



Fox River Status Update  
May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026

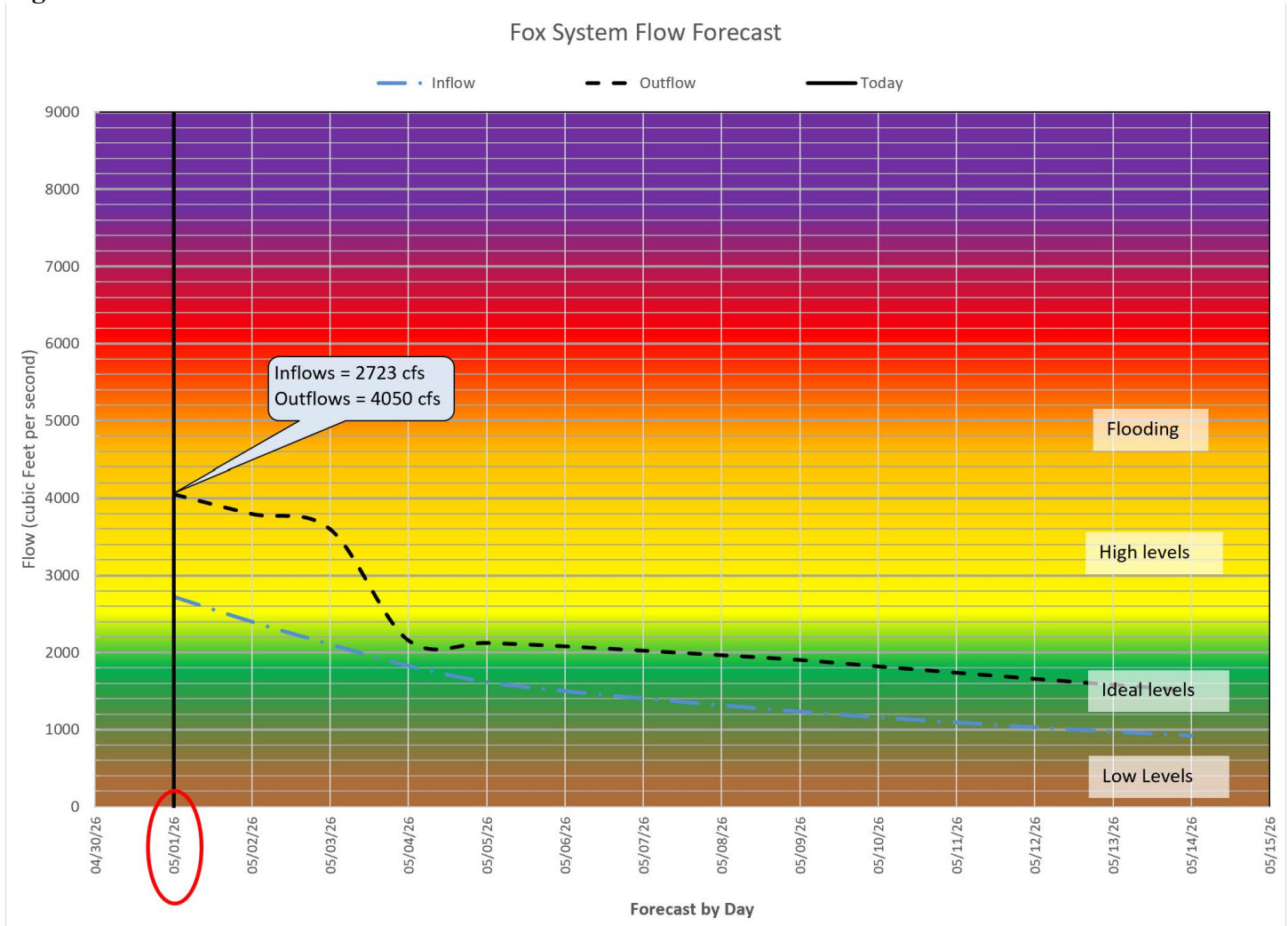
*\*This Update is based on the current forecast and will be adjusted based on future forecasts and rainfall.*

### Summary

Hopefully we are nearing the light at the end of the tunnel. It is currently forecasted that the Chain and Upper River could return to “No Wake” next week. The Lower River could be at “No Wake” the following week. There is currently 0.25” or less of rain forecasted for the watershed over the next 7 Days, (Figure 4). Inflows will continue to drop if no significant rainfall occurs (Figure 1). Fox Lake, Upper River, and Pool continue dropping (Figure 2). The Lower River is expected to keep dropping as well on the Fox River (Tailwater) Near McHenry Gage, (Figure 3).

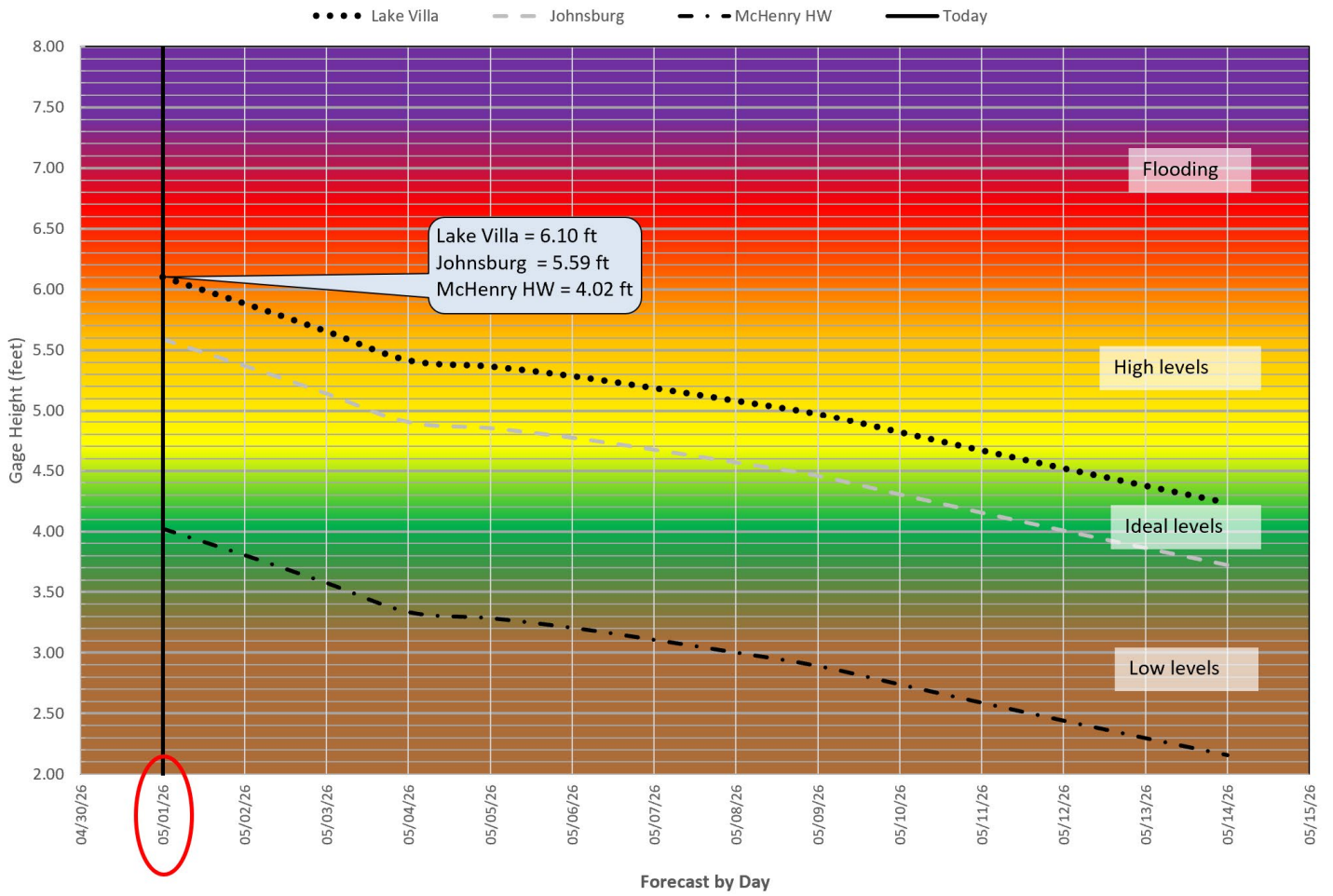
### Current Conditions and NWS Forecasts

Figure 1: National Weather Service Forecasted Inflows

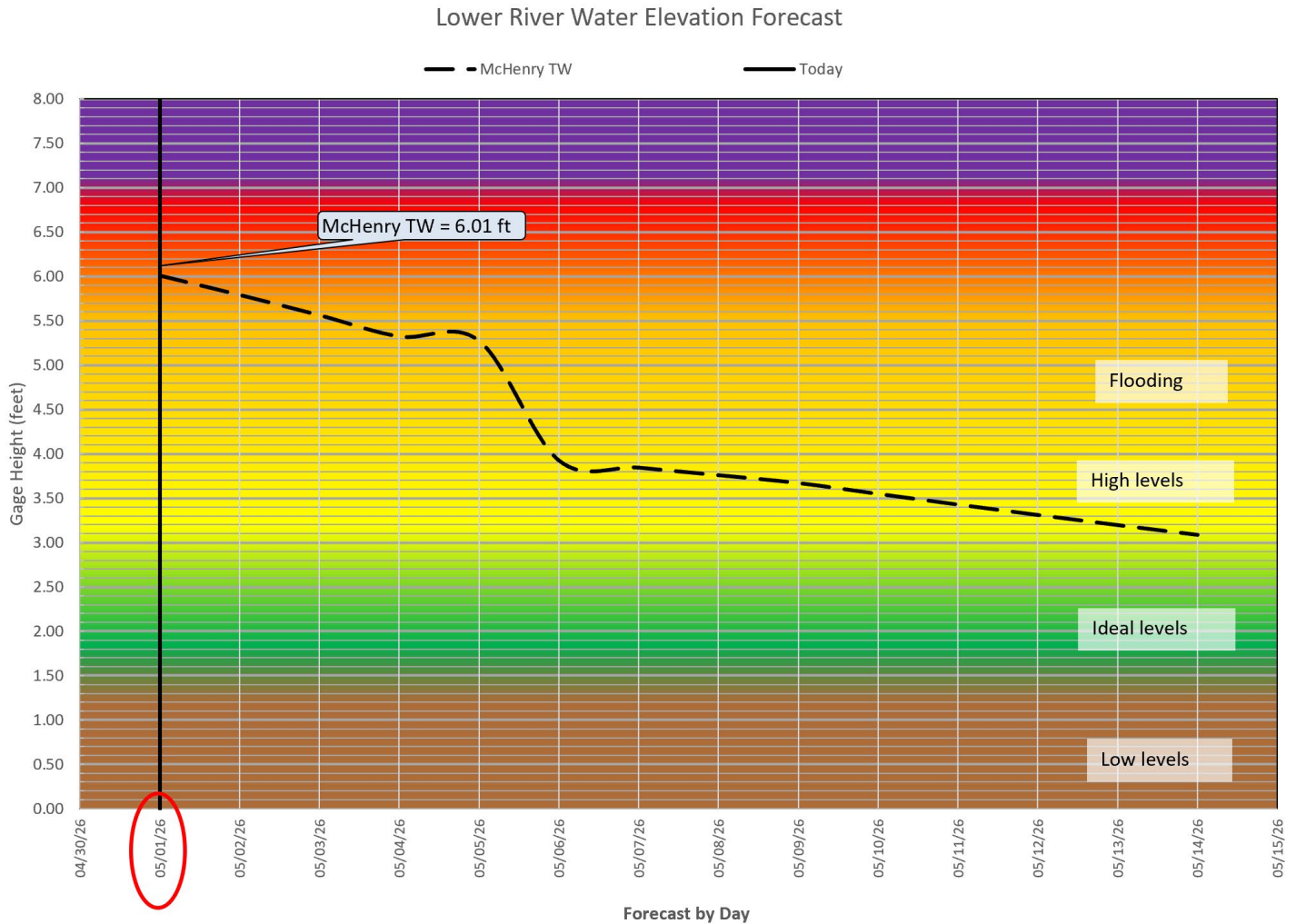


**Figure 2: Estimated Upstream Gage Heights**

Lake & Upper River Water Elevation Forecast(Summer Pool)



**Figure 3:** Estimated Downstream Gage Height



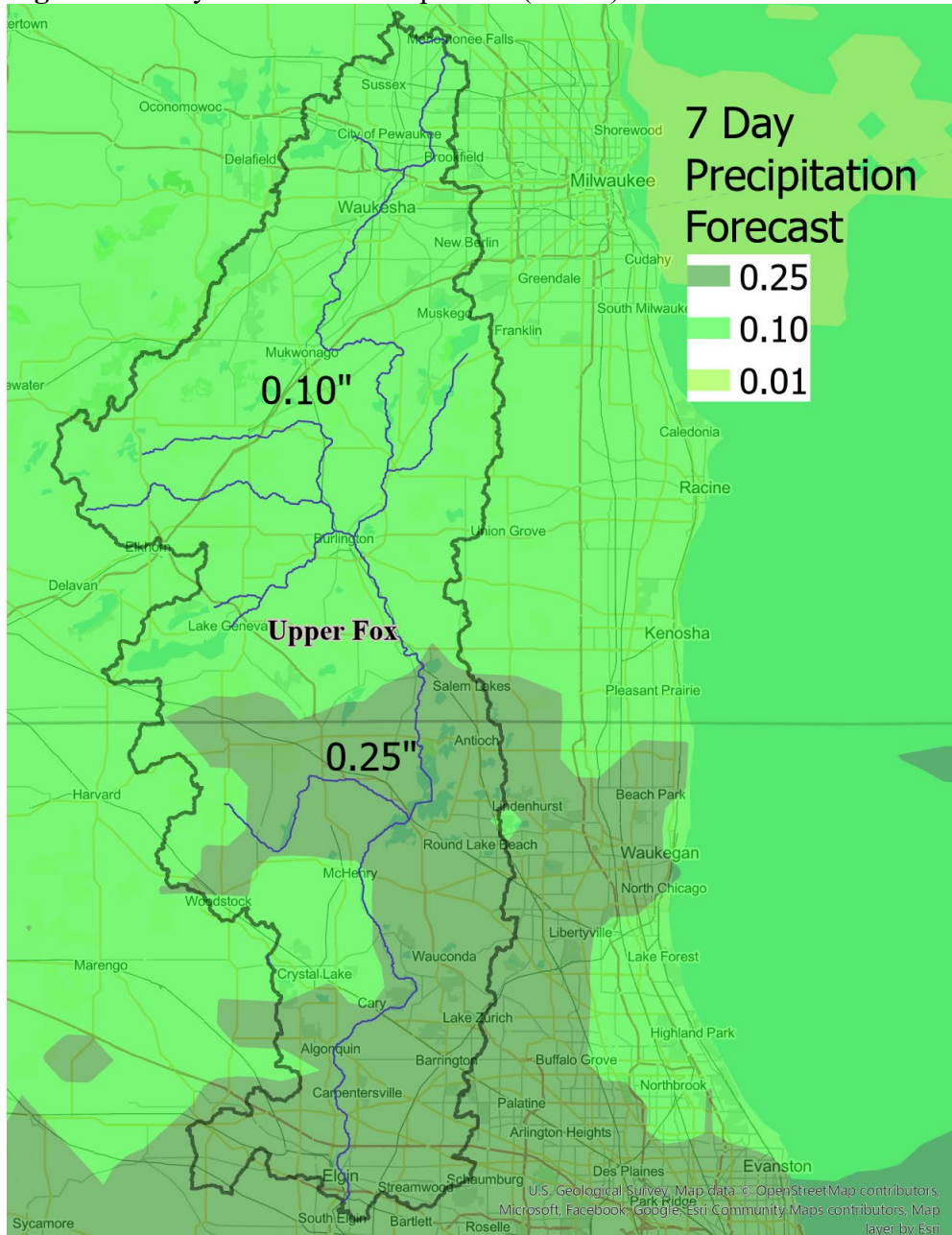
### Current Conditions

Measured flow on the Fox River near New Munster, WI is 1800 cfs and Nippersink Creek near Spring Grove is 293 cfs. The total Stratton inflow is 2723 cfs. The Fox Lake stage is 6.10 ft; the Stratton Dam Tailwater stage is 6.01 ft. The Fox River at the Algonquin Dam headwater stage is 2.66 ft.

### Forecast

Inflows continue dropping, as shown in **Figure 1**. Fox Lake and areas upstream of the dam will continue to drop, as shown above in **Figure 2**. The Lower River should expect to see levels drop as areas upstream of the dam continue to fall, **Figure 3**. The 7-Day Precipitation forecast is showing near 0.25” 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 have fallen by 1.5' since their peak.

### McHenry Pool Area Outlook

The Pool and Upper River are dropping at a rate of near 0.25' per day.

## Lower River Outlook

The lower river is forecasted to drop significantly over the next 10 days.

**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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