



Fox River Status Update
July 13th, 2023

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

Summary

There is currently 1-1.5” of rain forecasted for the Lakes during the next seven days. Based on the 7 Day Inflow forecast, this will have very little impact on the water levels in the system. “Severe Drought” conditions now encompass the watershed (Figure 5), with “Extreme Drought” conditions creeping closer to the Wisconsin portion. Due to these dry conditions, the bulk of yesterday’s rain did not reach the system.

Current Conditions and NWS Forecasts

Figure 1: NWS Forecasted Inflows

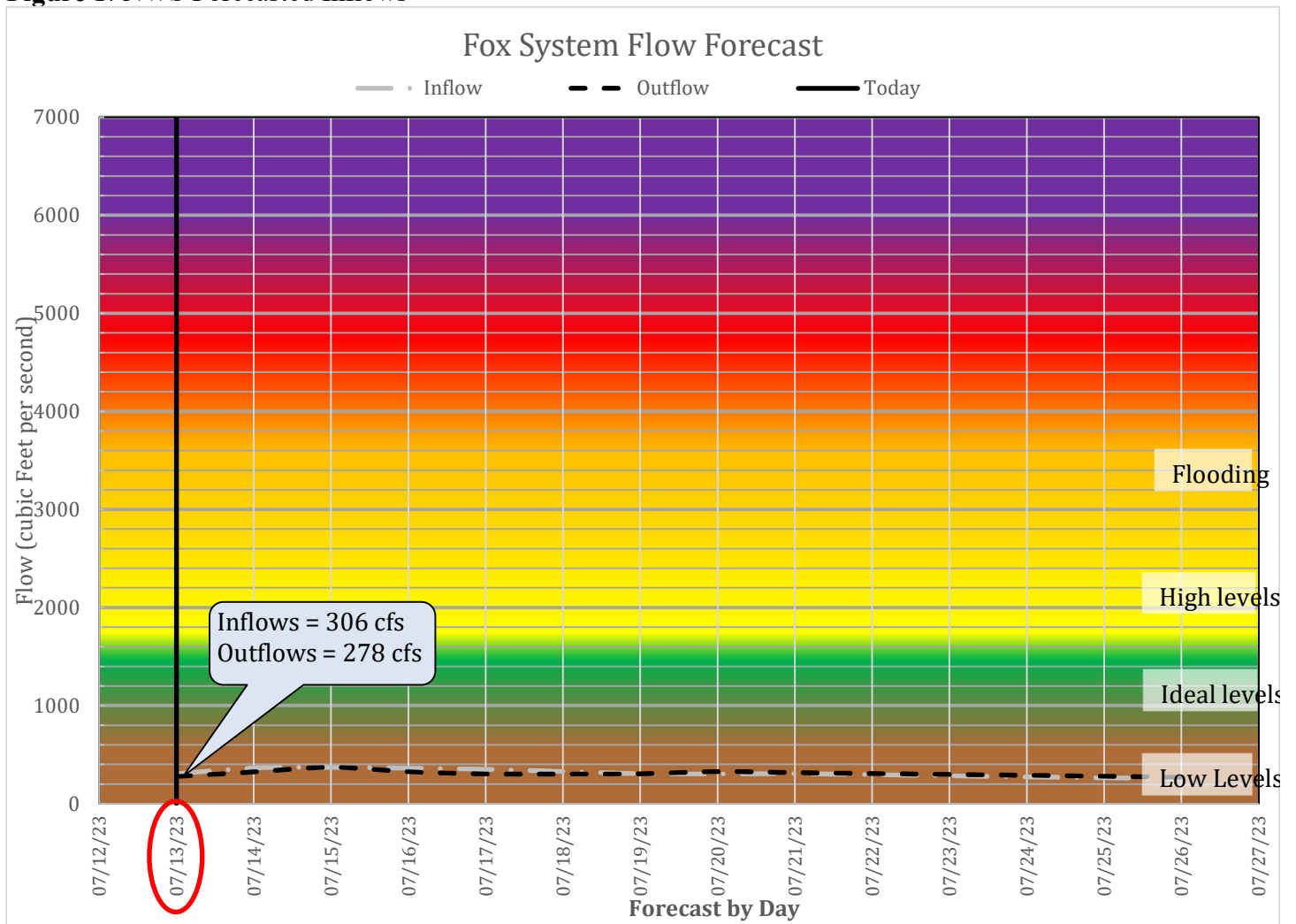


Figure 2: Estimated Upstream Gage Heights

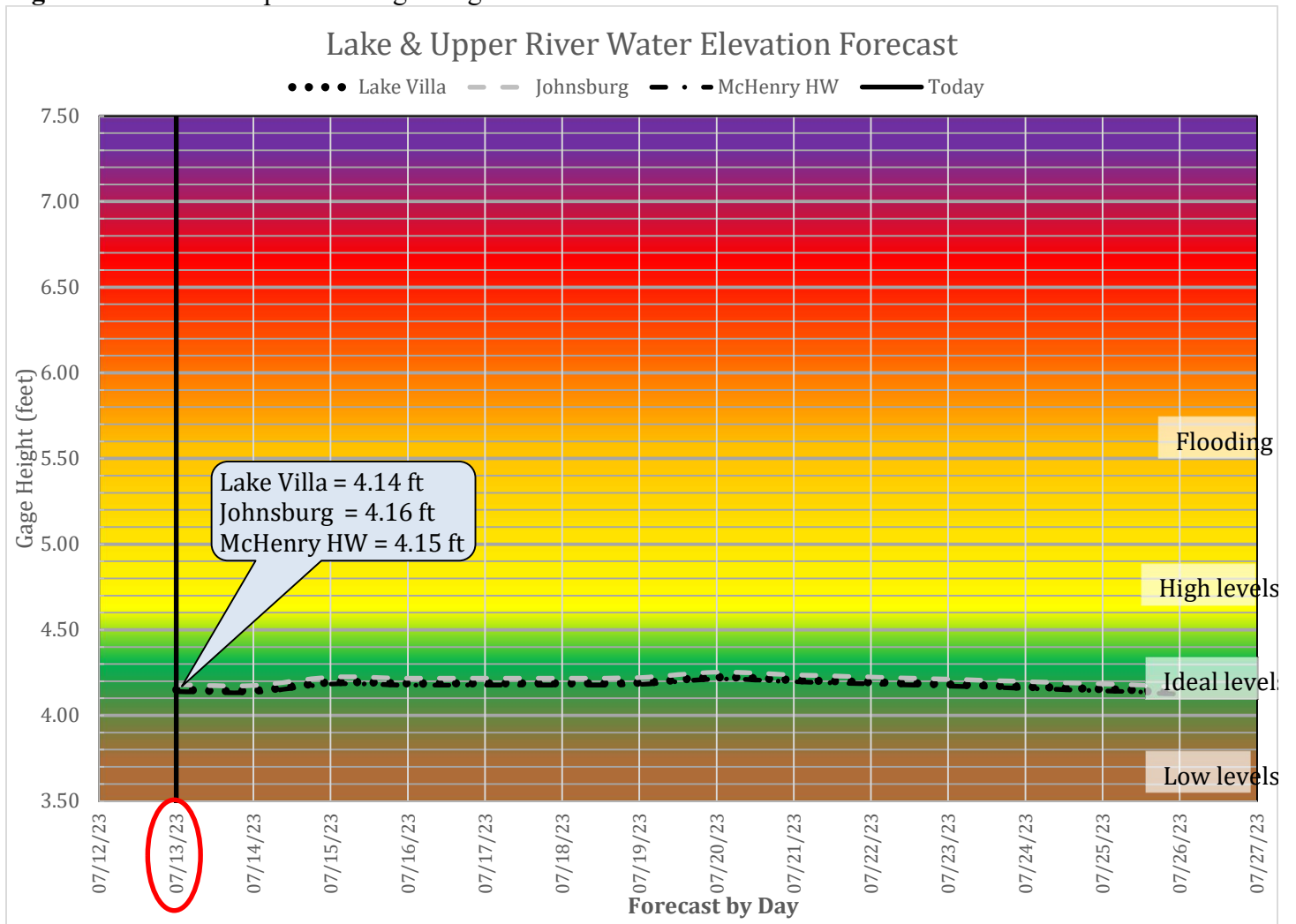
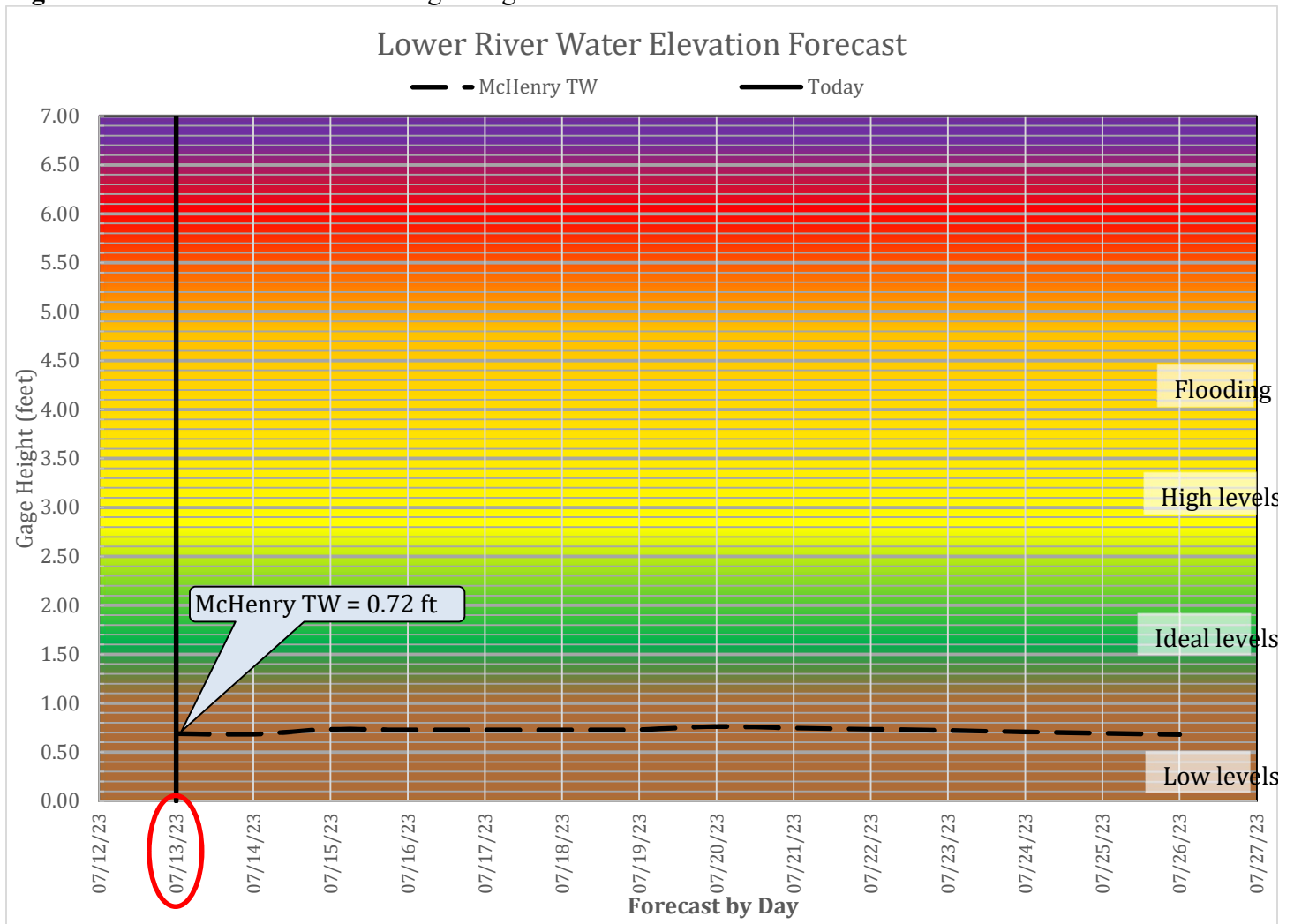


Figure 3: Estimated Downstream Gage Height



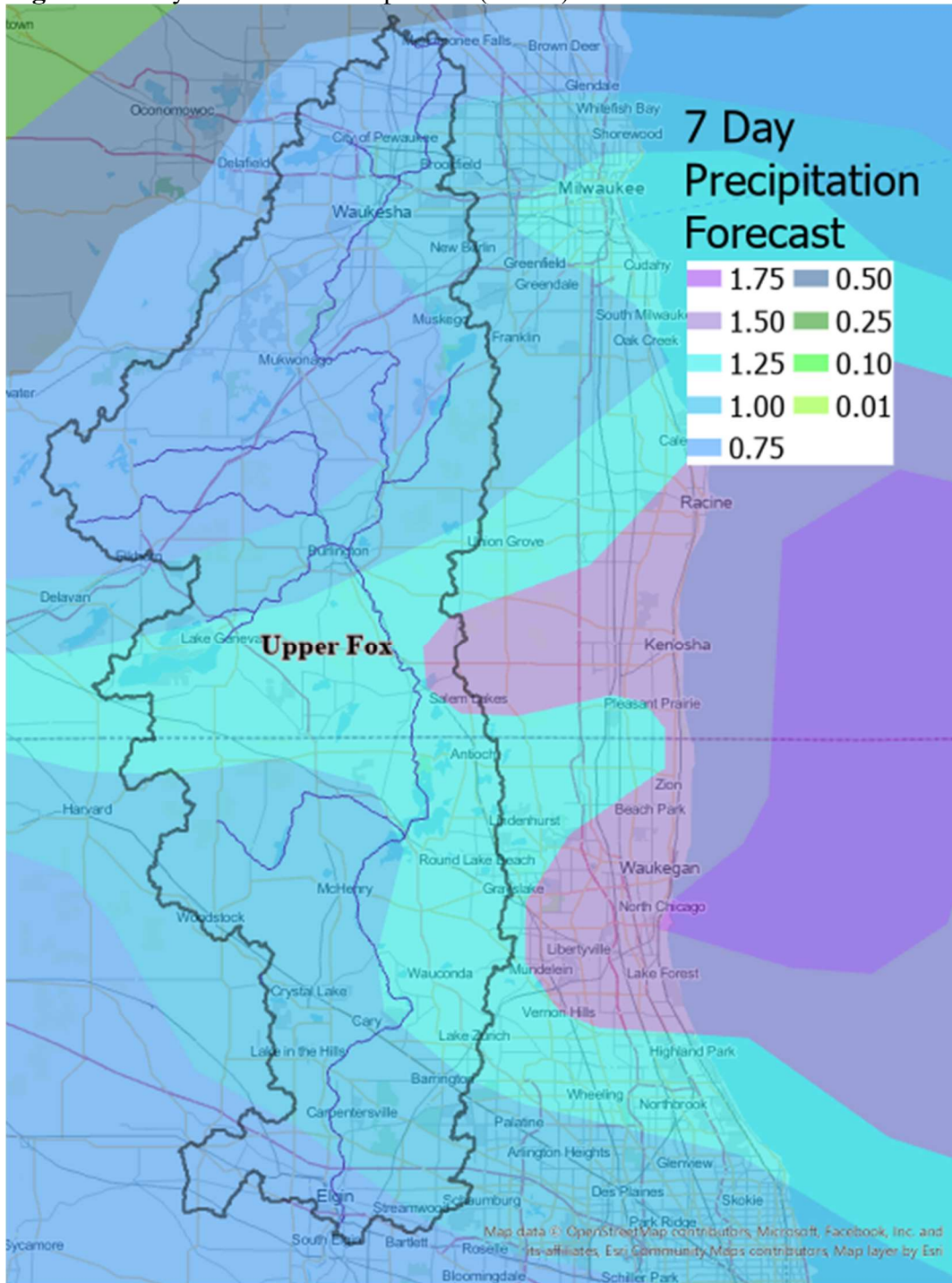
Current Conditions

Measured flow on the Fox River near New Munster, WI is 264 cfs and Nippersink Creek near Spring Grove is at 61 cfs. The total net system inflows are 306 cfs. The Fox Lake stage is 4.14 ft; the Stratton Dam Tailwater stage is 0.68 ft. The Fox River at the Algonquin Dam headwater stage is 1.32 ft.

Forecast

If tomorrow’s rainfall holds true, inflows could see a slight bump up, as shown above in **Figure 1**. Fox Lake and all areas upstream of the dam are holding fairly steady between 4.1’ and 4.2’, as shown above in **Figure 2**. The Lower River is forecasted to see continued conditions near the current level, as shown above in **Figure 3**. The 7 Day Precipitation forecast is showing approximately 1.25” 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 currently forecasted to approach 4.2' on Fox Lake. Inflows should see a slight increase but return to today's level by this time next week.

McHenry Pool Area Outlook

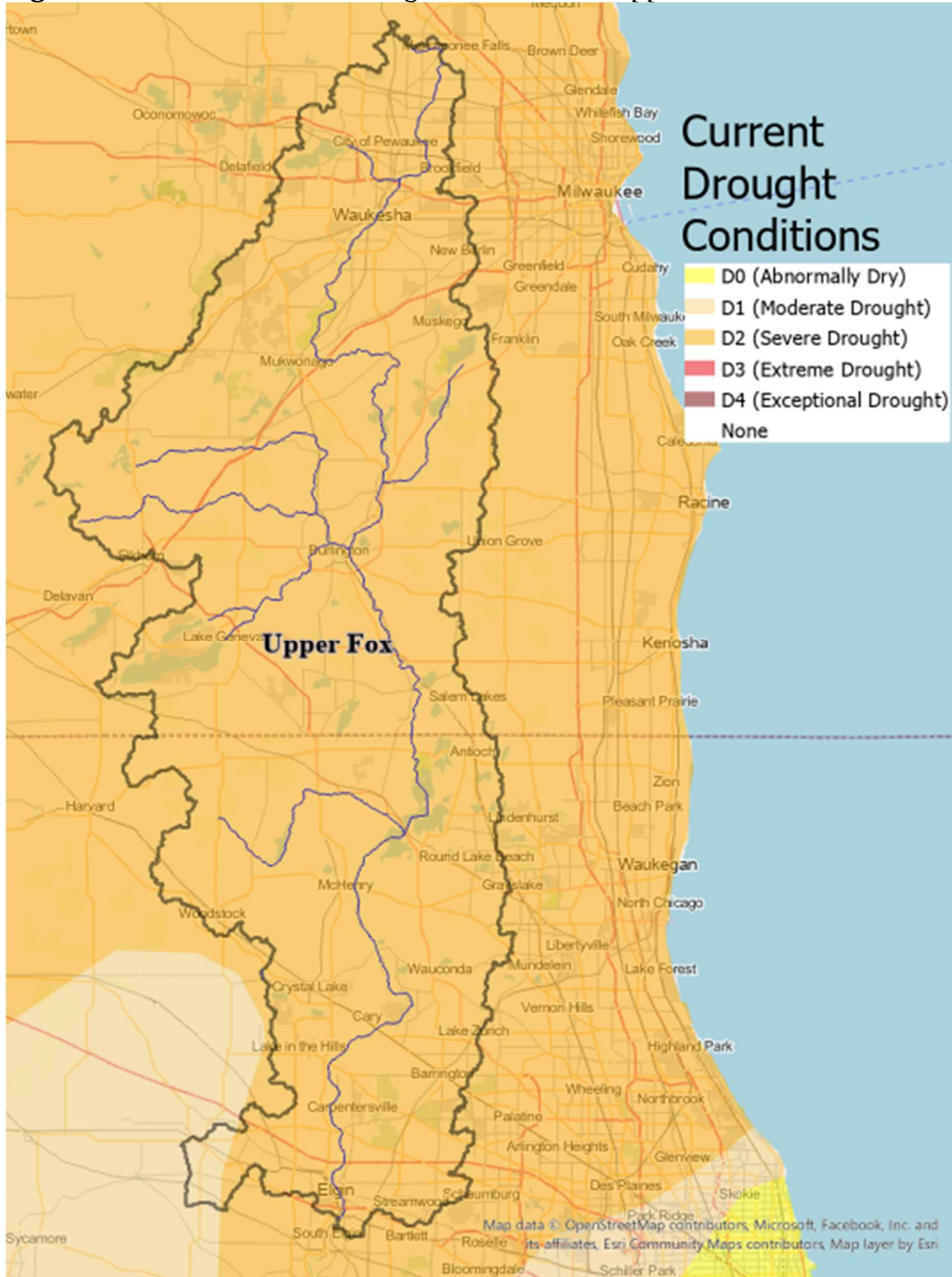
Water levels are forecasted to mirror those of the lakes.

Lower River Outlook

The Lower River is forecasted to increase slightly but remain under 1.0' on the McHenry Tailwater gage.

U.S Drought Monitor

Figure 5 shows the current drought levels for the Upper Fox River watershed.



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

IDNR Office of Water Resources

Two public surveys have been added to the web page. If either applies to you or someone you know, please think about completing it. This information will be used to assist in further studies regarding the lakes and river.

Business Stage Effect Survey:

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=nwgia7qOPEaE9TFxIQ-QBQKxPd7cXLJOk10jTZLKFZWUMkJFUkgyODJDMkE1RklLUUNTNI4VzdBTy4u>

Boat-Ground Impact Survey:

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=nwgia7qOPEaE9TFxIQ-QBQKxPd7cXLJOk10jTZLKFZWURUVJSE9MSjhMNU5KNVVSVE4zWUJFTEhSMS4u>

Thank you,

Aaron Rotherham

Office of Water Resources

Illinois Department of Natural Resources

<https://dnr.illinois.gov/waterresources/strattonoperationsupdate.html>