



Fox River Status Update
April 15th, 2026

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

Summary

This update is being released due to significant changes to the forecast. Inflows are forecasted to continue climbing to a peak of near 7800 cfs on Sunday (Figure 1). Fox Lake is forecasted to peak at ~6.75' next Wednesday, the Upper River and Pool will be slightly lower (Figure 2). The Lower River is expected to rise to near 7.00' on the Fox River (Tailwater) Near McHenry Gage as well (Figure 3). There is currently between 1.75" and 2.00" of rain forecasted for the watershed over the next 7 Days, (Figure 4).

Current Conditions and NWS Forecasts

Figure 1: National Weather Service Forecasted Inflows

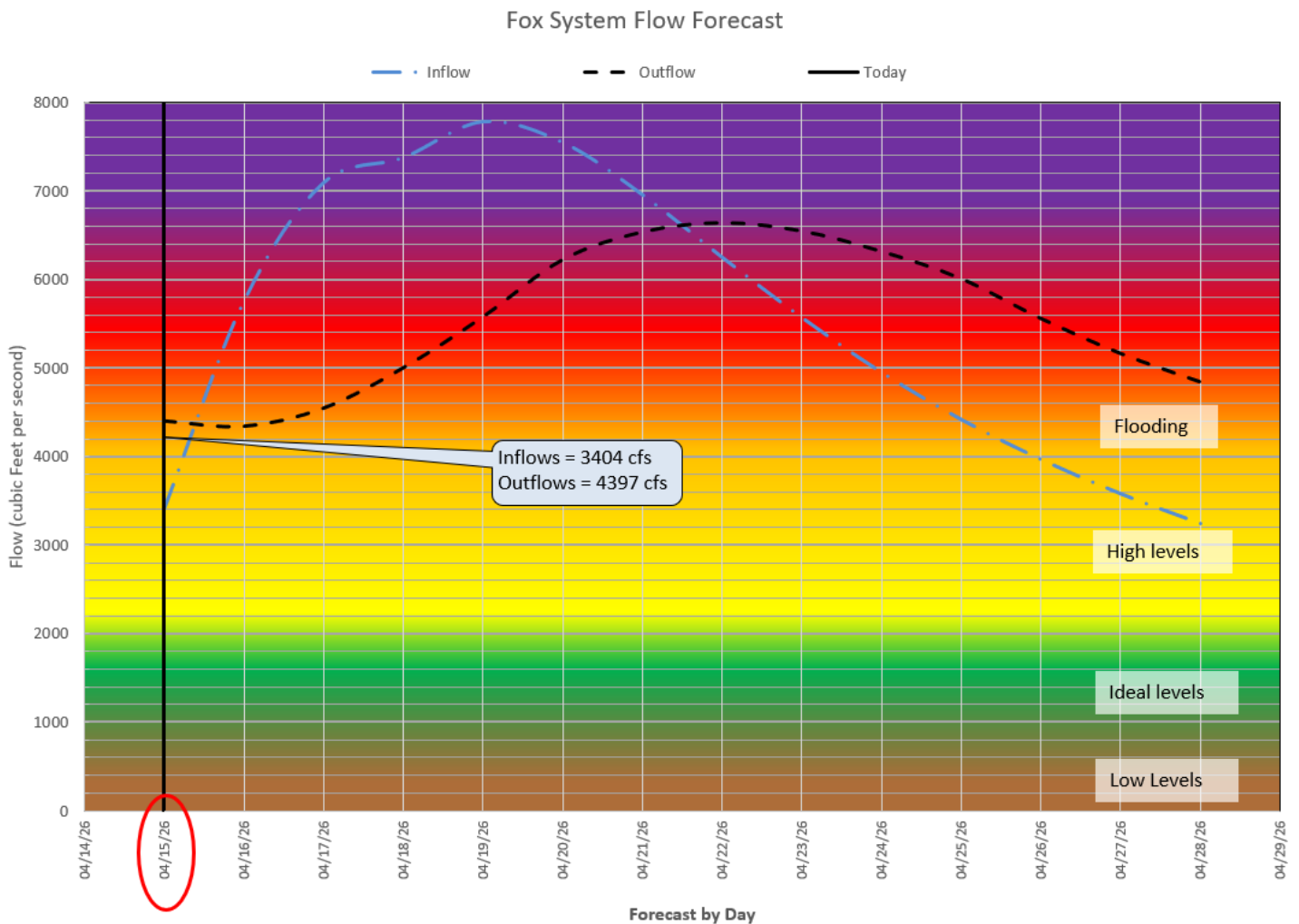


Figure 2: Estimated Upstream Gage Heights

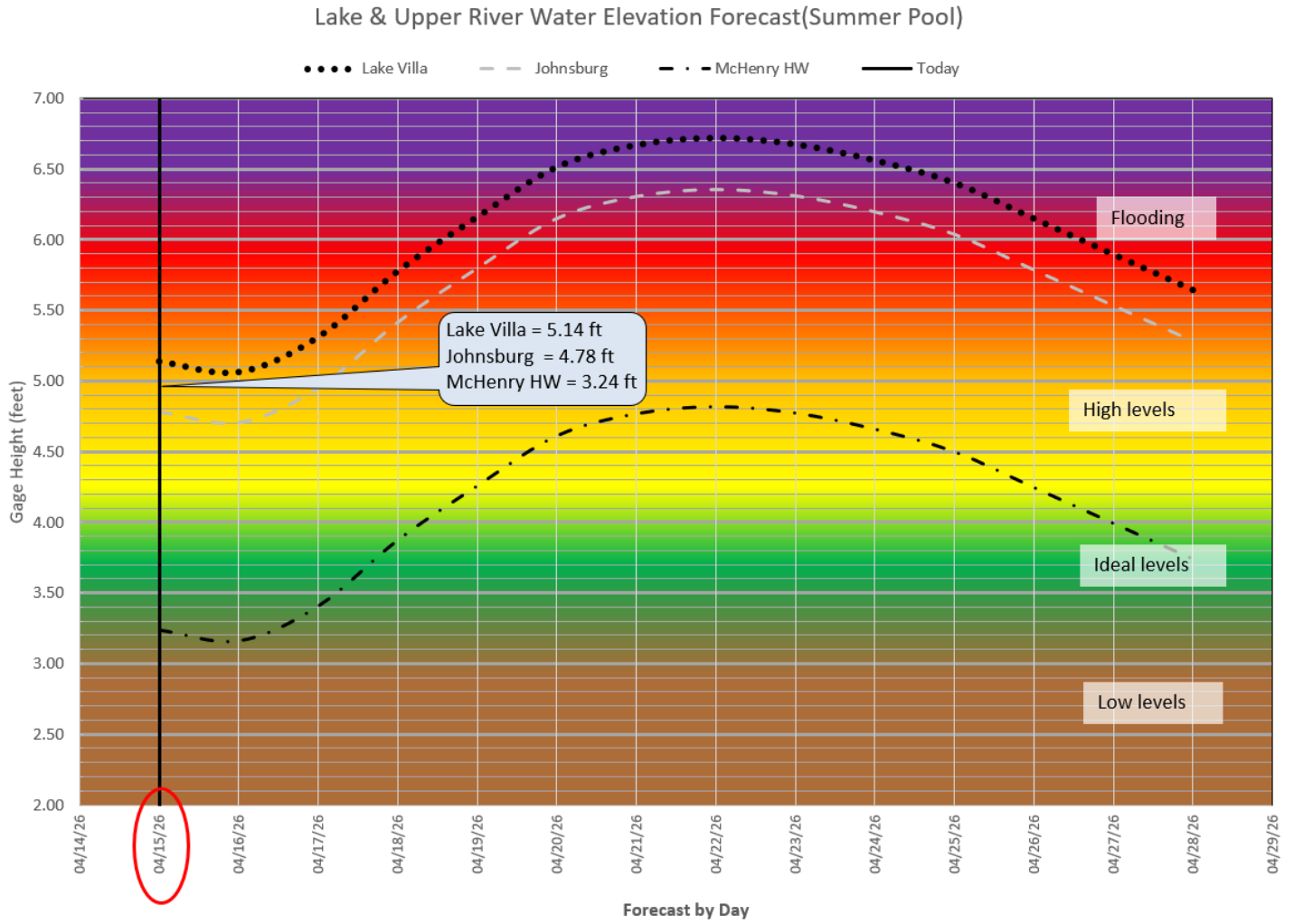
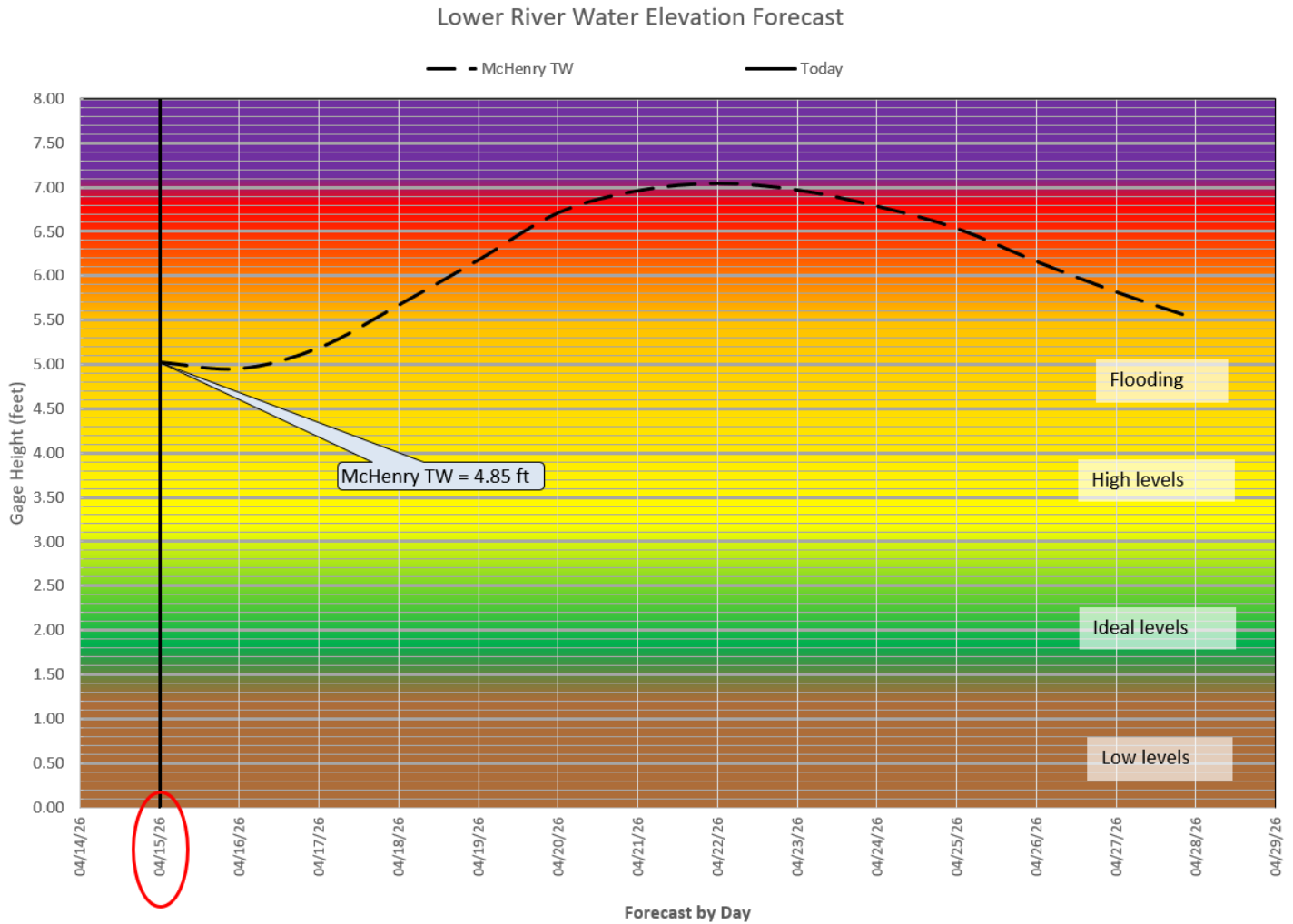


Figure 3: Estimated Downstream Gage Height



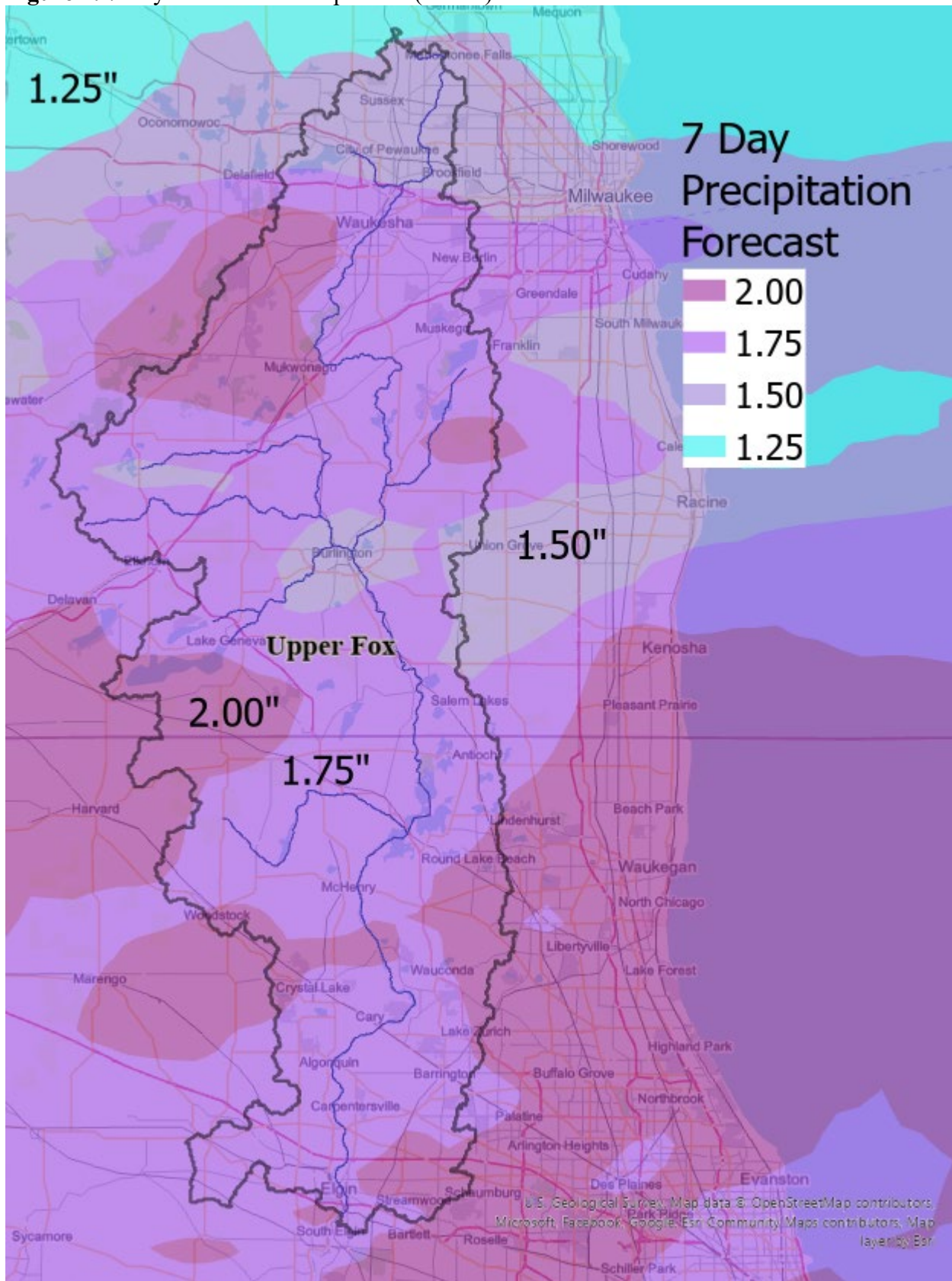
Current Conditions

Measured flow on the Fox River near New Munster, WI is 1840 cfs and Nippersink Creek near Spring Grove is at 1010 cfs. The total Stratton inflow is 3404 cfs. The Fox Lake stage is 5.14 ft; the Stratton Dam Tailwater stage is 4.85 ft. The Fox River at the Algonquin Dam headwater stage is 2.03 ft.

Forecast

Inflow forecasts have increased significantly due to recent and forecast rainfall, as shown in **Figure 1**. Fox Lake and areas upstream of the dam are forecasted to see levels approaching 6.75', as shown above in **Figure 2**. The Lower River should expect to see water levels approach "Major Flood" stage, **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 on 4/22 at 6.75'.

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 water levels approaching "Major Flood" stage (7.00' on the McHenry tailwater gage).

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 and stay safe,

Aaron Rotherham
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