Illinois Department of Natural Resources
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Fox River Status Update
September 22nd, 2026

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

Summary

This update is being released due to changes in the forecast. There is currently near 0.1" of rain forecasted for the system over the next 7 Days, (Figure 4). Inflows are forecasted to peak tomorrow at 4200 cfs (Figure 1). Fox Lake is currently forecasted to peak at 5.33' and the Upper River at 5.24' on Friday (Figure 2). The Lower River is forecasted to peak on Friday at 4.24' (Figure 3).

Current Conditions and NWS Forecasts

Figure 1: National Weather Service Forecasted Inflows

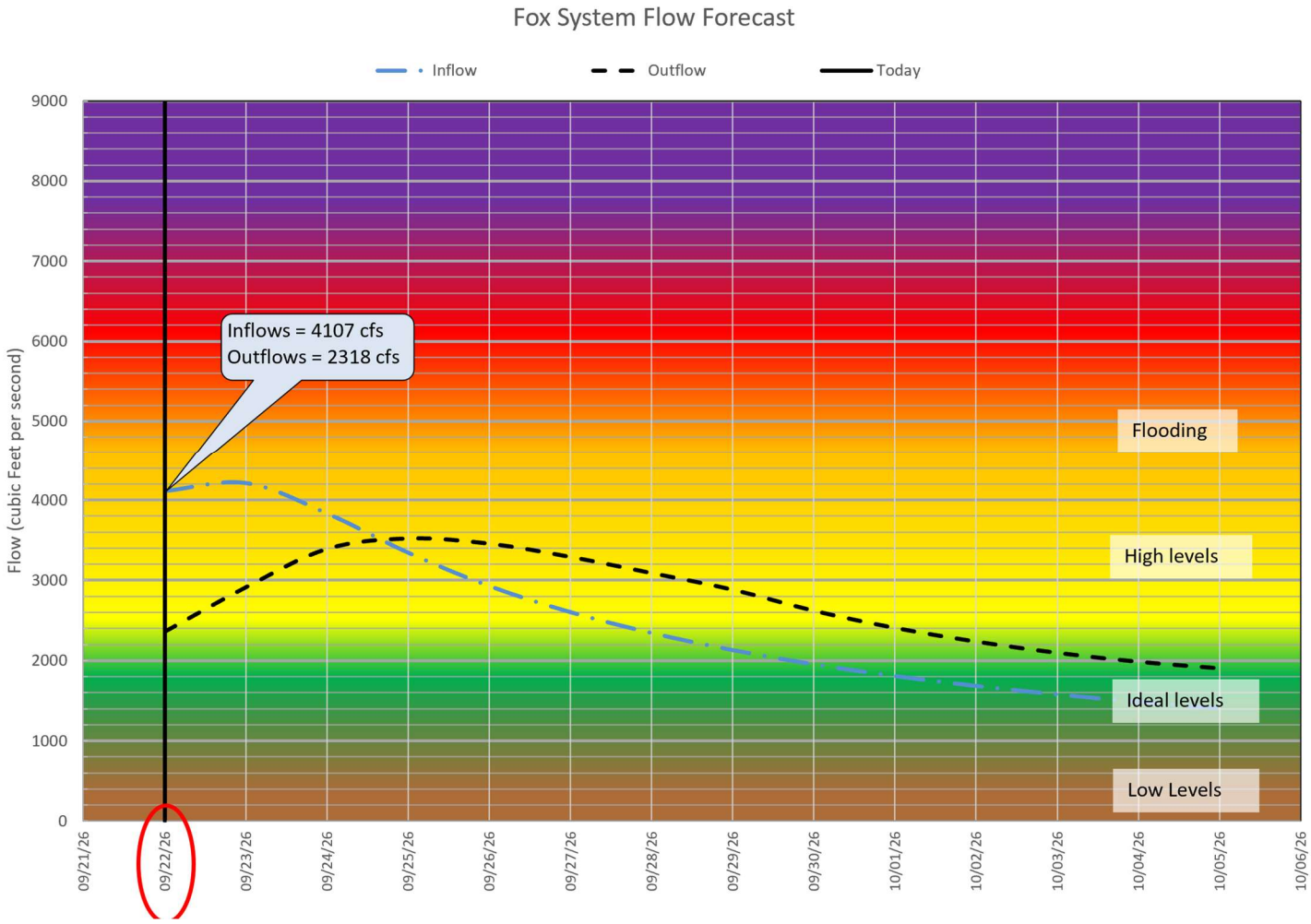


Figure 2: Estimated Upstream Gage Heights

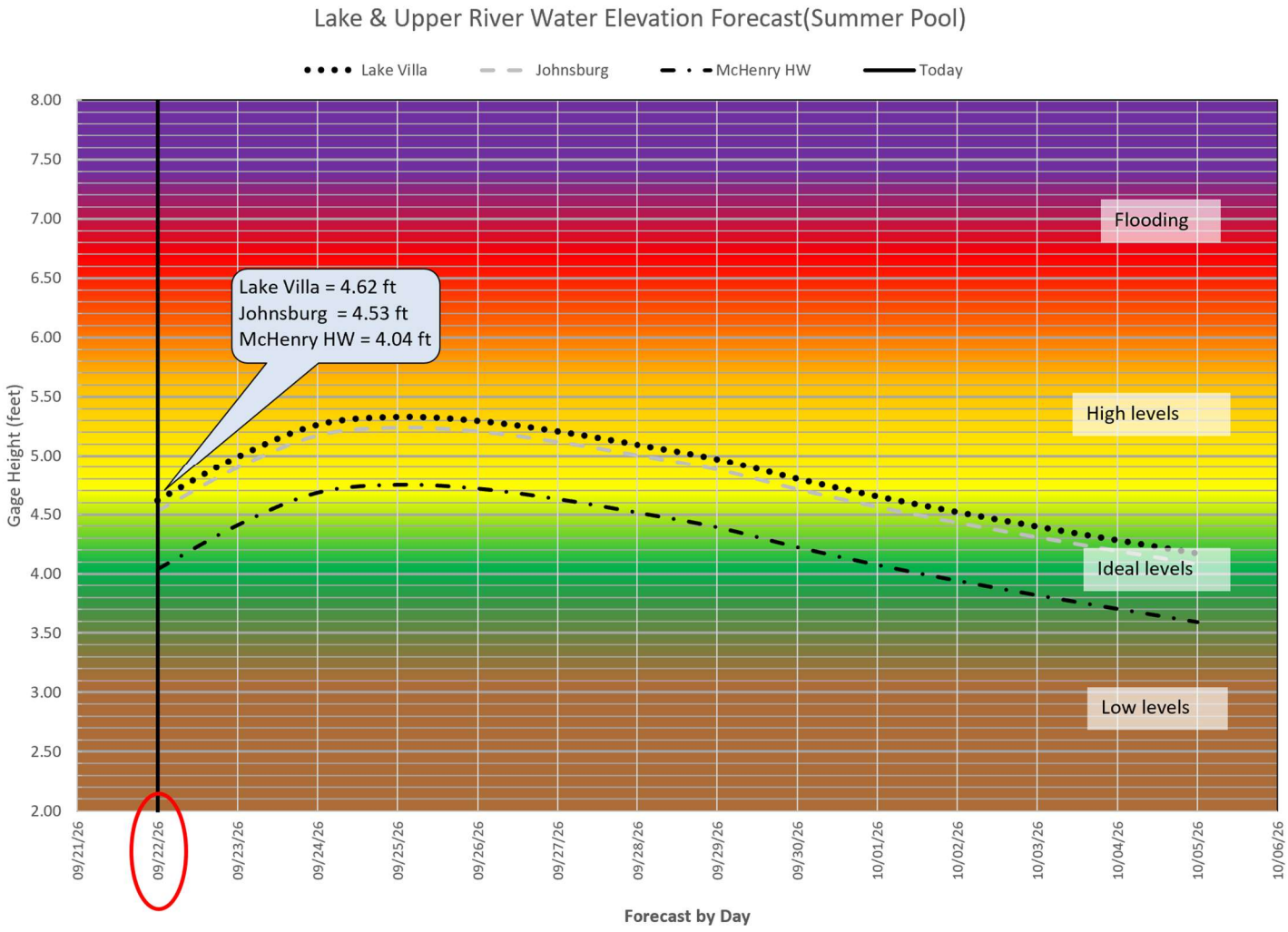


Figure 3: Estimated Downstream Gage Height

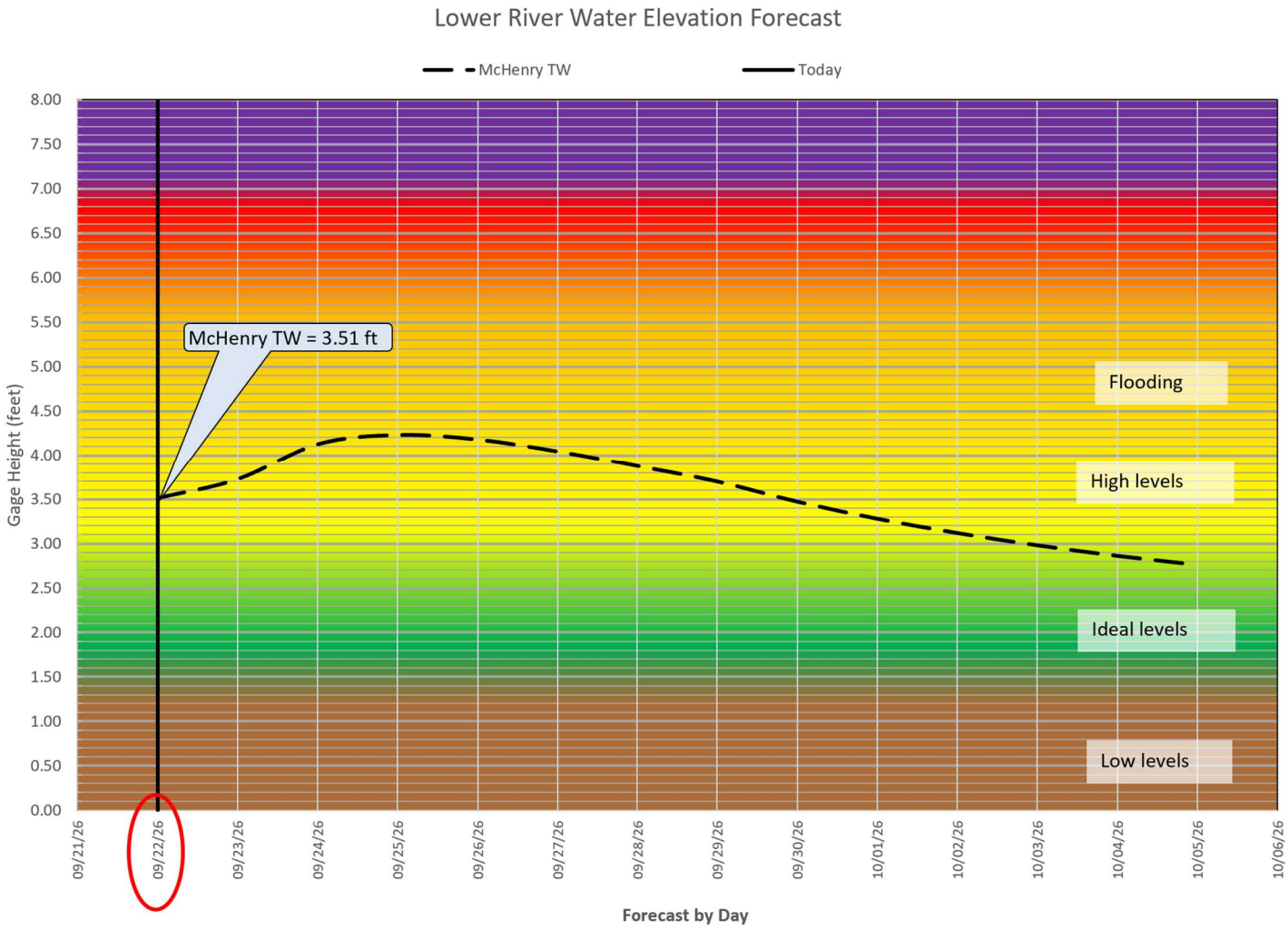
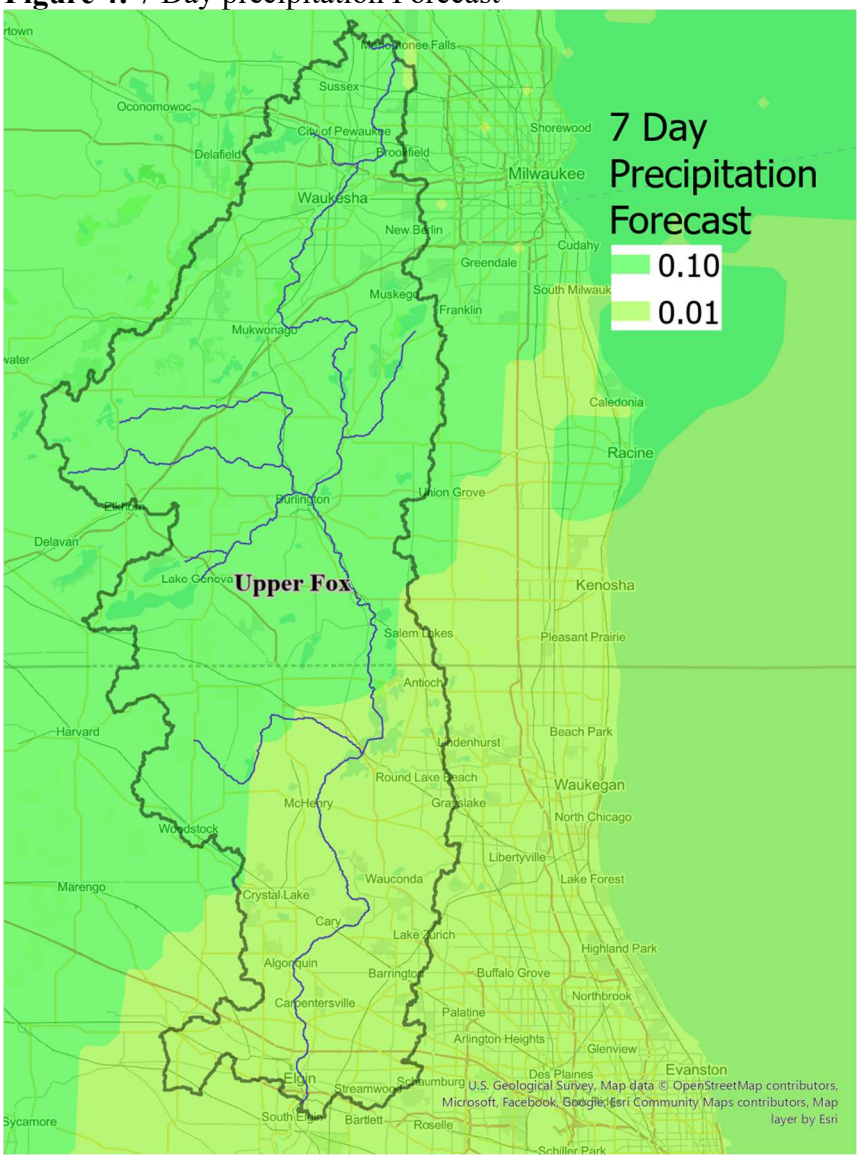


Figure 4: 7 Day precipitation Forecast



Current Conditions

Measured flow on the Fox River near New Munster, WI is 3330 cfs and Nippersink Creek near Spring Grove is 720 cfs. The total Stratton inflow is 4107 cfs. The Fox Lake stage is 4.62 ft; the Stratton Dam Tailwater stage is 3.51 ft. The Fox River at the Algonquin Dam headwater stage is 1.38 ft.

Forecast

Inflows will peak tomorrow at 4210 cfs on Wednesday, as shown in **Figure 1**. Fox Lake and areas upstream of the dam will peak near 5.3' Friday, as shown above in **Figure 2**. The Lower River will peak just over 4.2' on Friday, **Figure 3**. The 7-Day Precipitation forecast shows 0.1" of rain for the watershed.

System Outlook

Chain O' Lakes Outlook

Expect water levels to reach 5.33' on Friday and start slowly dropping on Saturday. The forecast shows a return to Normal Pool on 10/5.

McHenry Pool Area Outlook

The Pool will be somewhat lower than the lakes and Upper River as water continues to be released.

Lower River Outlook

The lower river is forecasted to peak at 4.25' Saturday morning. This is considered "Minor Flood Stage".

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
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Illinois Department of Natural Resources