



Illinois Department of Natural Resources

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

JB Pritzker, Governor

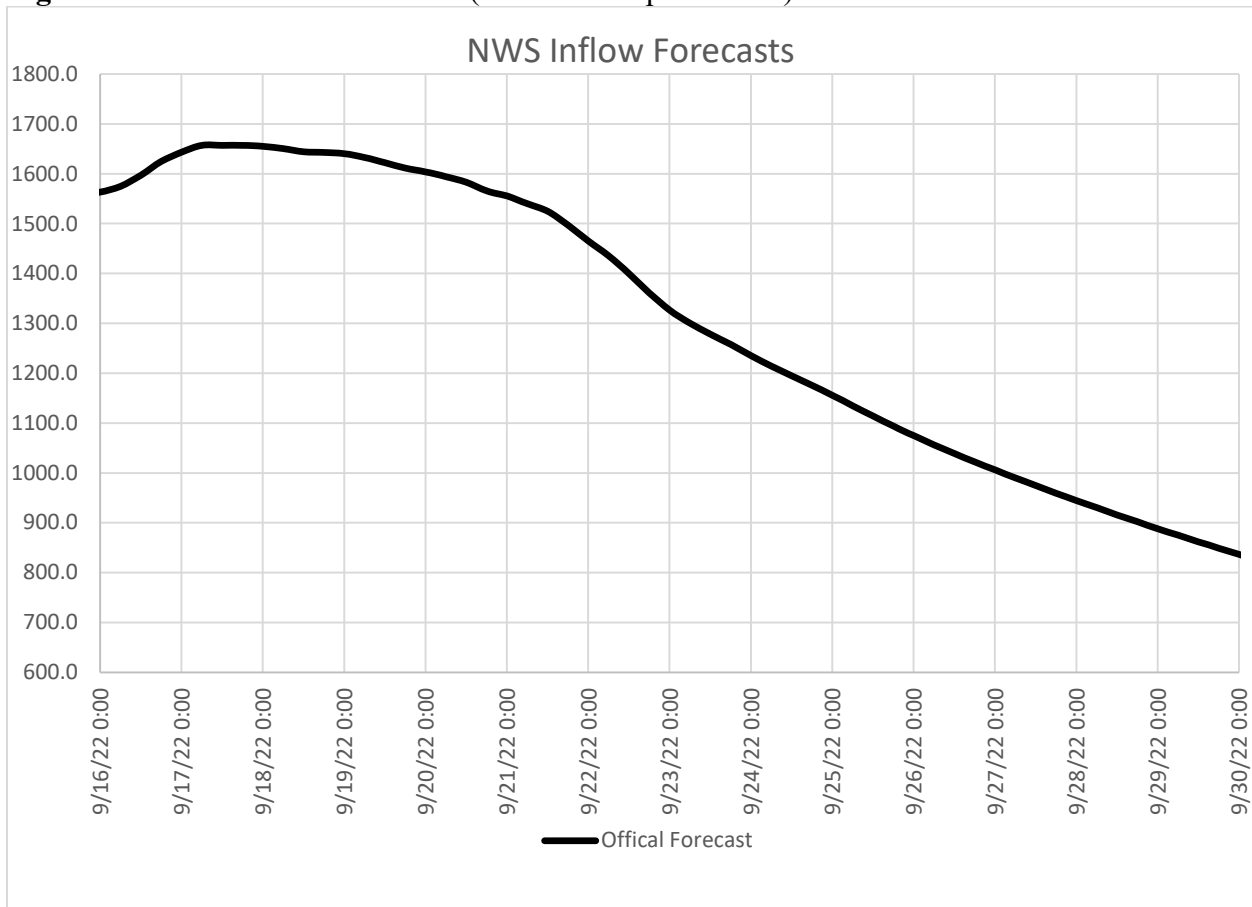
Colleen Callahan, Director

Fox River Status Update September 22, 2022

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

Summary: This will be the last regular update for the boating season. Currently there is approximately 0.05” of rain forecasted in the watershed for the next 7 days. Inflows are forecasted at 1400 cfs and continue dropping over the next week. An attempt will be made to keep water levels higher to allow boats to be removed from their shore stations for winter. Winter drawdown is scheduled to commence on November 1st.

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



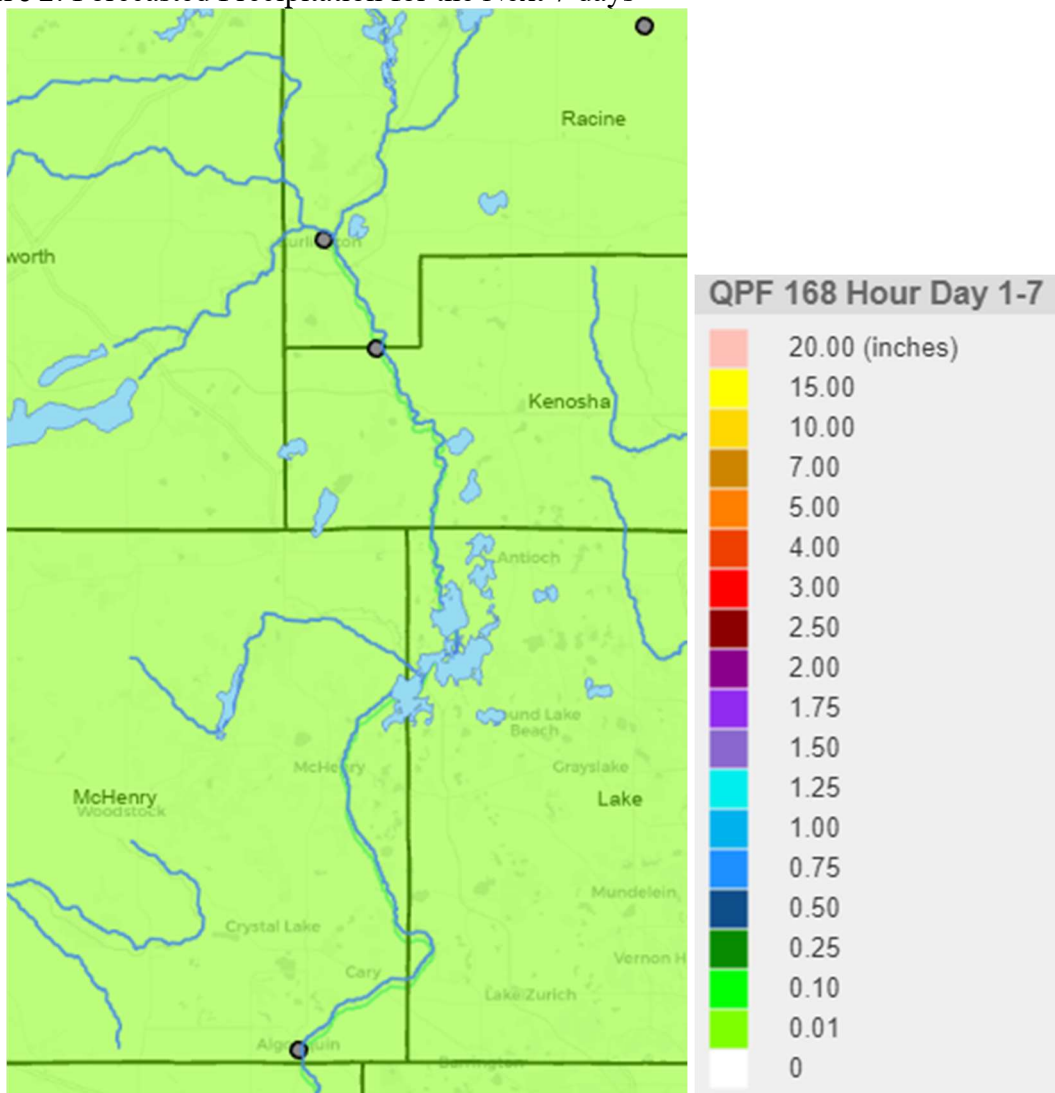
Current Conditions

Measured flow on the Fox River near New Munster, WI is 1130 cfs and Nippersink Creek near Spring Grove is 84 cfs. The National Weather Service (NWS) estimates local tributary inflows of 186 cfs. The total net system inflows are 1418 cfs; the outflows at Stratton Dam are 1269 cfs. The Fox Lake stage is 4.21 ft; the Stratton Dam Tailwater stage is 2.11 ft. The Fox River at the Algonquin Dam headwater stage is 1.94 ft.

Forecast

Inflows are forecasted to fall over the next seven days, as shown above in **Figure 1**. The NWS 7-day forecast is predicting near 0.05” precipitation for the Fox River watershed as shown on **Figure 2**.

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 forecasted to remain near to 4.2' for the upcoming week. Based on the current forecasts, the outflows will be adjusted to maintain this level.

McHenry Pool Area Outlook

The Upper River near the McHenry Pool is forecasted to return to normal summer pool as the gates of the dam are elevated. This should allow for more depth in shallower areas along the river.

Lower River Outlook

The gate at Algonquin has been raised to retain water as long as possible, since the gates at Stratton are slowly being raised. Currently all of the flow is over the dam spillway.

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>