



Fox River Status Update May 15th, 2025

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

Summary

With “Abnormally Dry” conditions expanding and “Moderate Drought” conditions (Figure 5) now covering the central portion of the watershed, the 1.25” to 1.75” of precipitation forecasted for the next 7 Days (Figure 4) will be a slight relief from the dropping inflows. Inflows are forecasted to hold relatively steady over the next week, peaking around Memorial Day weekend (Figure 1). Fox Lake and areas upstream of the dam are forecasted to remain near 4.00’ (Figure 2). The Lower River should expect to see levels remain near where they are now (Figure 3).

Current Conditions and NWS Forecasts

Figure 1: National Weather Service Forecasted Inflows

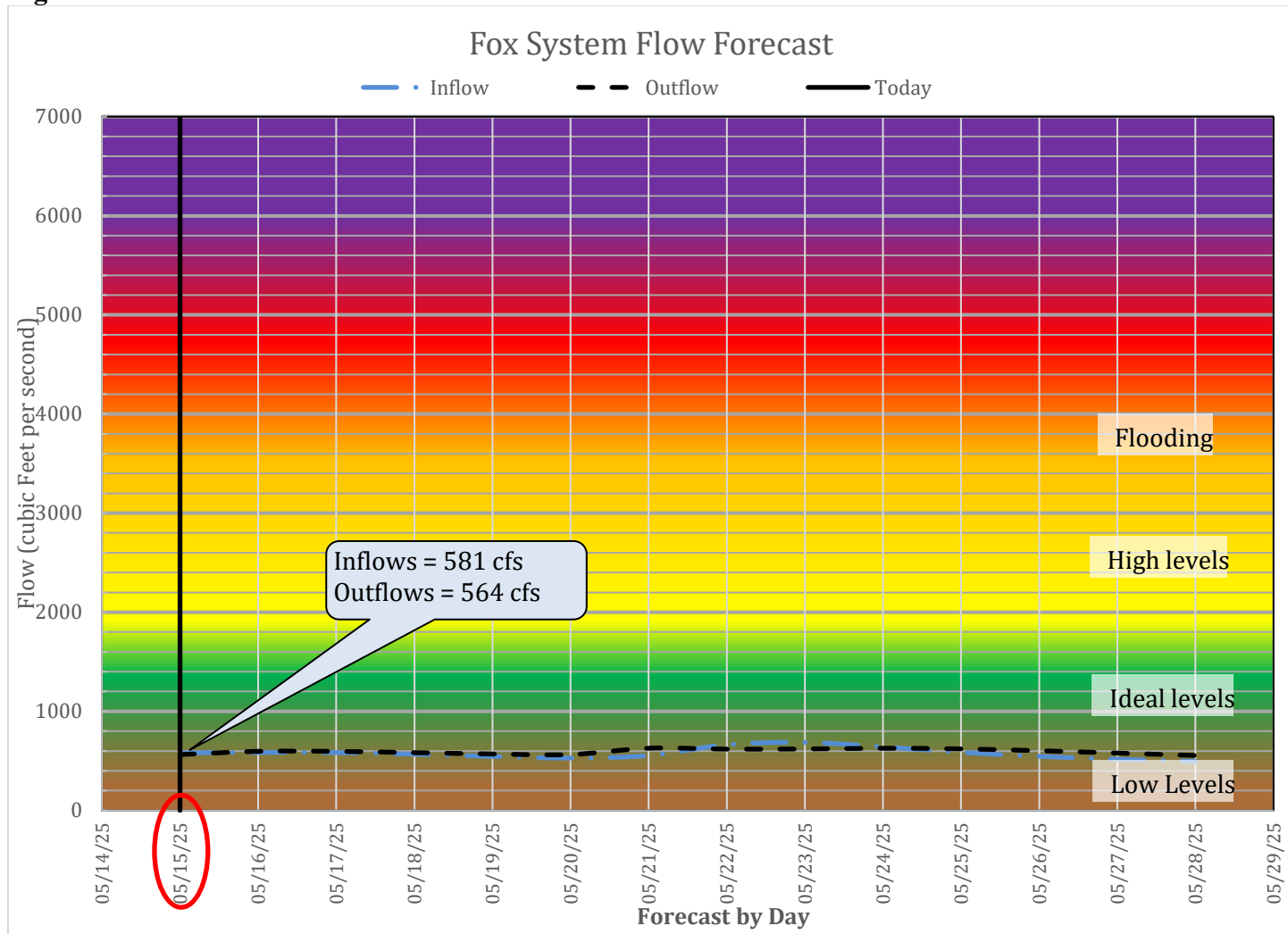


Figure 2: Estimated Upstream Gage Heights

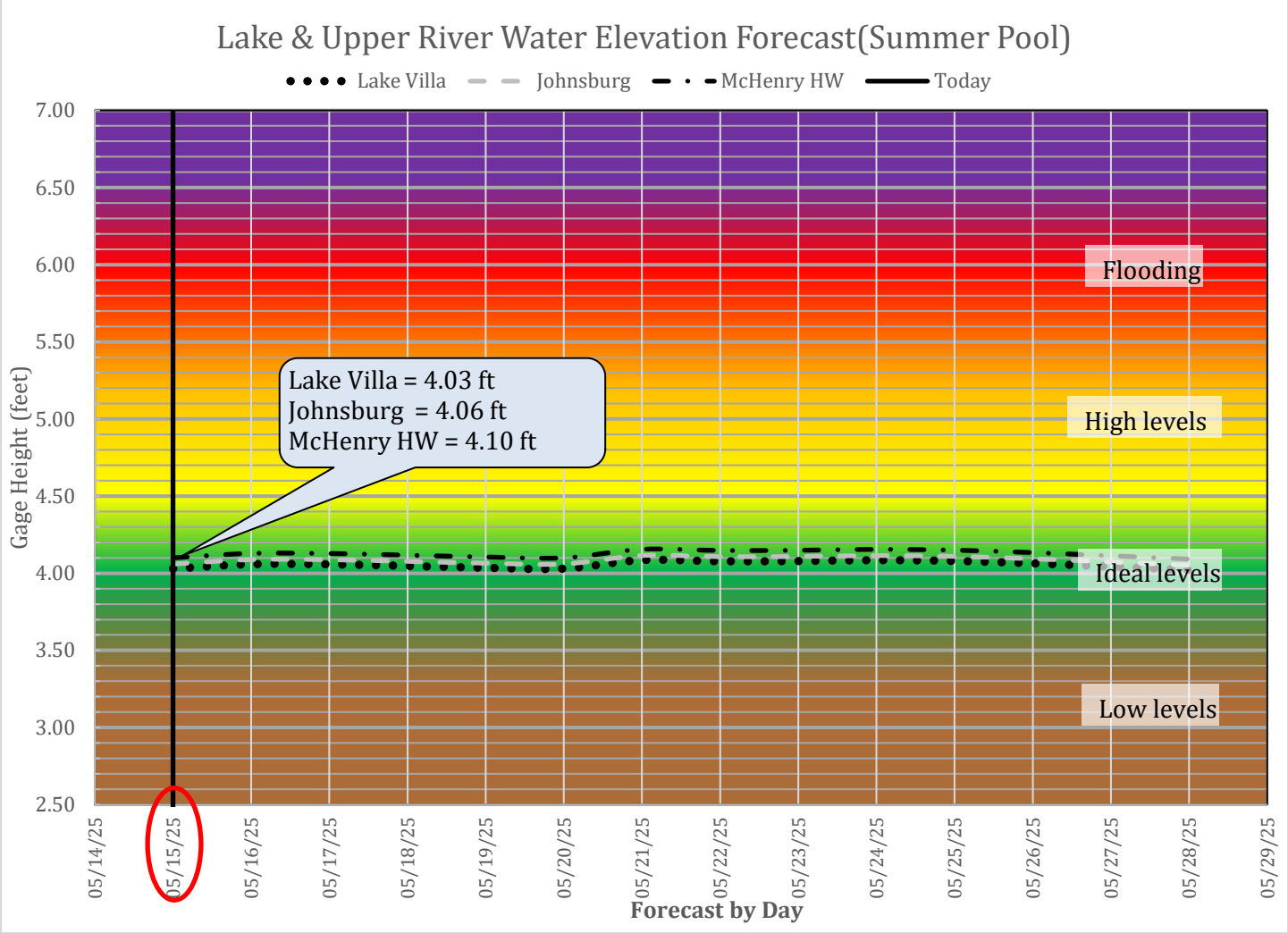
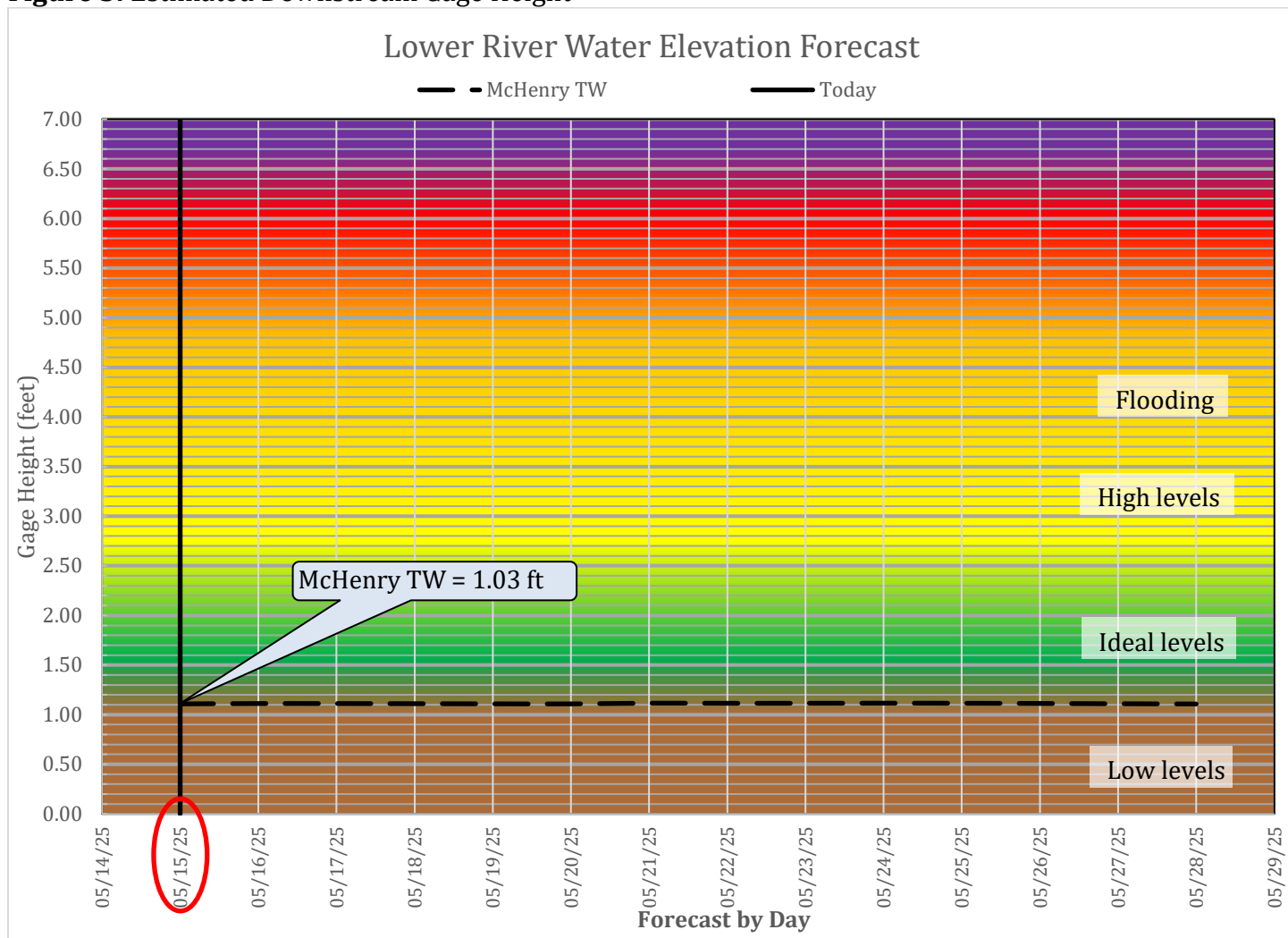


Figure 3: Estimated Downstream Gage Height



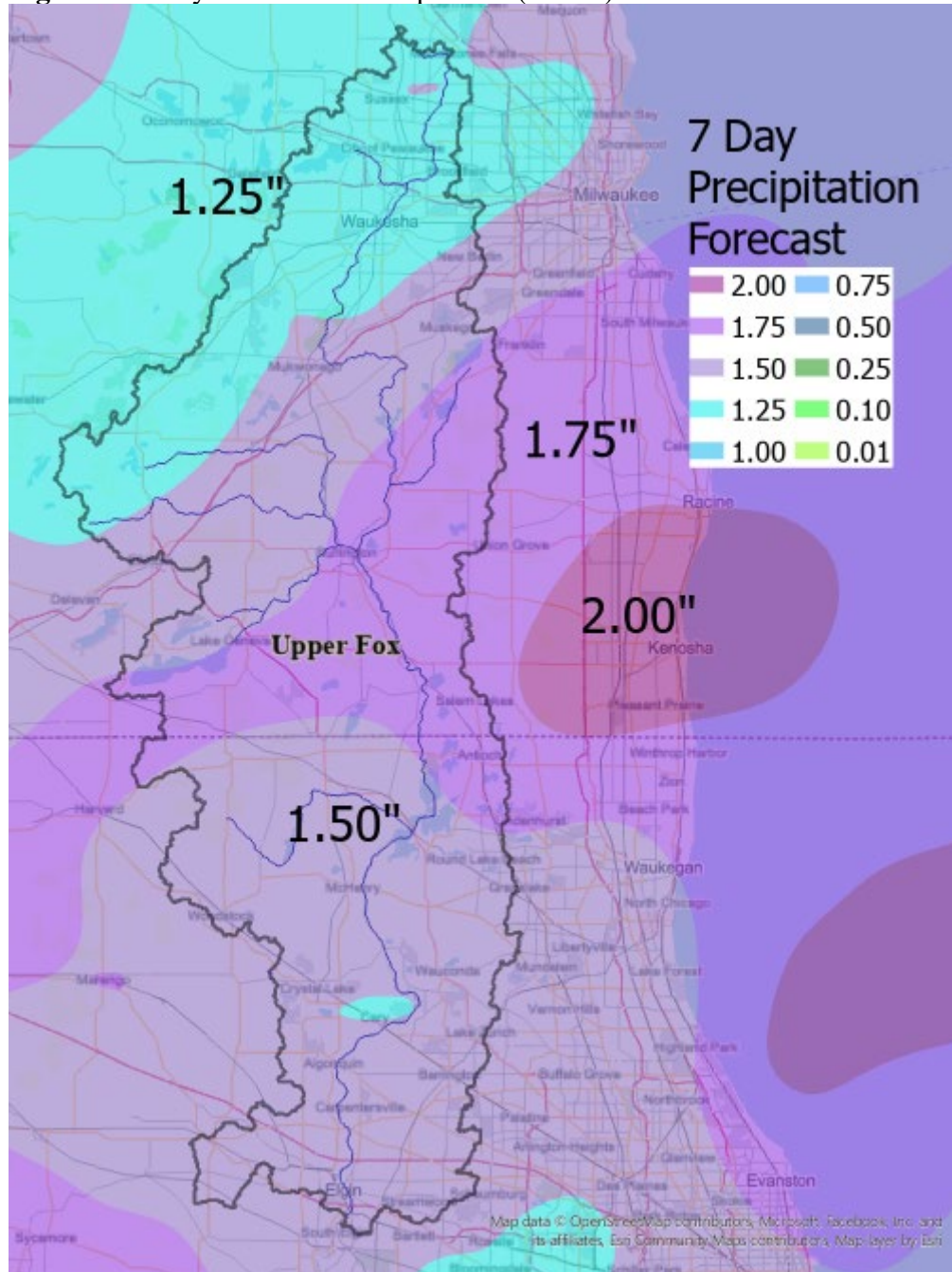
Current Conditions

Measured flow on the Fox River near New Munster, WI is 415 cfs and Nippersink Creek near Spring Grove is at 72 cfs. The total system inflow is 581 cfs. The Fox Lake stage is 4.03 ft; the Stratton Dam Tailwater stage is 1.01 ft. The Fox River at the Algonquin Dam headwater stage is 1.48 ft.

Forecast

Inflows are forecasted to not change much over the next week, as shown in **Figure 1**. Fox Lake and areas upstream of the dam should remain near 4.00', pending an un-forecasted deluge, as shown above in **Figure 2**. The Lower River should hold close to the current level, give or take **Figure 3**. The 7-Day Precipitation forecast is showing between 1.25"-1.75" of rain for the next week, **Figure 4**. The entire watershed is either Abnormally Dry or in a Moderate Drought **Figure 5**, and the rainfall effects appear to be short lived.

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



System Outlook

Chain O' Lakes Outlook

Water levels should hold near 4.00' on the lakes for the upcoming week, depending on the 30-40 mph wind gusts tomorrow and Saturday.

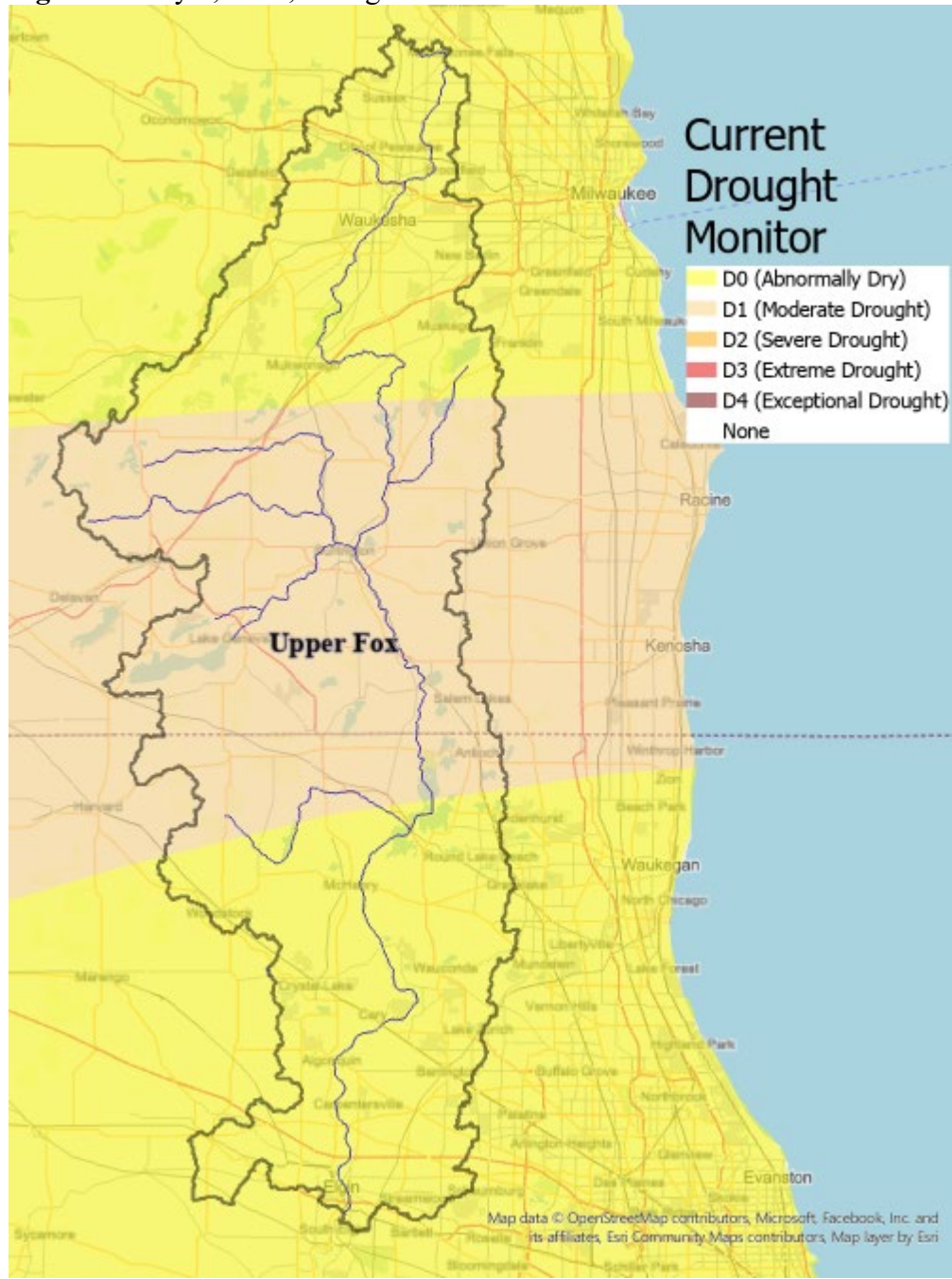
McHenry Pool Area Outlook

The Pool and Upper River should expect to see conditions similar to the lakes.

Lower River Outlook

The lower river will see conditions remain near current levels.

Figure 5: May 6, 2025, Drought Monitor



IDNR-OWR will continue to monitor conditions and make changes as necessary pending future forecasts and conditions.

Thank you,

Aaron Rotherham
Office of Water Resources
Illinois Department of Natural Resources