



# Illinois Department of Natural Resources

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JB Pritzker, Governor

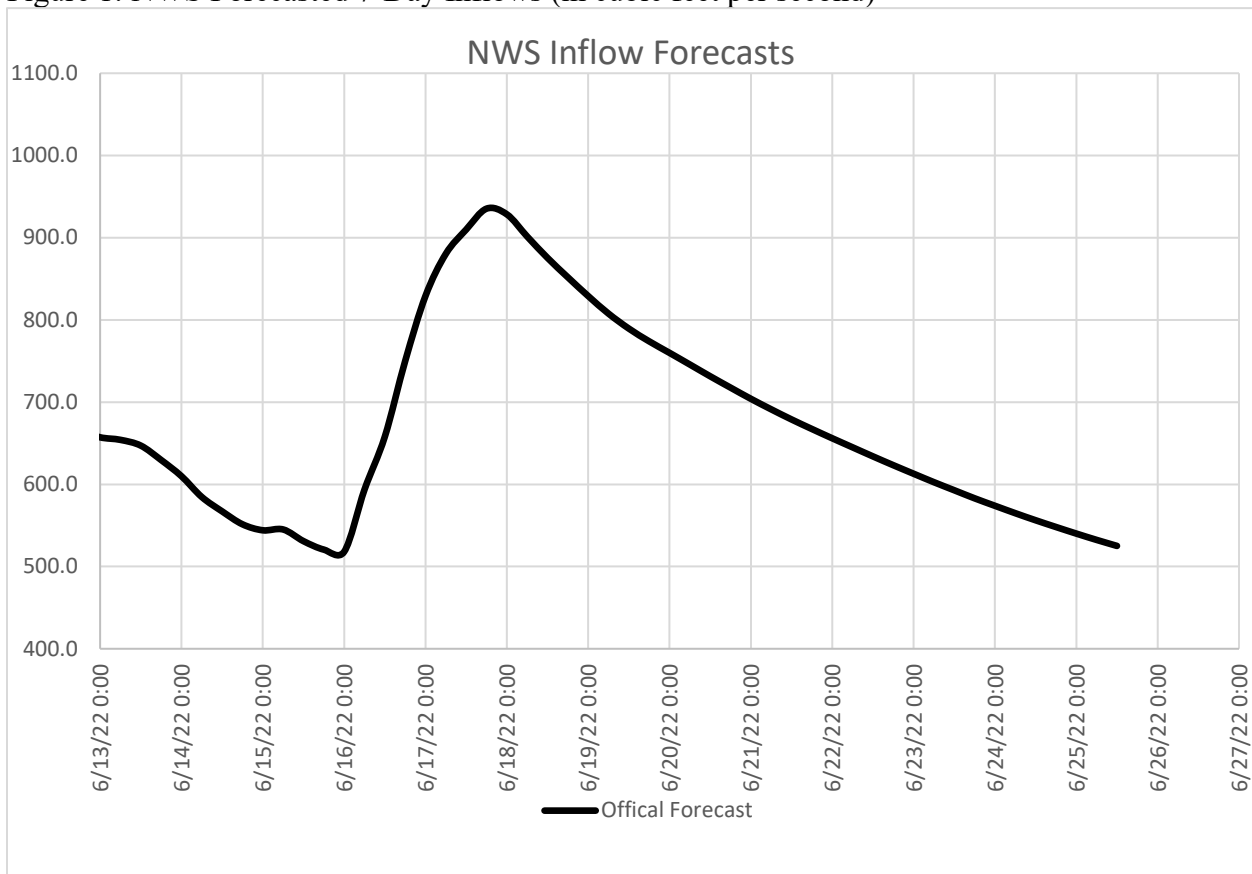
Colleen Callahan, Director

## Fox River Status Update June 17, 2022

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

**Summary: The Fox River and Chain of Lakes are currently forecasted to receive less than 0.1” for the next 7 days. Current inflows are 1060 cfs with dam outflows at 1142 cfs. Water levels are expected to drop to near 4.15 by Monday in the Chain and 1.75 in the Lower River based on the forecast. The continued reduction of forecasted inflows and lack of rainfall will require raising of the Stratton gates early next week to maintain acceptable water levels in the chain.**

Figure 1: NWS Forecasted 7-Day Inflows (in cubic feet per second)



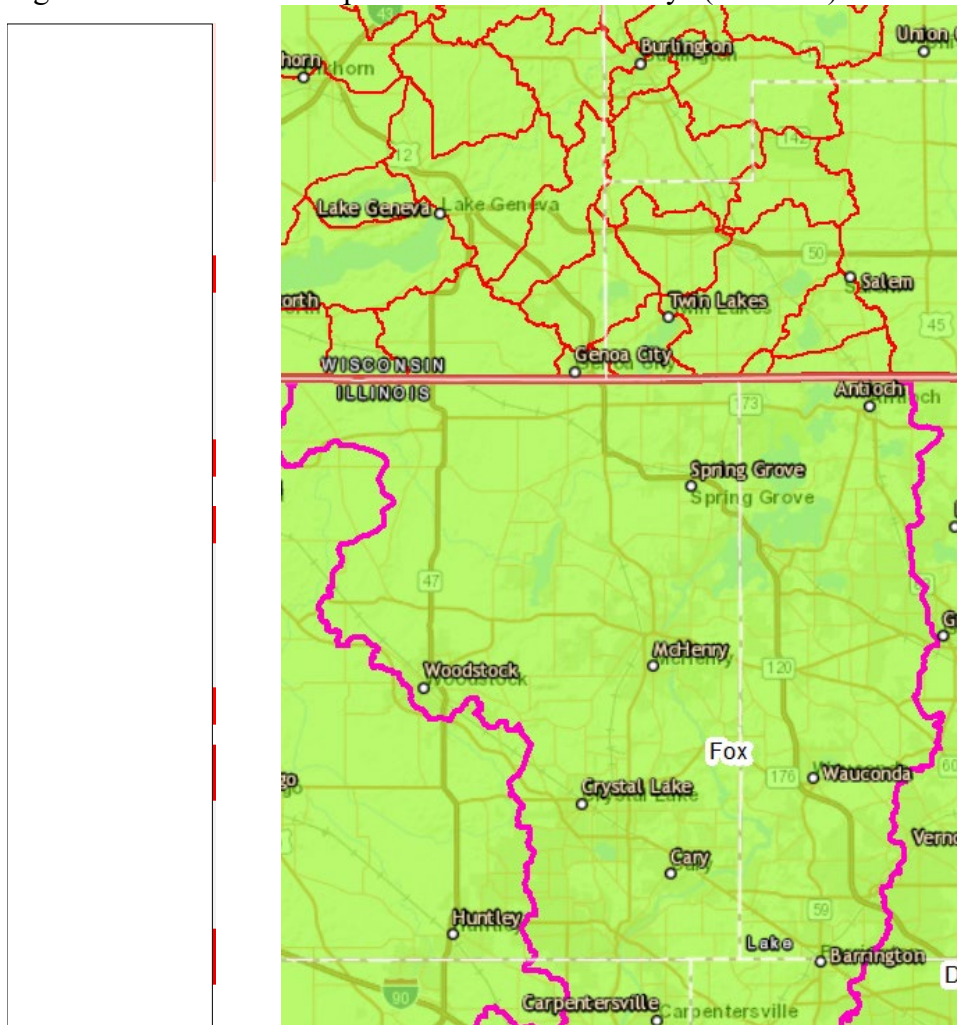
### Current Conditions

Measured inflows on the Fox River near New Munster, WI are 628 cfs and Nippersink Creek near Spring Grove are 161 cfs. The National Weather Service (NWS) estimates local tributary inflows of 271 cfs. The total system inflows are 1060 cfs; the outflows at Stratton Dam are 1142 cfs. The Fox Lake stage is 4.26 ft; the Stratton Dam Tailwater stage is 1.99 ft. The Fox River at the Algonquin Dam Tailwater stage is 6.14 ft.

### Forecast

Inflows are forecasted to gradually drop as shown above in Figure 1. The NWS 7-day forecast is predicting up to 0.09 inches of precipitation for the Fox River watershed as shown on Figure 2. The rain is currently forecasted to be Wednesday (~0.05”). The Chain O’Lakes is expected to drop to near 4.15’.

Figure 2: Forecasted Precipitation for the Next 7 days (in inches)



Source:

<https://viewer.geospatial.weather.gov/general#/layers=35225+40090+40146+40091+42149+42377&x=-88.41196&y=42.20301&z=8.6&panel=layer>

**Chain O' Lakes Outlook**

Water levels are expected to drop to near 4.15' at Lake Villa this weekend based on the forecast. Pending future rainfall forecasts, the lakes are forecasted to remain at this level for the upcoming week.

**McHenry Pool Area Outlook**

The Upper River near the McHenry Pool should stay near 4.0 for the upcoming week as gates are adjusted to balance outflows with the forecasted inflows.

**Lower River Outlook**

Due to the lack of inflow and predicted precipitation, the gates at Stratton Dam will need to be raised early next week. This will cause the tailwater drop to near 1.60. The gates will be continuously monitored and adjusted to provide the Lower River maximum available flow.

**Drought Forecast**

The Midwest Drought Early Warning System has notified that a flash drought is likely to occur in the region due to high temperatures and low rainfall. The seasonal drought outlook predicts drought likely to develop for nearly all of Illinois. This will most significantly impact users on the lower river as flows into and out of the system will likely be lower than normal.

Sources: [sdohomeweb.png \(792x612\) \(noaa.gov\)](#)

**Additional Studies**

Upper River Conveyance Study (*study described in previous updates*) – Conceptual investigation results have been identified show decreased water surface differences between McHenry Pool and Chain of Lakes based on dredging options. Sedimentation data will be added to the data to determine lifespan and then added to the cost/benefit analysis. Further options are being identified based on refinements and a limit study report is being compiled.

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

Thank you,

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Office of Water Resources

Illinois Department of Natural Resources

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

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