



Fox River Status Update
April 7th, 2026

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

Summary

There is between 1.75” – 2.00” of rain forecasted for the watershed over the next 7 Days, (Figure 4). Inflows will continue dropping until the next significant rain on Friday (Figure 1). Fox Lake is forecasted to remain above 5.00’ for the duration of the forecast, with the Upper River and Pool being slightly lower (Figure 2). The Lower River should expect water levels to remain above 4.00’ on the Fox River (Tailwater) Near McHenry gage as well (Figure 3).

Current Conditions and NWS Forecasts

Figure 1: National Weather Service Forecasted Inflows

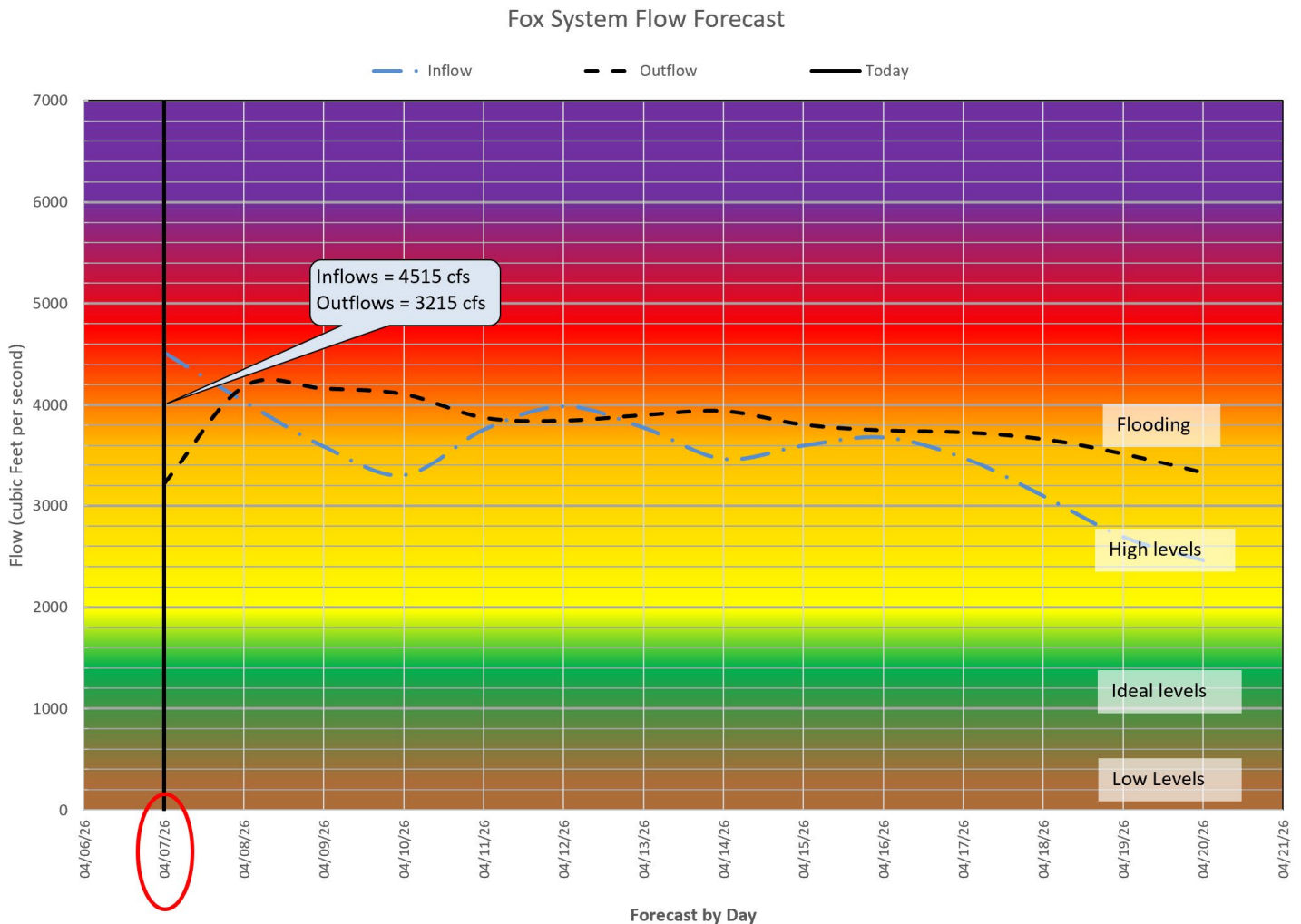


Figure 2: Estimated Upstream Gage Heights

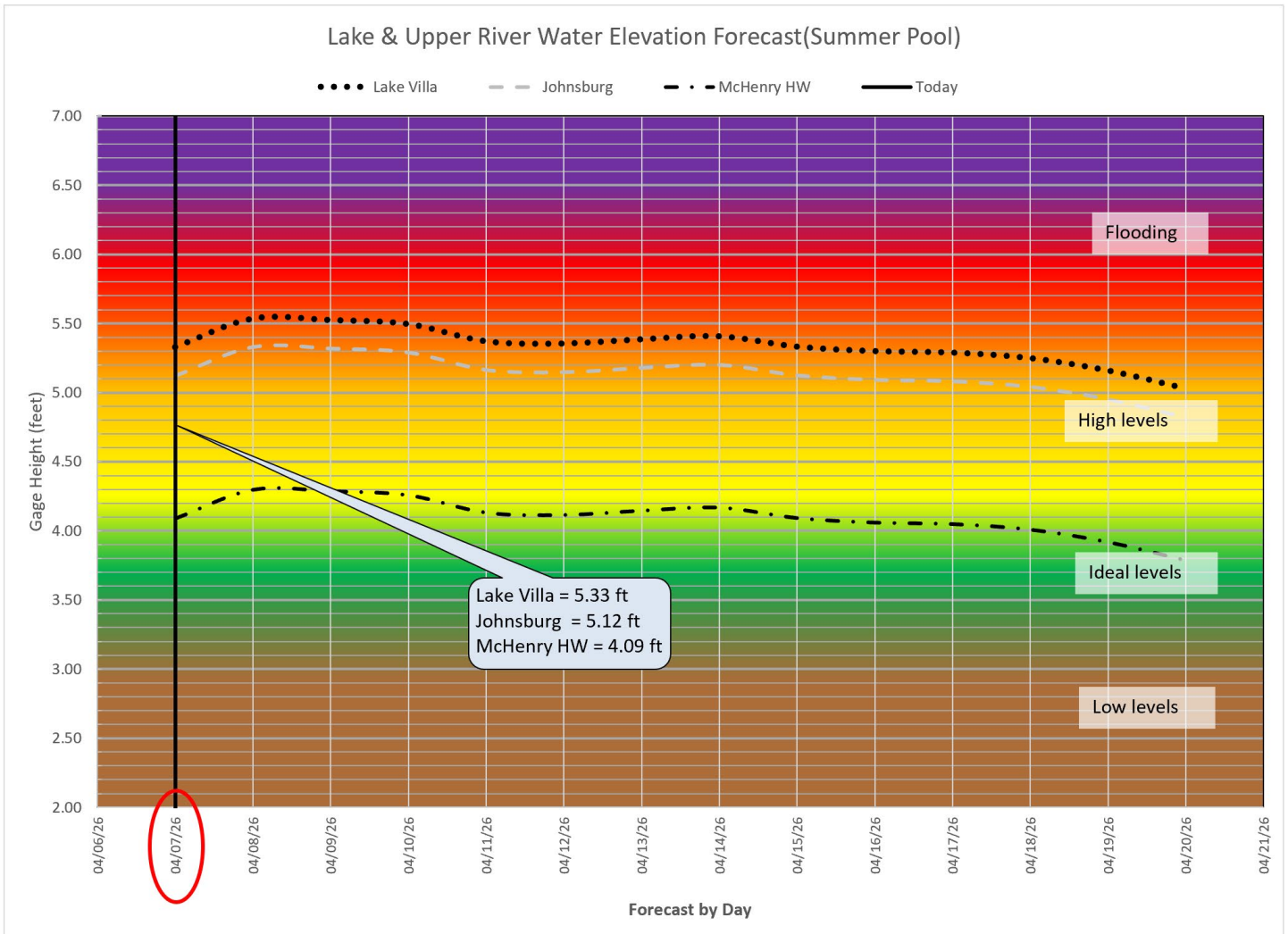
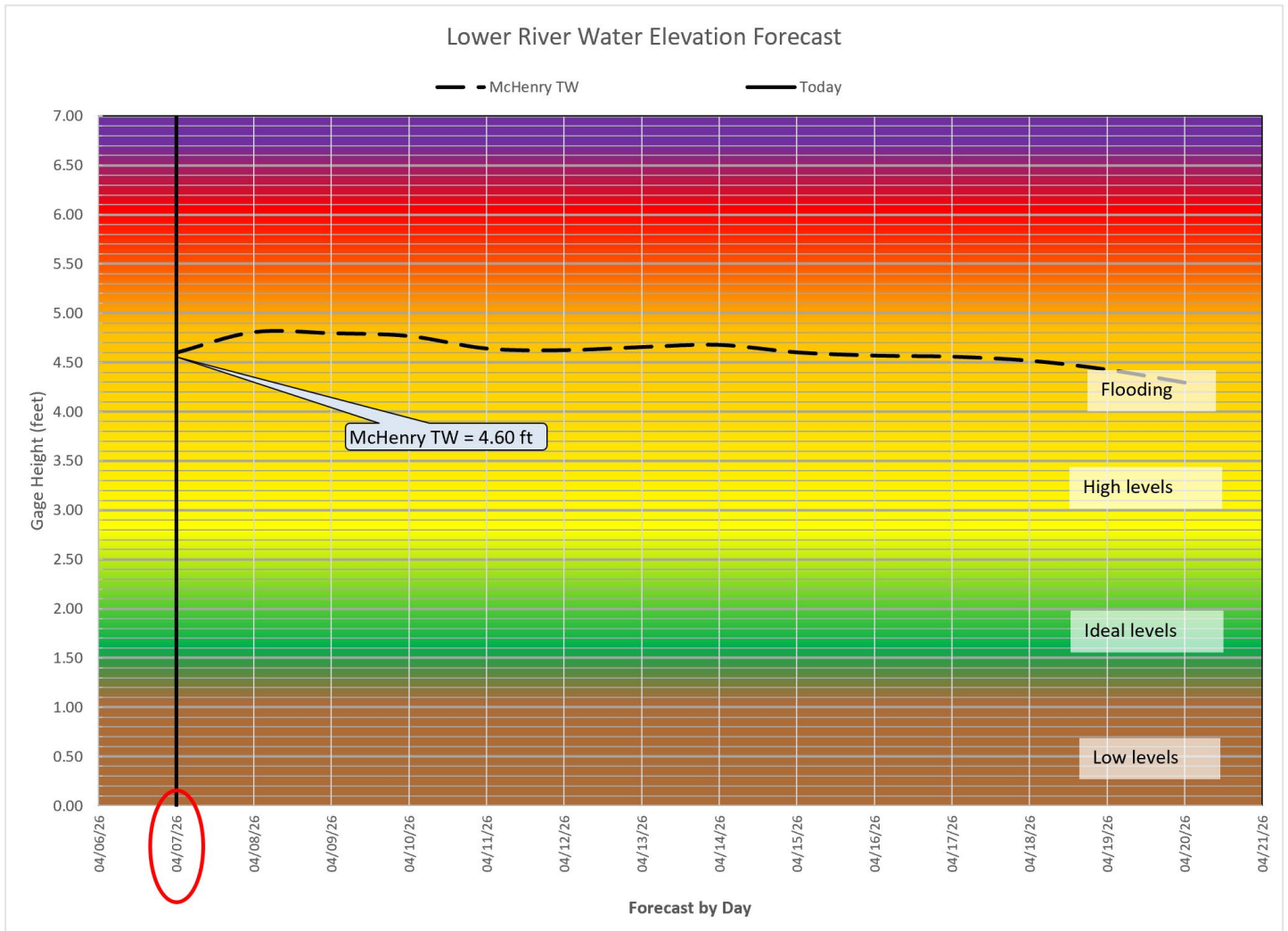


Figure 3: Estimated Downstream Gage Height



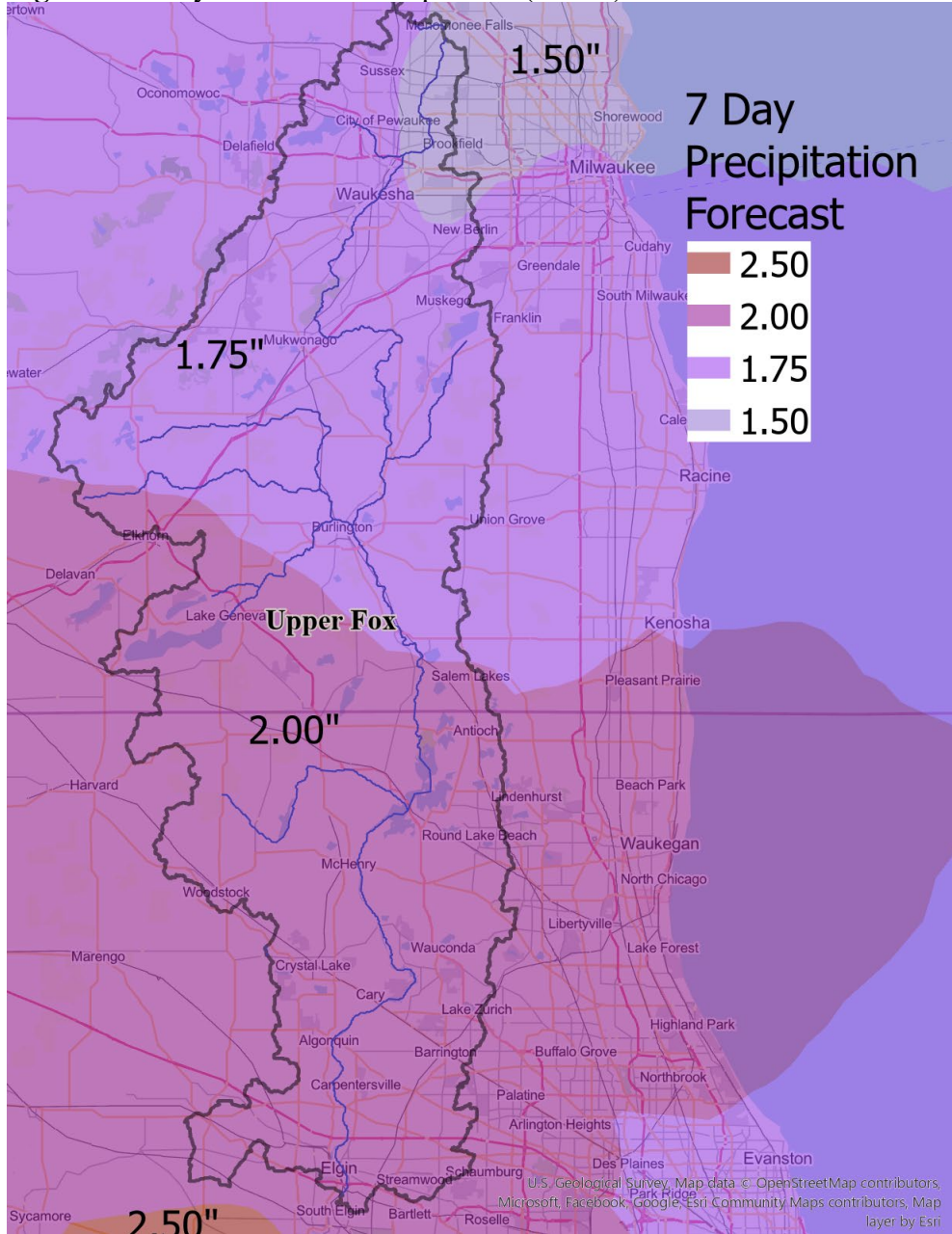
Current Conditions

Measured flow on the Fox River near New Munster, WI is 2710 cfs and Nippersink Creek near Spring Grove is at 731 cfs. The total Stratton inflow is 4515 cfs. The Fox Lake stage is 5.33 ft; the Stratton Dam Tailwater stage is 4.60 ft. The Fox River at the Algonquin Dam headwater stage is 1.87 ft.

Forecast

Inflows are forecasted to continue falling until the rain arrives later in the week, as shown in **Figure 1**. Fox Lake and areas upstream of the dam should expect to see levels near 5.50' for the next few days, as shown above in **Figure 2**. The Lower River should expect continued "Minor Flood" levels, **Figure 3**. The 7-Day Precipitation forecast is showing 1.75" to 2.00" of rain for watershed over the next week, **Figure 4**.

Figure 4: 7 Day Forecasted Precipitation (inches) for the Fox River Watershed



System Outlook

Chain O' Lakes Outlook

Water levels are forecasted to peak tomorrow and remain near that level for a few days.

McHenry Pool Area Outlook

The Pool and Upper River should expect to see conditions a little lower than the lakes.

Lower River Outlook

The lower river should expect to see high flows and water levels at Minor flood stage, ~5.0'. The gate at Algonquin Dam has been adjusted to accommodate the high flows.

IDNR-OWR will continue to monitor conditions and make changes as necessary pending future forecasts and conditions. Future updates will be made should forecasts change.

Thank you,

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