



Fox River Status Update May 15th, 2026

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

Summary

It looks like the spigot has been turned off, as the system is currently in less than ideal flow conditions (Figure 1). There is currently between 0.75"-1.00" of rain forecasted for the watershed over the next 7 Days and will do little to raise inflows (Figure 4). The Chain, Upper River, and Pool are forecasted hold near current levels (Figure 2). The Lower River is forecasted to drop slightly from the lack of inflows (Figure 3).

Current Conditions and NWS Forecasts

Figure 1: National Weather Service Forecasted Inflows

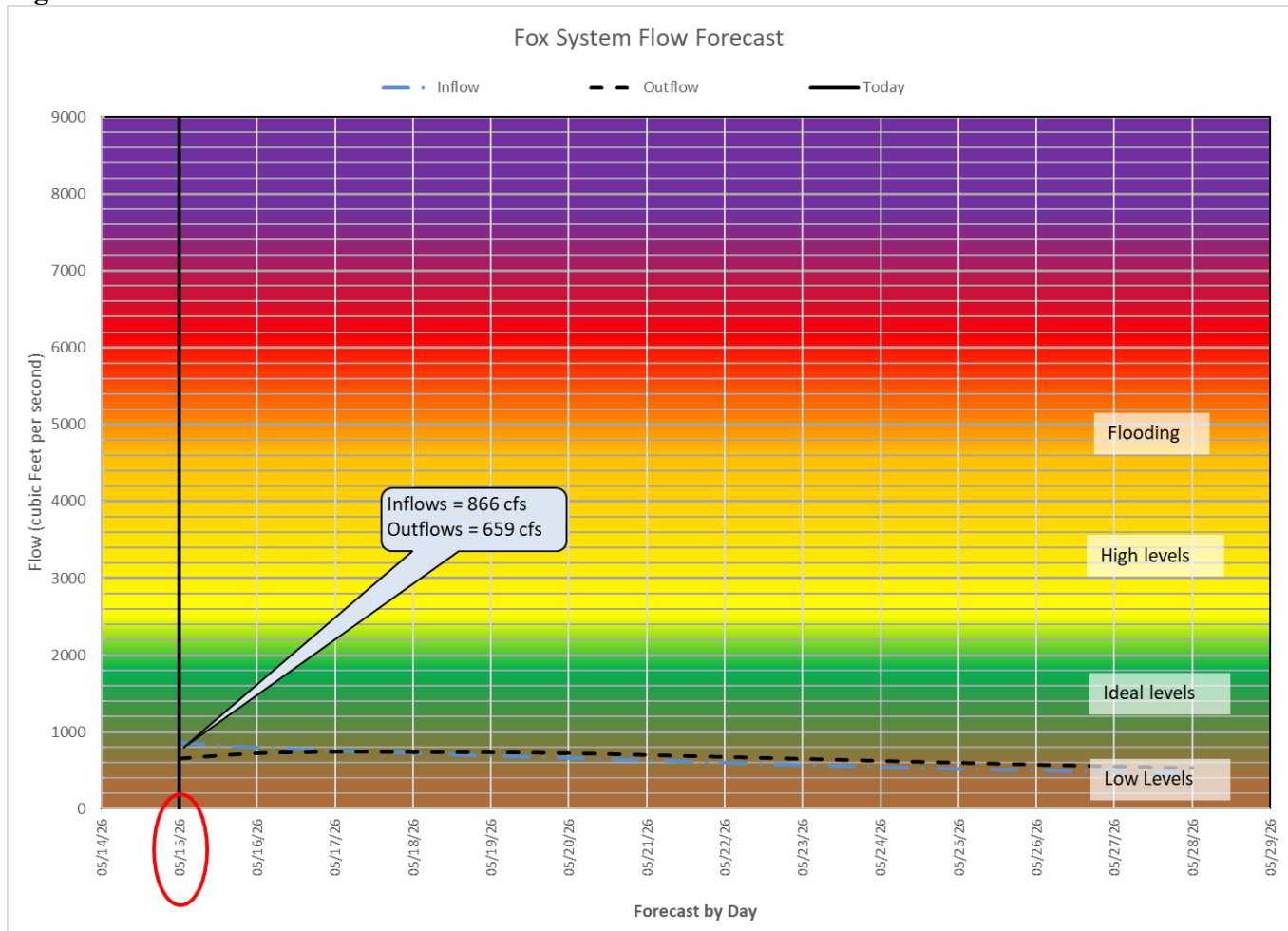


Figure 2: Estimated Upstream Gage Heights

Lake & Upper River Water Elevation Forecast(Summer Pool)

•••• Lake Villa - - - Johnsburg - . - McHenry HW — Today

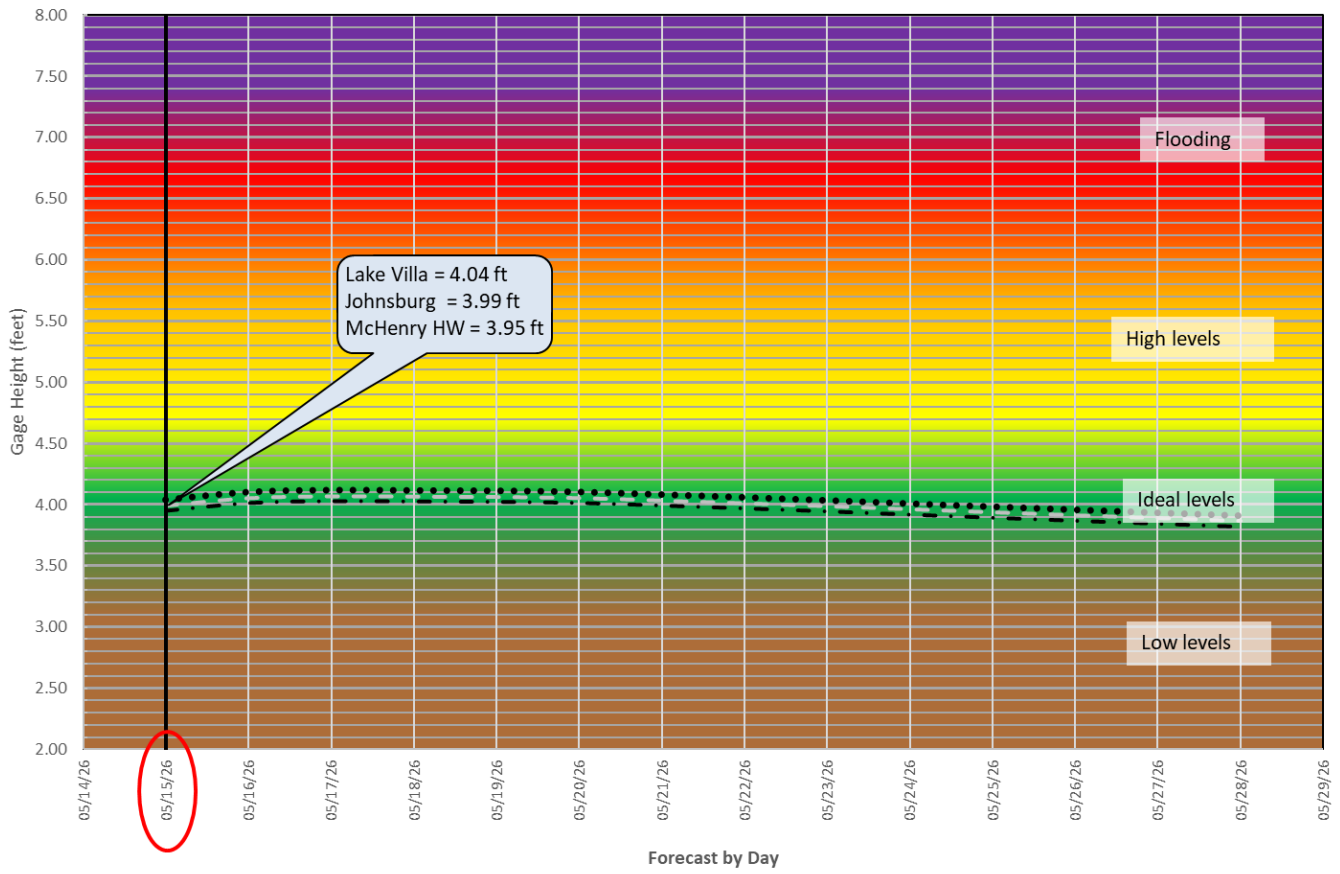
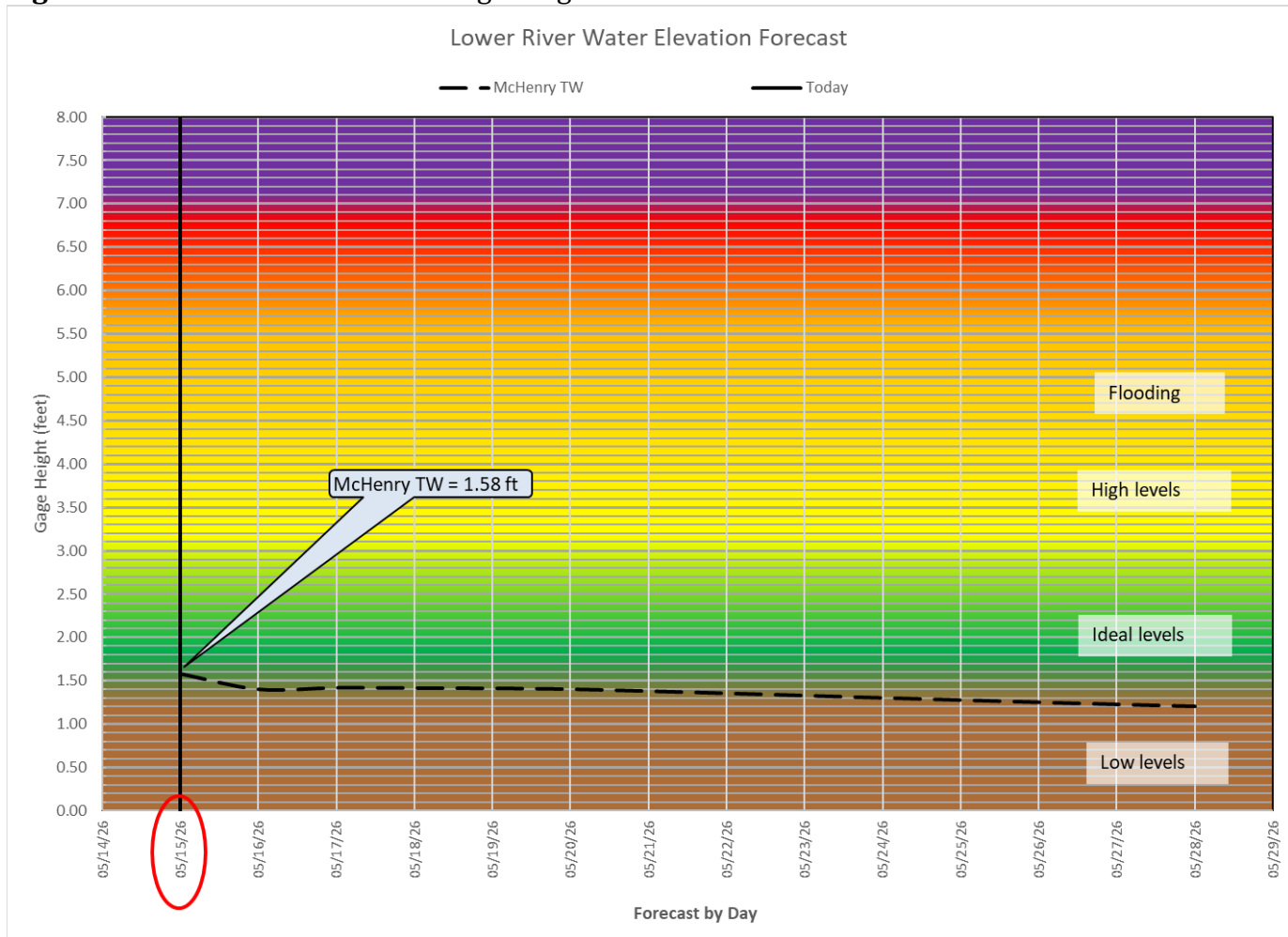


Figure 3: Estimated Downstream Gage Height



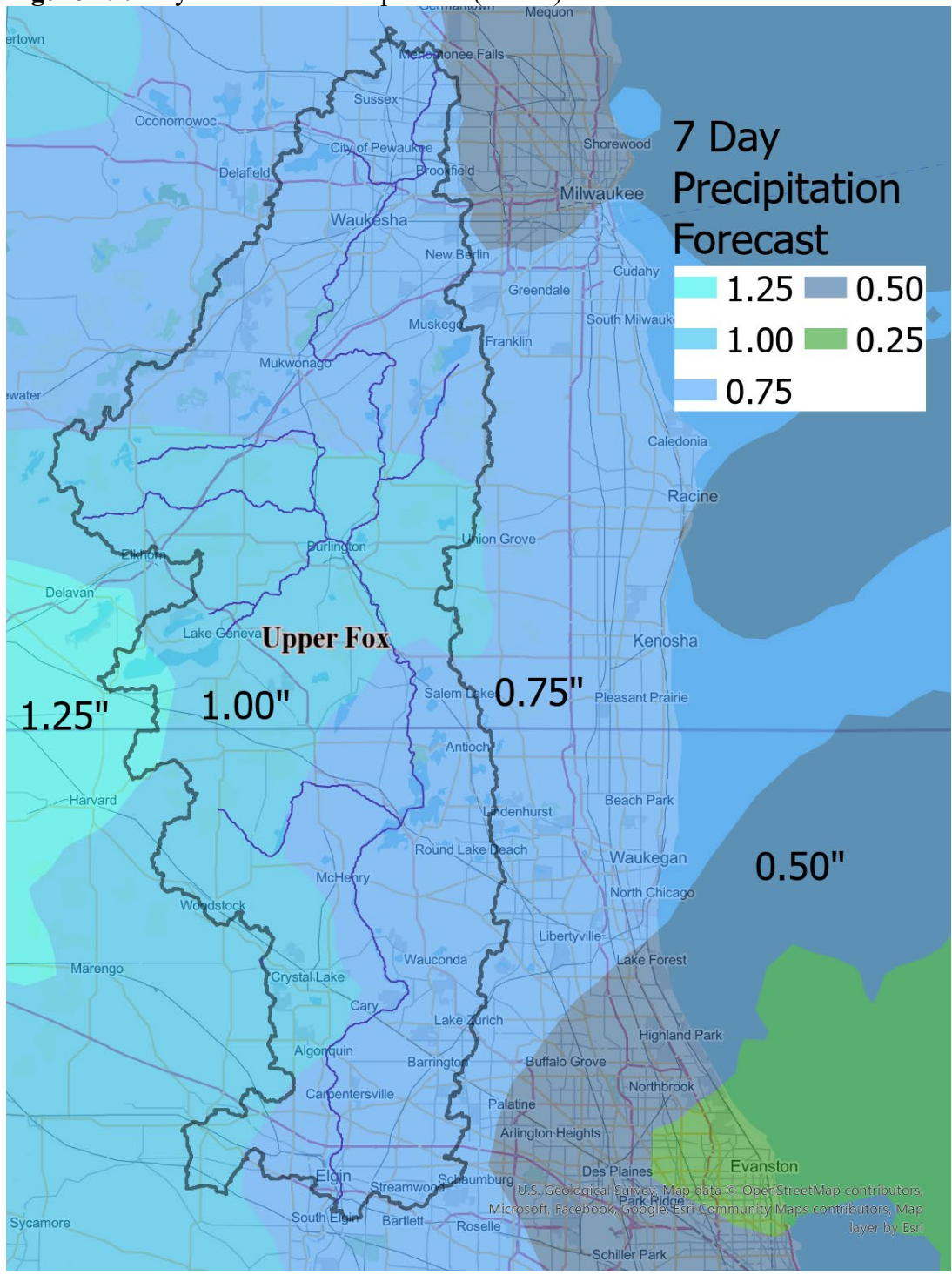
Current Conditions

Measured flow on the Fox River near New Munster, WI is 490 cfs and Nippersink Creek near Spring Grove is 148 cfs. The total Stratton inflow is 866 cfs. The Fox Lake stage is 4.04 ft; the Stratton Dam Tailwater stage is 1.58 ft. The Fox River at the Algonquin Dam headwater stage is 1.77 ft.

Forecast

Inflows should hold steady for the next week despite the rain, as shown in **Figure 1**. Fox Lake and areas upstream of the dam will hold fairly steady, as shown above in **Figure 2**. The Lower River should expect to see levels drop a little, **Figure 3**. The 7-Day Precipitation forecast is showing between 0.75”-1.00” 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 should hold steady over the next week.

McHenry Pool Area Outlook

The Pool and Upper River will be slightly lower than the lakes.

Lower River Outlook

The lower river is forecasted to drop a little over the next week.

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,

Aaron Rotherham
Office of Water Resources
Illinois Department of Natural Resources