

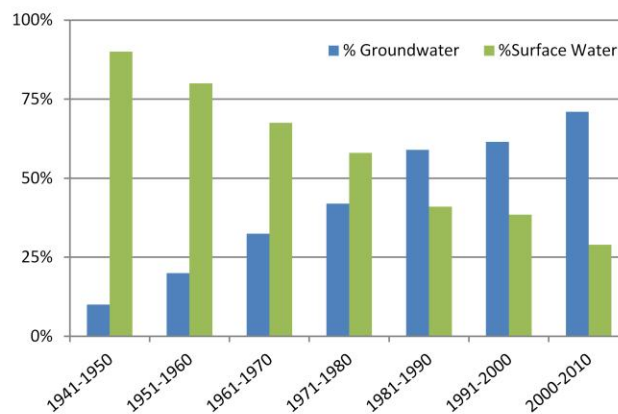
Twin Cities Metropolitan Area Regional Water Supply



Star-Tribune

Interest in water supply issues have risen in recent years as the impact to surface water features such as lakes and streams have become more visible.

Changes in Water Supply Over Time

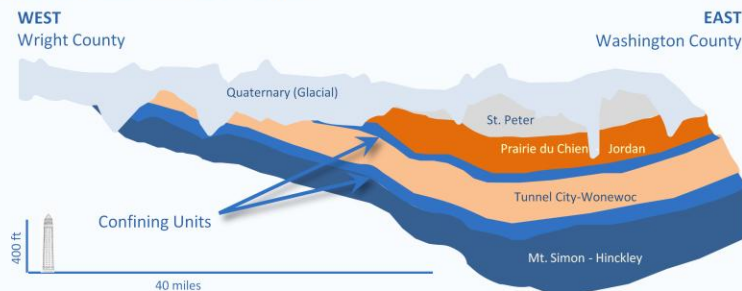


A long-term shift in the balance between surface water and ground water sources is shown in this graph of the ratio of surface to ground water use in the region.

In earlier years, most new development took place near the core cities and relied on extensions of the existing St. Paul and Minneapolis water systems. Later development moved to suburbs, farther from those surface water-based systems. The easiest options then became drilling wells.

Somewhere around the end of the 1970s, the balance shifted from mostly surface water to mostly groundwater.

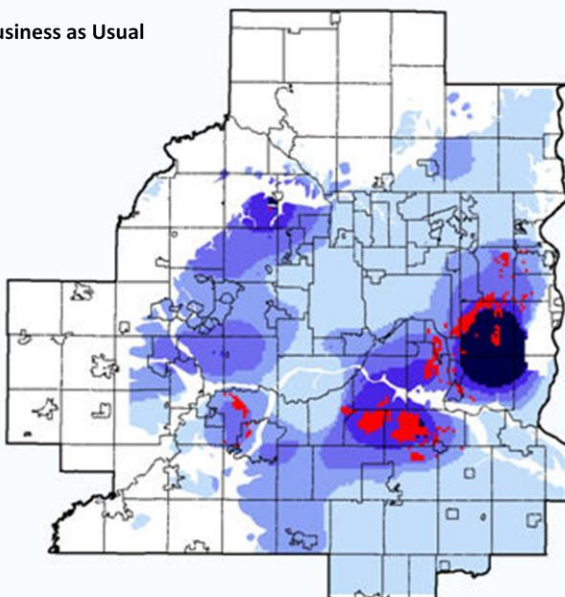
Aquifers in the Twin Cities Region



Several different aquifer layers provide groundwater used in the region. The extent, depth, water quality and productivity of these aquifers vary from one location to another.

2030 Projected Changes in the Prairie du Chien-Jordan Aquifer

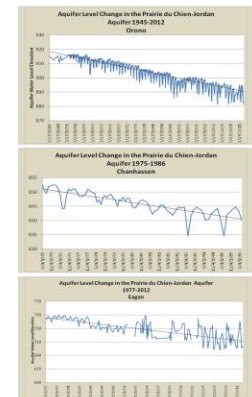
Business as Usual



This map shows projected water level changes in the Prairie du Chien-Jordan aquifer, calculated by the groundwater model.

It is clear that if communities continue business as usual, relying on groundwater as their source of water supply, the aquifer will see additional decline in water levels resulting from the additional demand.

The issues that the region is already facing will only continue into the future, if we don't change course.



These hydrographs show groundwater levels from monitoring wells in Orono, Chanhassen, and Eagan. They show typical seasonal ups and downs in aquifer levels, but also clearly show a steady downward trend over time.