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Natural Resources
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JB Pritzker, Governor
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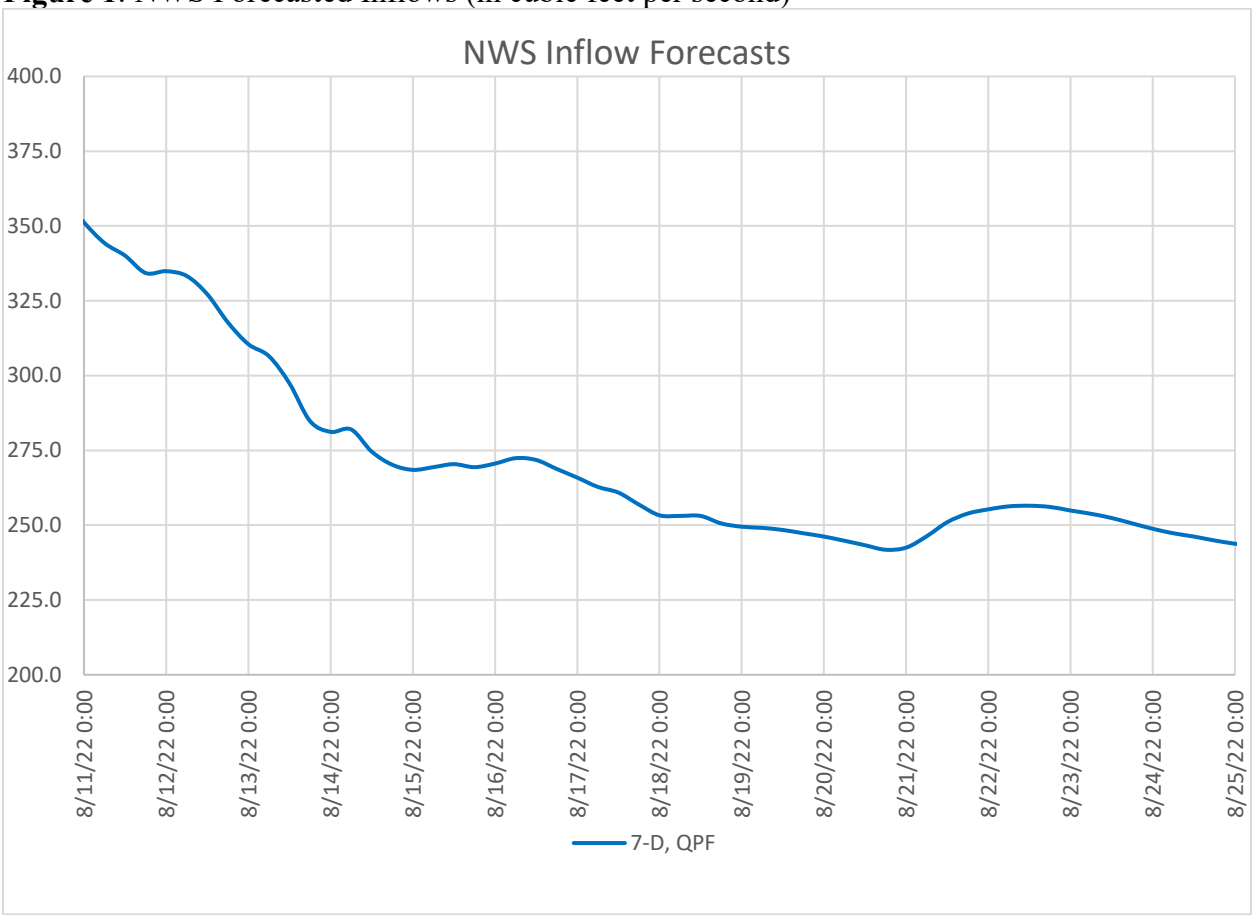
Fox River Status Update
August 18, 2022

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

Summary: Currently there is 0.45" of rainfall forecasted in the watershed for the next 7 days. The system remains in low flow conditions, with inflows just over 250 cfs. Outflows are slightly below the inflows to keep the lakes and upper river as high as possible.

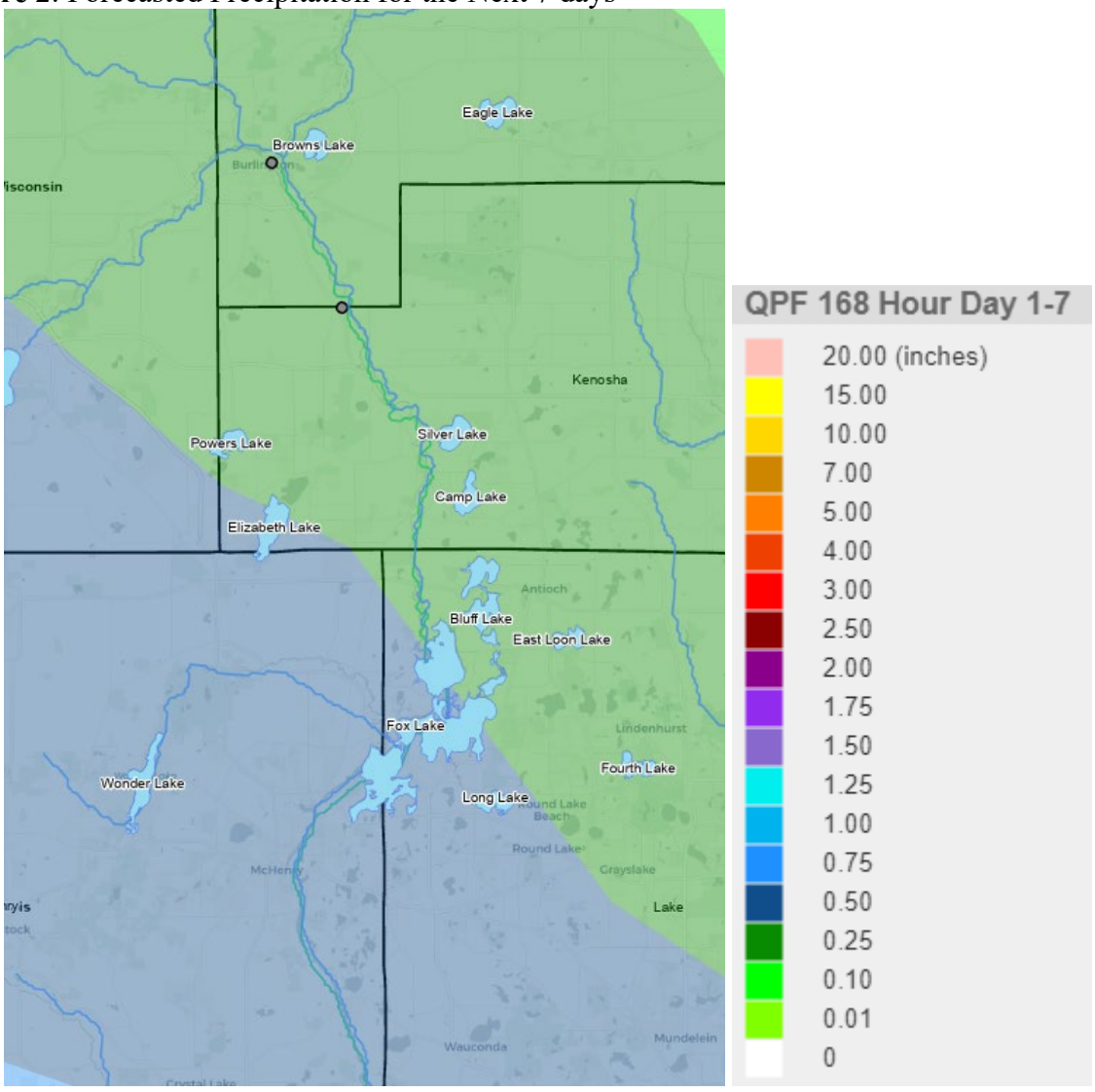
Figure 1: NWS Forecasted Inflows (in cubic feet per second)



Current Conditions
Measured inflows on the Fox River near New Munster, WI are 143 cfs and Nippersink Creek near Spring Grove are 57 cfs. The National Weather Service (NWS) estimates local tributary inflows of 3 cfs. The total net system inflows are 213 cfs with the minimum required outflow at 153.3 cfs; the outflows at Stratton Dam are 156 cfs. The Fox Lake stage is 4.12 ft; the Stratton Dam Tailwater stage is 0.62 ft. The Fox River at the Algonquin Dam headwater stage is 1.50 ft.

Forecast
Inflows are forecasted to remain near the current levels, as shown above in **Figure 1**. The NWS 7-day forecast is predicting 0.45" of precipitation for the Fox River watershed as shown on **Figure 2**. The Chain O'Lakes is forecasted increase slightly to 4.18'.

Figure 2: Forecasted Precipitation for the Next 7 days



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

Chain O' Lakes Outlook

Water levels are expected to rise to 4.18' after the forecasted rainfall. The outflows will be adjusted to maintain required minimum outflows while retaining as much water as possible.

McHenry Pool Area Outlook
The Upper River near the McHenry Pool will be roughly the same as the lakes but a slightly lower elevation.

Lower River Outlook
Since inflows to the system are expected to remain in low flow conditions, as shown in **Figure 1**, the lower river will remain low over the next week.

Drought Forecast
The Fox River watershed in Kenosha and Racine counties in Wisconsin are still experiencing abnormally dry conditions resulting in below average flow coming into the system. This will continue to keep inflows to the system low.

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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