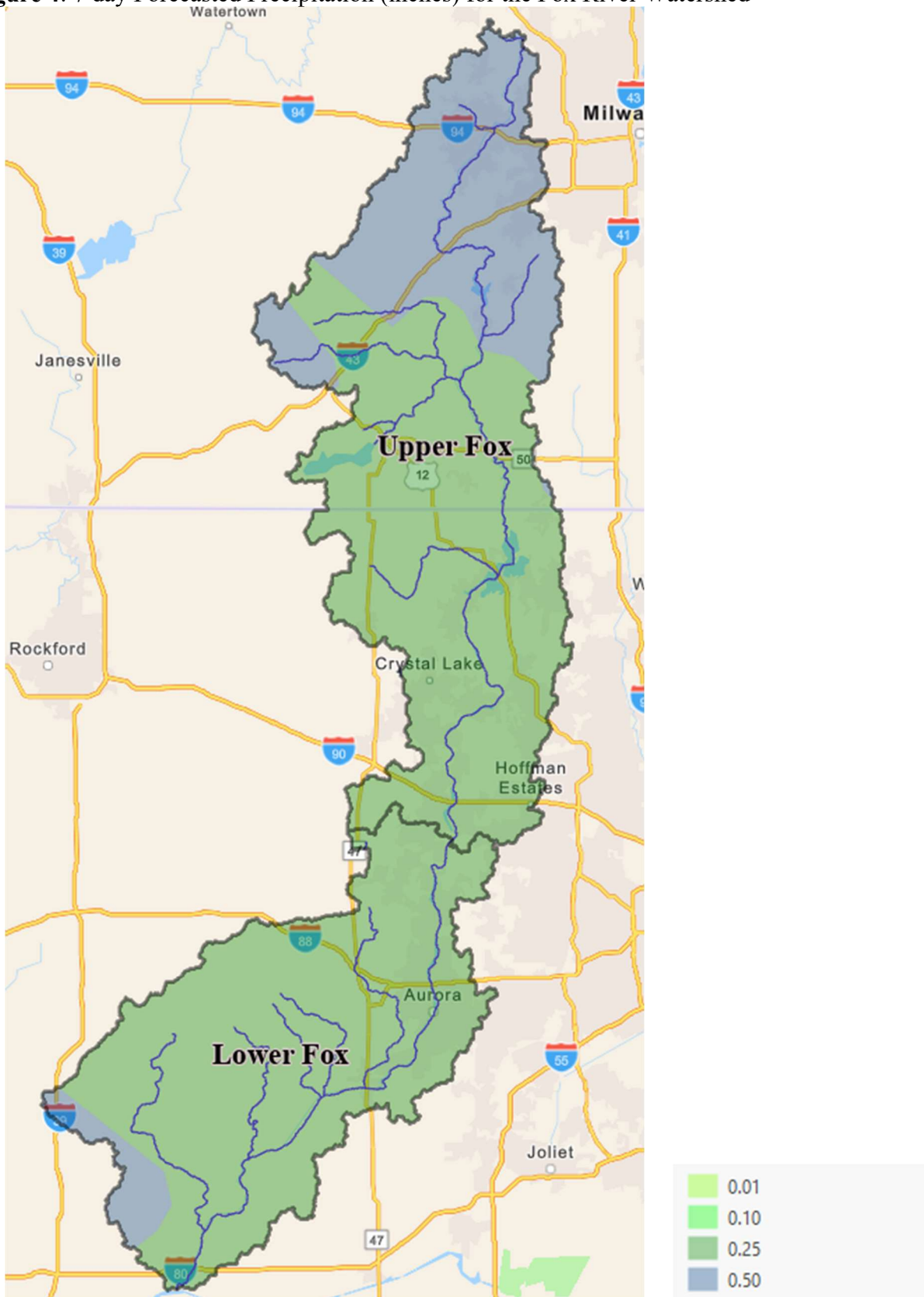
Current Conditions

Measured flow on the Fox River near New Munster, WI is 203 cfs (27% of median) and Nippersink Creek near Spring Grove is at 56 cfs (48% of median). The total net system inflows are 323 cfs; the outflows at Stratton Dam are 310 cfs. The Fox Lake stage is 4.17 ft; the Stratton Dam Tailwater stage is 0.72 ft. The Fox River at the Algonquin Dam headwater stage is 1.36 ft.

Forecast

Inflows continue to slowly drop, as shown above in **Figure 1**. Fox Lake and all areas upstream of the dam are holding fairly steady but will begin to start dropping due to the lack of inflow, shown above in **Figure 2**. The Lower River is forecasted to see continued deteriorating conditions, as shown above in **Figure 3**. The 7 Day Precipitation forecast is showing approximately 0.25” of rain for the Chain of Lakes, **Figure 4**.

Figure 4: 7 day Forecasted Precipitation (inches) for the Fox River Watershed



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 forecasted to start slowly decreasing over the next week, as water coming into the system continues to decline. Currently the gates have been raised fully.

McHenry Pool Area Outlook

Water levels are forecasted to mirror those of the lakes.

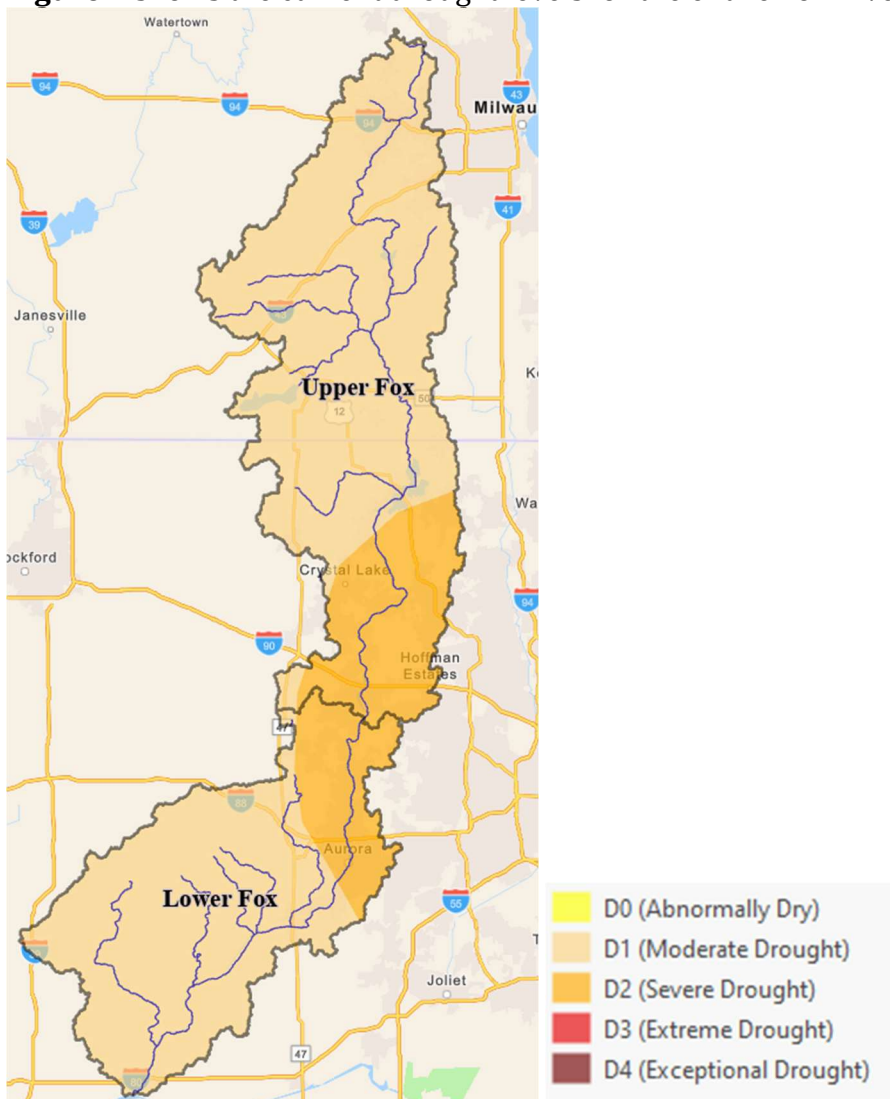
Lower River Outlook

The dam has been adjusted to try and match outflows with system inflows as closely as possible. Currently the spillway and low flow gates are the only source of outflow from the dam. With inflows approximately 1/3 of what is typical for this time of year and deepening drought conditions, water levels are nearing record lows.

U.S Drought Monitor

The area received no rain in the last 7-Days. The 30-Day Precipitation forecast continues to call for less than 25% of the normal rainfall amount; the 60-Day forecast is showing between 25-50% of normal.

Figure 4 shows the current drought levels for the entire Fox River watershed.



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>