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

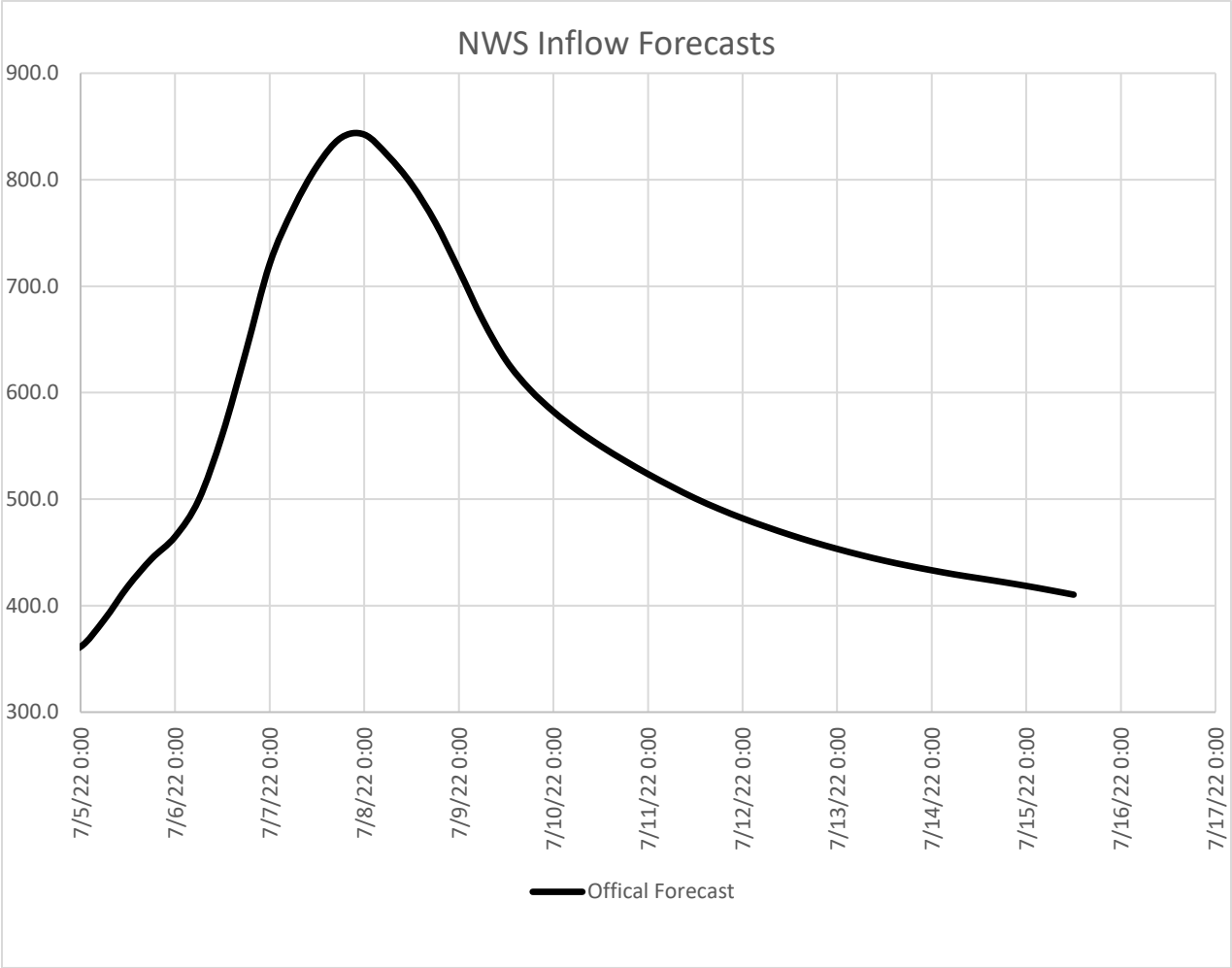
JB Pritzker, Governor
Colleen Callahan, Director

Fox River Status Update
July 7, 2022

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

Summary: Lake and upper river levels will be slightly above normal pool this weekend allowing to some additional flow released to the lower river.

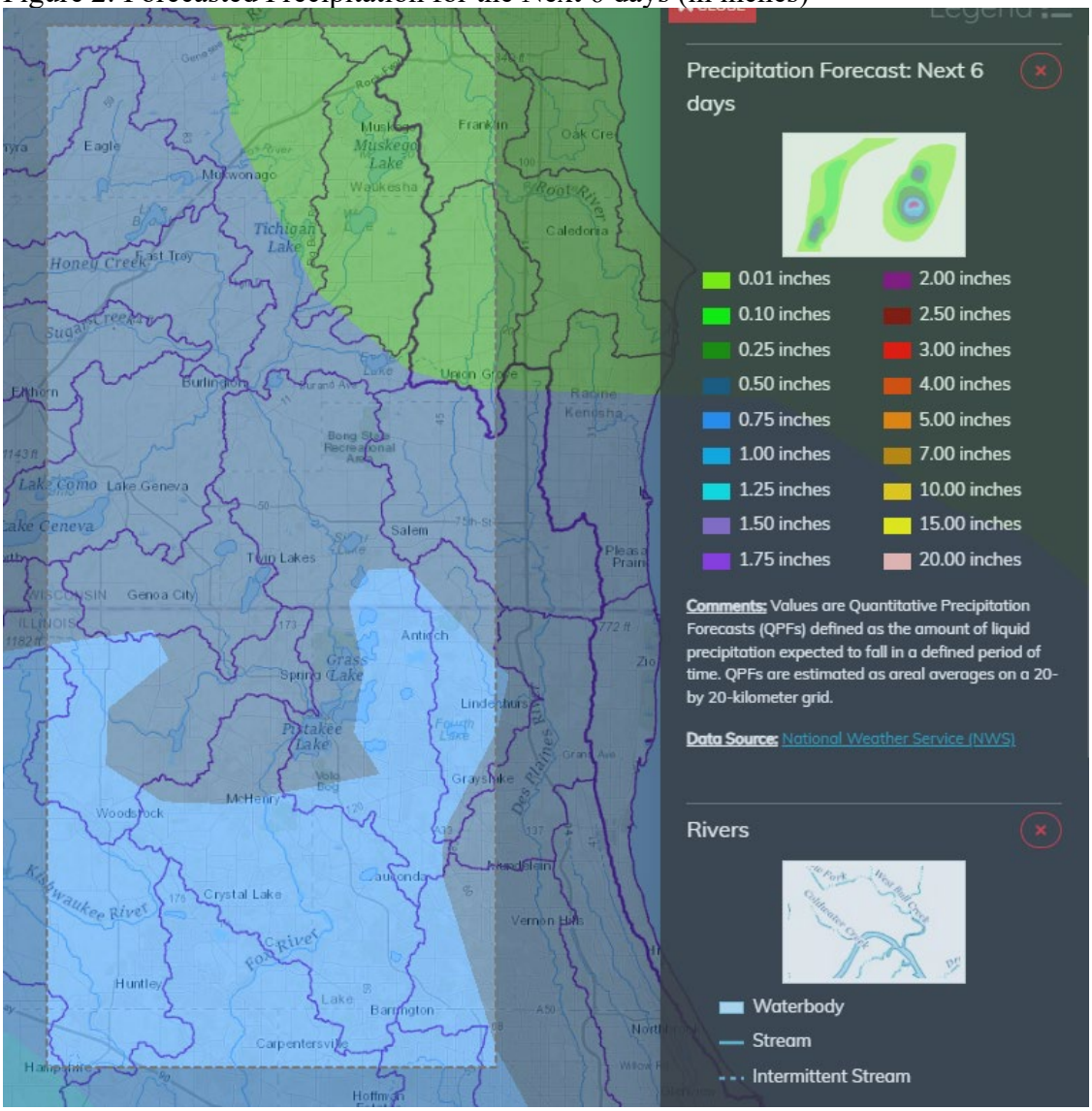
Figure 1: NWS Forecasted 7-Day Inflows (in cubic feet per second)



Current Conditions
Measured inflows on the Fox River near New Munster, WI are 360 cfs and Nippersink Creek near Spring Grove are 237 cfs. The National Weather Service (NWS) estimates local tributary inflows of 226 cfs. The total system inflows are 863 cfs; the outflows at Stratton Dam are 496 cfs. The Fox Lake stage is 4.14 ft; the Stratton Dam Tailwater stage is 1.08 ft. The Fox River at the Algonquin Dam headwater stage is 1.57 ft.

Forecast
Inflows are forecasted to continue to drop as shown above in Figure 1. The NWS 7-day forecast is predicting up to 0.65 inches of precipitation for the Fox River watershed as shown on Figure 2. The heaviest rain is currently forecasted to be Friday (~0.4"). The Chain O'Lakes is expected to rise to near 4.3'. The pool is intentionally being held high to allow for more lower river flow over the upcoming weekend. No rainfall is forecasted beyond Friday.

Figure 2: Forecasted Precipitation for the Next 6 days (in inches)



Source: https://dashboard.waterdata.usgs.gov/

Chain O' Lakes Outlook
Water levels are expected to rise to near 4.3, cresting on Saturday. The levels will then drop off and hold between 4.1 and 4.2 by early next week.

McHenry Pool Area Outlook
The Upper River near the McHenry Pool will encounter the same scenario as the lakes but with slightly lower levels.

Lower River Outlook
Since inflows to the system have increase from the precipitation as shown in Figure 1, the lower river will see some increase in water levels over the weekend. Early next week the lower river levels will start dropping.

Drought Forecast
The Fox River watershed in Wisconsin is experiencing drought resulting in below average flow coming into the system. With below average water coming in, below average water can be released from Stratton to the lower river.

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

Thank you,

Wes Cattoor, P.E., CFM
Wes.cattoor@illinois.gov
Office of Water Resources
Illinois Department of Natural Resources
https://www.dnr.illinois.gov/WaterResources/Pages/StrattonLockandDam.aspx