



Fox River Status Update
September 22nd, 2023

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

Summary

Currently there is near 0.25” of rain forecasted for the watershed during the next seven days. This weekend’s boating conditions should be improved over last weekend, with higher water levels and inflows. Based on the 7-Day Inflow forecast, the recent rainfall will move through the system by the end of the weekend. This week’s Drought Monitor remains mostly unchanged (Figure 5).

Current Conditions and NWS Forecasts

Figure 1: NWS Forecasted Inflows

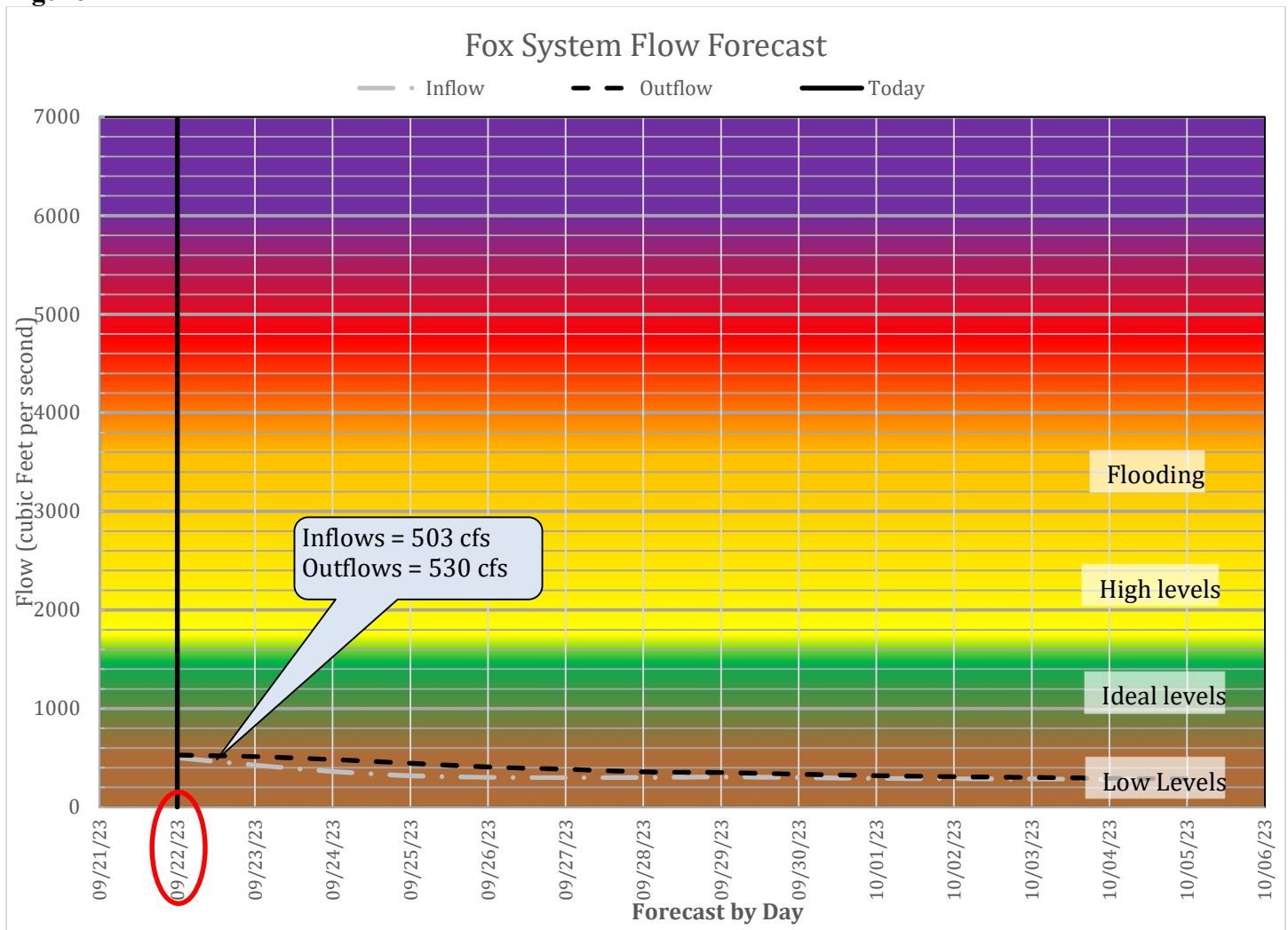


Figure 2: Estimated Upstream Gage Heights

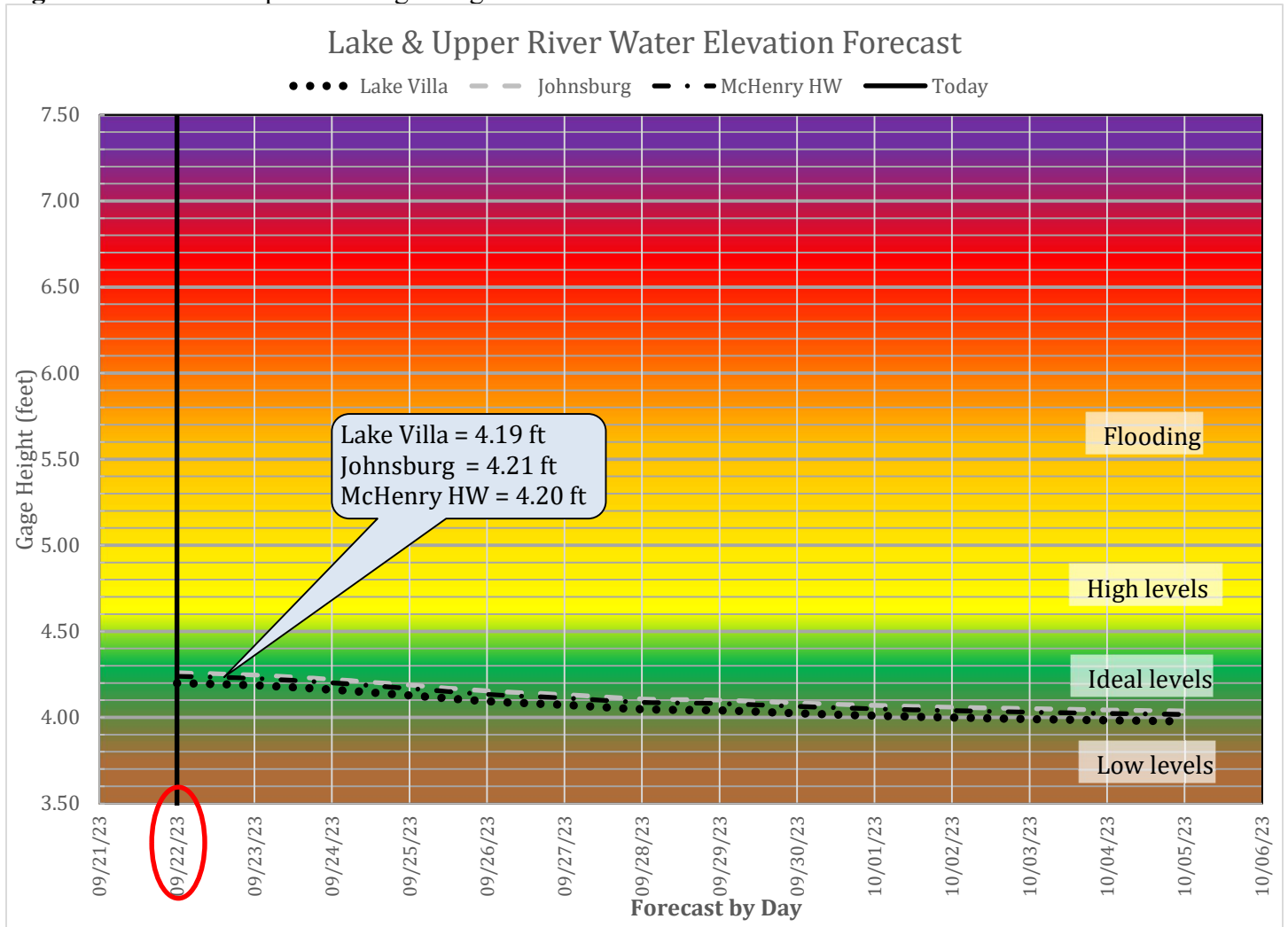
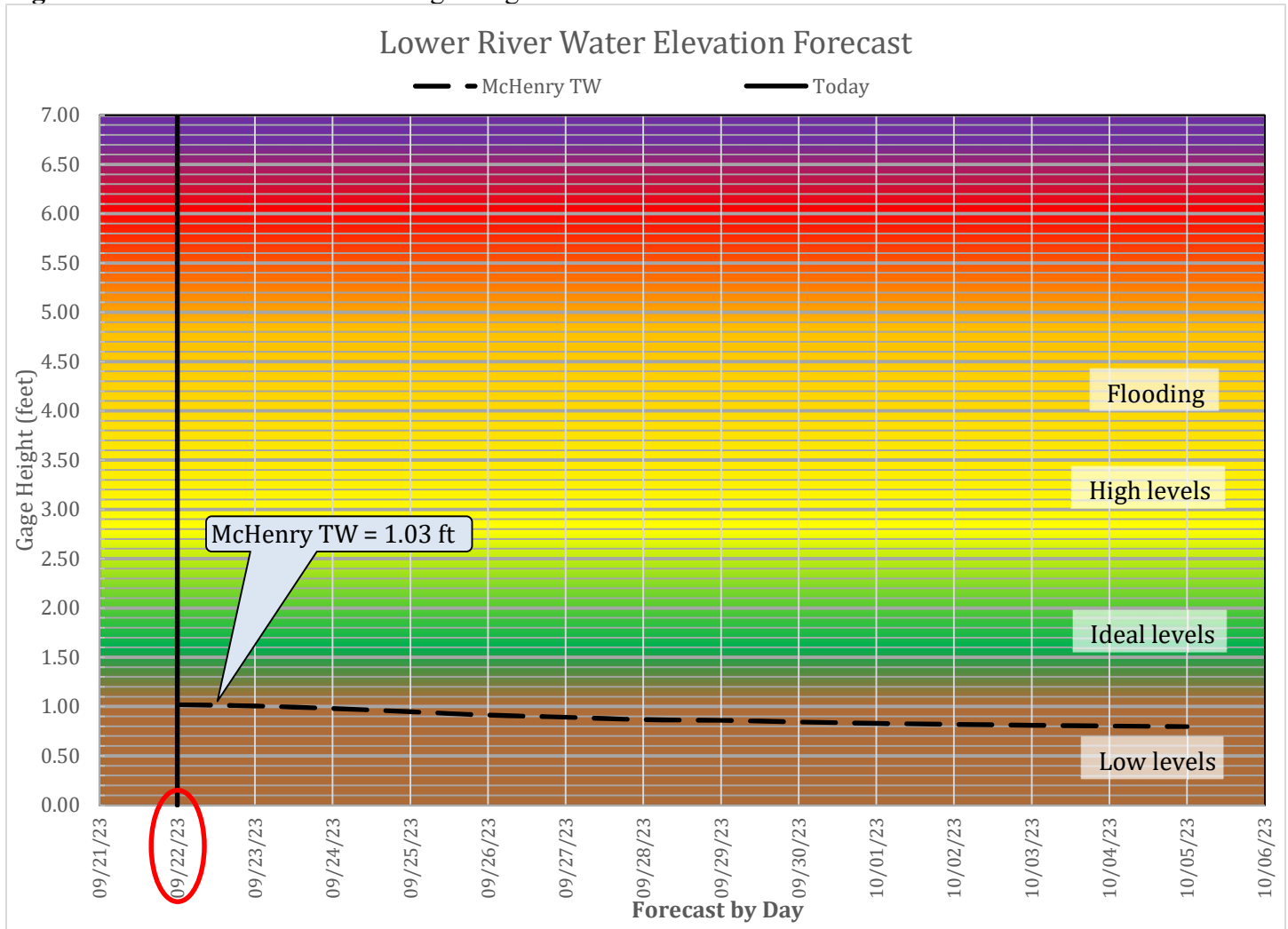


Figure 3: Estimated Downstream Gage Height



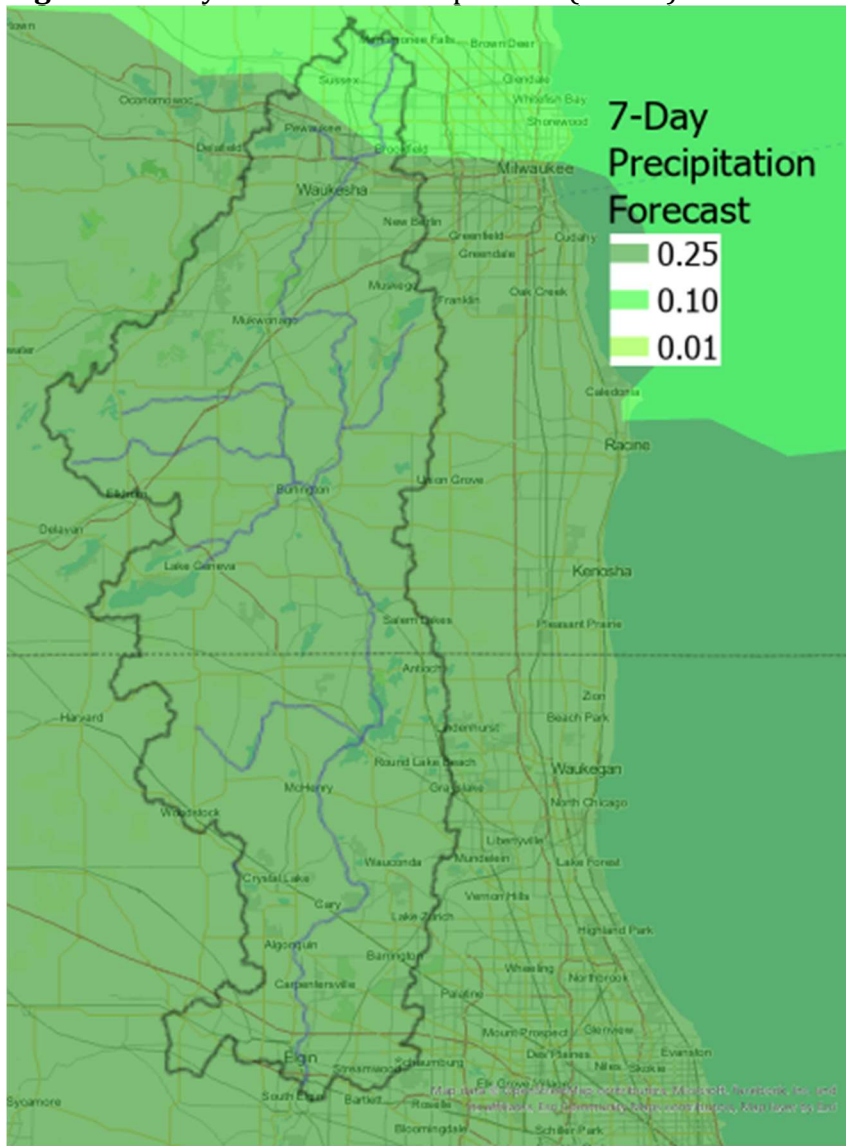
Current Conditions

Measured flow on the Fox River near New Munster, WI is 340 cfs and Nippersink Creek near Spring Grove is at 60 cfs. The total net system inflows are 503 cfs. The Fox Lake stage is 4.19 ft; the Stratton Dam Tailwater stage is 1.03 ft. The Fox River at the Algonquin Dam headwater stage is 1.53 ft.

Forecast

Inflows have peaked as of today and will be slowly dropping over the next week, as shown in **Figure 1**. Fox Lake and all areas upstream of the dam are forecasted to remain just below 4.2' during the next week, as shown above in **Figure 2**. The Lower River is forecasted to see water levels remain near the current levels, as shown above in **Figure 3**. The 7 Day Precipitation forecast is showing about 0.25" 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 should hold steady over the next week.

McHenry Pool Area Outlook

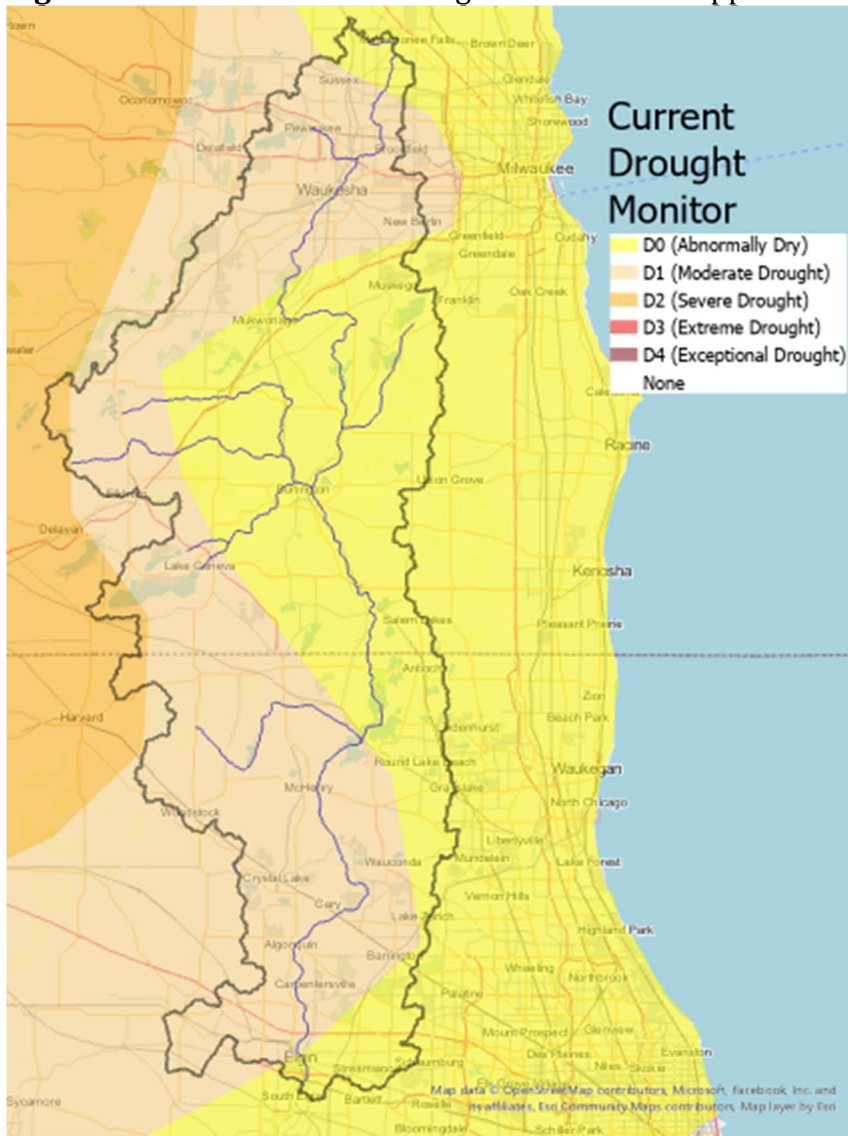
Water levels will mirror those of the lakes.

Lower River Outlook

The Lower River is forecasted to experience some relief from the extremely low levels, due to the recent rains.

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

Multiple public surveys have been added to the web page. If any apply 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.

Thank you,

Aaron Rotherham

Office of Water Resources

Illinois Department of Natural Resources

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