



Fox River Status Update
April 25th, 2024

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

Summary

This is being released due to the lock opening on Wednesday of next week. There is currently between 1.0”-1.25” of precipitation forecasted for the next 7 Days (Figure 4). Based on the current forecast, inflows will peak on May 1st (Figure 1). The lakes are predicted to crest at approximately 4.45’ (Figure 2) on Wednesday and the Lower River is forecasted to peak at approximately 2.8’ for the McHenry Tailwater gage (Figure 3). Water levels are expected to remain higher than normal for at least the next two weeks depending on future precipitation.

Current Conditions and NWS Forecasts

Figure 1: NWS Forecasted Inflows

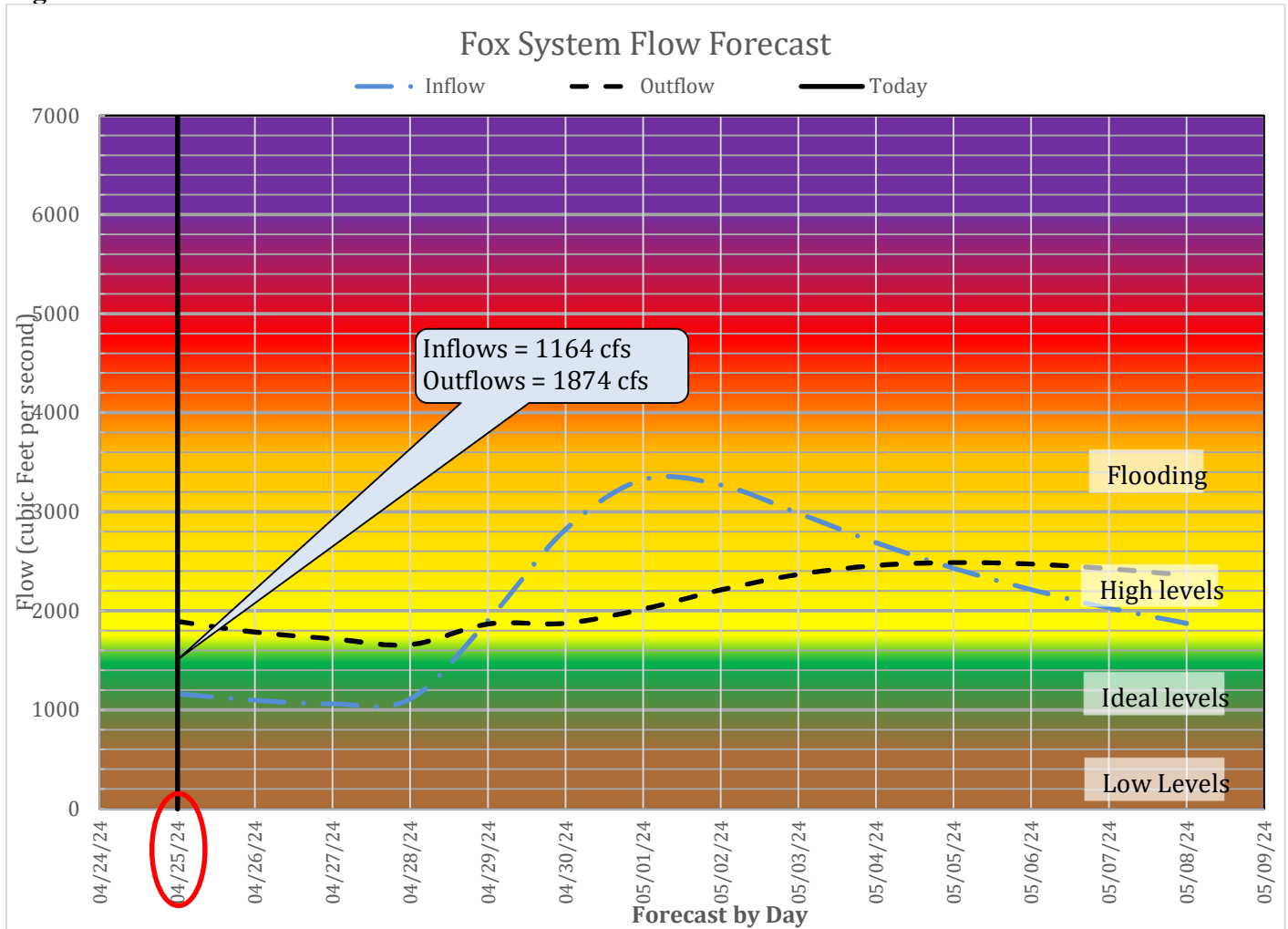


Figure 2: Estimated Upstream Gage Heights

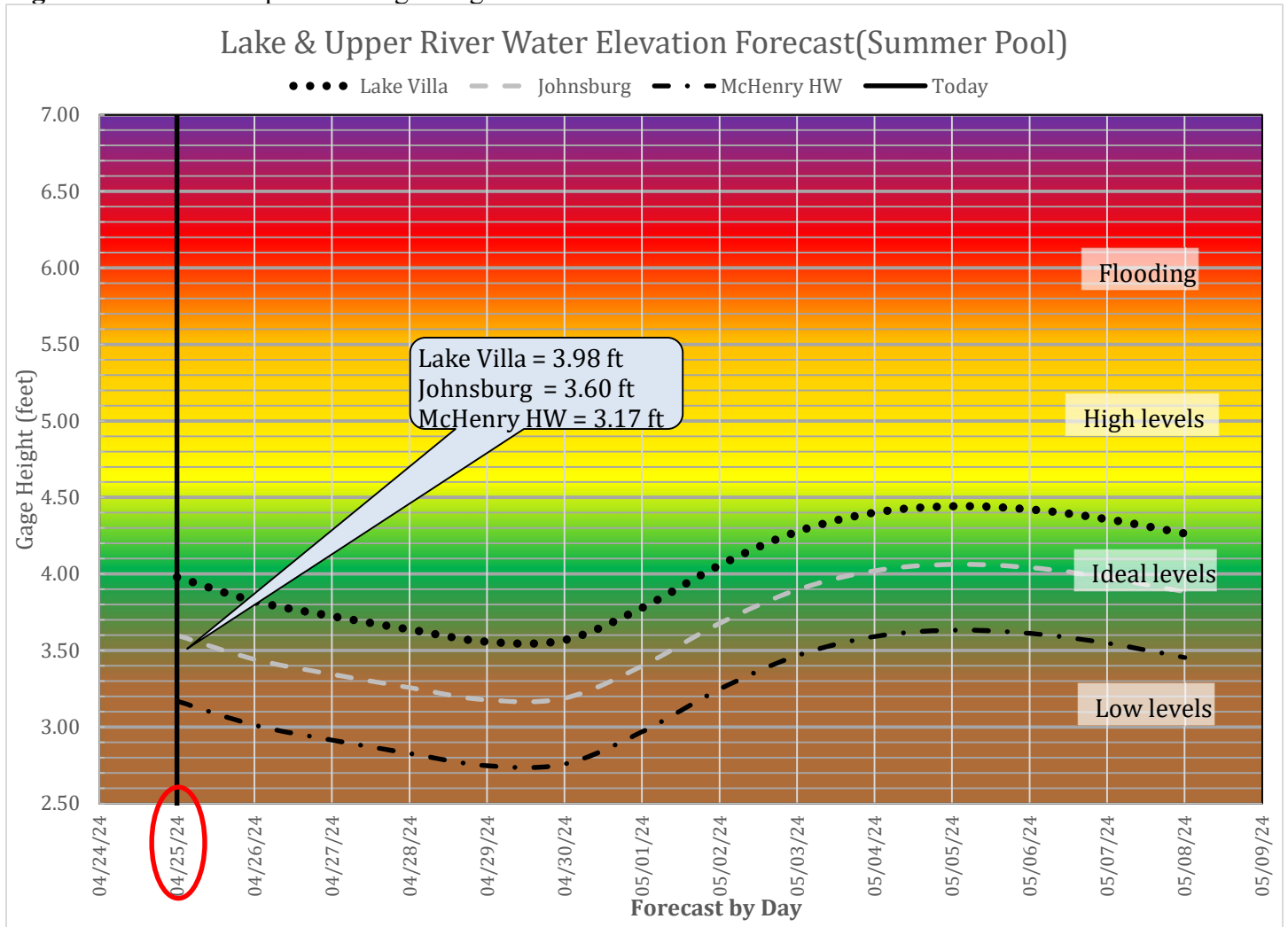
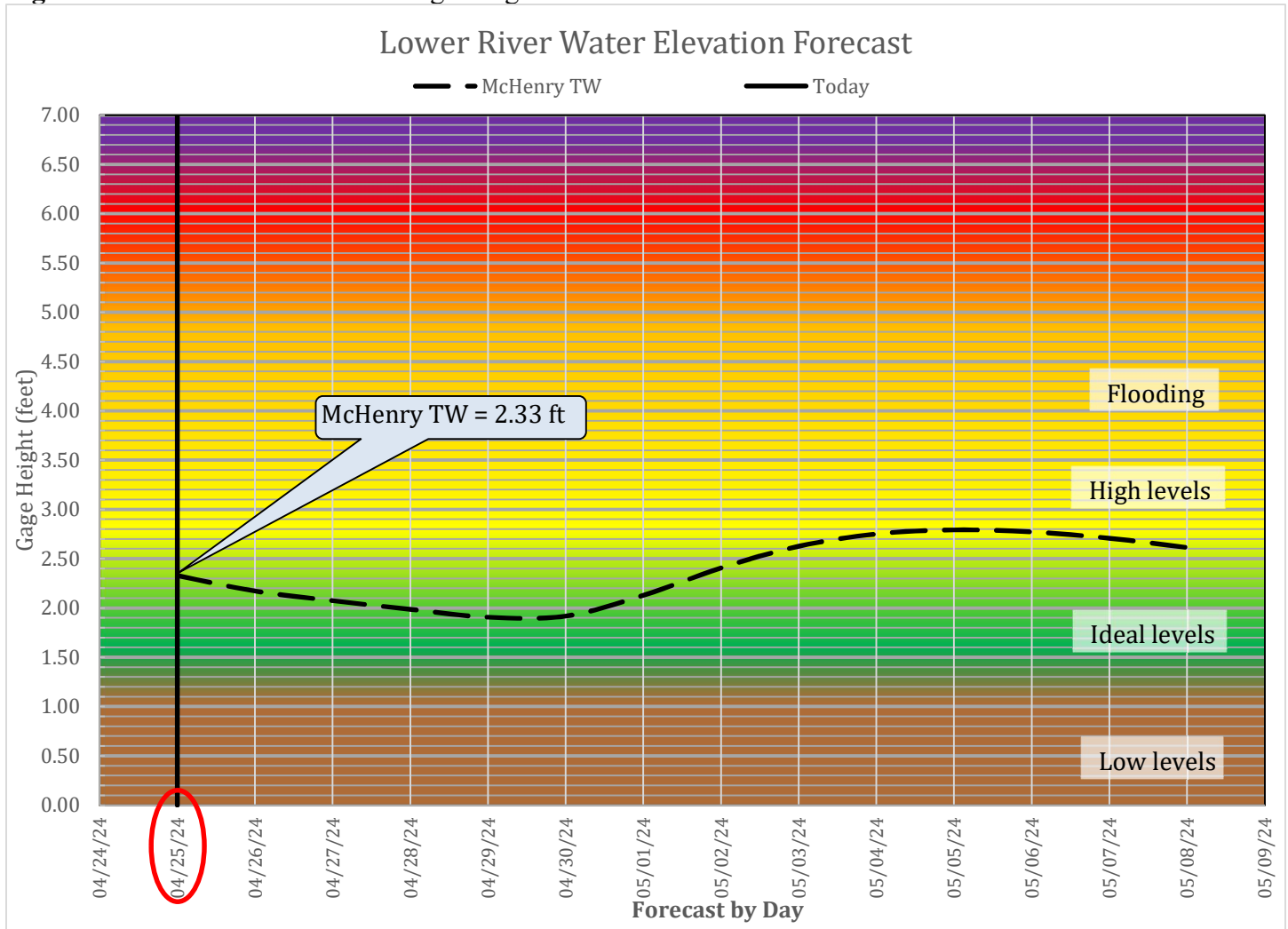


Figure 3: Estimated Downstream Gage Height



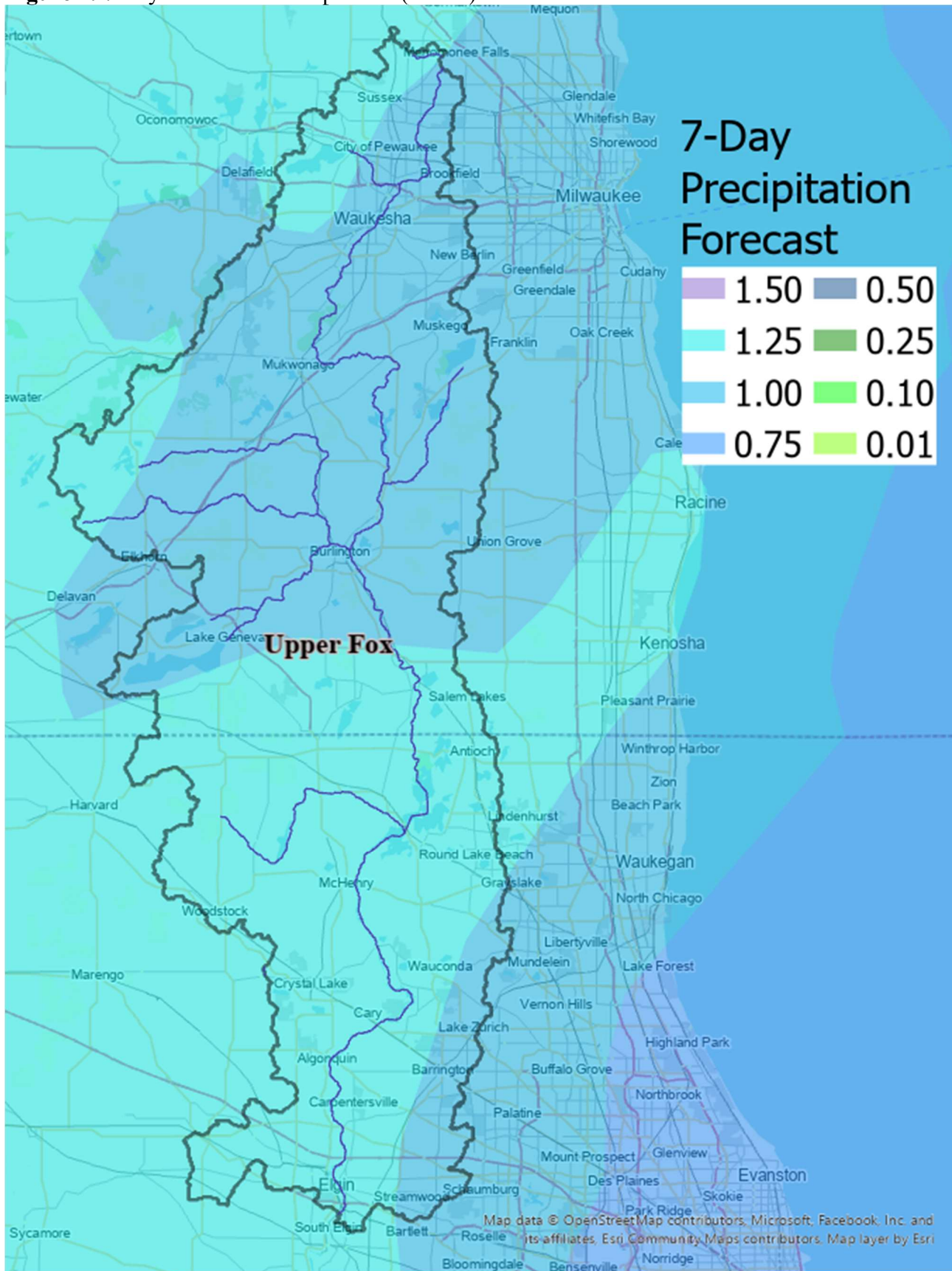
Current Conditions

Measured flow on the Fox River near New Munster, WI is 690 cfs and Nippersink Creek near Spring Grove is at 201 cfs. The total system inflow is 1164 cfs. The Fox Lake stage is 3.98 ft; the Stratton Dam Tailwater stage is 2.33 ft. The Fox River at the Algonquin Dam headwater stage is 1.57 ft.

Forecast

Inflows are forecasted to begin rising on Sunday and peak on Wednesday, as shown in **Figure 1**. Fox Lake and all areas upstream of the dam are forecasted to peak on the 5th and as water levels return to normal summer pool at the lakes, as shown above in **Figure 2**, gates will be adjusted. The Lower River will also peak on the 5th at 2.8'. The 7-Day Precipitation forecast is showing 1.0"-1.25" rain for the watershed, **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 top out at 4.45' on the Fox Lake gage. Once lake levels are below 4.2' gates will be raised to maintain summer pool.

McHenry Pool Area Outlook

Water levels are forecasted to be lower than the lakes at the pool while inflows remain elevated. As gates are raised after the event, the system should begin to reach equilibrium.

Lower River Outlook

Water levels will rise due to the upcoming rain but are forecasted to remain below 3.0'

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

Thank you,

Aaron Rotherham
Office of Water Resources
Illinois Department of Natural Resources