



Fox River Status Update October 2nd, 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 the changes in the forecasted inflows. There is currently no rain forecasted for the system over the next 7 Days. Inflows are forecasted to peak on Sunday at 3300 cfs (Figure 1). Fox Lake is currently forecasted to peak at 4.96' on Tuesday and Wednesday of next week and the Upper River at 4.77' during the same time (Figure 2). The Lower River is forecasted to peak near 3.57' on Wednesday of next week (Figure 3).

Current Conditions and NWS Forecasts

Figure 1: National Weather Service Forecasted Inflows

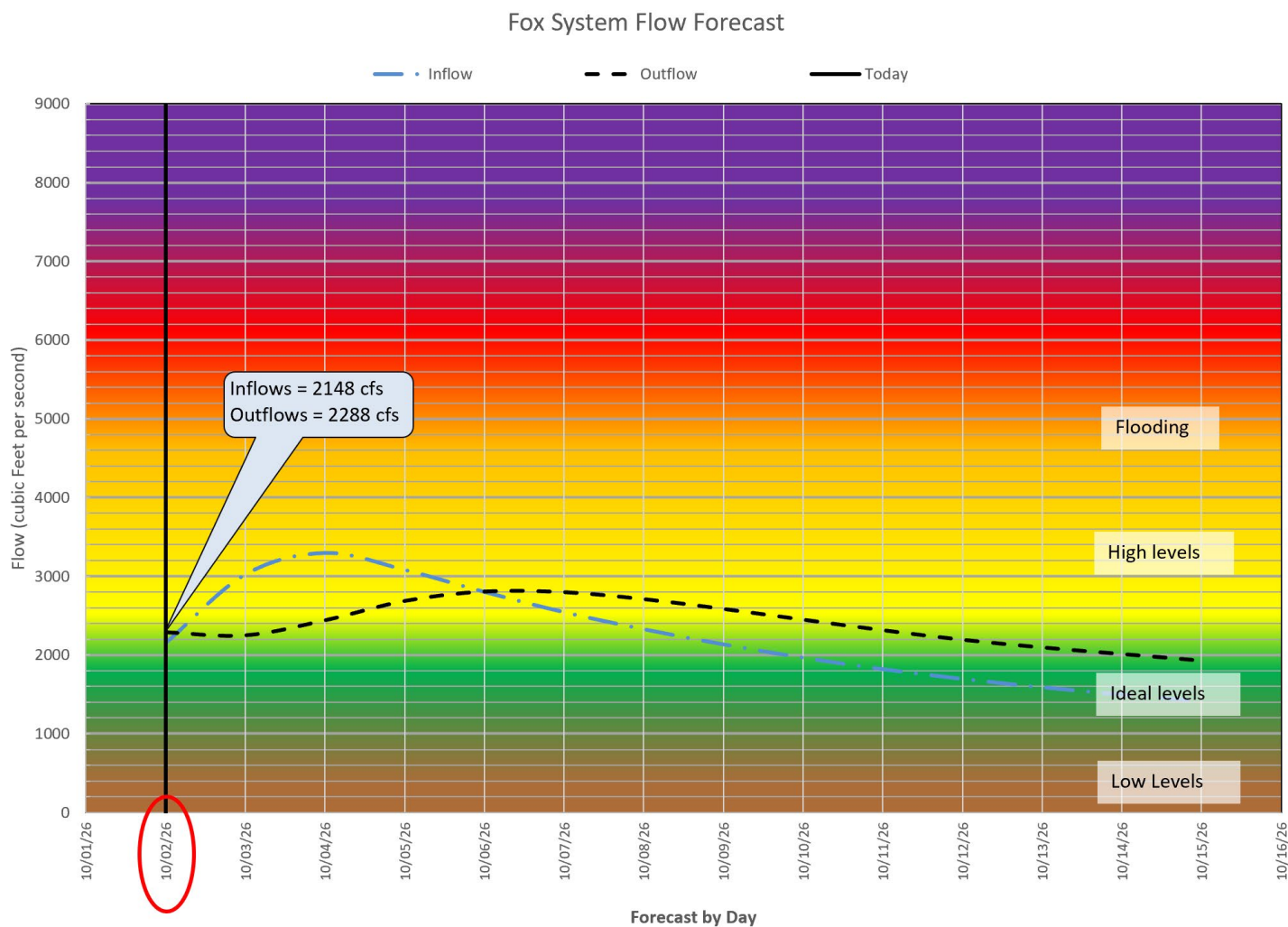


Figure 2: Estimated Upstream Gage Heights

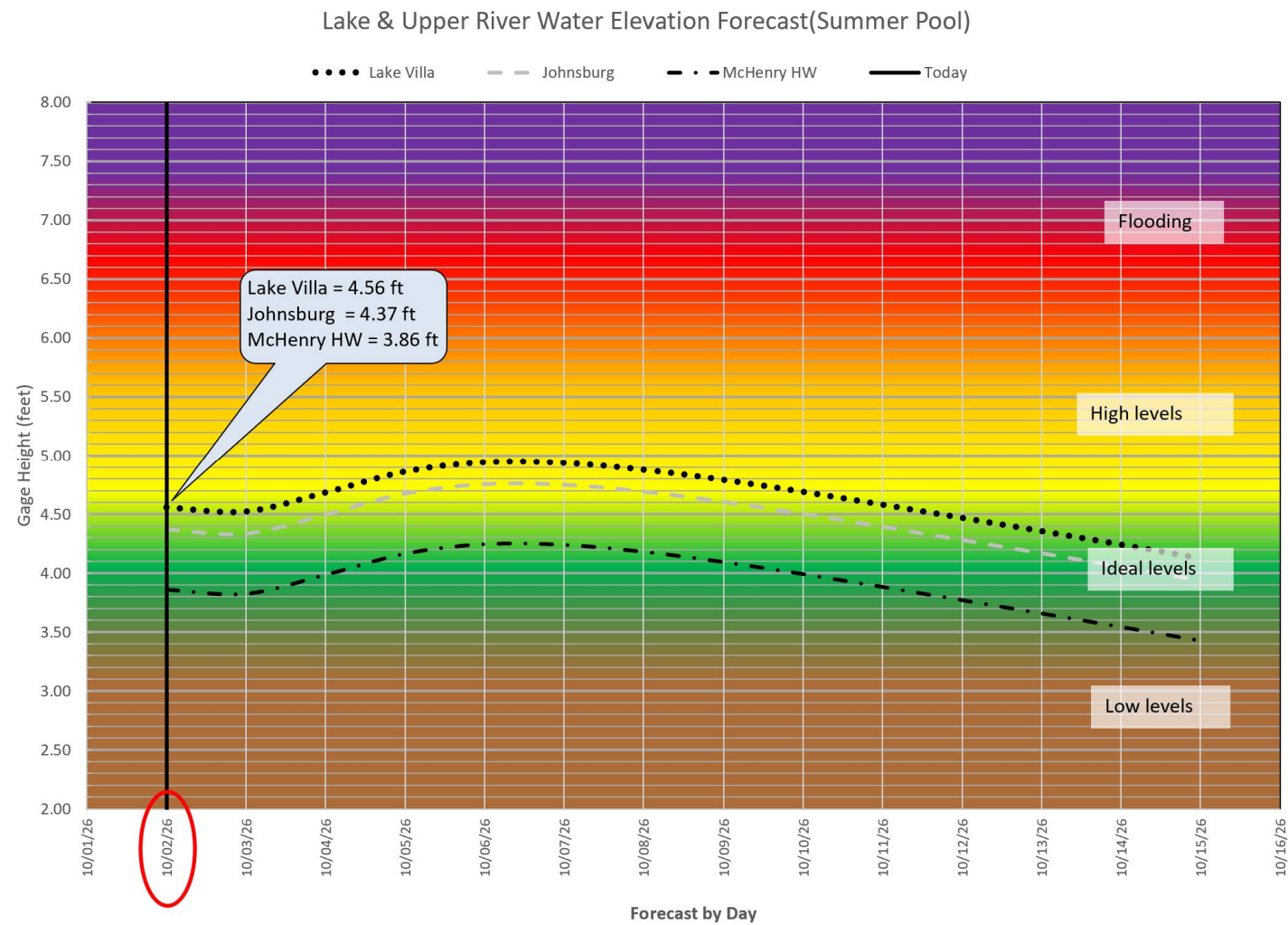
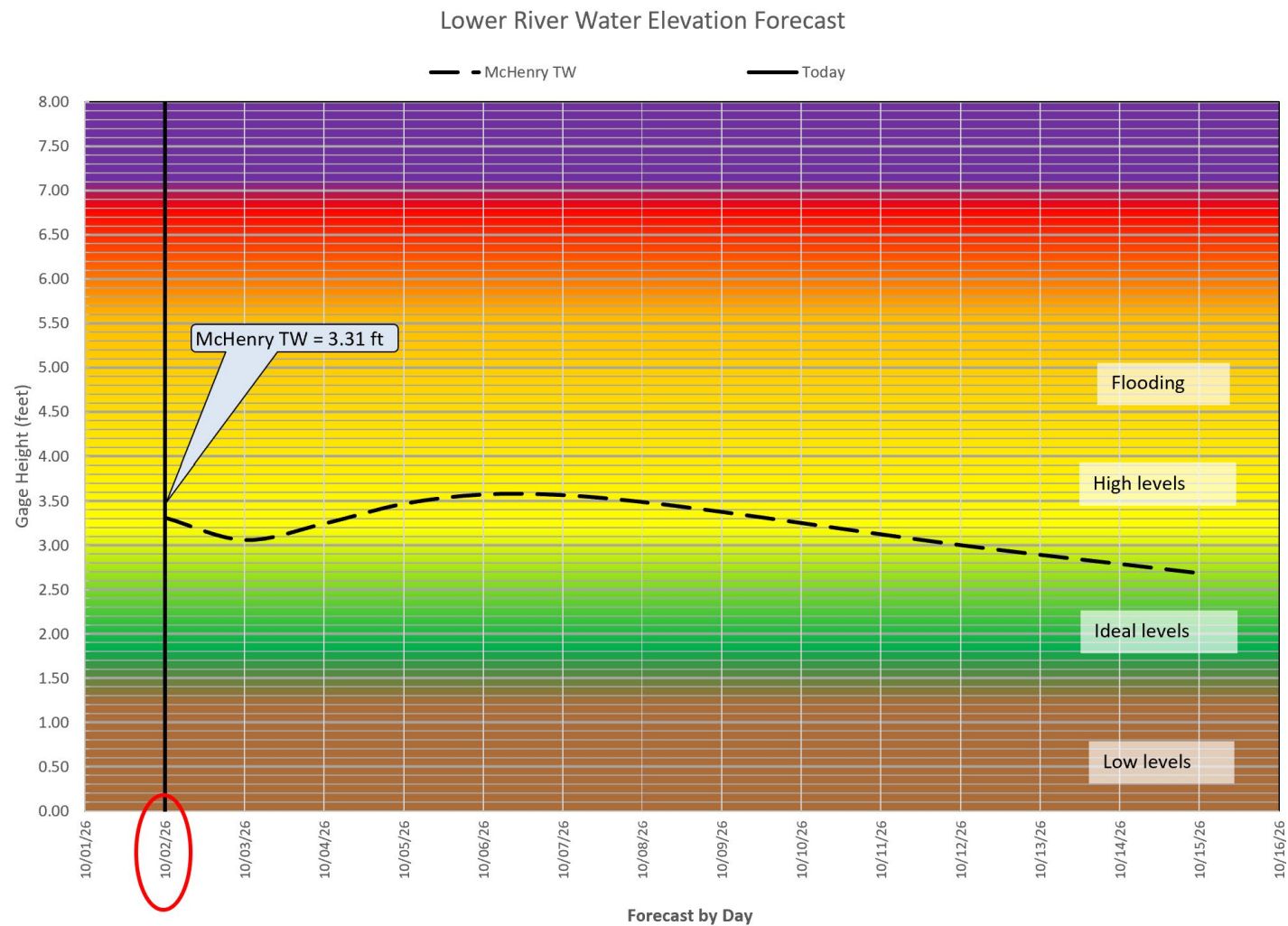


Figure 3: Estimated Downstream Gage Height



Current Conditions

Measured flow on the Fox River near New Munster, WI is 1940 cfs and Nippersink Creek near Spring Grove is 482 cfs. The total Stratton inflow is 2148 cfs. The Fox Lake stage is 4.56 ft; the Stratton Dam Tailwater stage is 3.31 ft. The Fox River at the Algonquin Dam headwater stage is 1.46 ft.

Forecast

Inflows will peak this Sunday at 3293 cfs, as shown in **Figure 1**. Fox Lake will peak on Tuesday and Wednesday of next week at just under 5.0', the Upper River will peak at the same time at 4.77' on the Johnsborg Gage, and the McHenry Pool will be about 0.5' lower than the Upper, as shown above in **Figure 2**. The Lower River will peak very near 3.5' on Wednesday, **Figure 3**. The 7-Day Precipitation forecast shows no rain.

System Outlook

Chain O' Lakes Outlook

Expect water levels to reach just below 5.0' on Tuesday and start slowly dropping on Thursday of next week.

McHenry Pool Area Outlook

The Pool will be somewhat lower than the Upper River, which is expected to crest at 4.77'.

Lower River Outlook

The lower river is forecasted to peak at 3.57' on Wednesday. The Algonquin Dam has been open since before the previous heavy rain in an effort to create as much room as possible.

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