



Fox River Status Update October 19th, 2023

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

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.

Summary

Winter Drawdown will begin on November 1st. There is currently 0.75" rain forecasted for the watershed during the next seven days. Based on the 7-Day Inflow forecast, inflows will drop through the week and then increase as rainfall moves into the system.

Current Conditions and NWS Forecasts

Figure 1: NWS Forecasted Inflows

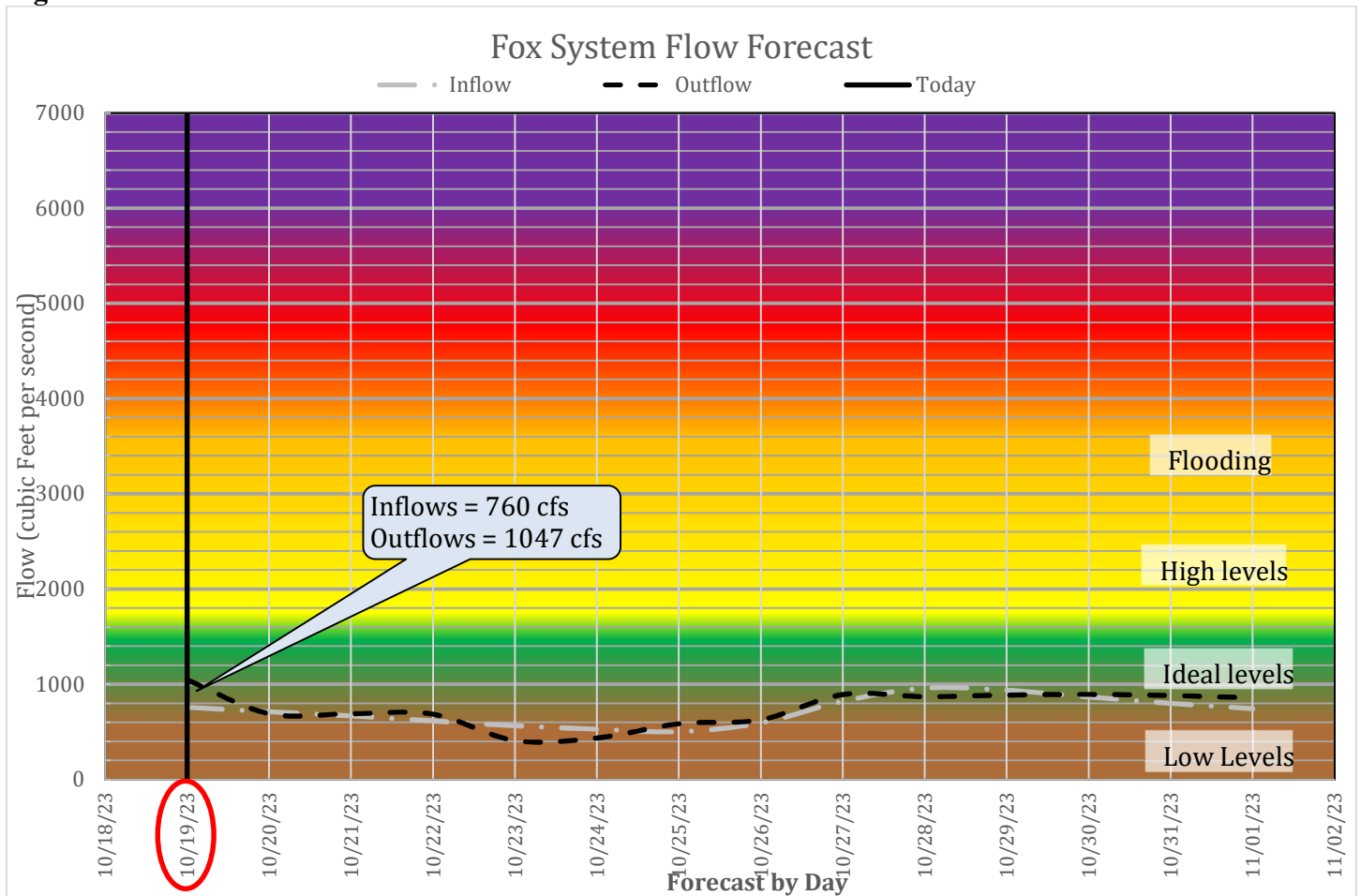


Figure 2: Estimated Upstream Gage Heights

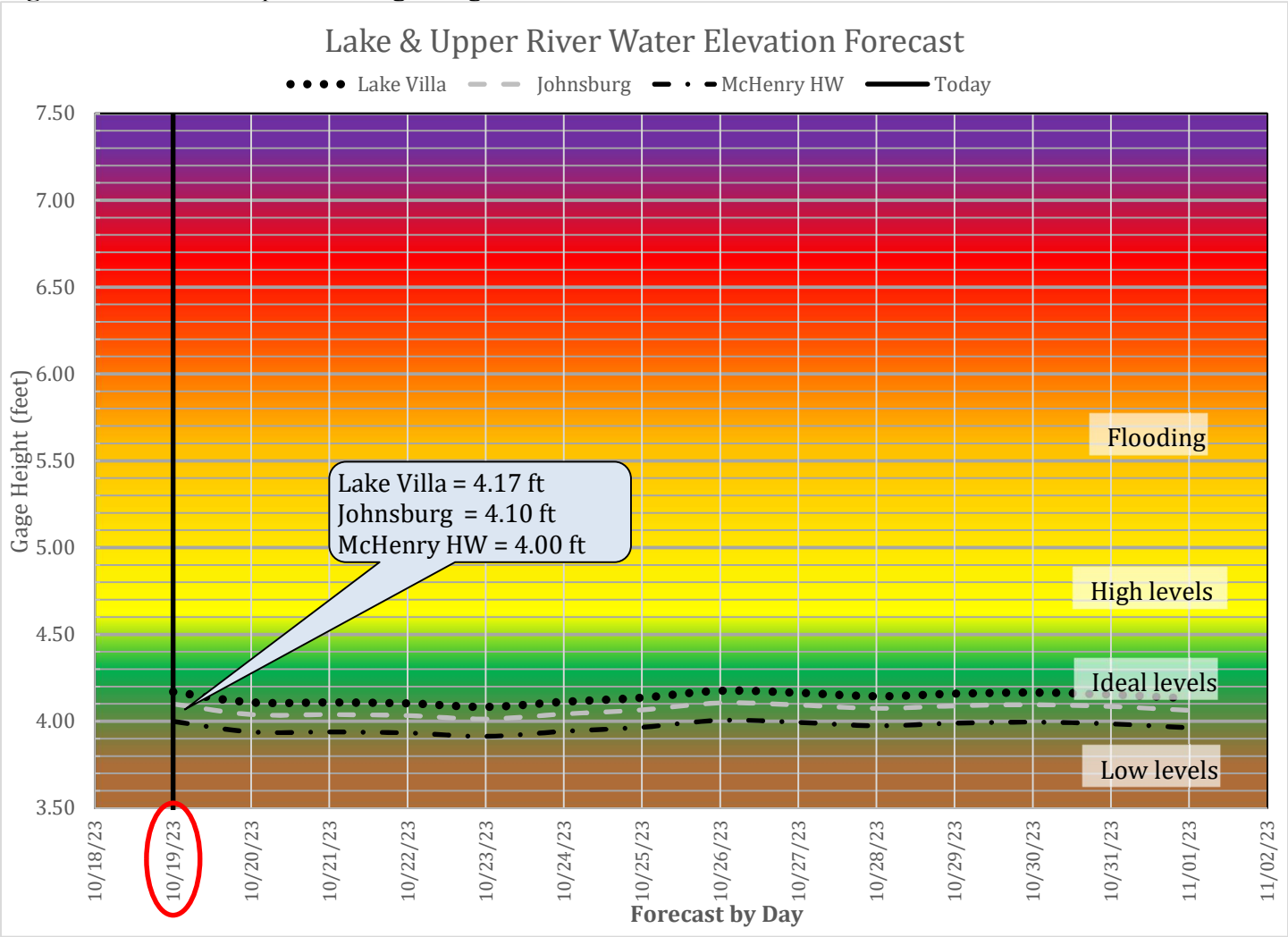
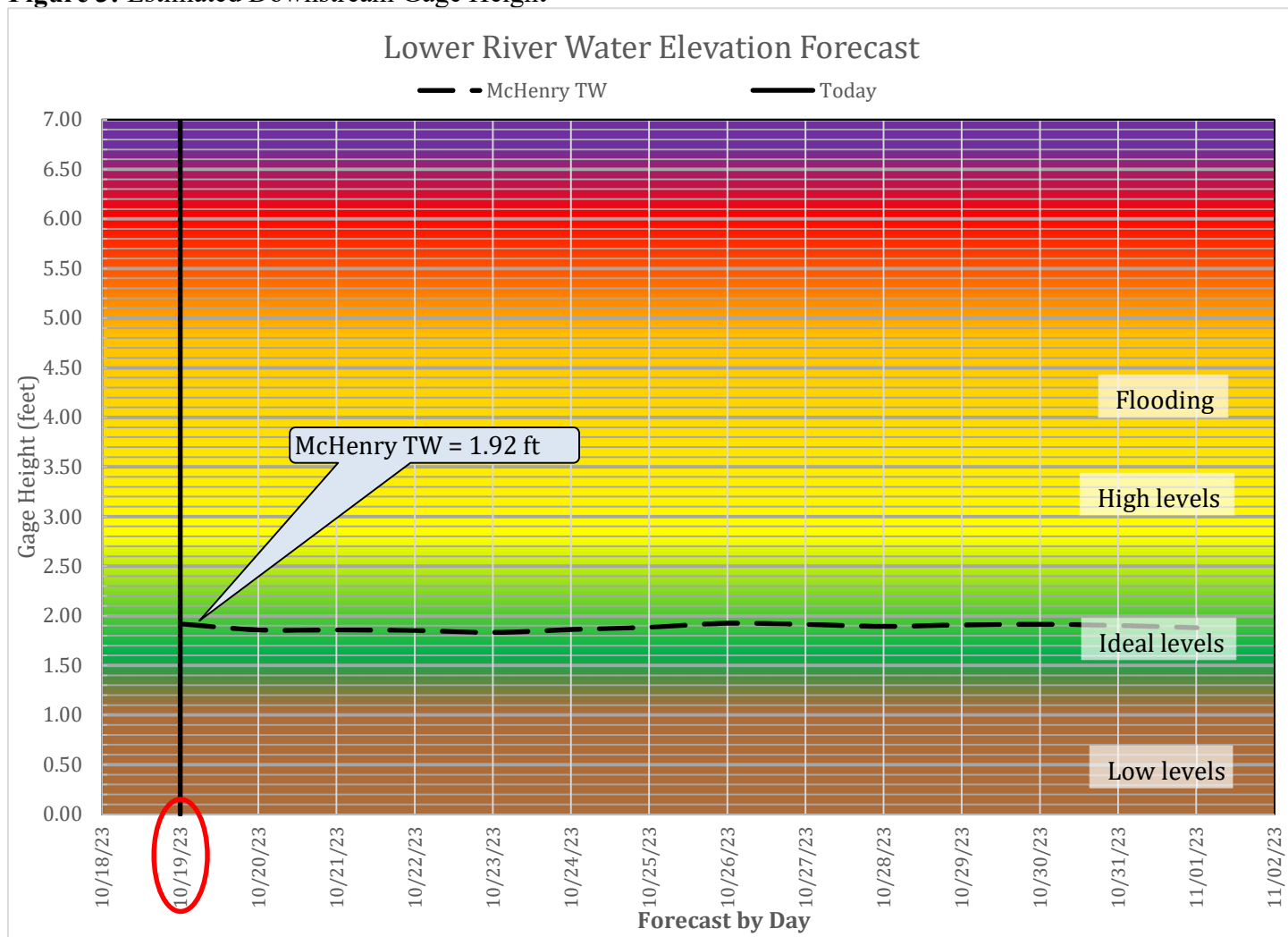


Figure 3: Estimated Downstream Gage Height



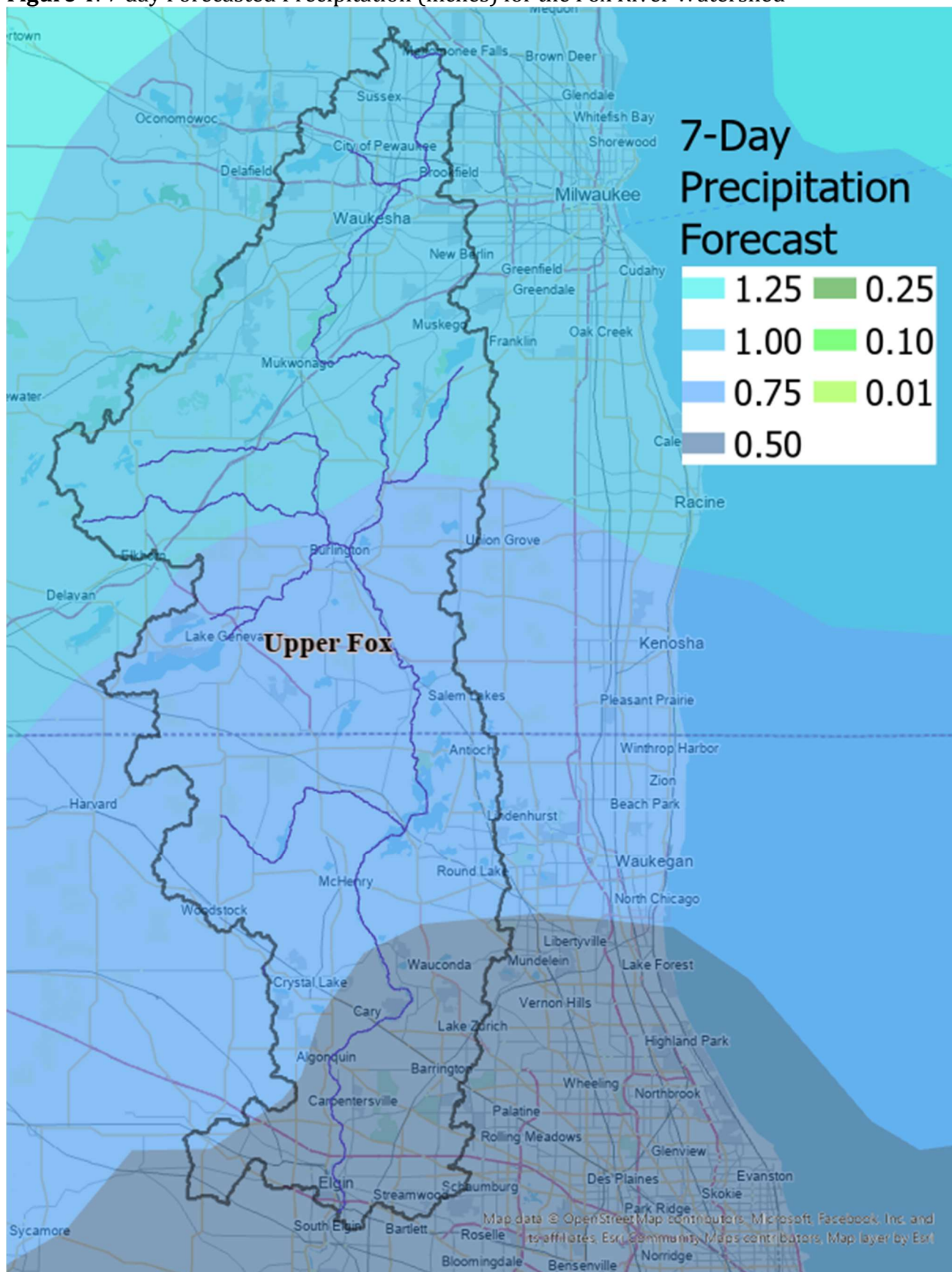
Current Conditions

Measured flow on the Fox River near New Munster, WI is 546 cfs and Nippersink Creek near Spring Grove is at 80 cfs. The total net system inflows are 760 cfs. The Fox Lake stage is 4.17 ft; the Stratton Dam Tailwater stage is 1.92 ft. The Fox River at the Algonquin Dam headwater stage is 1.97 ft.

Forecast

Inflows are forecasted to continue to drop over the next week, as shown in **Figure 1**. Fox Lake and all areas upstream of the dam are forecasted to remain near 4.1' over the next week, as shown above in **Figure 2**. The Lower River is forecasted to see water levels slowly decline as inflows decrease, as shown above in **Figure 3**. The 7-Day Precipitation forecast is showing 0.75" 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 should remain near current levels until winter drawdown begins on November 1st.

McHenry Pool Area Outlook

Water levels will mirror those of the lakes.

Lower River Outlook

Water levels will slowly drop over the next few days as inflows decrease. Once the forecasted rainfall enters the system, they will climb slightly.

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