



Illinois Department of Natural Resources

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

JB Pritzker, Governor

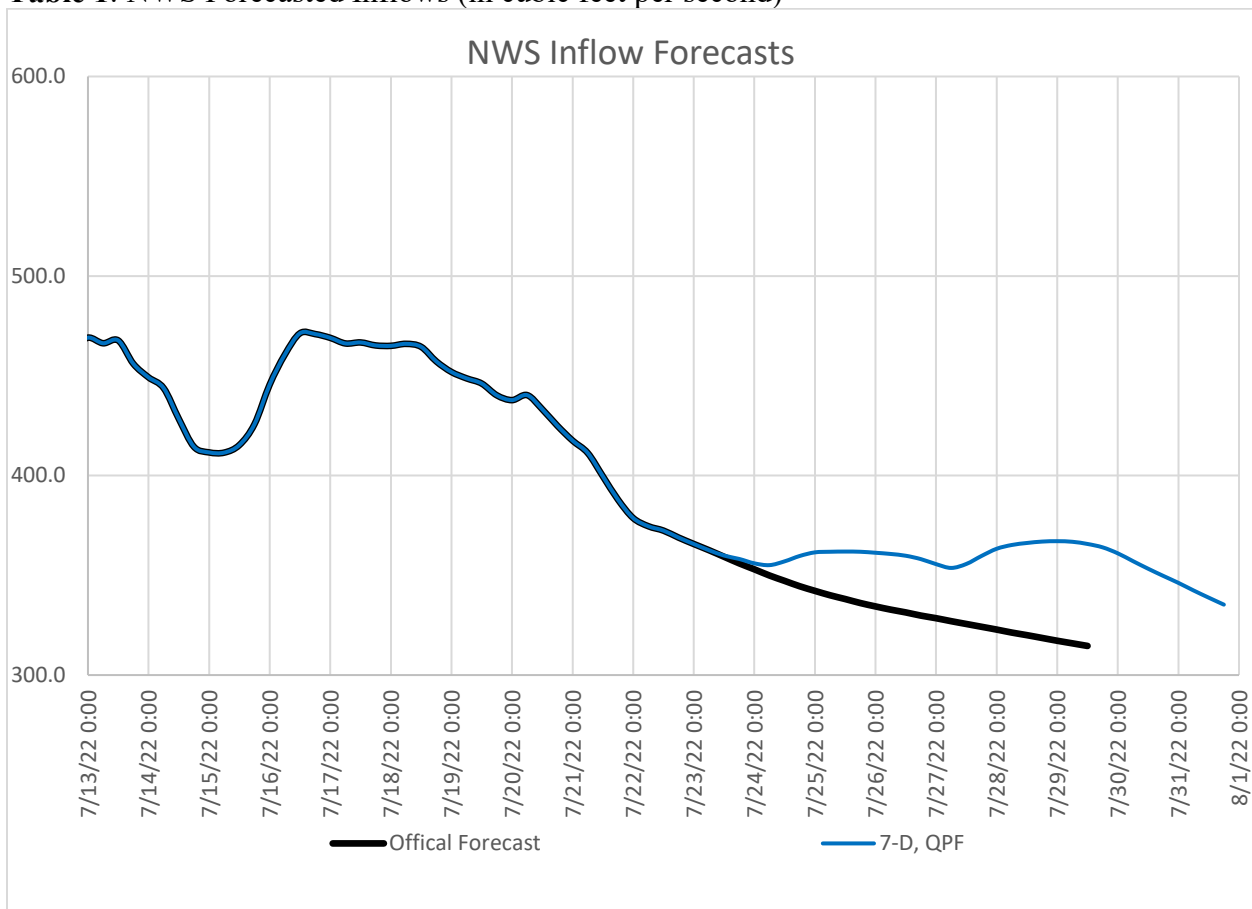
Colleen Callahan, Director

Fox River Status Update July 21, 2022

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

Summary: Current rainfall amounts are forecasted to be approximately 0.75-1.0” of rain for the next 7 days. Based on rainfall amounts and inflows, the lakes and river are forecasted to remain near the current levels.

Table 1: NWS Forecasted Inflows (in cubic feet per second)



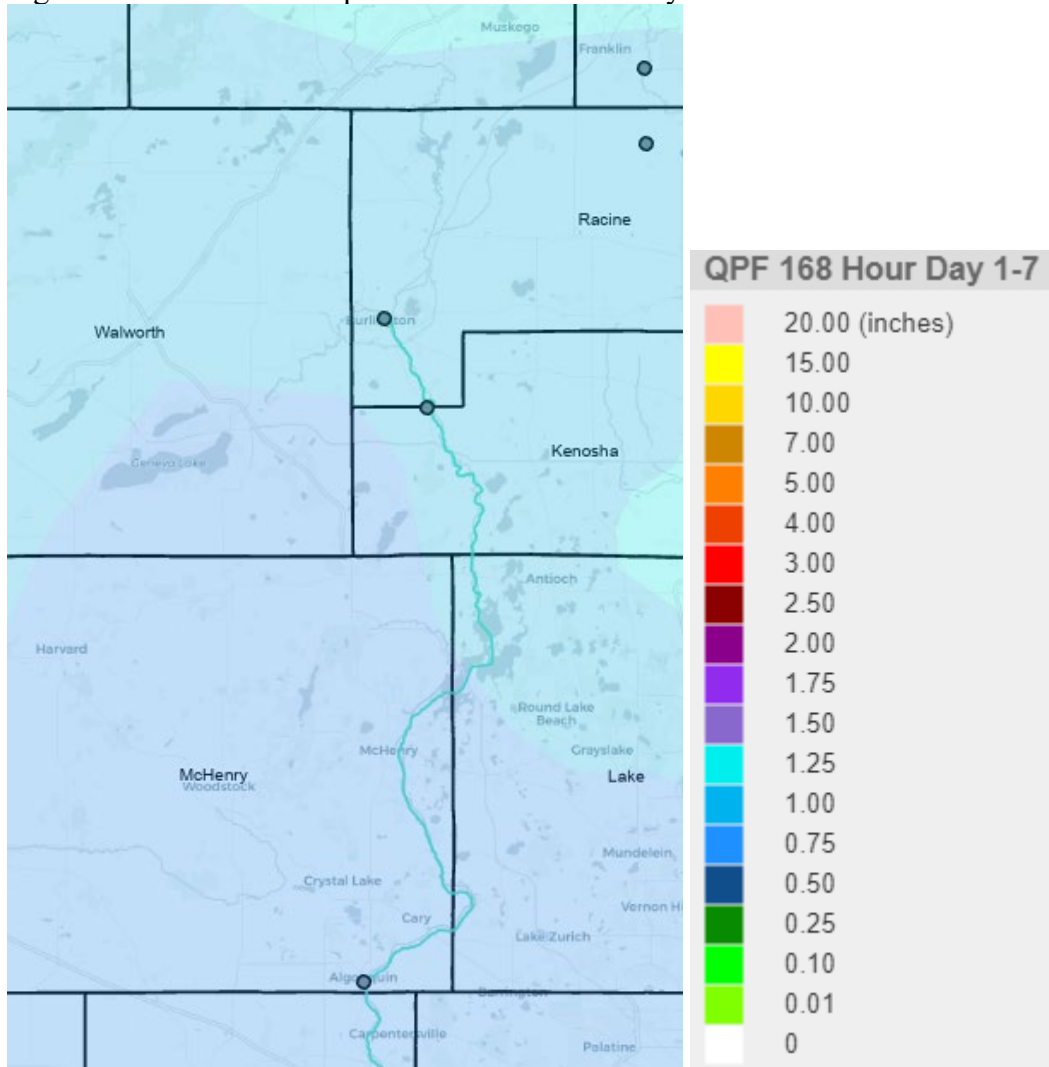
Current Conditions

Measured inflows on the Fox River near New Munster, WI are 169 cfs and Nippersink Creek near Spring Grove are 72 cfs. The National Weather Service (NWS) estimates local tributary inflows of 109 cfs. The total system inflows are 351 cfs; the outflows at Stratton Dam are 339 cfs. The Fox Lake stage is 4.16 ft; the Stratton Dam Tailwater stage is 0.82 ft. The Fox River at the Algonquin Dam headwater stage is 1.74 ft.

Forecast

Inflows are forecasted to continue dropping until Sunday and then hold near 360 cfs as shown above in **Figure 1**. The NWS 7-day forecast is predicting between 0.75 and 1.0 inch of precipitation for the Fox River watershed as shown on **Figure 2**. The heaviest rains are currently forecasted to be Saturday (~0.3”). The Chain O’Lakes is expected to hold near 4.15’.

Figure 2: Forecasted Precipitation for the Next 7 days



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

Chain O' Lakes Outlook

Water levels are expected to hold near 4.15 for the next week. The outflows will then be adjusted to match inflows levels in order to conserve as much water as possible.

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 are expected to remain low, as shown in **Figure 2**, the lower river will see little to no change in water levels.

Drought Forecast

The Fox River watershed in Kenosha and Racine counties in Wisconsin are still experiencing moderate drought conditions resulting in below average flow coming into the system. This will continue to keep inflows to the system low despite the rain forecast.

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>

Report compiled by: Aaron Rotherham