

MASTER WATER SUPPLY PLAN



2040

Master Water Supply Plan Summary



A Precious Resource

Water is fundamental to the prosperity and quality of life of our Twin Cities region.

Every sector of our regional community relies on water—commerce, manufacturing, construction, health care, recreation, and agriculture. Our region needs a plentiful, safe, and affordable water supply to grow and thrive.

The challenge

While bountiful in the region, our water supply is vulnerable. Productive aquifers and river sources are not available to all communities, and drought and contamination can make those sources less reliable.

Even now, the water levels and flows have shown downward trends in some groundwater-connected lakes, wetlands, and trout streams. Wells that track groundwater levels indicate declines in some areas, and groundwater contamination has occurred in locations around the region.

Looking ahead, the demand for water will increase as our region's population and economy grow. Already, municipal water use is the largest and fastest growing of any category of water use in the region.

About 75% of our water supply comes from underground sources, with the Mississippi River supplying the rest.



More of the 500 million gallons consumed in the region each day comes from groundwater sources.

A regional plan to secure our 'Water Future'

These challenges lie at the heart of the region's Master Water Supply Plan, which charts a path toward a future of affordable,

safe, abundant water. The regional plan helps coordinate the actions of state agencies, local governments, and water suppliers toward achieving a future water supply that sustainably meets the region's needs.

A collaboration of communities, water utilities and state agencies, coordinated by the Metropolitan Council, developed the plan over several years of deliberations and participation of local water suppliers.

Goal and strategies

The region's Master Water Supply plan sets an overarching goal – that the region's water supply is sustainable now and in the future. No single source supplies the region's water demand. Instead, a combination of sources provides the metro area with water to meet its needs: groundwater, surface water, stormwater, and reclaimed wastewater.

How the region uses these sources varies depending on conditions and situations that affect local water use and supply, including water conservation.

In some areas of the region, new groundwater wells may provide a local source of water as local growth occurs. In other areas, communities may expand their use of river water to serve neighbors where future groundwater demand is expected to exceed sustainable limits. Stormwater can serve as a supplementary source, collected as it runs off of hard surfaces, such as

Goal of the Regional Water

Supply Plan: that the region's water supply is sustainable now and in the future.

rooftops, and then stored for future use. Currently a minor water source, it can serve uses that don't require drinking-water quality, such as watering golf courses and athletic fields.

Reclaimed wastewater, with additional treatment, has the potential for recharging groundwater and reducing demand for water that's treated to high standards. It could provide an alternative source for industrial cooling, toilet flushing, and irrigation.



Working as partners

Local communities, the Metropolitan Council, and state agencies, working in coordination, can meet our future water needs.

- Public water suppliers plan for and provide safe water for the communities and businesses they serve.
- Municipalities develop comprehensive plans for their future growth that include water supply plans.
- The Council maintains a base of technical information, provides assistance to communities in developing their water supply plans, and identifies approaches to deal with emerging issues.

The Council considers the effects of local decisions on shared water supplies, and the cumulative impact of decisions of individual communities on regional water resources.

- State agencies and other organizations support sustainable use of water through issuing and monitoring permits, as well as providing education and technical assistance opportunities.

Balancing the competing needs of all the region's water users while protecting the region's diverse water resources is a challenge. But coordination and cooperation among local communities, the Council, and state agencies offer the best opportunity to meet our future water needs.



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