



# Illinois Department of Natural Resources

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JB Pritzker, Governor

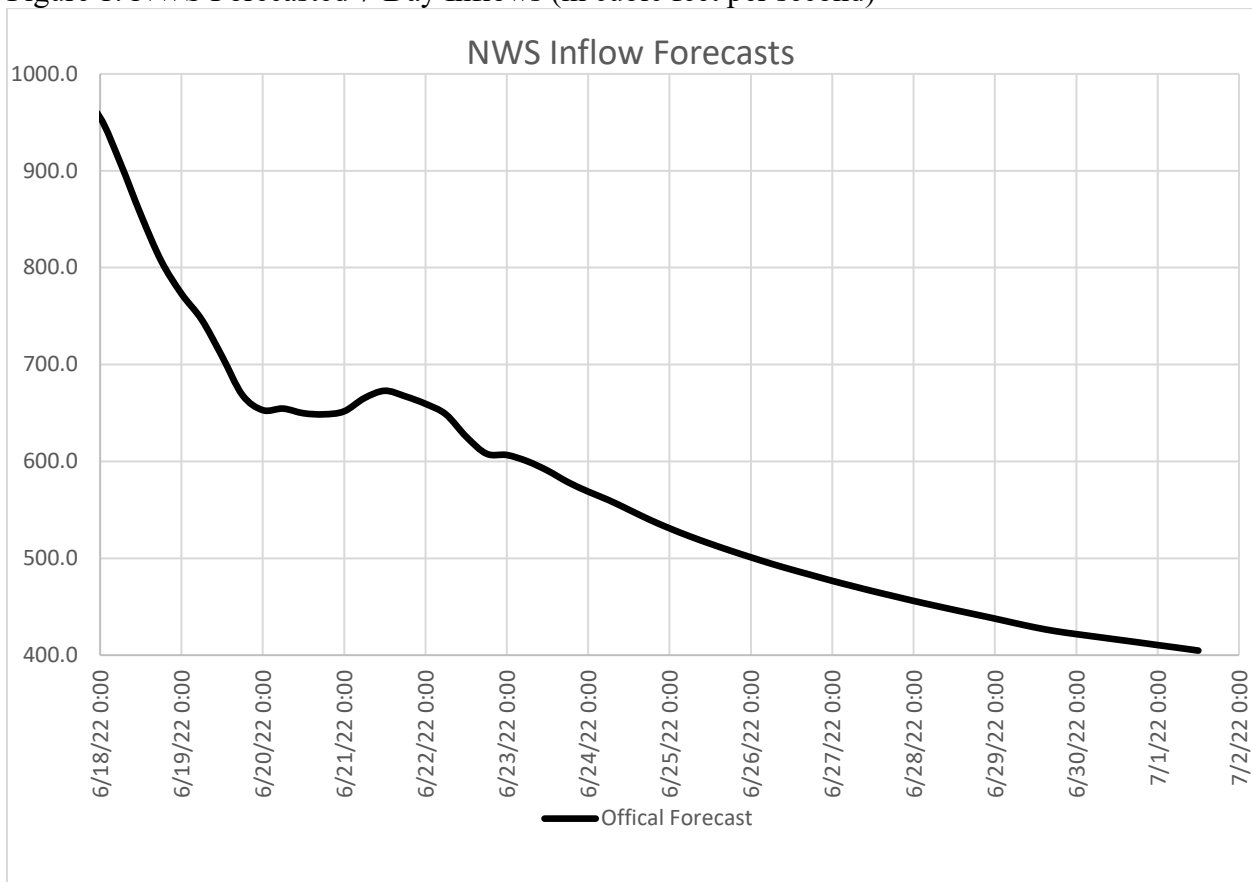
Colleen Callahan, Director

## Fox River Status Update June 23, 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 approximately 0.15” for the next 7 days. Current total inflows are near 700 cfs with dam outflows of 550 cfs. Water levels are expected to hold near 4.10 in the Chain and 1.15 in the Lower River based on the forecast. The continued reduction of forecasted inflows and lack of rainfall may require raising of the Stratton gates late next week to maintain acceptable water levels in the chain.**

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



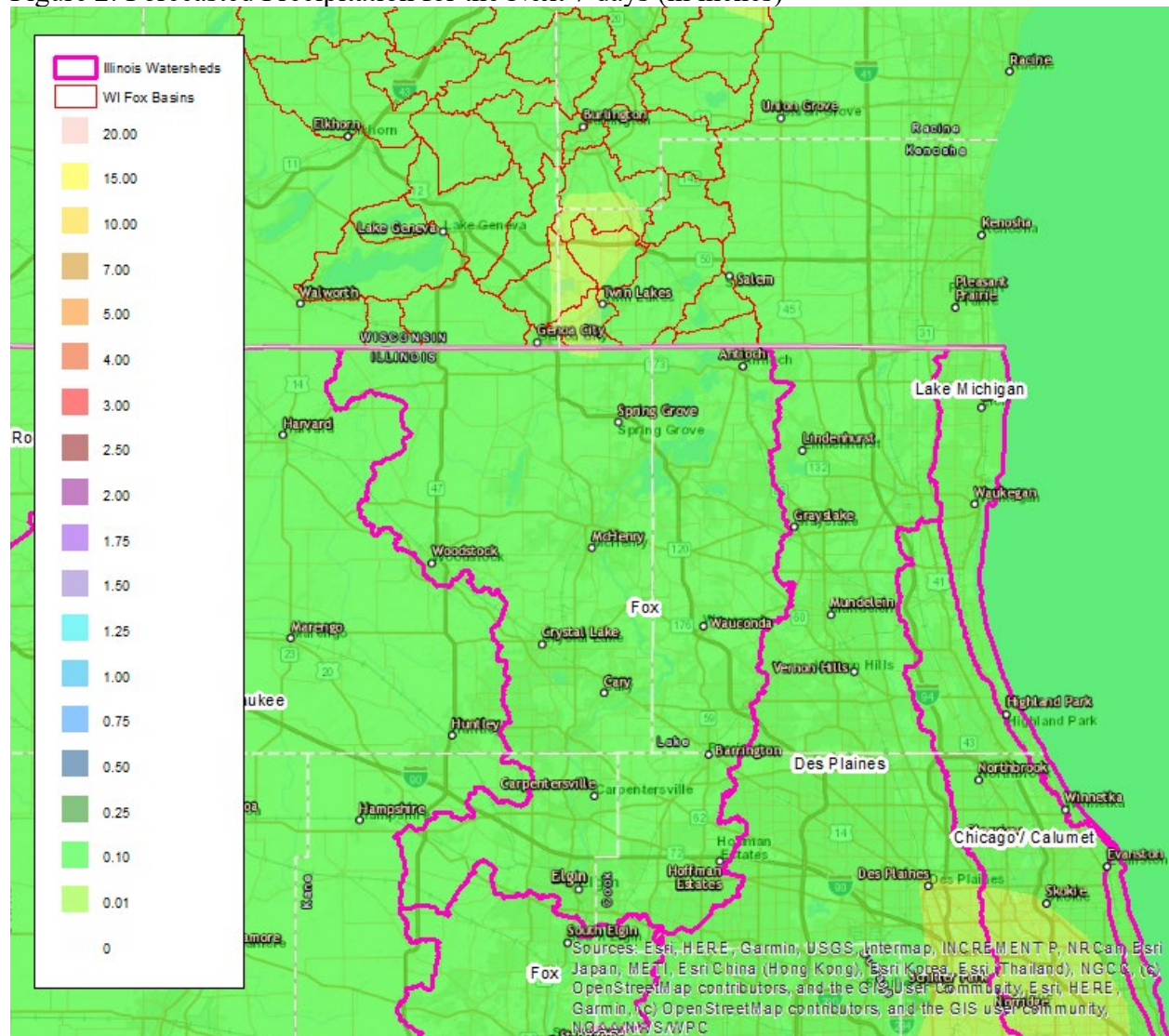
## Current Conditions

Measured inflows on the Fox River near New Munster, WI are 402 cfs and Nippersink Creek near Spring Grove are 91 cfs. The National Weather Service (NWS) estimates local tributary inflows of 248 cfs. The total system inflows are 741 cfs; the outflows at Stratton Dam are 550 cfs. The Fox Lake stage is 4.10 ft; the Stratton Dam Tailwater stage is 1.15 ft. The Fox River at the Algonquin Dam Tailwater stage is 5.23 ft.

## Forecast

Inflows are forecasted to continue to drop as shown above in Figure 1. The NWS 7-day forecast is predicting up to 0.15 inches of precipitation for the Fox River watershed as shown on Figure 2. The heaviest rain is currently forecasted to be Saturday (~0.1"). The Chain O'Lakes is expected to hold 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 hold near 4.15' at Lake Villa this weekend based on the forecast. Pending an increase in 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 will stay near 4.0 for the upcoming week as gates are maintained to balance outflows with the forecasted inflows.

### Lower River Outlook

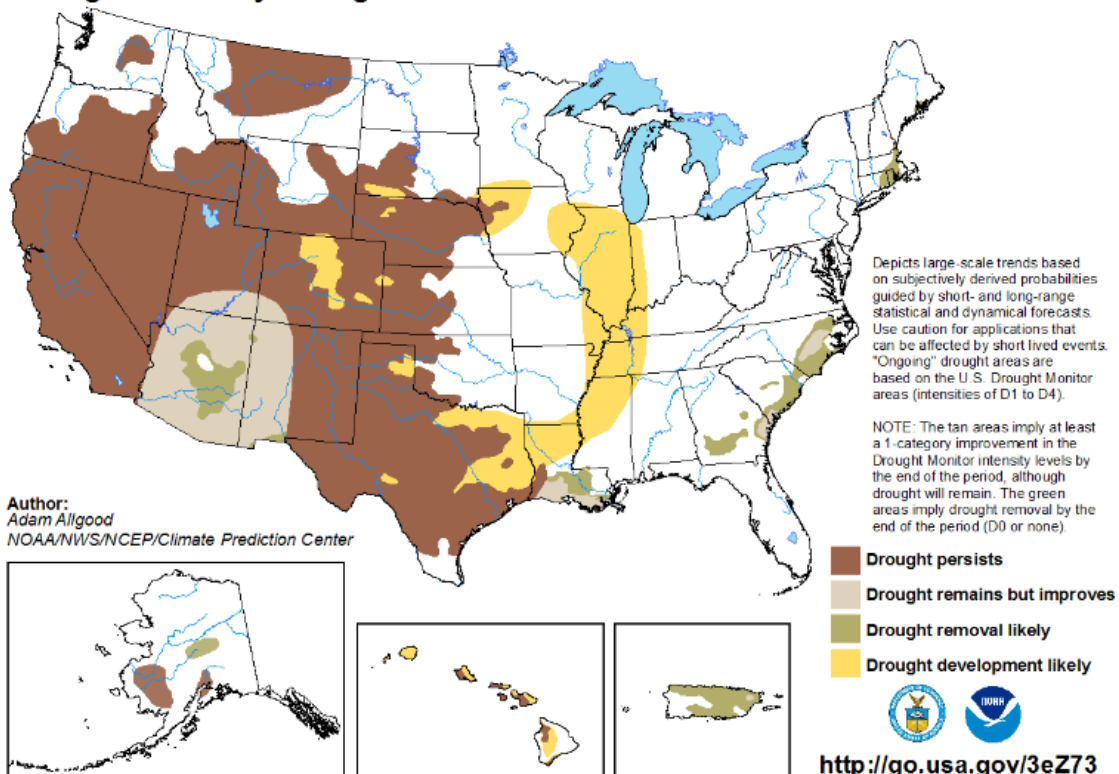
Due to the lack of inflow and predicted precipitation, the gates at Stratton Dam may need to be raised next week. This would cause the tailwater drop to near 1.10. The gates will be continuously monitored and adjusted to provide the Lower River maximum available flow.

### 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.

## U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook Drought Tendency During the Valid Period

Valid for June 16 - September 30, 2022  
Released June 16



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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