



Illinois Department of Natural Resources

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JB Pritzker, Governor

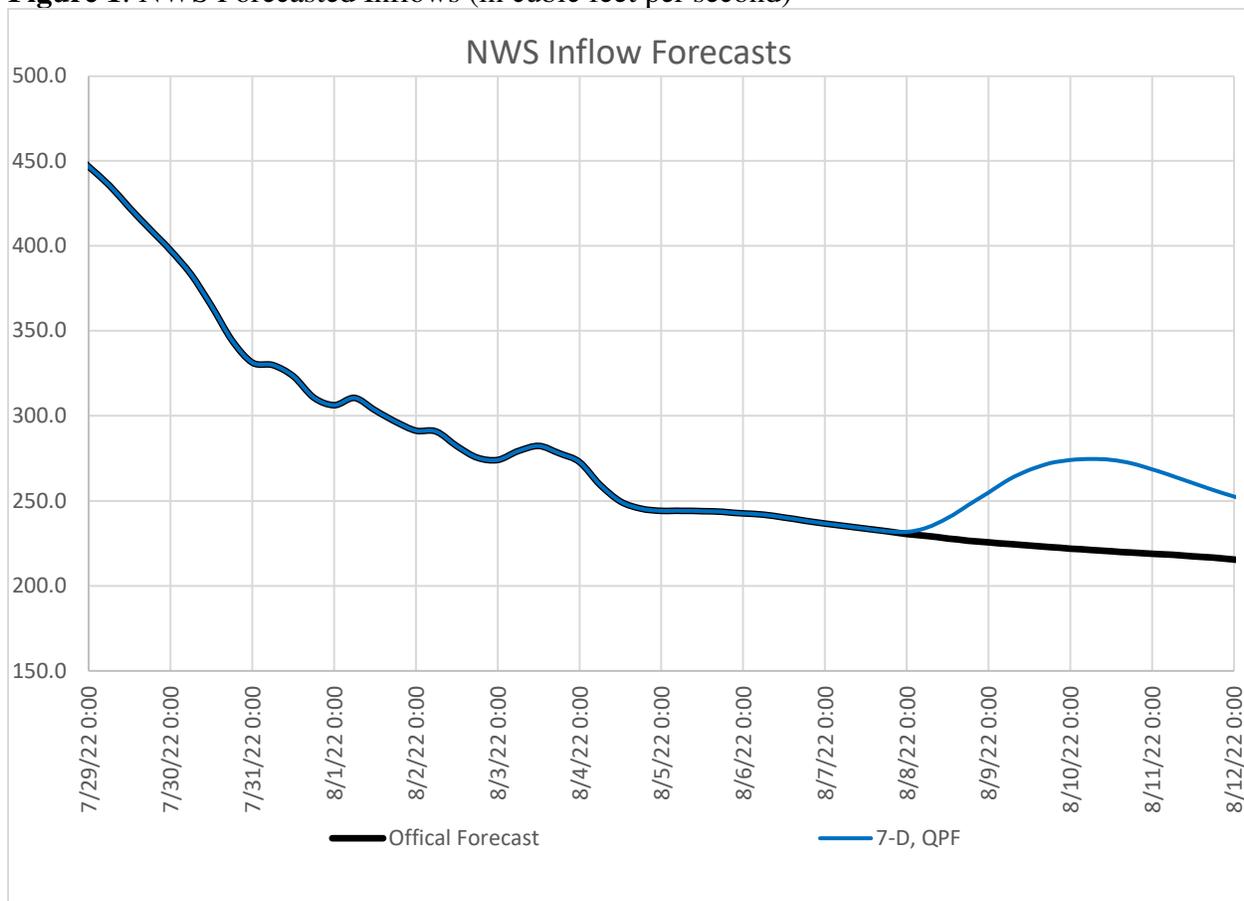
Colleen Callahan, Director

Fox River Status Update August 4, 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 0.5” of rain for the next 7 days. Currently the system is in low flow conditions, with inflows just over 200 cfs. Unfortunately, the rain amounts will not be enough to improve the situation.

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



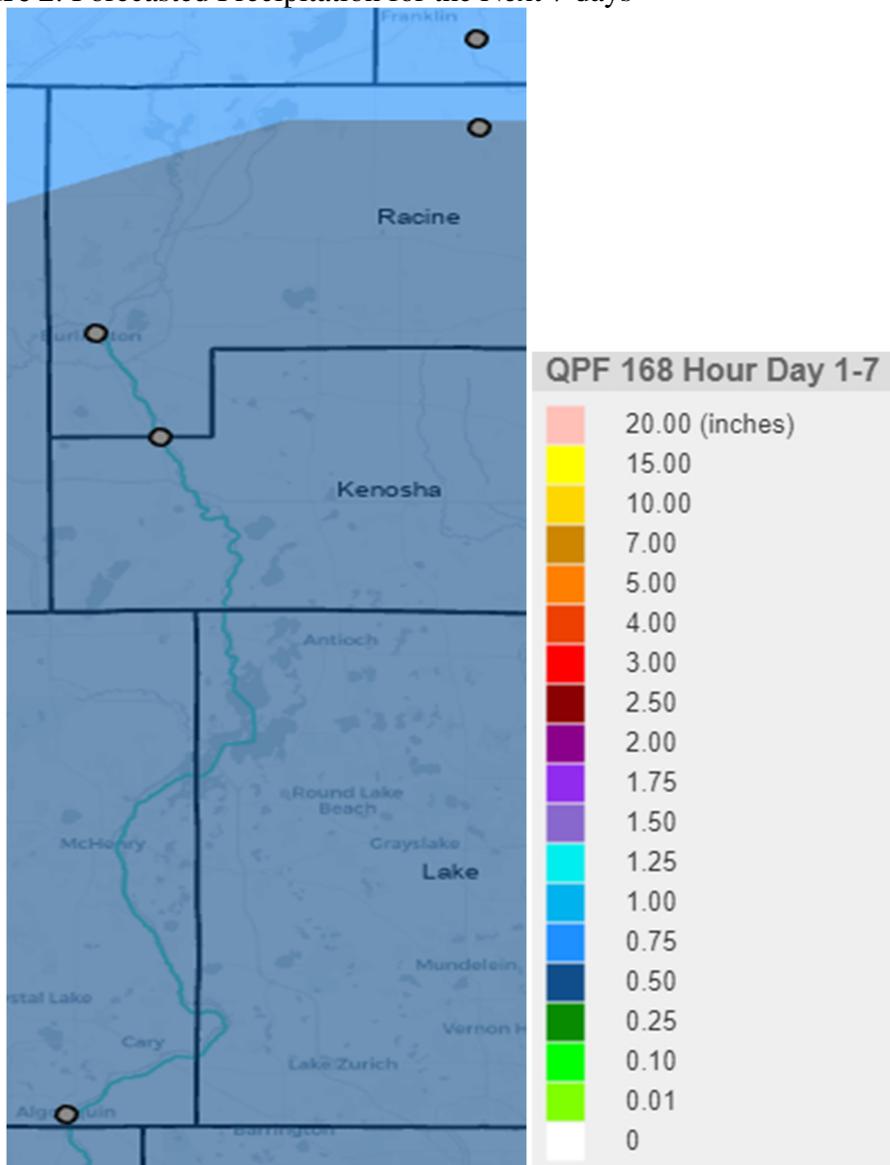
Current Conditions

Measured inflows on the Fox River near New Munster, WI are 118 cfs and Nippersink Creek near Spring Grove are 61 cfs. The National Weather Service (NWS) estimates local tributary inflows of 30 cfs. The total net system inflows are 209 cfs with the minimum required outflow at 151.6 cfs; the outflows at Stratton Dam are 186 cfs. The Fox Lake stage is 4.09 ft; the Stratton Dam Tailwater stage is 0.67 ft. The Fox River at the Algonquin Dam headwater stage is 1.27 ft.

Forecast

Inflows are forecasted to remain near the current levels, as shown above in **Figure 1**. The NWS 7-day forecast is predicting approximately 0.5” of precipitation for the Fox River watershed as shown on **Figure 2**. The Chain O’Lakes is forecasted to not get above 4.15’ after the rainfall event.

Figure 2: Forecasted Precipitation for the Next 7 days



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

Chain O' Lakes Outlook

Water levels are expected to top out at 4.15' for the next week and then start dropping again. 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 moderate drought conditions resulting in below average flow coming into the system. This will continue to keep inflows to the system low despite the upcoming rain event.

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

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

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