

POTENTIAL WATER SUPPLY ISSUES

An Interactive Mapping Tool for the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area

The Twin Cities metropolitan area is home to nearly three million people, over half of Minnesota's population. Securing their safe and plentiful drinking water, while protecting the region's diverse water resources, requires coordinated and ongoing effort.

Customized information for specific sites, cities, counties, and watersheds

Metropolitan Council has developed an online mapping tool that summarizes key water supply issues and recommended actions at a given site, community, county, and watershed based on geospatial data provide on the [Make-A-Map Water Supply Theme](#) and information in the [Master Water Supply Plan](#).

This tool reports the following issues, which were identified with stakeholders during the development of the Master Water Supply Plan:

- Potential for water use conflicts and well interference
- Potential for significant decline in aquifer water levels
- Potential for impacts of groundwater pumping on surface water features and ecosystems
- Significant vulnerability to contamination
- Significant uncertainty about aquifer productivity and extent
- Regulatory considerations

The issues identified here are generally based on regional information and can be refined for more local, site specific characteristics to better evaluate vulnerability.

Connections to supporting data

This tool also links users to the [Make-A-Map Water Supply Theme](#) to view the supporting geospatial data as individual layers and create customized maps.

Who can use this information?

This tool is for everyone interested in a high-level summary of the potential water supply issues in different parts of the region. It is particularly useful as a starting place for those without a technical background in the field of water supply. For example:

- Property owners can use it to find out if nearby surface waters may be connected to the regional groundwater system – informing how they approach stormwater management and requests for water supply-related permits.
- City planners can use it to identify key water supply issues that development project plans, water supply plans, and comprehensive plans should address.
- County staff can use it to learn more about water supply issues that groundwater and comprehensive plans could address.
- Watershed managers can use it to learn more about the presence of groundwater-supported surface waters within their jurisdictions.