



Fox River Status Update
April 20th, 2026

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

Summary

The good news is that inflows have peaked (Figure 1). Fox Lake is now forecasted to peak between 7.3' and 7.4' on Wednesday, with the Upper River and Pool slightly lower (Figure 2). The Lower River is now currently expected to crest near 7.5' on the Fox River (Tailwater) Near McHenry Gage, (Figure 3). There is currently between 0.25" and 0.50" 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

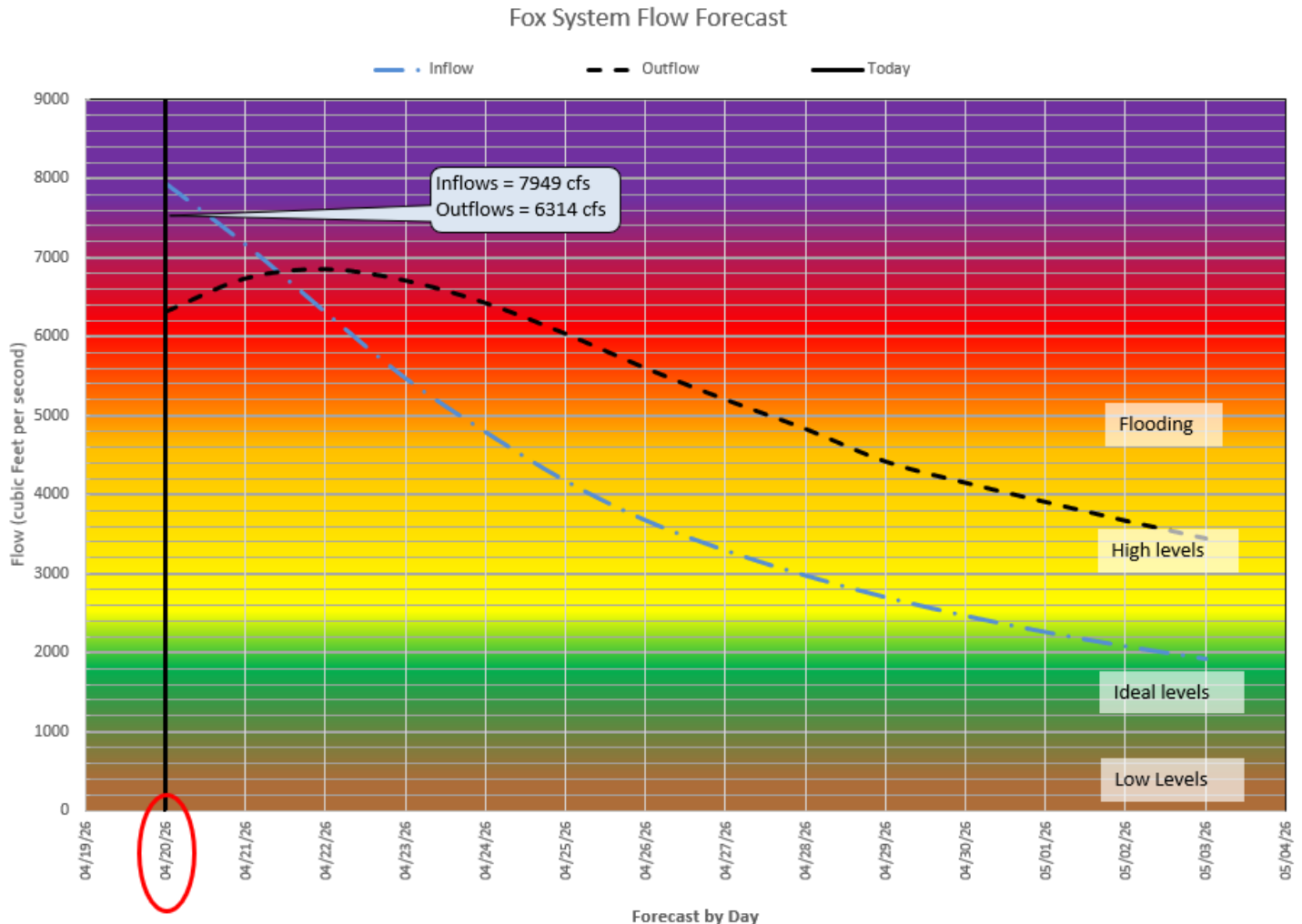


Figure 2: Estimated Upstream Gage Heights

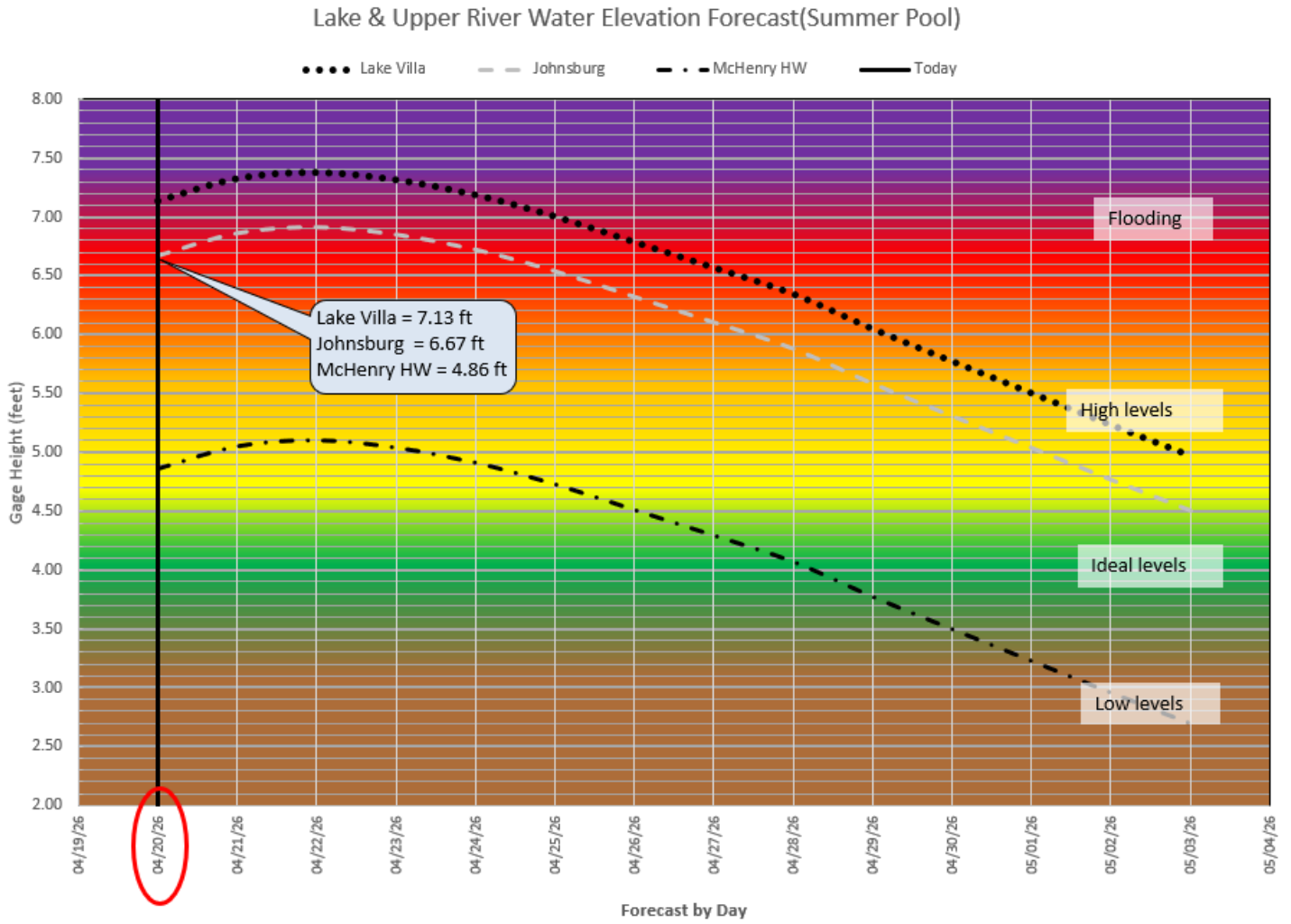
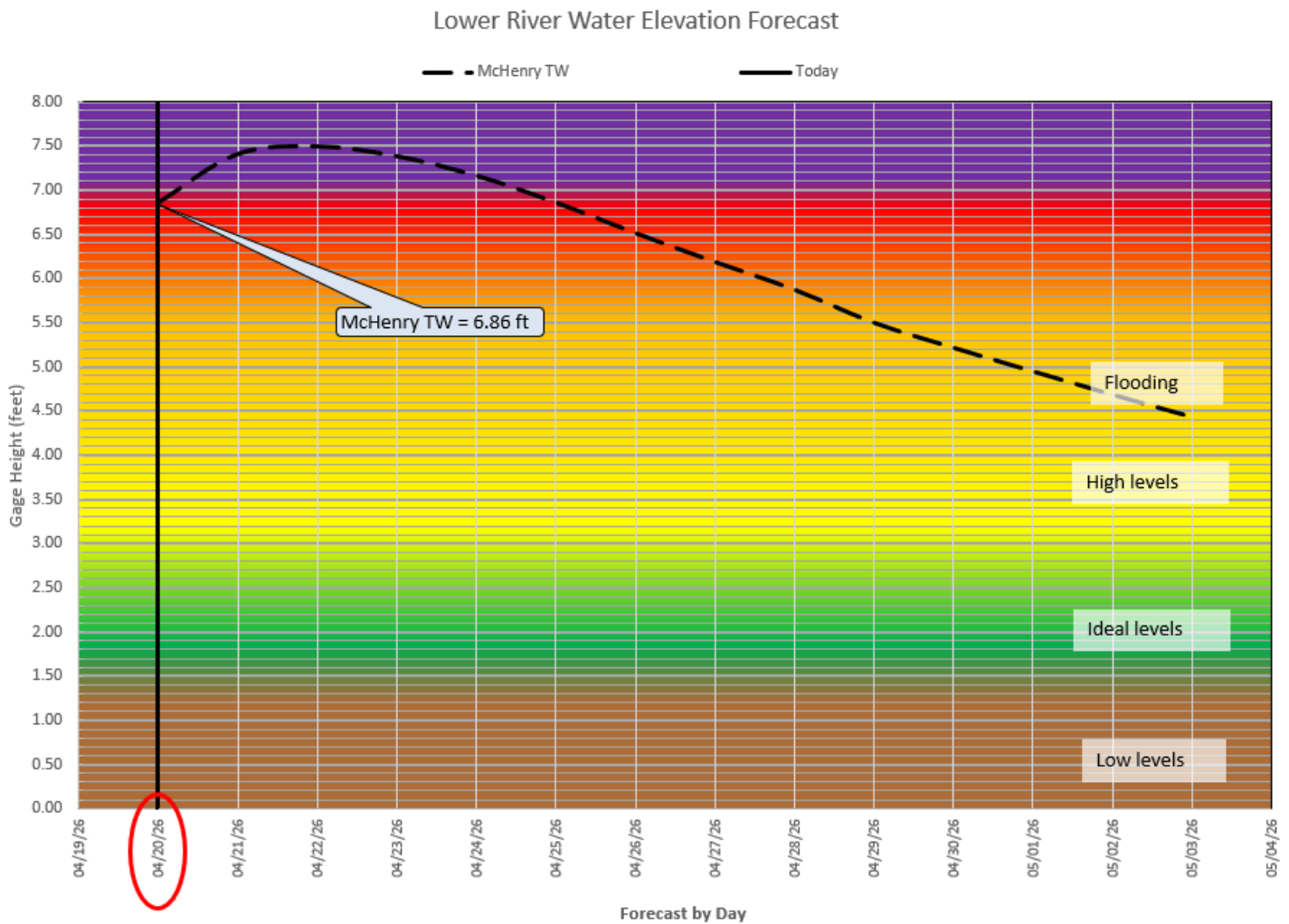


Figure 3: Estimated Downstream Gage Height



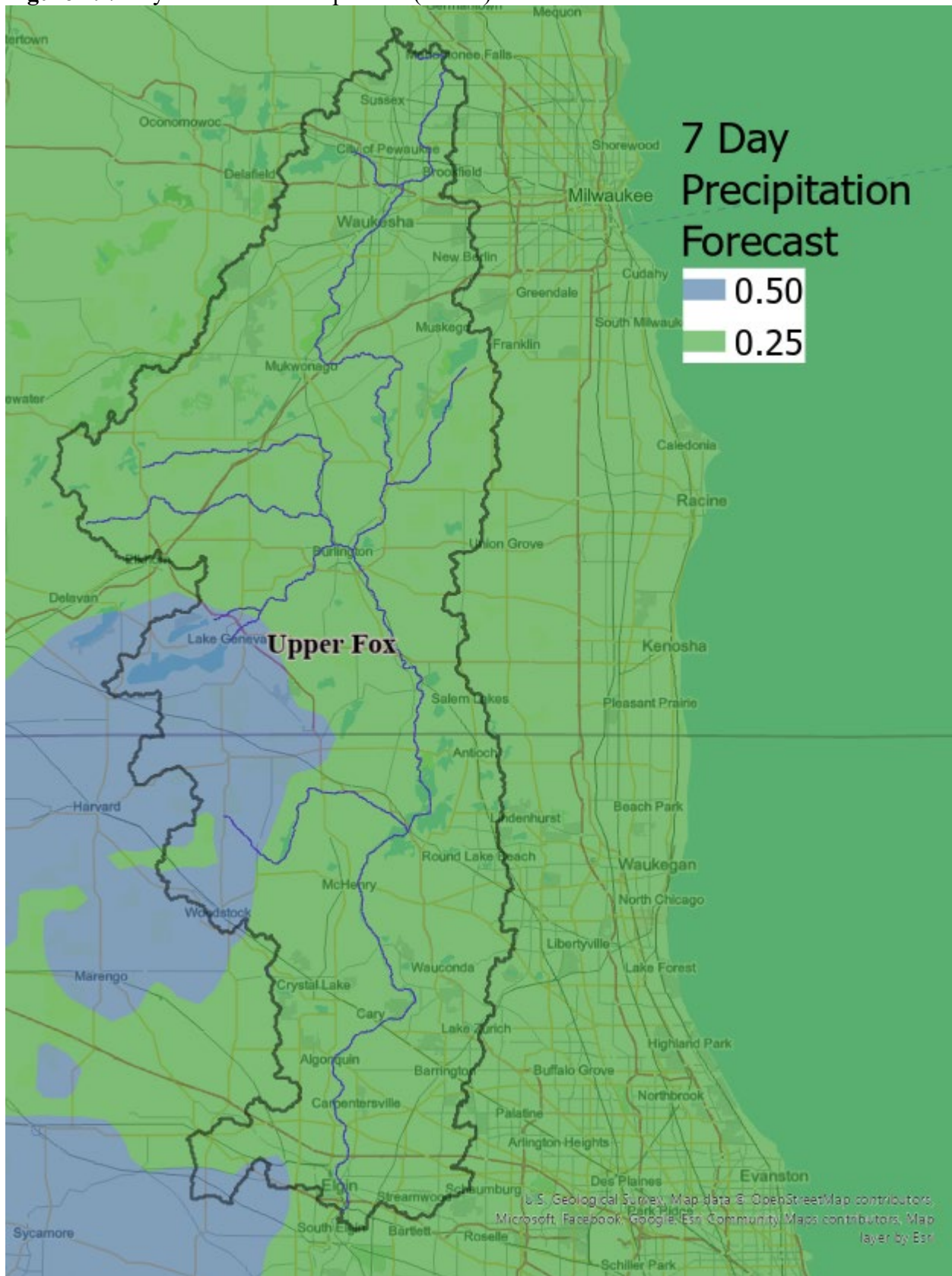
Current Conditions

Measured flow on the Fox River near New Munster, WI is 4810 cfs and Nippersink Creek near Spring Grove is at 1310 cfs. The total Stratton inflow is 7949 cfs. The Fox Lake stage is 7.13 ft; the Stratton Dam Tailwater stage is 6.86 ft. The Fox River at the Algonquin Dam headwater stage is 3.20 ft.

Forecast

Inflows begun to start dropping, as shown in **Figure 1**. Fox Lake and areas upstream of the dam are forecasted to see levels approaching 7.3'-7.4', as shown above in **Figure 2**. The Lower River should expect to see water levels near 7.5', **Figure 3**. The 7-Day Precipitation forecast is showing 0.25" to 0.50" 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 Wednesday ~7.3'-7.4' on the Fox Lake Gage.

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 is currently forecasted to crest near 7.5'.

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,

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