



Fox River Status Update
April 1st, 2024

**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 recent rainfall and increased inflows forecasted from the National Weather Service. Currently inflows are forecasted to peak on Thursday at over 4300 cubic feet per second (Figure 1). The Fox Lake gage is predicted to crest at 4.91' (Figure 2); the Lower River is forecasted to peak at 4.53' for the McHenry Tailwater gage (Figure 3), both on Monday, April 8th. Every attempt will be made to prevent impacting structures on the Lower River; this may result in lake levels above 5.0' at Fox Lake. As forecasts change, all attempts will be made to keep water levels as low as possible and prevent damage of structures through the entire system.

Current Conditions and NWS Forecasts

Figure 1: NWS Forecasted Inflows

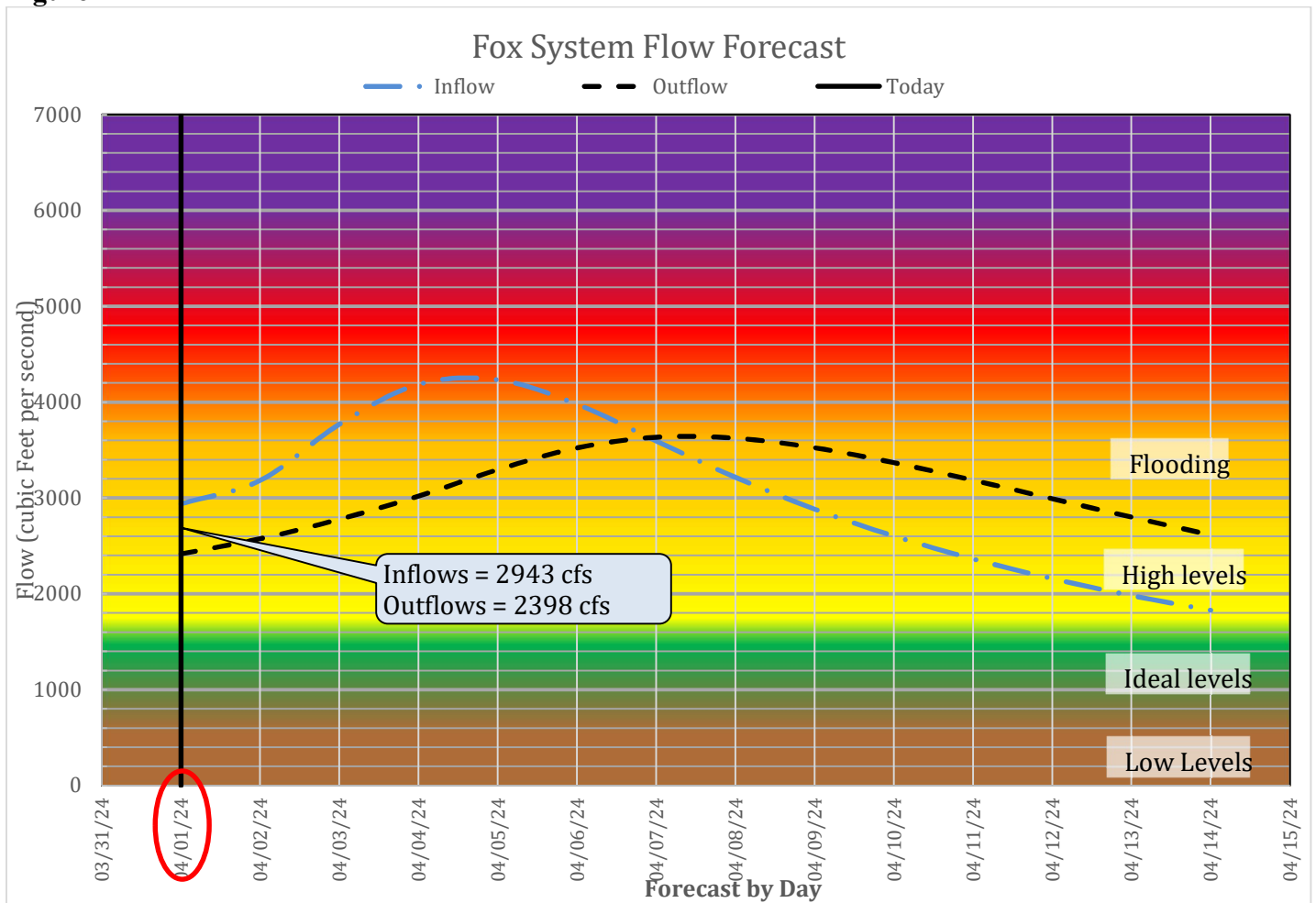


Figure 2: Estimated Upstream Gage Heights

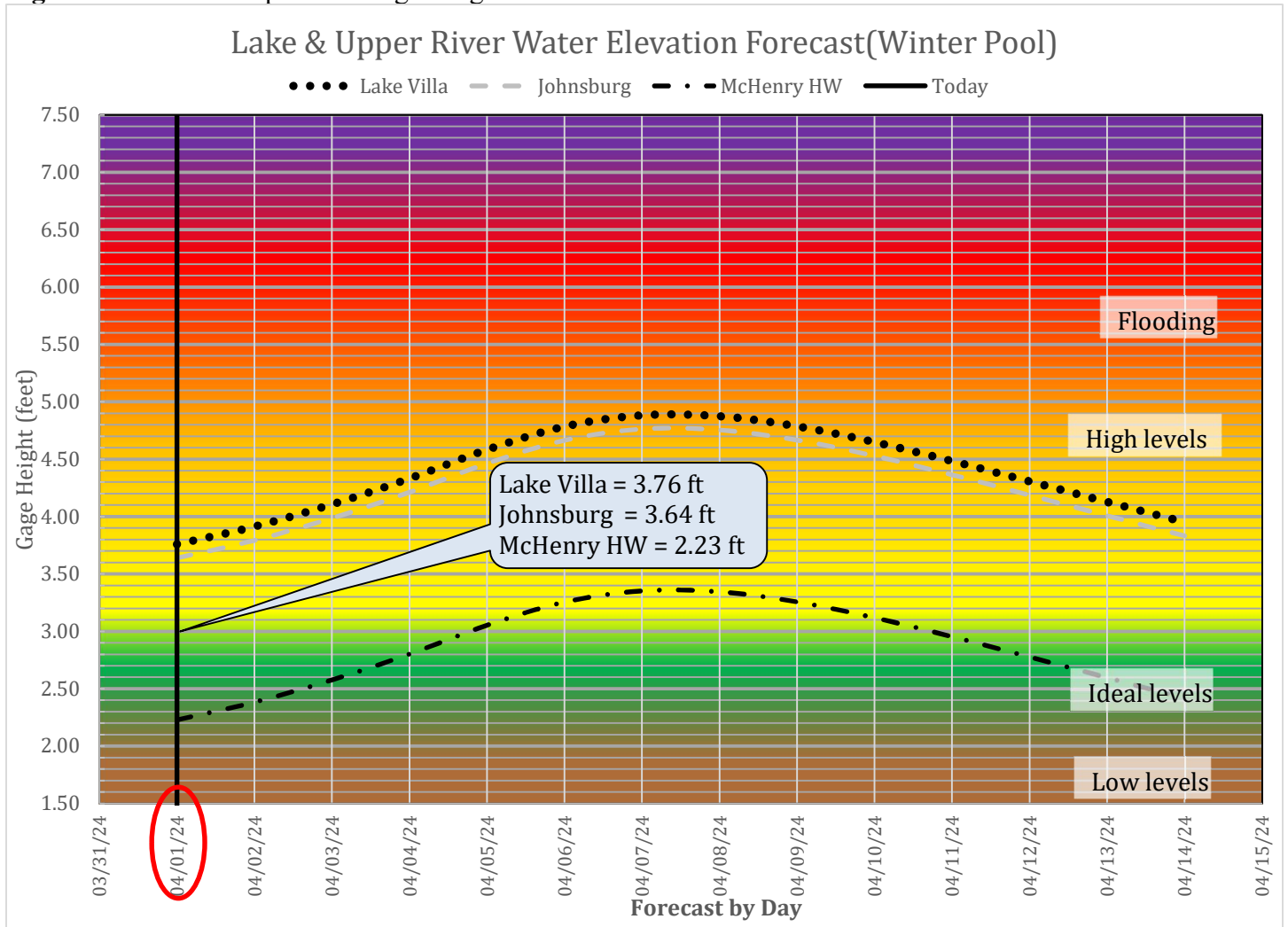
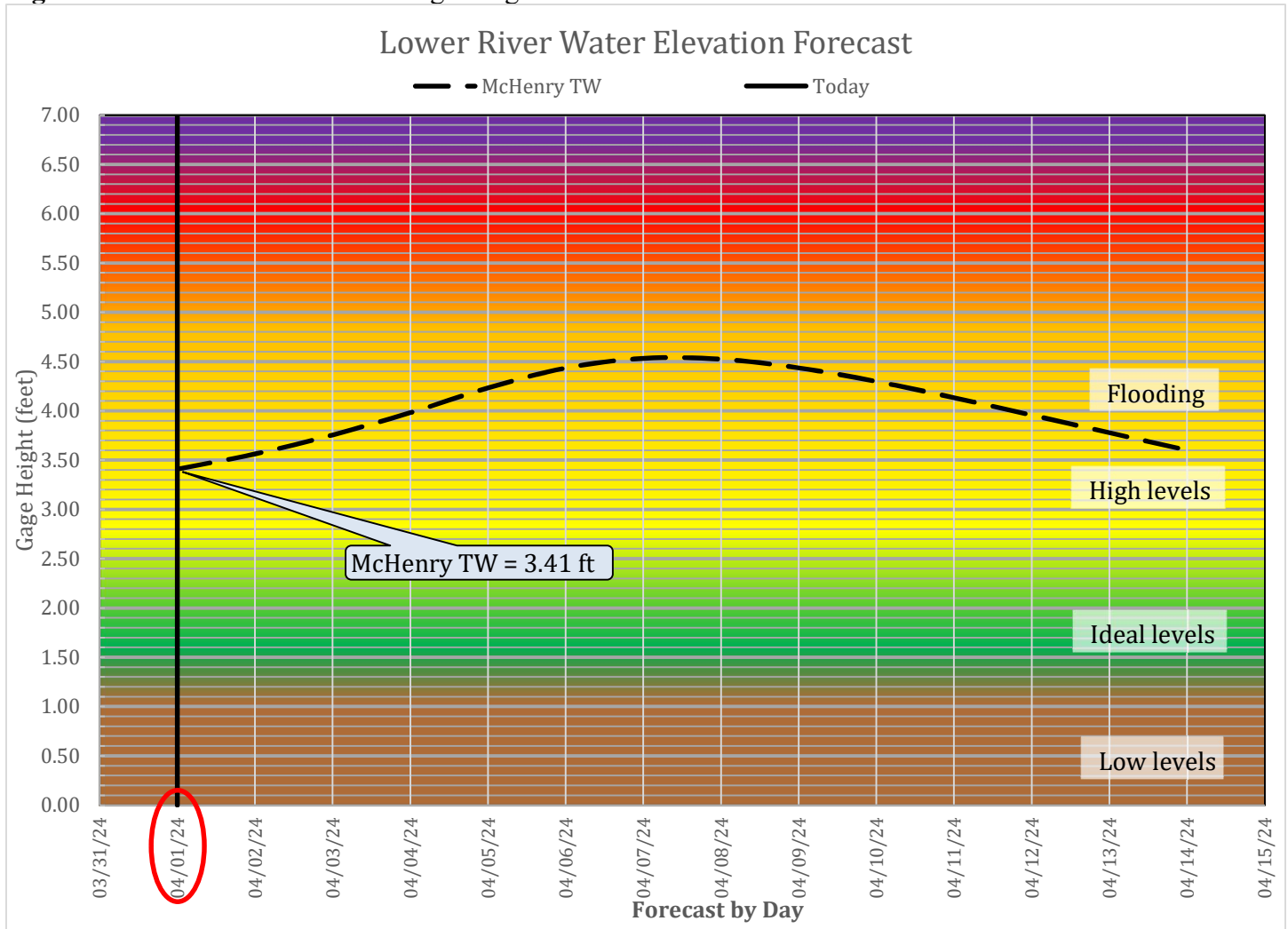


Figure 3: Estimated Downstream Gage Height



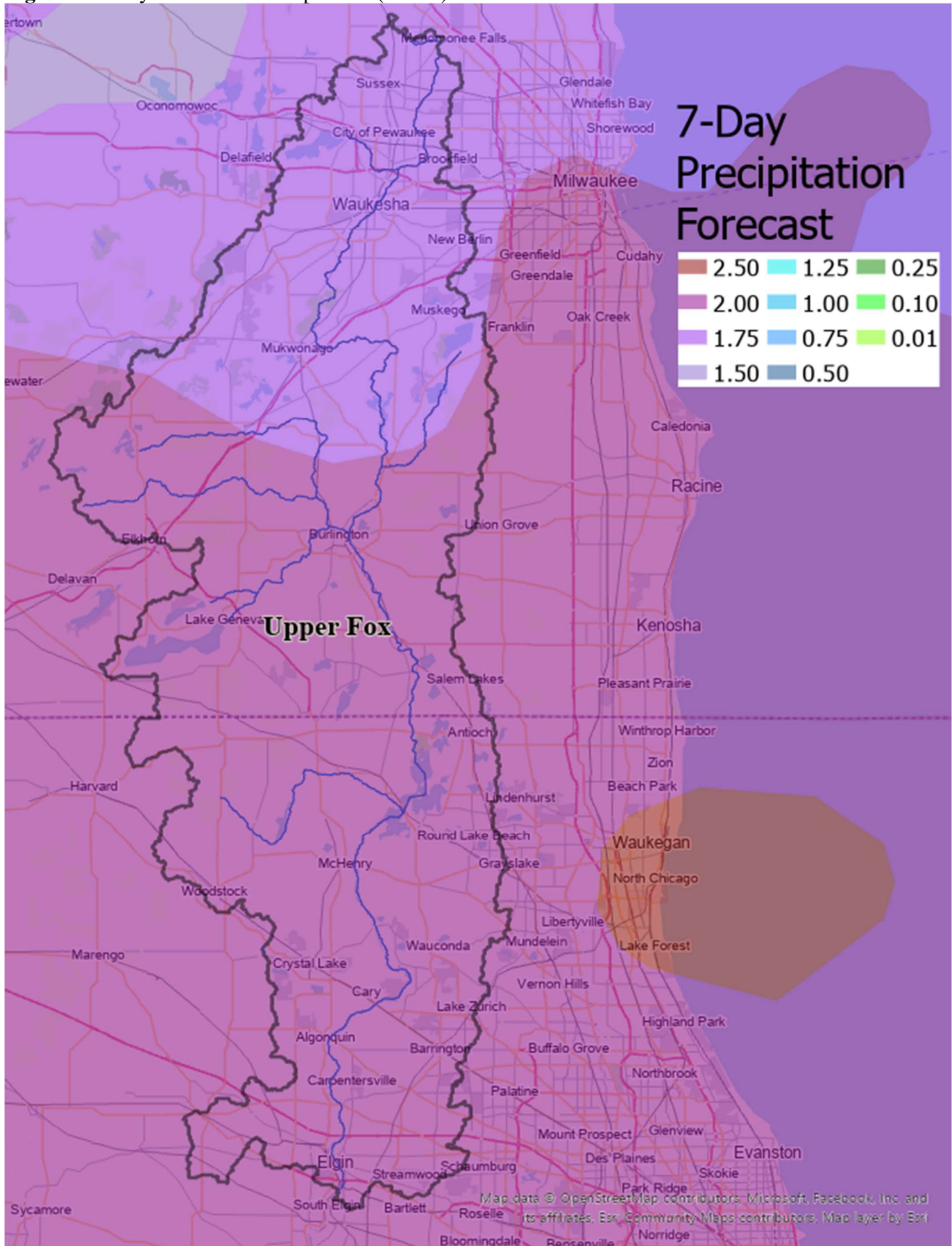
Current Conditions

Measured flow on the Fox River near New Munster, WI is 2080 cfs and Nippersink Creek near Spring Grove is at 432 cfs. The total system inflow is 2943 cfs. The Fox Lake stage is 3.76 ft; the Stratton Dam Tailwater stage is 3.41 ft. The Fox River at the Algonquin Dam headwater stage is 1.69 ft.

Forecast

Inflows are forecasted to have peaked today and remain above 3000 cfs for the next week, as shown in **Figure 1**. Fox Lake and all areas upstream of the dam are forecasted to peak next Monday, as shown above in **Figure 2**. Adjustments will be made in an attempt to maintain the Lower River below 4.0' on the Stratton Tailwater gage. The 7-Day Precipitation forecast is showing 2.0" rain for the Chain of Lakes, **Figure 4**.

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



System Outlook

Chain O' Lakes Outlook

Water levels are forecasted to peak on Saturday 04/08/24 at 4.53' on the Fox Lake gage.

McHenry Pool Area Outlook

Water levels are forecasted to be lower than the lakes while as much water as possible is allowed to exit the system.

Lower River Outlook

An attempt to hold water levels below 4.0' on the Stratton Tailwater gage will be made for the duration of the event.

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

Thank you,

Aaron Rotherham
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