



Fox River Status Update
April 24th, 2026

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

Summary

It is going to take some time for the system to drain and return to Summer Pool water levels. There is currently between 0.75” and 1.00” of rain forecasted for the watershed over the next 7 Days, with the bulk of it being Monday(Figure 4). Inflows continue to drop but will flatten out for a short time due to the rain (Figure 1). Fox Lake, Upper River, and Pool continue dropping but may hold steady while the rainfall moves through the system (Figure 2). The Lower River is expected to keep dropping as well on the Fox River (Tailwater) Near McHenry Gage, (Figure 3).

Current Conditions and NWS Forecasts

Figure 1: National Weather Service Forecasted Inflows

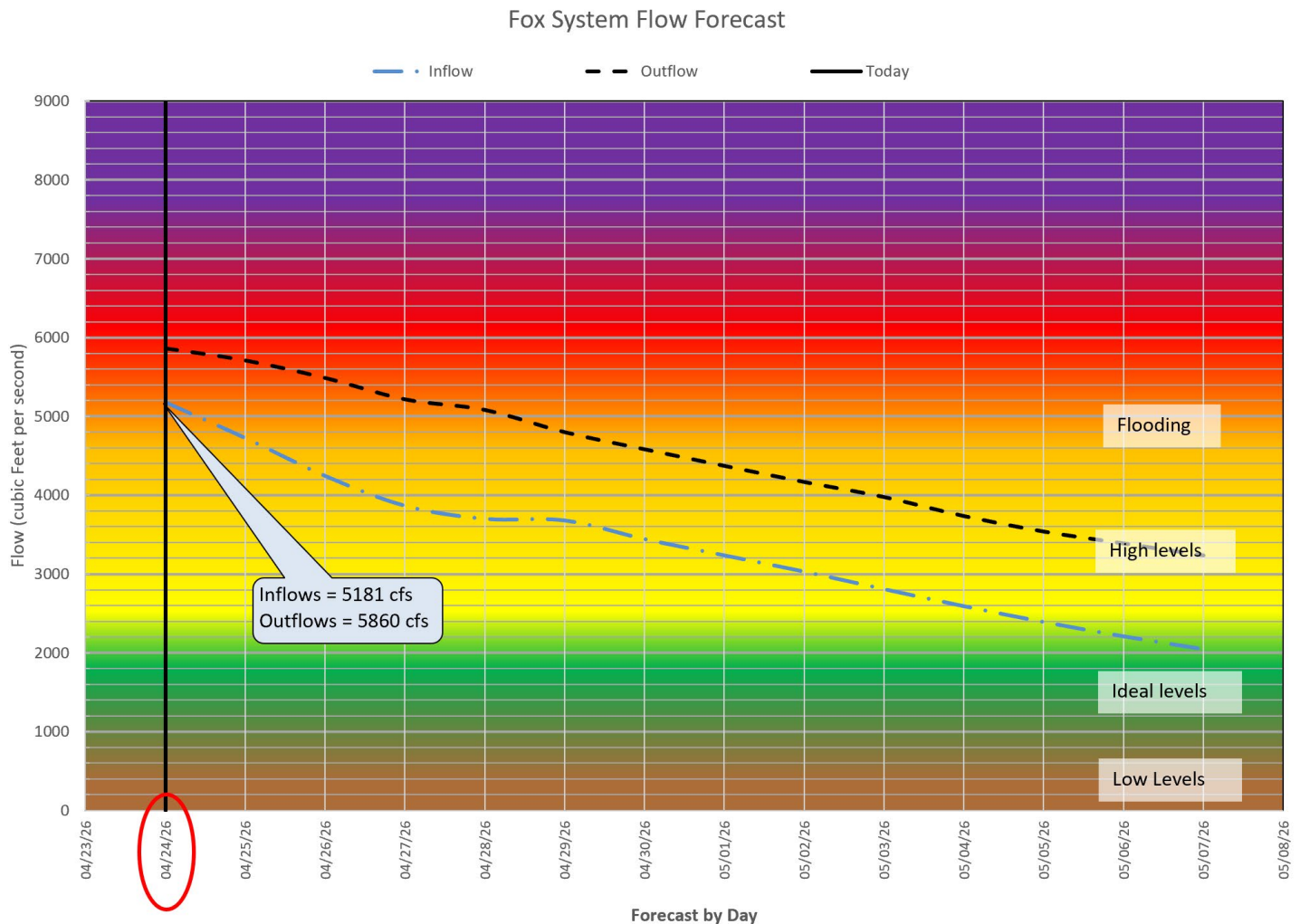


Figure 2: Estimated Upstream Gage Heights

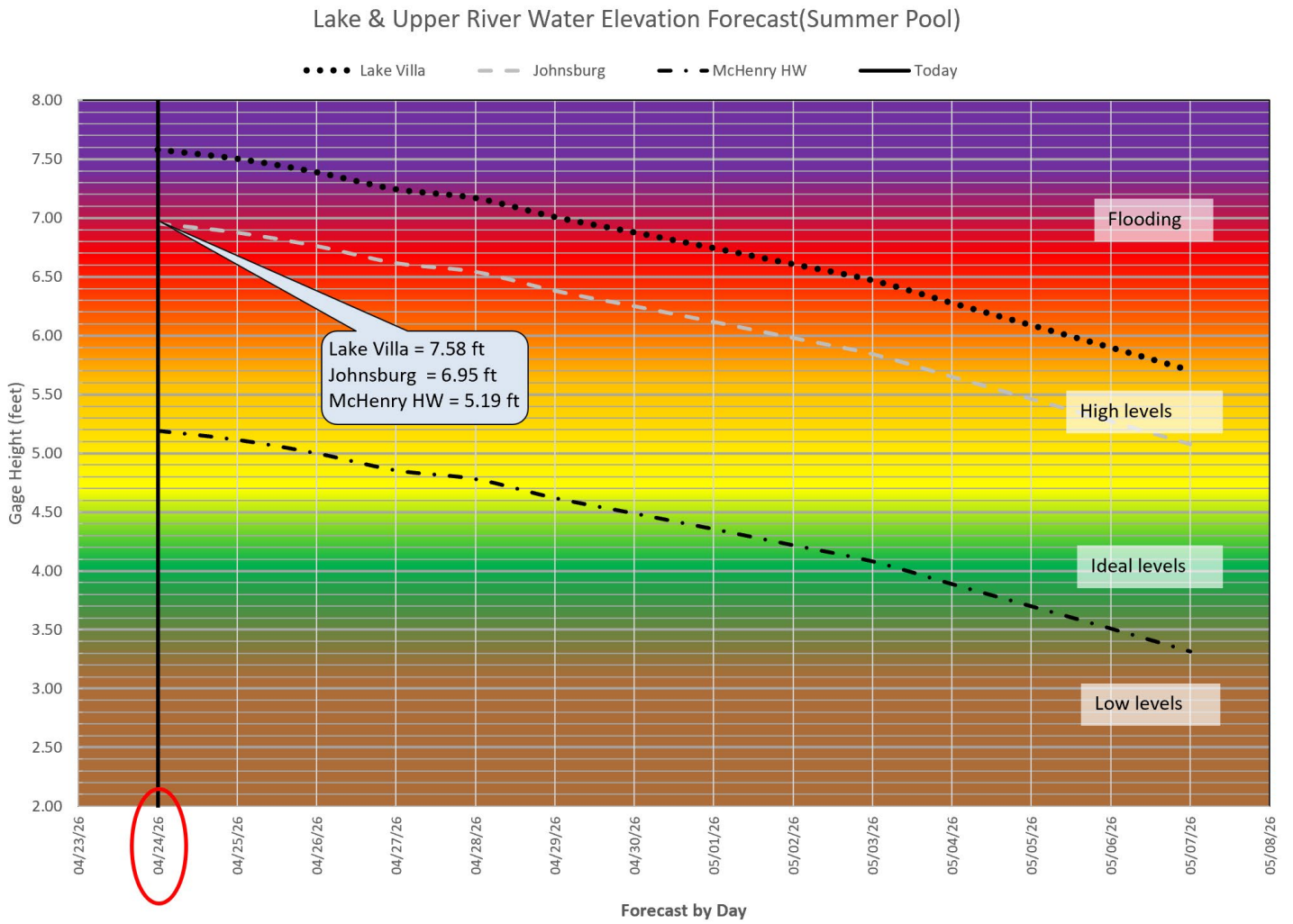
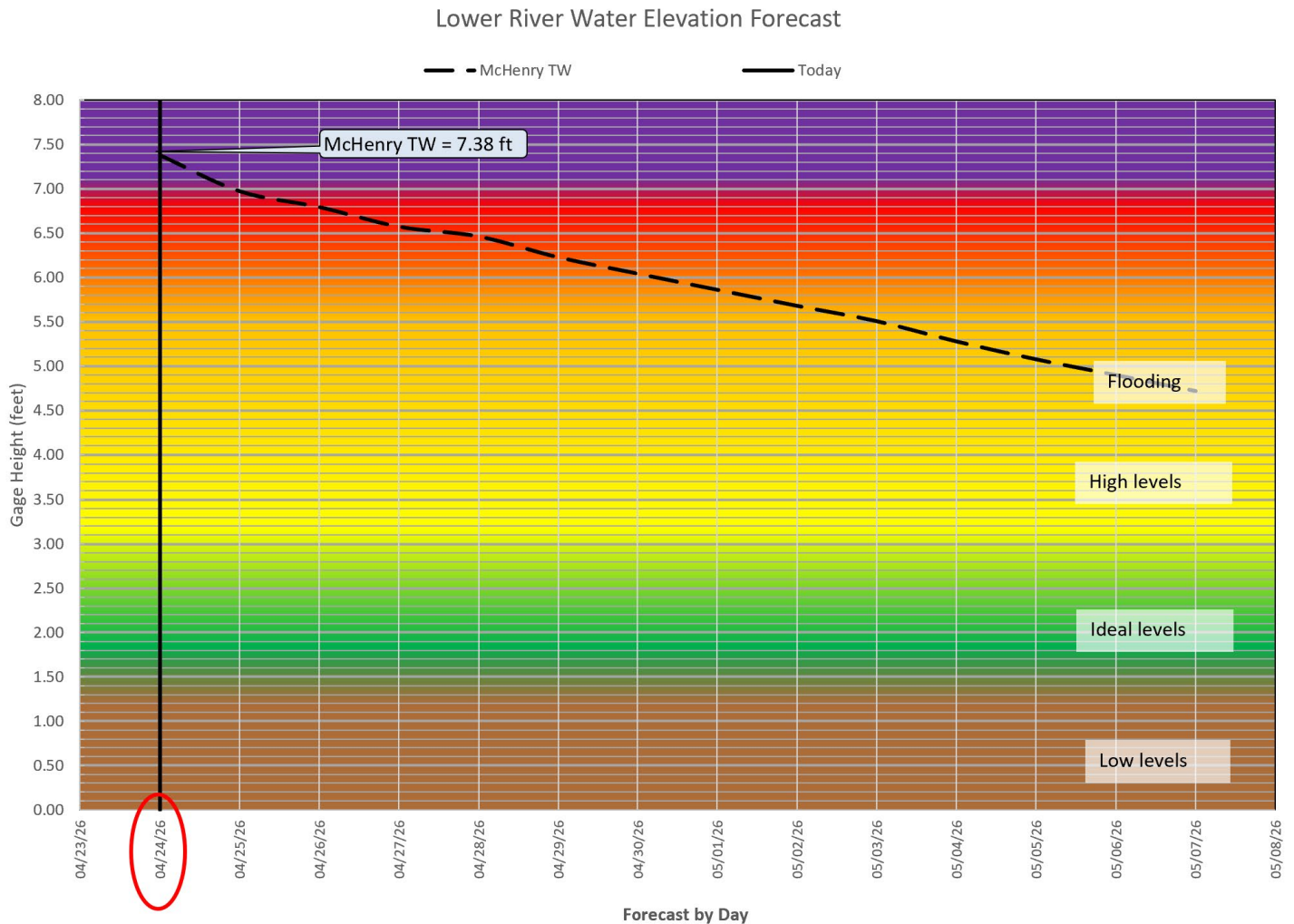


Figure 3: Estimated Downstream Gage Height



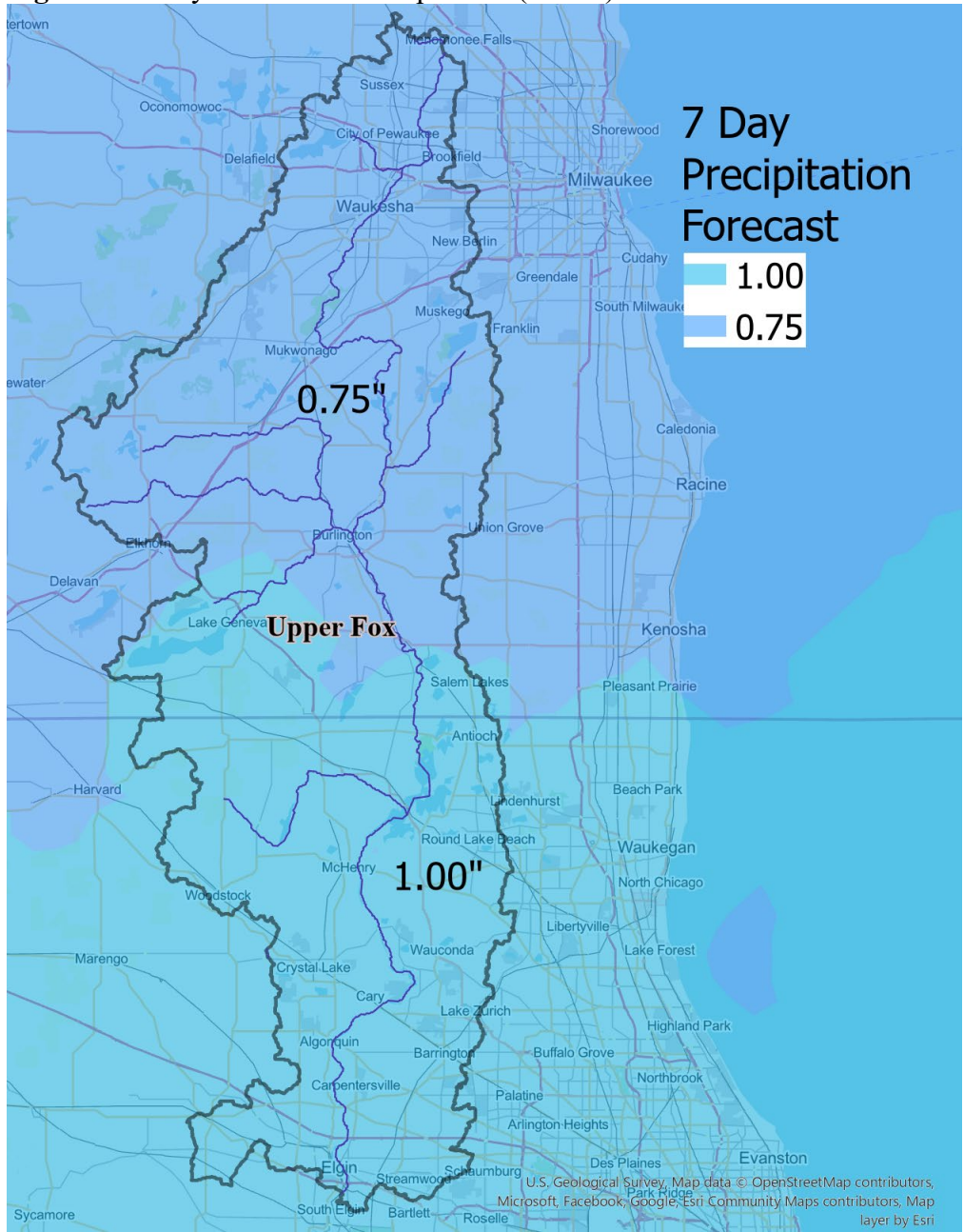
Current Conditions

Measured flow on the Fox River near New Munster, WI is 4370 cfs and Nippersink Creek near Spring Grove is at 411 cfs. The total Stratton inflow is 5181 cfs, a drop of almost 1000 cfs since Wednesday. The Fox Lake stage is 7.58 ft; the Stratton Dam Tailwater stage is 7.38 ft. The Fox River at the Algonquin Dam headwater stage is 3.52 ft.

Forecast

Inflows continue dropping, as shown in **Figure 1**. Fox Lake and areas upstream of the dam will continue to drop, with a slight pause from the rain as shown above in **Figure 2**. The Lower River should expect to see water levels drop as inflows continue to fall, **Figure 3**. The 7-Day Precipitation forecast is showing 0.75” to 1.00” of rain for watershed over the next week, **Figure 4**. The rain looks as though it will cause the water levels to hold steady for a short time and then continue dropping.

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



System Outlook

Chain O' Lakes Outlook

Water levels have peaked and are now slowly falling.

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 has crested as well.

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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