Have We Escaped the Big Flood Threat?

- Several factors to consider…
- Deeper snowpack melted gradually over portions of Southern Lower Michigan, but areas further north still have (and recently added) snow on the ground
- Milder temperatures, generally in the 50s and near 60, become more likely
- Frost depths are decreasing, even dropping to zero (southern locations), which could allow moisture to soak into the ground, as opposed to becoming mostly runoff
- Smaller rainfalls are rather common (such as Mondays anticipated forecast), but some of spring's larger rain events become more likely through April
- Questions to be answered:
  - With extensive frost depths during snow melt, how much soil moisture actually exists?
  - Will northern locations melt off remaining snowpack well before any big rainfall?
  - At what frequency and magnitude will rain events hit?
- Key Note: Spring flooding in April 2013 occurred after a winter of near normal snowfall (about half fell in February) and above normal precipitation. Flooding was largely a result of large, frequent and consecutive rainfall events. Rivers at the beginning of April 2013 were running lower than current levels. Therefore, this supports that a one-to-one comparison is not the best measure to determine likelihood of flooding. Rivers are still running high due to snowmelt and rainfall. The focus will begin to shift toward the severity of rain events as spring unfolds.

For more information on current/forecast river conditions, please visit:
http://water.weather.gov/ahps2/index.php?wfo=grr

Remnants of Winter Slowly Eroding

MODIS Today Image from April 5, 2014

US Dept of State Geographer
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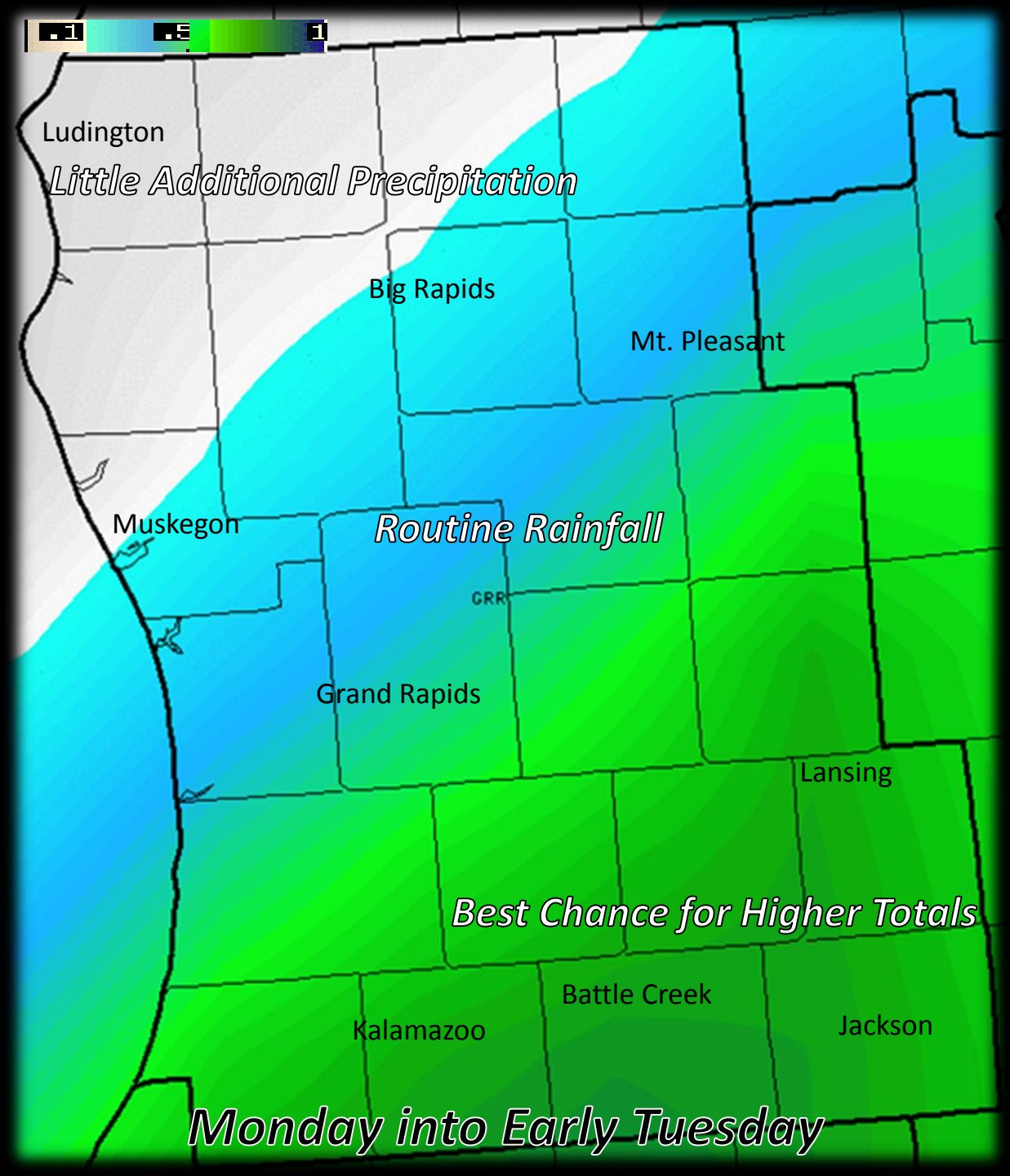

More Rain Monday

- Area of low pressure travels over the Ohio Valley
- Rain overspreads Southern Lower Michigan Monday
- Near normal temperatures with highs generally near 50 and lows in the 30s
- Precipitation may briefly mix with flurries or light snow to the north of Muskegon-Mt. Pleasant before ending Tuesday morning