



Fox River Status Update
August 17th, 2023

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

Summary

Currently there is no rain forecasted for the watershed during the next seven days. Based on the 7-Day Inflow forecast, levels have peaked. Based on this week's Drought Monitor, drought conditions have continued to improve but more rain is needed (Figure 5).

Current Conditions and NWS Forecasts

Figure 1: NWS Forecasted Inflows

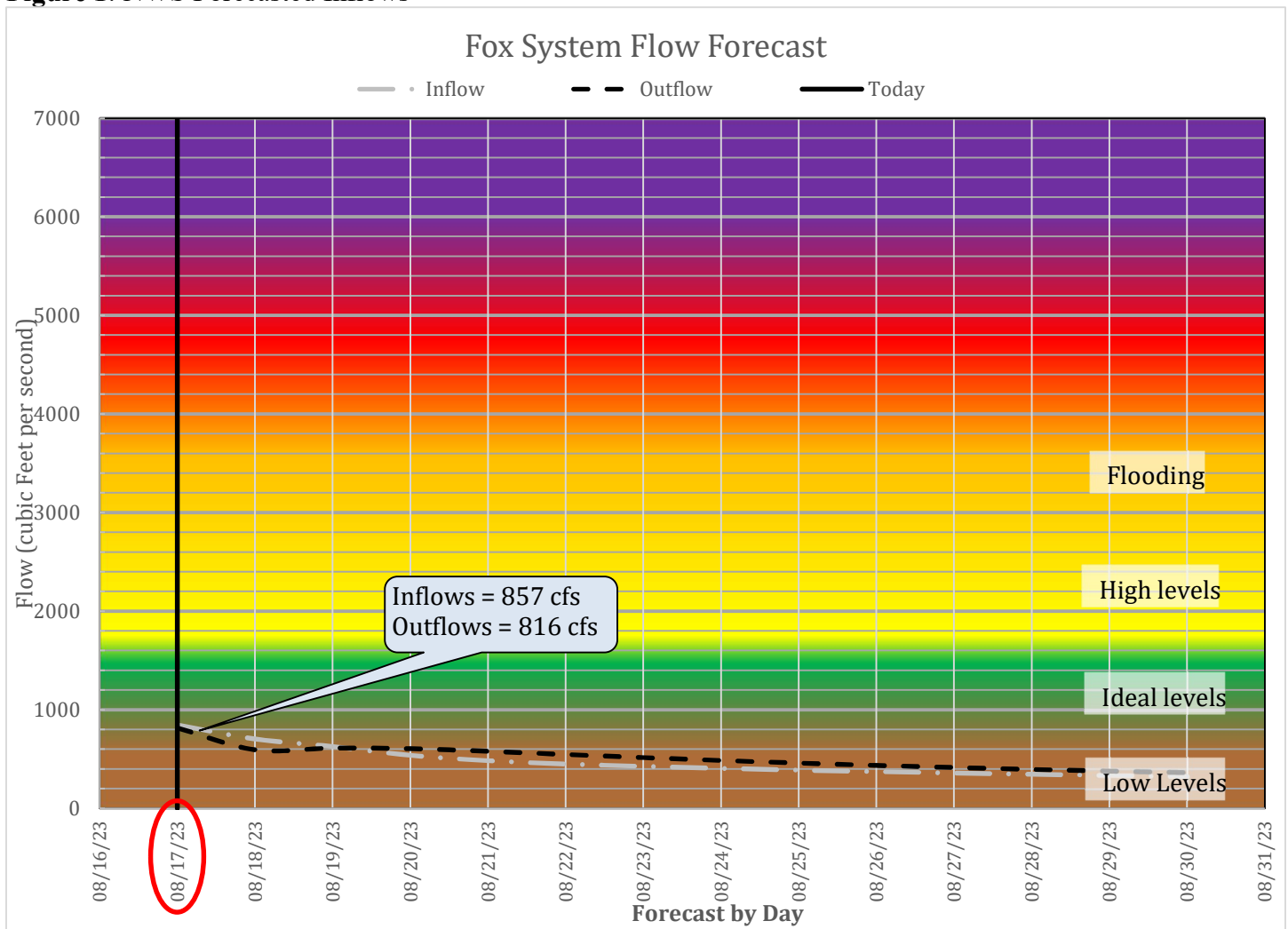


Figure 2: Estimated Upstream Gage Heights

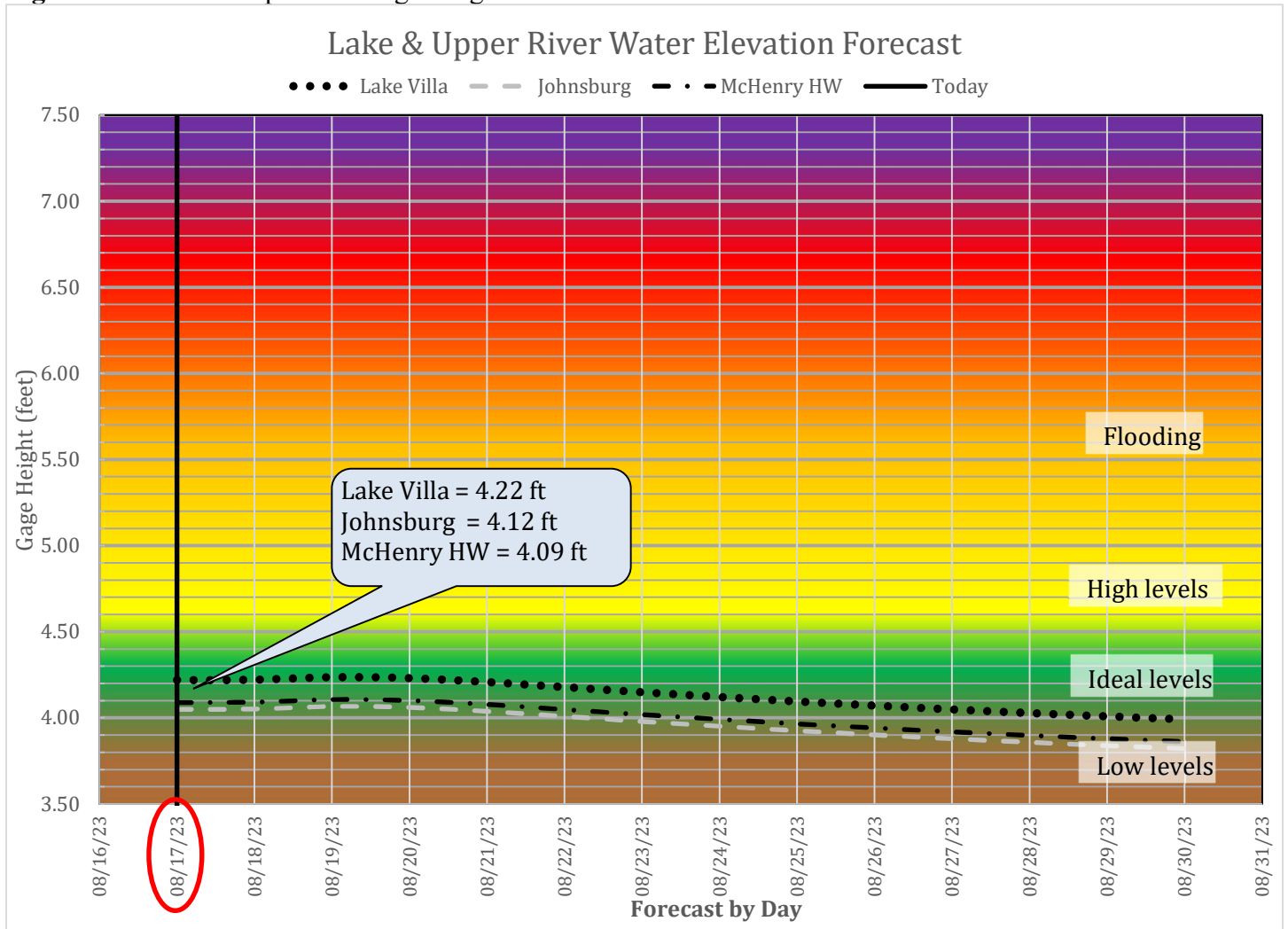
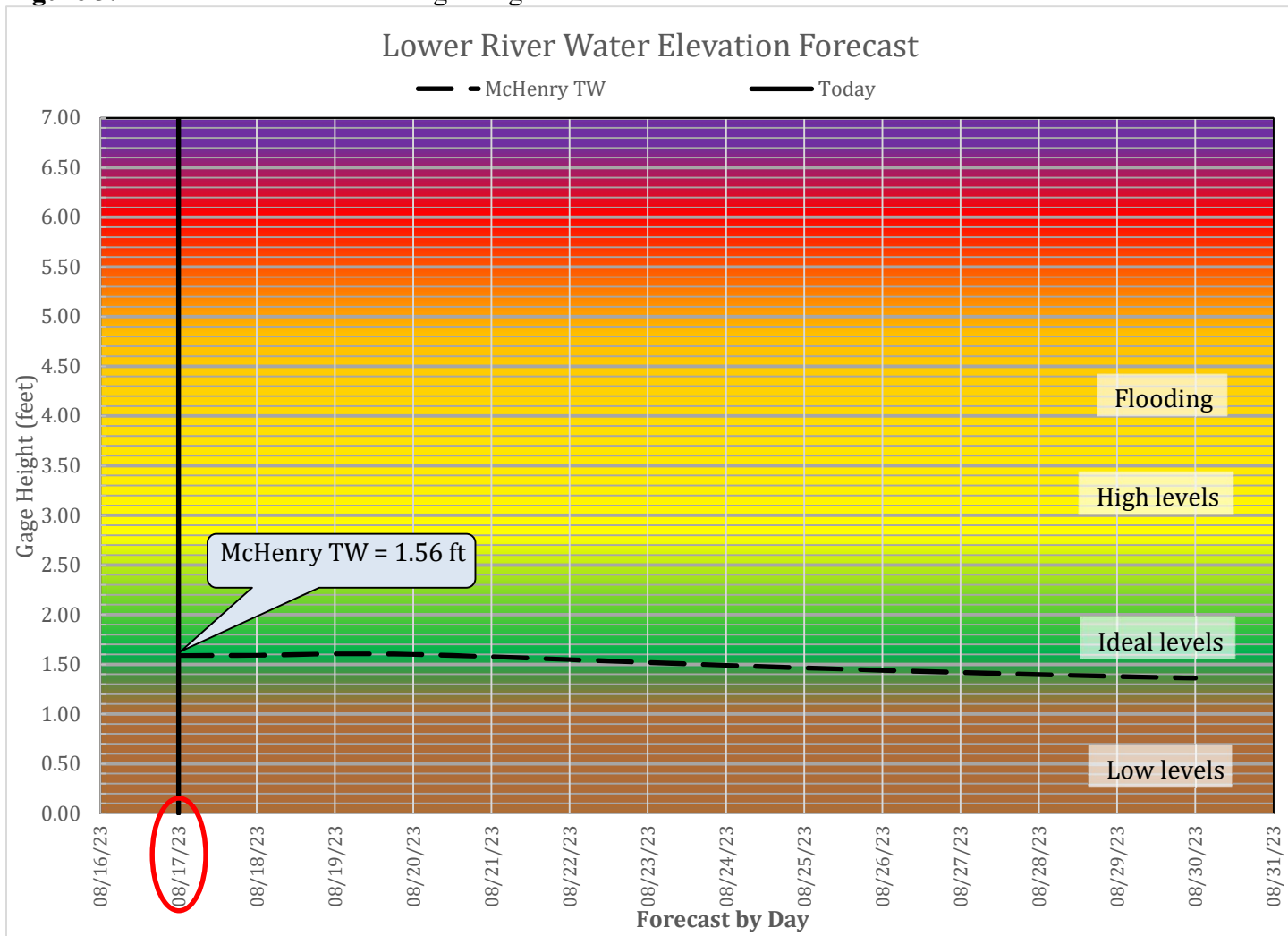


Figure 3: Estimated Downstream Gage Height



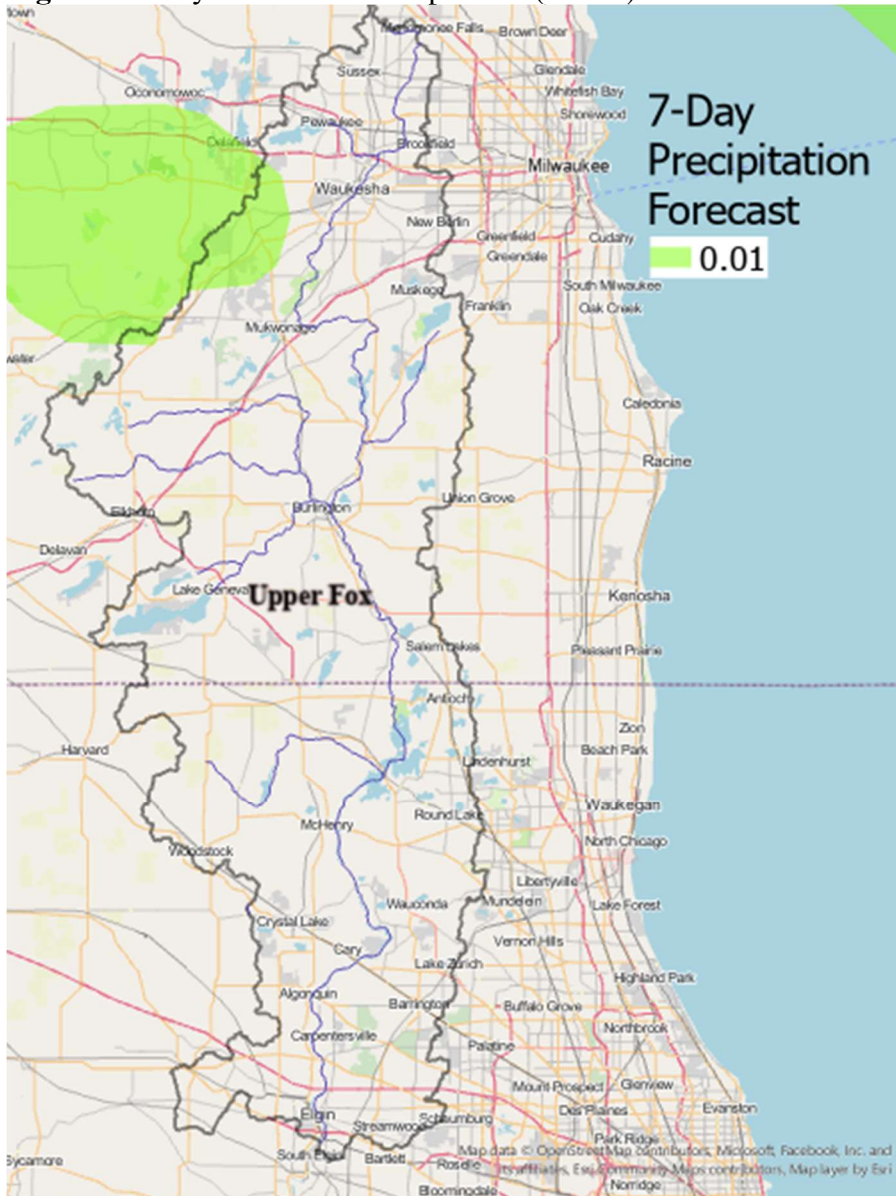
Current Conditions

Measured flow on the Fox River near New Munster, WI is 571 cfs and Nippersink Creek near Spring Grove is at 78 cfs. The total net system inflows are 857 cfs. The Fox Lake stage is 4.22 ft; the Stratton Dam Tailwater stage is 1.56 ft. The Fox River at the Algonquin Dam headwater stage is 1.84 ft.

Forecast

Inflows are forecasted to drop over the next week, as shown in **Figure 1**. Fox Lake and all areas upstream of the dam will hold near 4.2', as shown above in **Figure 2**. The Lower River is forecasted to see water levels between the 1.0' to 1.5' mark, as shown above in **Figure 3**. The 7 Day Precipitation forecast is showing no 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 hold near 4.2' on Fox Lake.

McHenry Pool Area Outlook

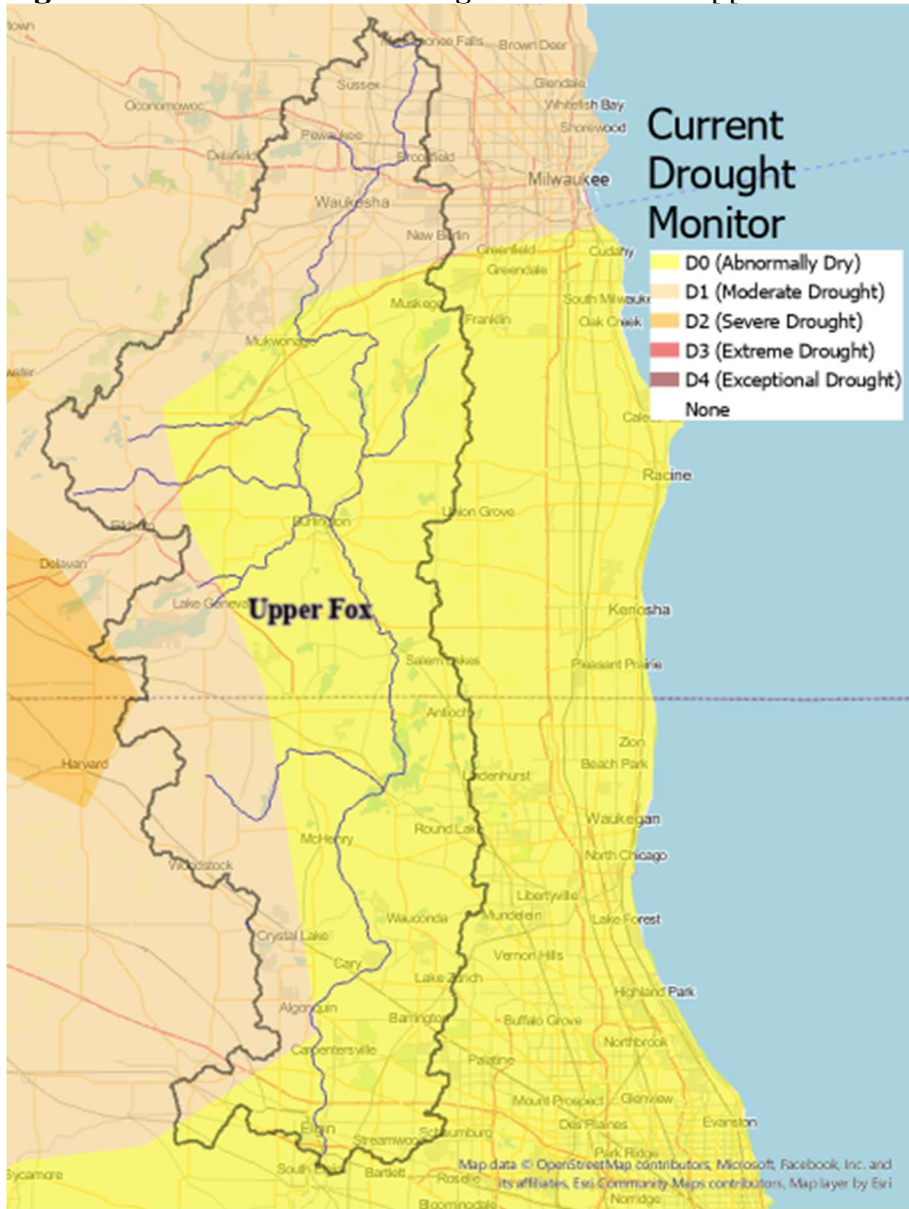
Water levels should be closer to 4.1' at the pool.

Lower River Outlook

The Lower River is forecasted to be near 1.0' to 1.5'. This will drop as inflows decrease.

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-QBQKxPd7cXLJOk10jTZLKFwZUMkJFUkgxODJDMkE1RklLUUNTNI4VzdBTy4u>

Boat-Ground Impact Survey:

<https://survey123.arcgis.com/share/c5794aaa79e34853b8cd9df48ed6c31f?portalUrl=https://IDNR.maps.arcgis.com>

Thank you,

Aaron Rotherham

Office of Water Resources

Illinois Department of Natural Resources

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