



Fox River Status Update
July 20th, 2023

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

Summary

There is currently minimal rain forecasted for the area during the next seven days. Based on the 7-Day Inflow forecast, levels will continue dropping through the system. Drought conditions have improved for some areas of the watershed, but the majority remains in a “Severe Drought” (Figure 5). Until a significant rain event occurs, water levels will keep dropping.

Current Conditions and NWS Forecasts

Figure 1: NWS Forecasted Inflows

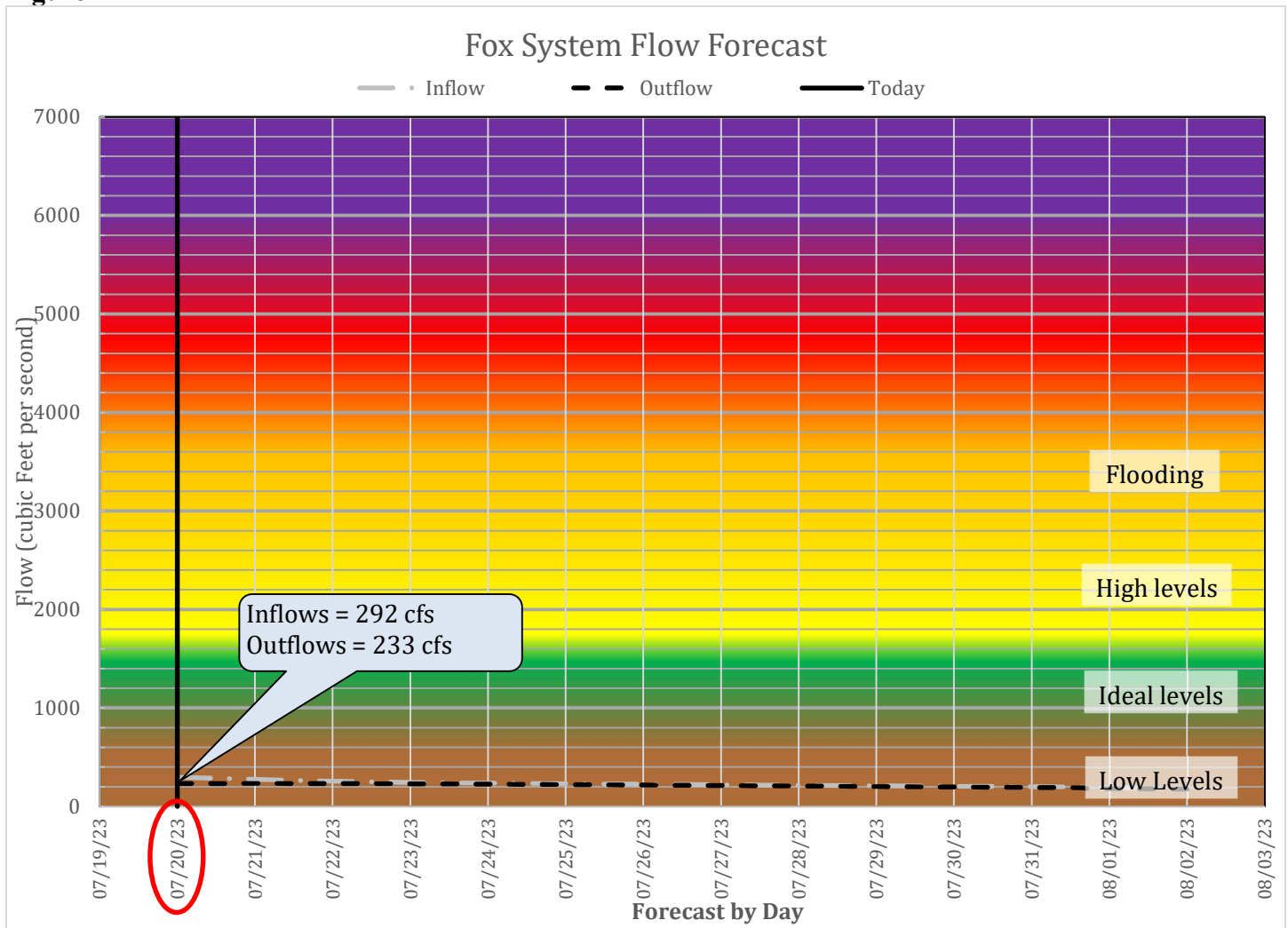


Figure 2: Estimated Upstream Gage Heights

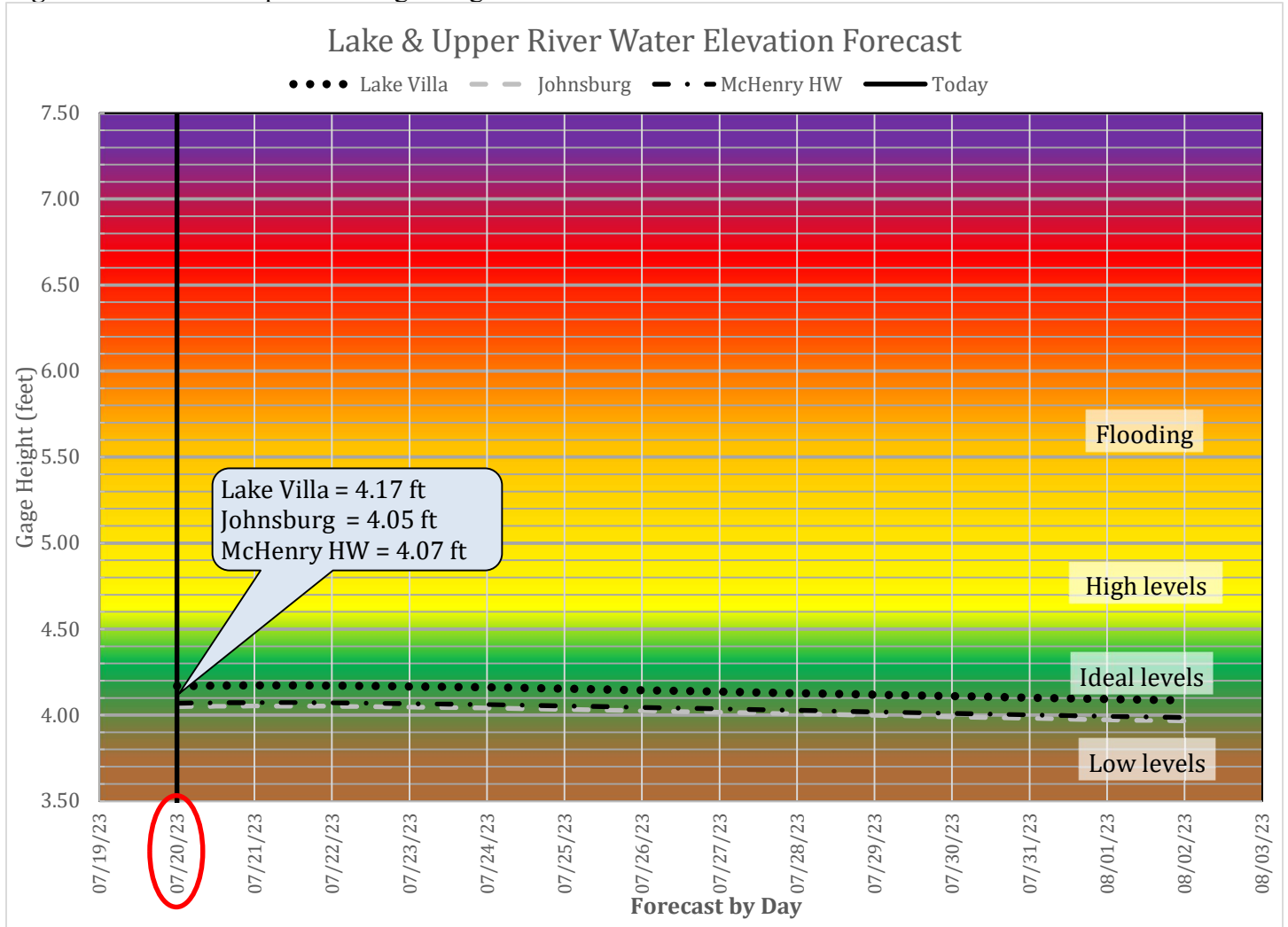
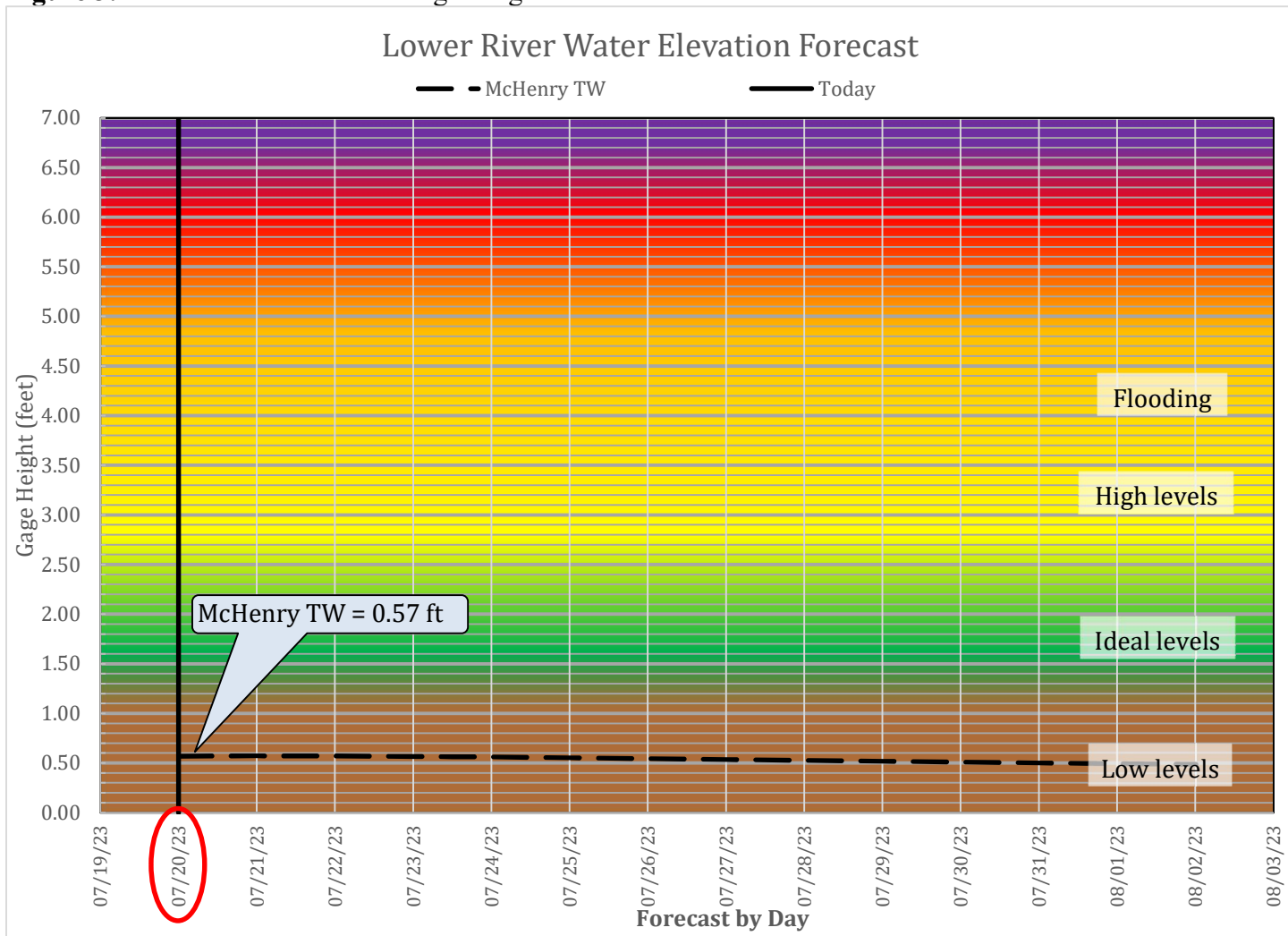


Figure 3: Estimated Downstream Gage Height



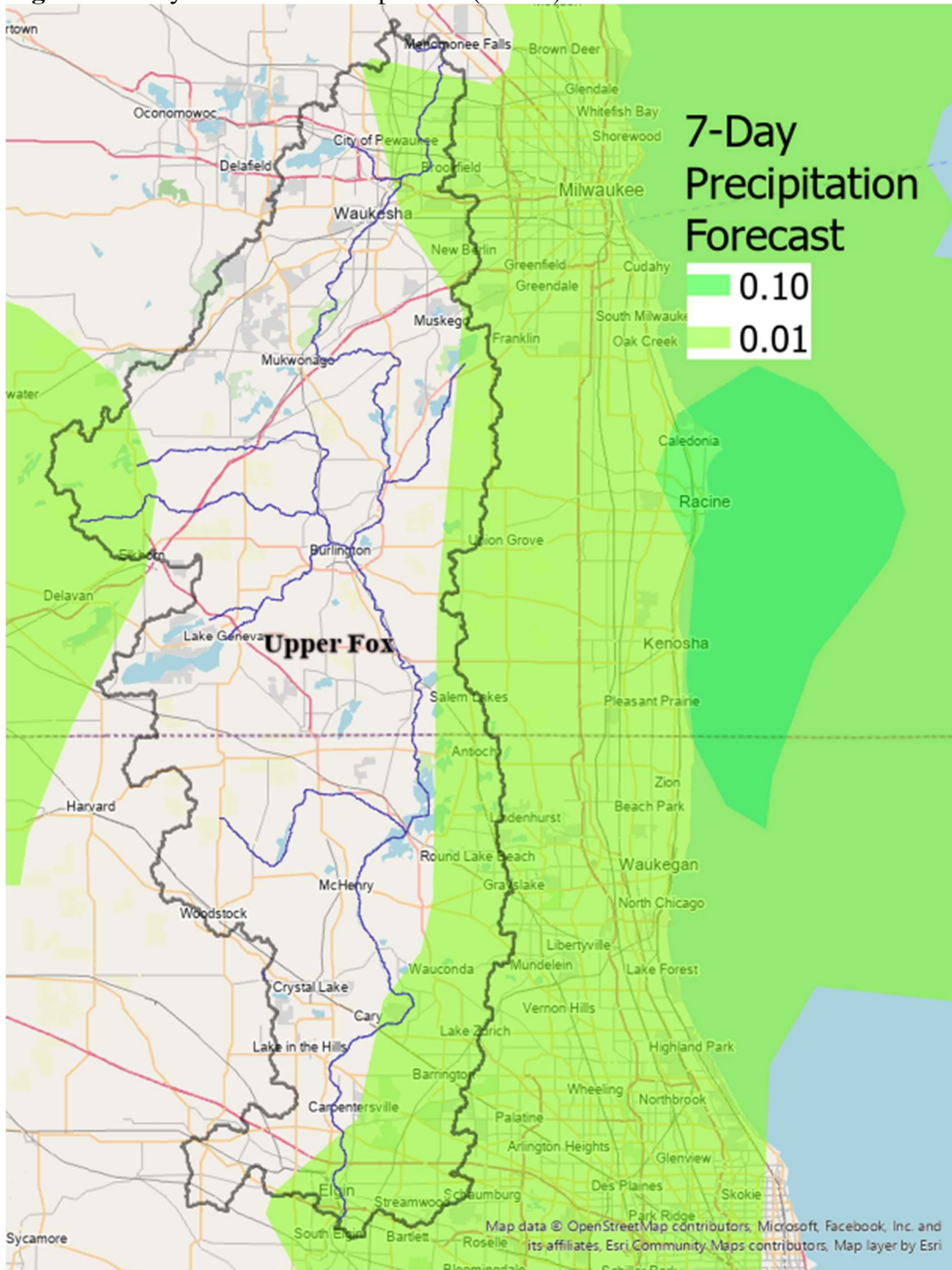
Current Conditions

Measured flow on the Fox River near New Munster, WI is 171 cfs and Nippersink Creek near Spring Grove is at 47 cfs. The total net system inflows are 292 cfs. The Fox Lake stage is 4.17 ft; the Stratton Dam Tailwater stage is 0.57 ft. The Fox River at the Algonquin Dam headwater stage is 1.20 ft.

Forecast

Inflows are forecasted to continue to slowly drop over the next week, from 292 cfs to 225 cfs, as shown in **Figure 1**. Fox Lake and all areas upstream of the dam will start approaching 4.0' to 4.1', as shown above in **Figure 2**. The Lower River should anticipate levels to continue dropping, as shown above in **Figure 3**. The 7 Day Precipitation forecast is showing hardly any 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 drop to near 4.1' on Fox Lake.

McHenry Pool Area Outlook

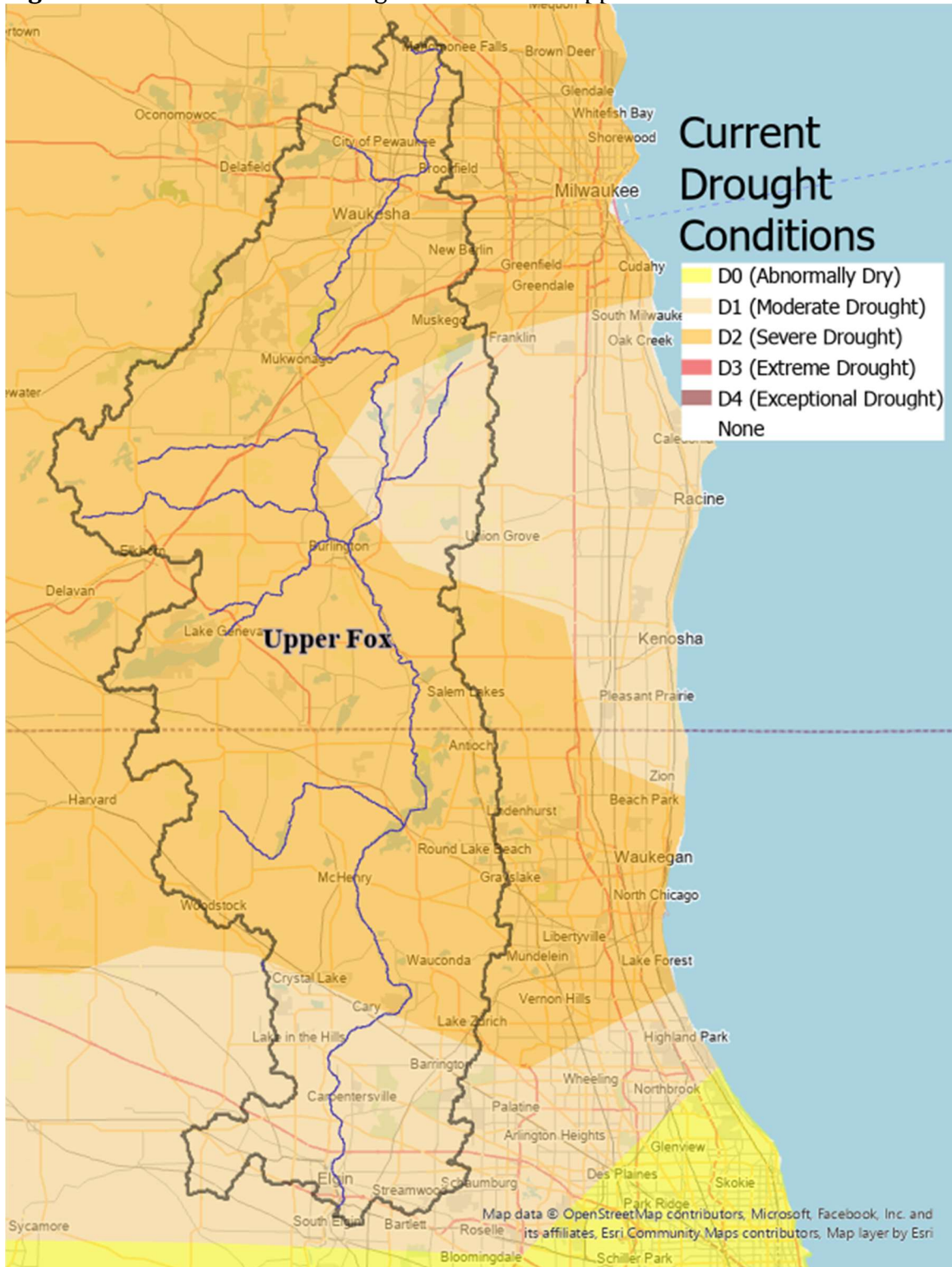
Water levels should be closer to 4.0' on the headwater gage.

Lower River Outlook

The Lower River is forecasted to keep dropping 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-QBQKxPd7cXLJOk10jTZLKFwZUMkJFUkGxODJDMkE1RklLUUNTnII4VzdBTy4u>

Boat-Ground Impact Survey:

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=nwgia7qOPEaE9TFxIQ-QBQKxPd7cXLJOk10jTZLKFwZURUVJSE9MSjhMNU5KNVVSVE4zWUJFTEhSMS4u>

Thank you,

Aaron Rotherham

Office of Water Resources

Illinois Department of Natural Resources

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