



Illinois Department of Natural Resources

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

JB Pritzker, Governor

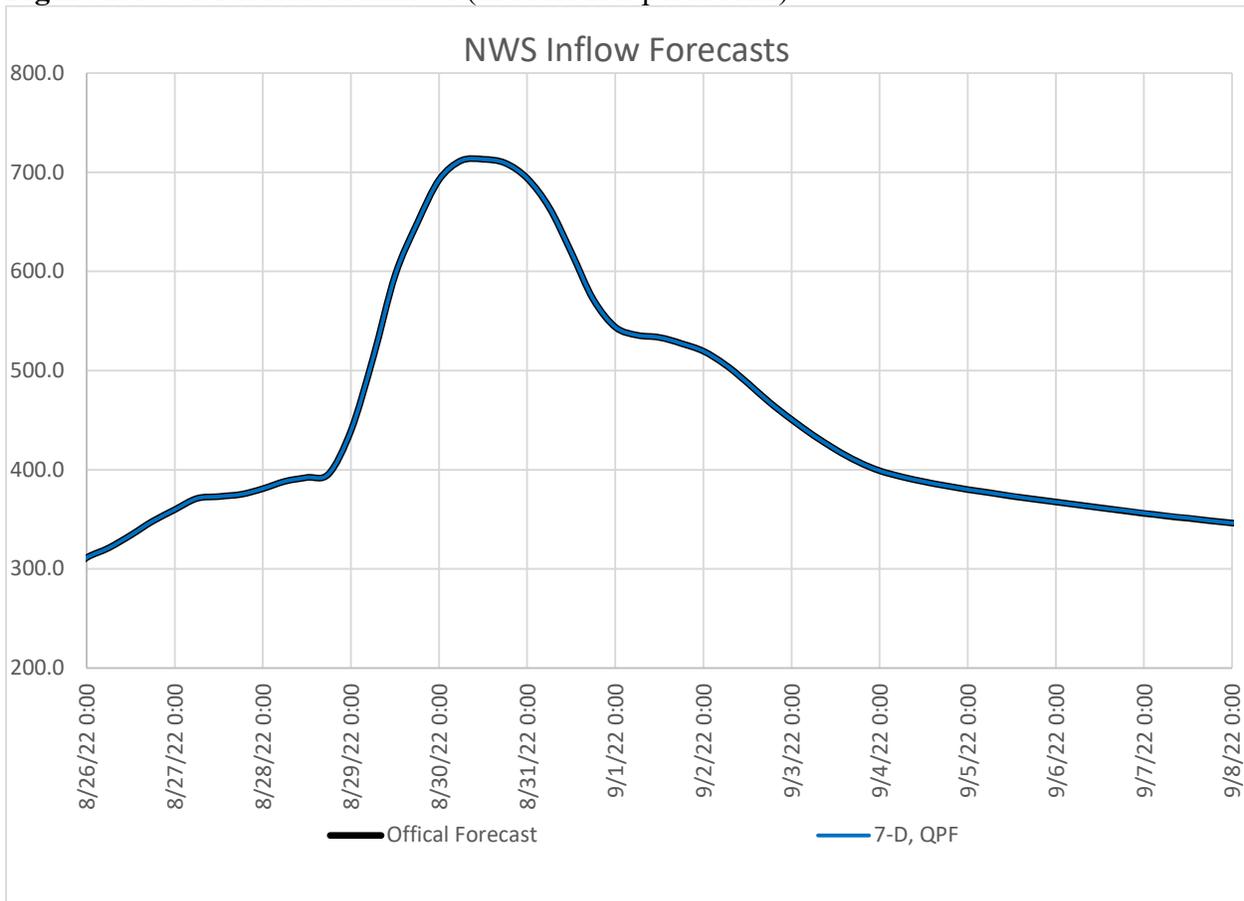
Colleen Callahan, Director

Fox River Status Update September 1, 2022

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

Summary: Currently there is no rainfall forecasted in the watershed for the next 7 days. The system has finally exited low flow conditions due to the +1” of rain received last weekend. Unfortunately, inflows are forecasted to drop over the next 7 days. Inflows were retained through the week to allow for higher water levels for the entire system this holiday weekend.

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



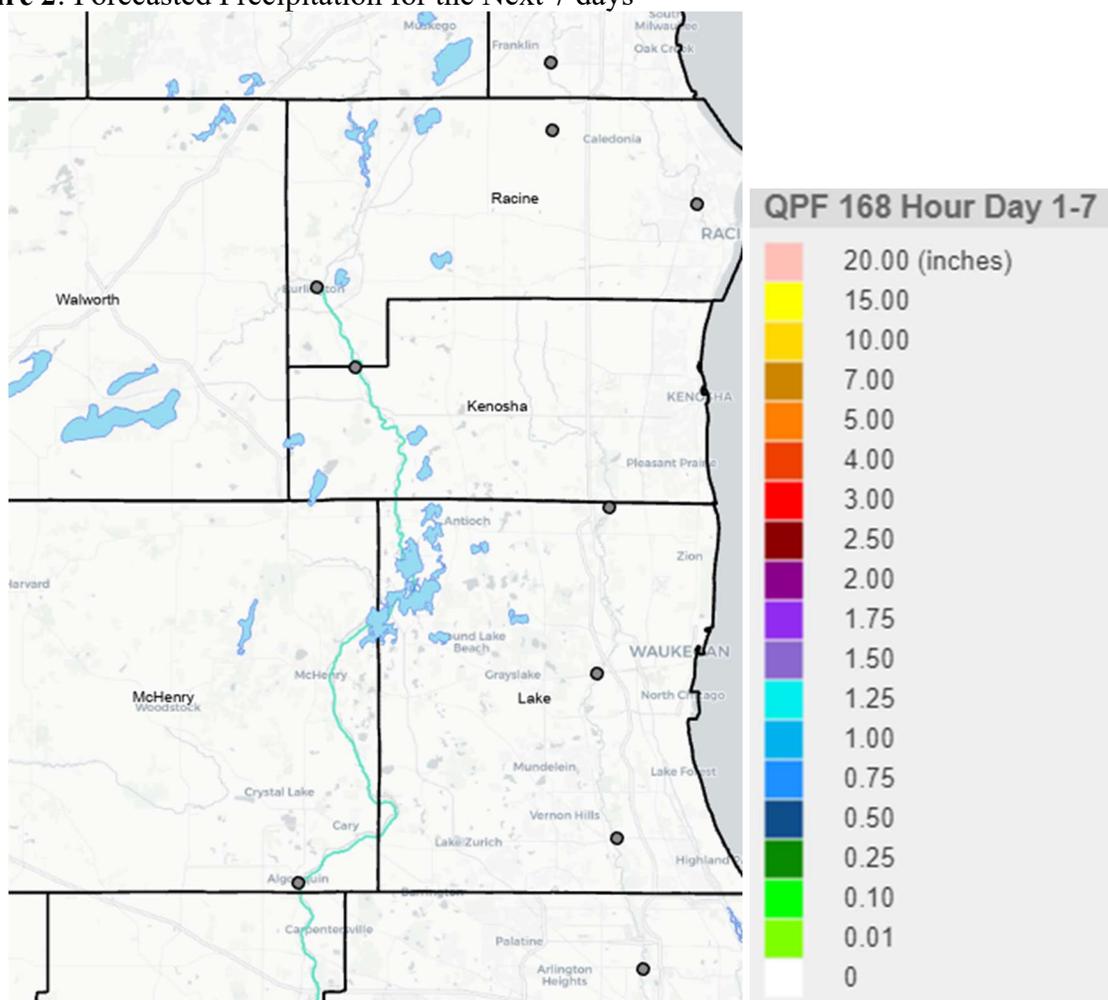
Current Conditions

Measured flow on the Fox River near New Munster, WI is 367 cfs and Nippersink Creek near Spring Grove is 98 cfs. The National Weather Service (NWS) estimates local tributary inflows of 69 cfs. The total net system inflows are 551 cfs; the outflows at Stratton Dam are 496 cfs. The Fox Lake stage is 4.23 ft; the Stratton Dam Tailwater stage is 1.08 ft. The Fox River at the Algonquin Dam headwater stage is 1.54 ft.

Forecast

Inflows are forecasted to drop due to lack of rainfall in the forecast, as shown above in **Figure 1**. The NWS 7-day forecast is predicting no precipitation for the Fox River watershed as shown on **Figure 2**. The Chain O'Lakes is forecasted to hold near 4.20'.

Figure 2: Forecasted Precipitation for the Next 7 days



Source:

<https://viewer.weather.noaa.gov/general#/layers=35225+40090+40146+40091+42149+42377+40134&x=-88.48082&y=42.38798&z=9.6&panel=layer>

Chain O' Lakes Outlook

Water levels are expected to hold near 4.20'. The outflows will be adjusted to hold near this level for the duration of the weekend.

McHenry Pool Area Outlook

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

Lower River Outlook

Since inflows to the system have increased, as shown in **Figure 1**, the lower river will see a rise in water levels. The dam gates are open to release water stored through the week. This is being done in an attempt to create increased water levels on the lower river for the holiday weekend.

Drought Forecast

The Fox River watershed in Kenosha and Racine counties in Wisconsin is still experiencing abnormally dry conditions. The lack of rain in the upcoming week will not help inflows for the system.

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

Thank you,

Aaron Rotherham, E.I.T.

Aaron.Rotherham2@illinois.gov

Office of Water Resources

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