



# Illinois Department of Natural Resources

One Natural Resources Way Springfield, Illinois 62702-1271  
www.dnr.illinois.gov

JB Pritzker, Governor

Colleen Callahan, Director

## Fox River Status Update March 15, 2022

**Update: Transition from winter pool of 2.5 to the summer pool of 3.8 to 4.2 began last Friday with a target of reaching summer pool by April 8<sup>th</sup>. The region remains in severe drought.**

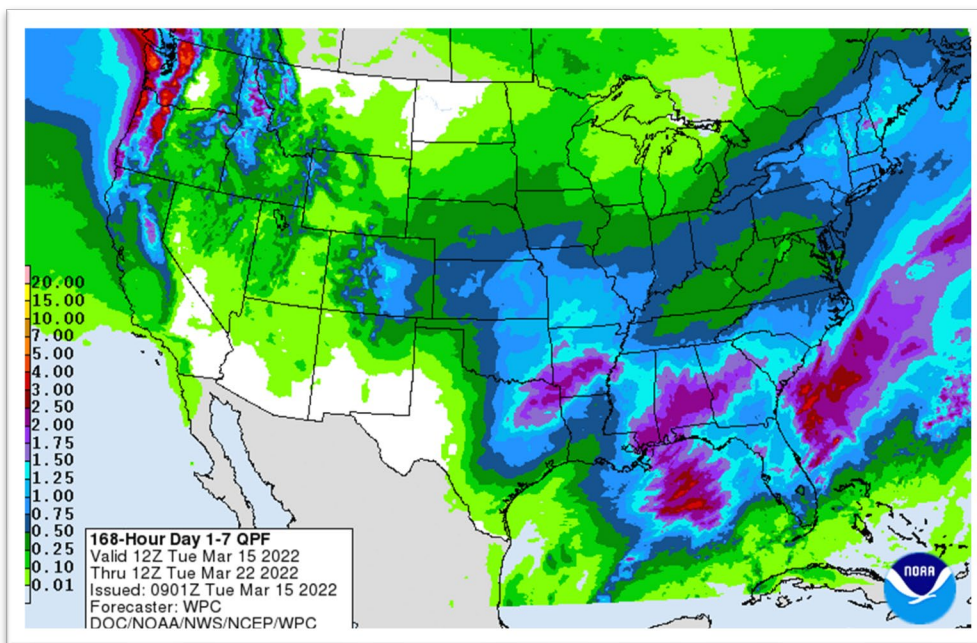
### Current Conditions

Measured inflows on the Fox River near New Munster, WI are 319 cfs and Nippersink Creek near Spring Grove are 81 cfs. The National Weather Service (NWS) estimates local tributary inflows of 317 cfs. The Fox Lake stage is 2.75 ft; the Stratton Dam Tailwater stage is 0.78 ft. The Fox River at the Algonquin Dam Tailwater stage is 4.89 ft.

### Forecast

The NWS 7-day forecast is predicting 0.10 to 0.25 inches of precipitation for the Fox River watershed as shown on Figure 1. Nearly all this rain is expected around Friday. Inflows are dropping and the future rain will not cause inflows greater than what are currently occurring.

Figure 1: Forecasted Precipitation for the Next 7 days



Source: [Weather Prediction Center \(WPC\) Home Page \(noaa.gov\)](https://www.weather.gov/)

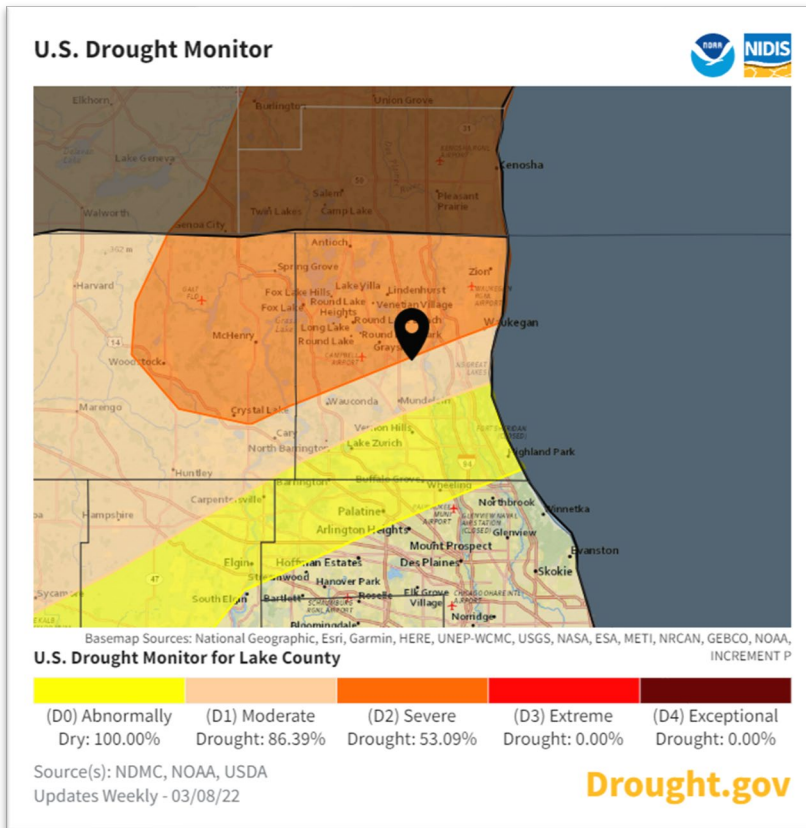
## Lakes & Upper River Outlook

Water levels are expected to steadily climb toward normal pool levels over the next three weeks. The goal is to reach summer pool of 4.0 by April 8<sup>th</sup>. The IDNR/OWR continues to closely monitor the forecasted rainfall and inflows provided by the National Weather Service.

## Lower River Outlook

The Stratton Dam gates will be adjusted up as the pool elevation increase to keep a consistent outflow until summer pool has been reached. The water levels in the lower river will be lower than prior weeks as a result. The region remains in a severe drought as shown in Figure 2. This causes lower river levels than normal for this time of year.

Figure 2: U.S. Drought Monitor – Lake County Current Conditions



Source: [Lake County Conditions](#) | [Drought.gov](#)

Wes Cattoor, P.E., CFM

[Wes.cattoor@illinois.gov](mailto:Wes.cattoor@illinois.gov)

Office of Water Resources

Illinois Department of Natural Resources

<https://www.dnr.illinois.gov/WaterResources/Pages/StrattonLockandDam.aspx>