



Fox River Status Update July 16th, 2026

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

Summary

There is barely 0.25" of rain forecasted for the lakes over the next 7 Days, (Figure 4). Inflows are forecasted to continue slowly dropping (Figure 1). Fox Lake, the Upper River, and Pool is currently forecasted to hold near current levels (Figure 2). The Lower River is forecasted to continue to slowly decline on the tailwater gage (Figure 3).

Current Conditions and NWS Forecasts

Figure 1: National Weather Service Forecasted Inflows

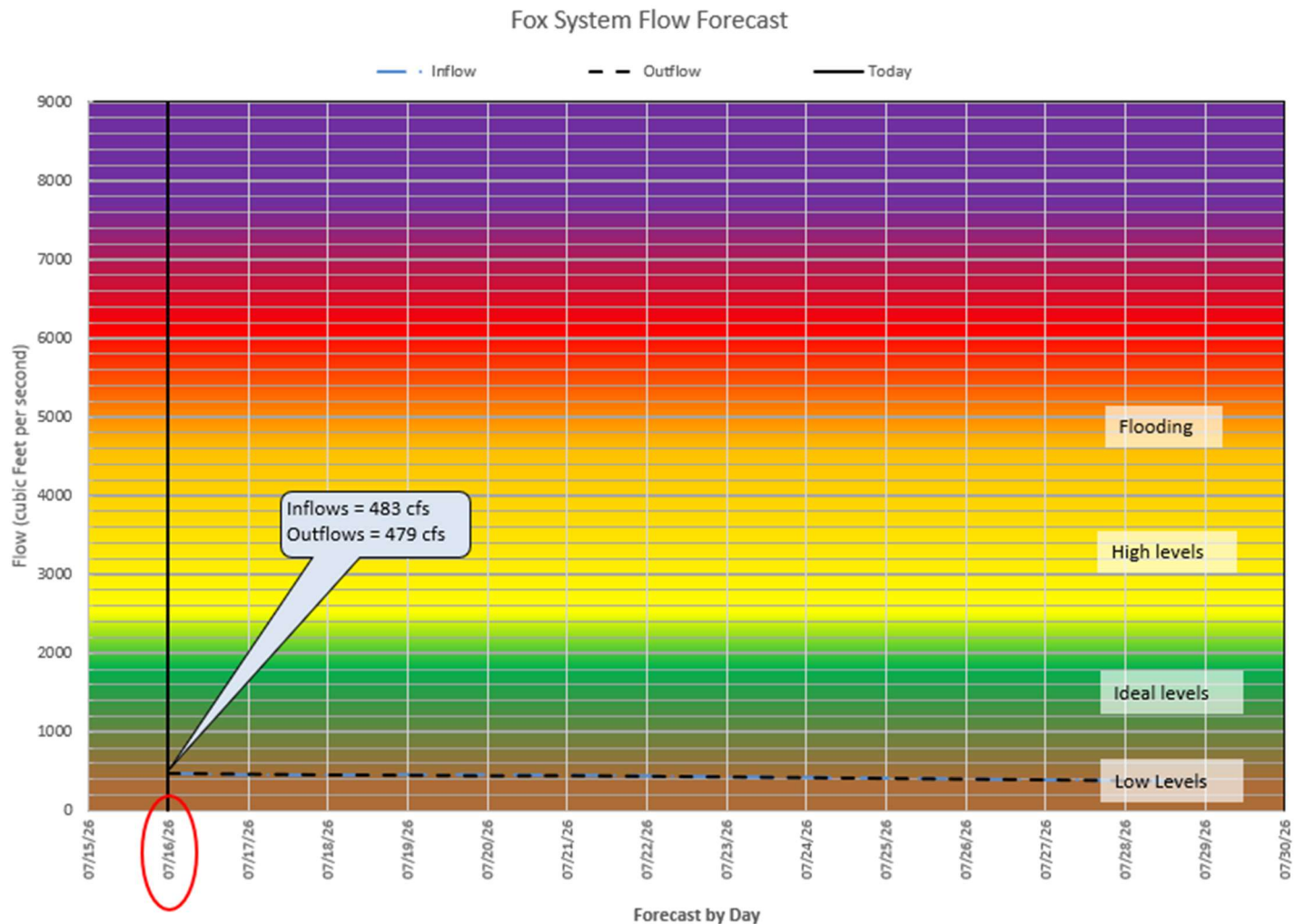


Figure 2: Estimated Upstream Gage Heights

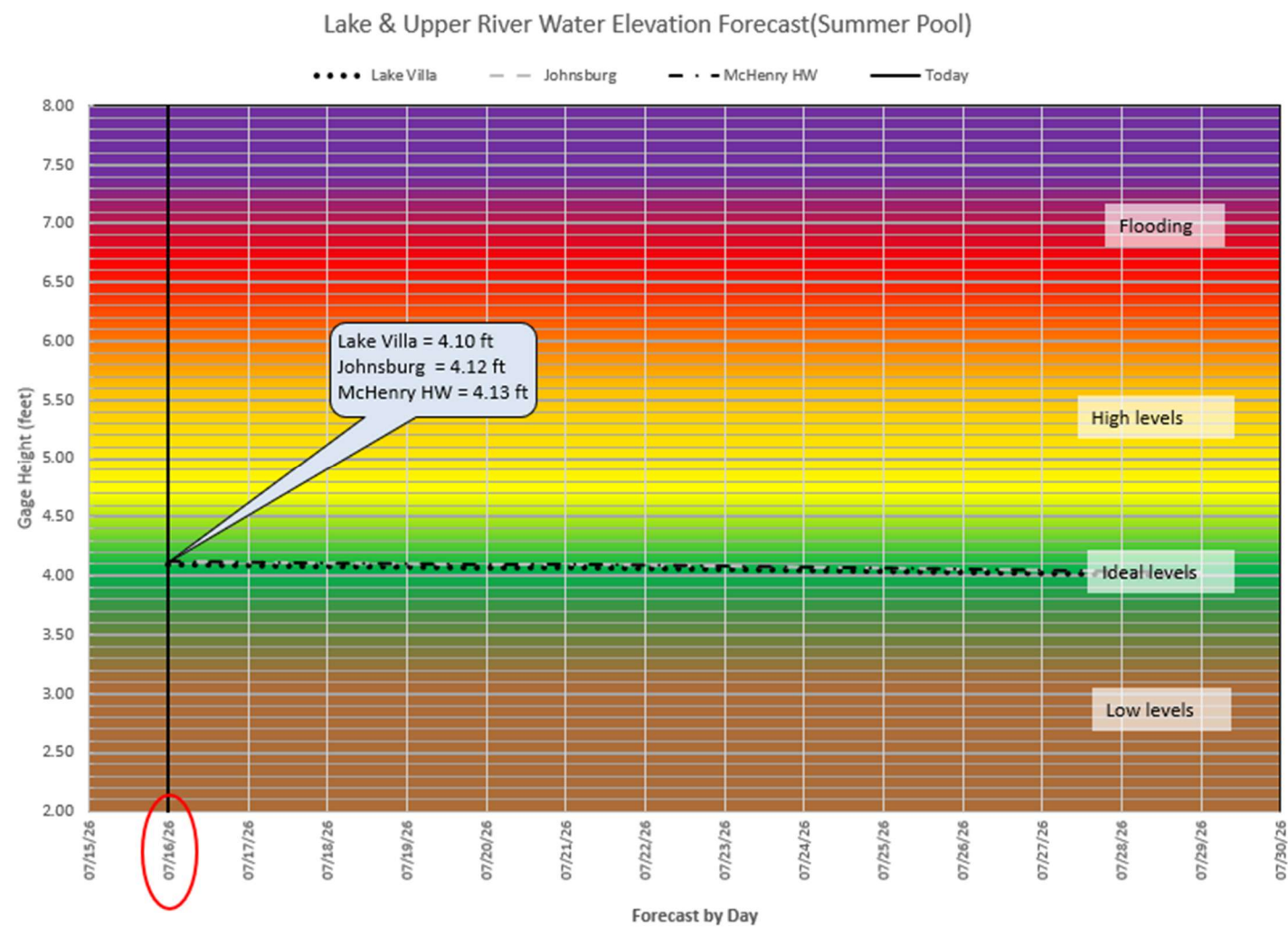


Figure 3: Estimated Downstream Gage Height

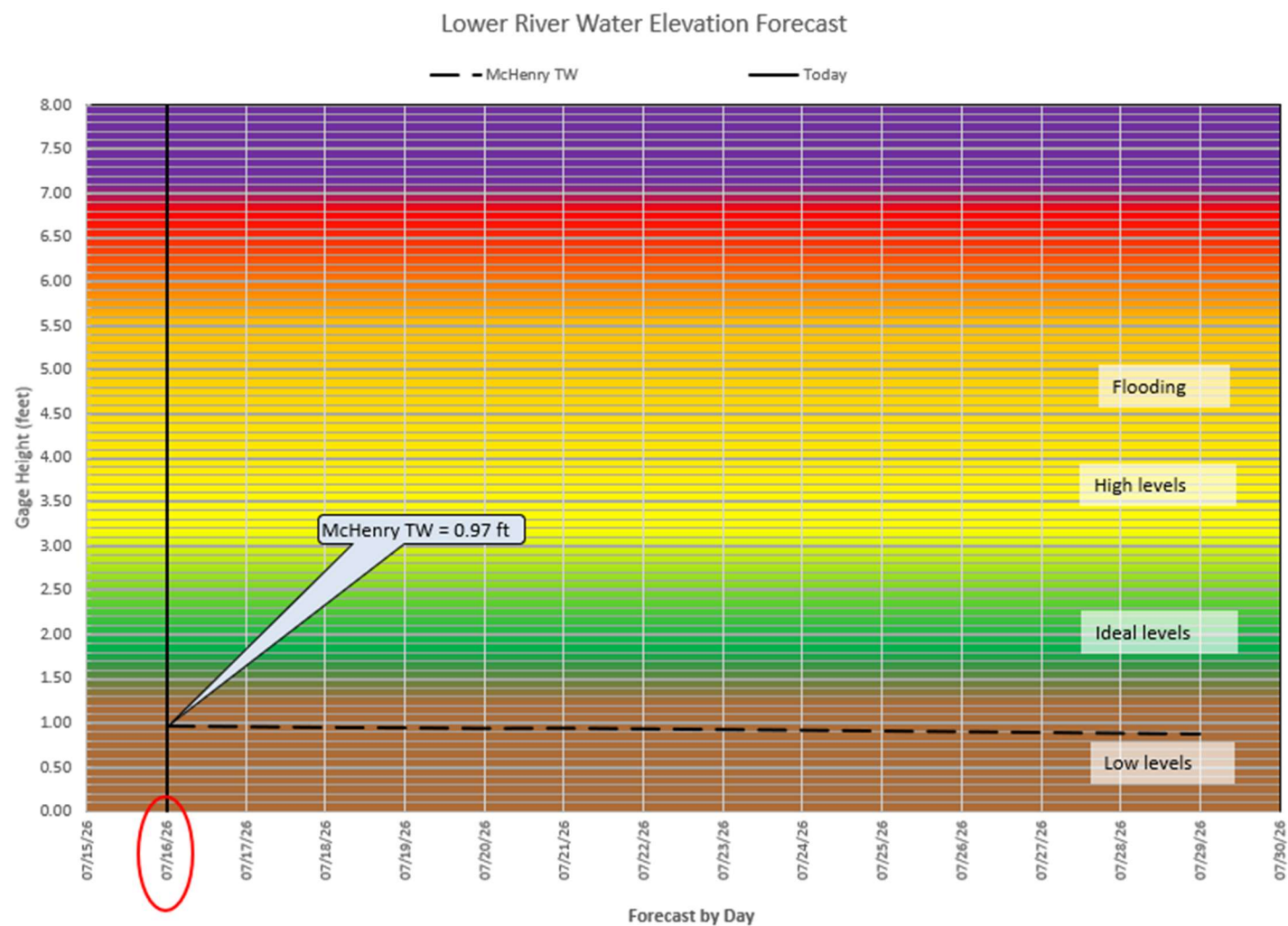
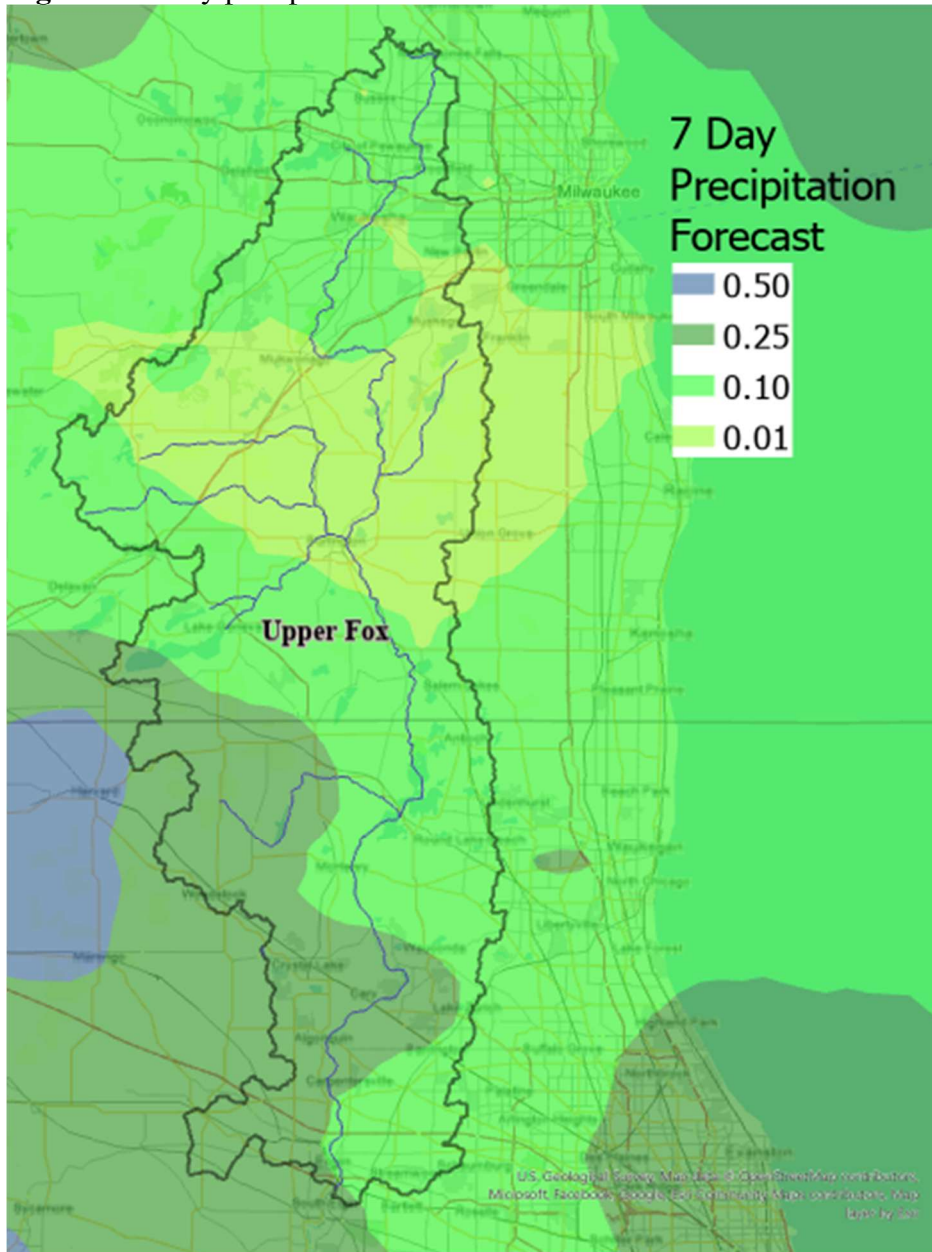


Figure 4: 7 Day precipitation Forecast



Current Conditions

Measured flow on the Fox River near New Munster, WI is 305 cfs and Nippersink Creek near Spring Grove is 79 cfs. The total Stratton inflow is 483 cfs. The Fox Lake stage is 4.10 ft; the Stratton Dam Tailwater stage is 0.97 ft. The Fox River at the Algonquin Dam headwater stage is 1.48 ft.

Forecast

Inflows will continue gradually dropping over the next week, as shown in **Figure 1**. Fox Lake and areas upstream of the dam will drop to near 4.00' by the end of the forecast, as shown above in **Figure 2**. The Lower River levels will continue to dwindle for the next week as well, **Figure 3**. The 7-Day Precipitation forecast is showing less than 0.25" of rain for much of the watershed.

System Outlook

Chain O' Lakes Outlook

Expect water levels to drop to near 4.00' by this time next week.

McHenry Pool Area Outlook

The Pool and Upper River will be approximately the same as the lakes.

Lower River Outlook

The lower river is forecasted to drop slowly for the next seven days 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,

Aaron Rotherham
Office of Water Resources
Illinois Department of Natural Resources