

# Rural Reality: the state of water

## Minnesota's groundwater provinces

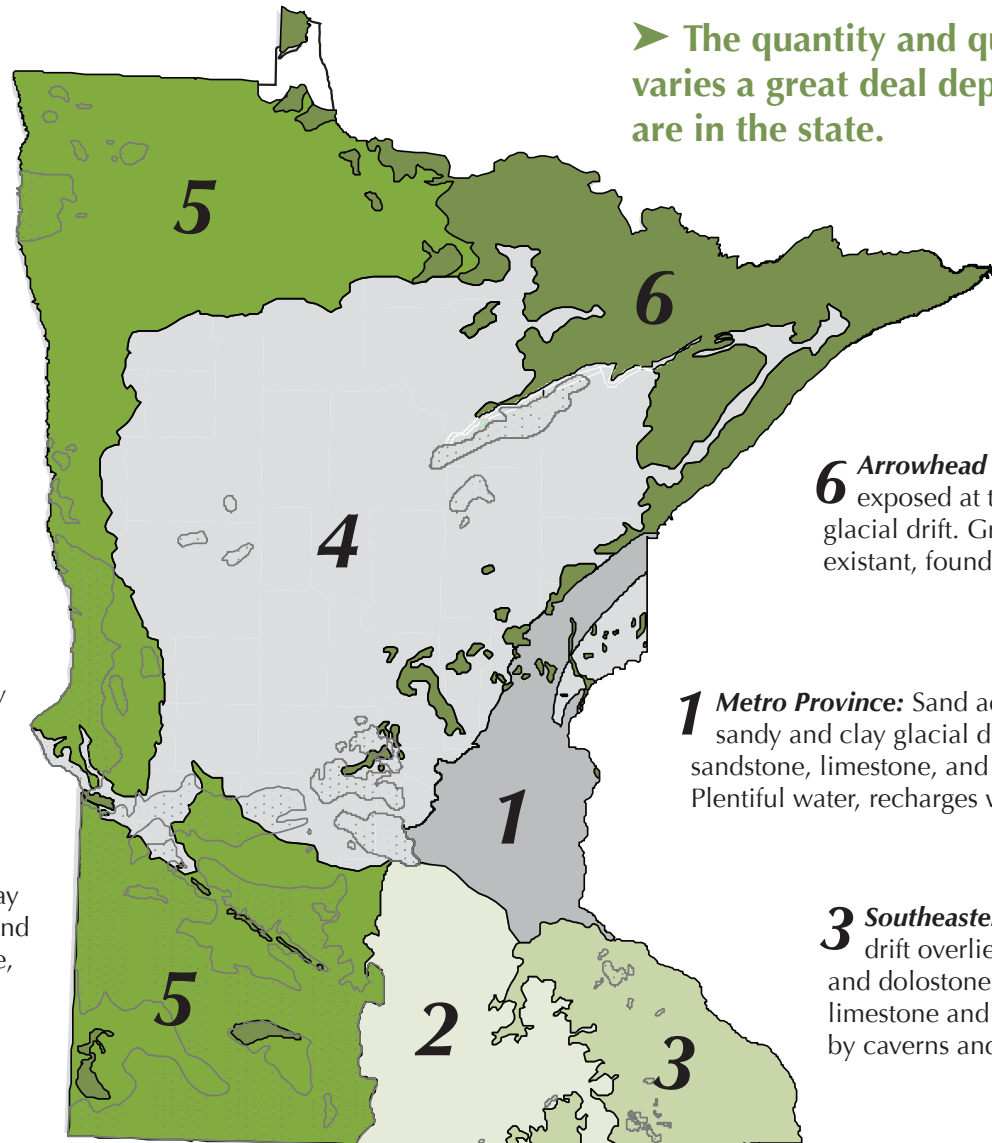
Water for three quarters of Minnesotans and most of Greater Minnesota comes from underground.

**5 Western Province:** Heavy clay glacial drift that water moves through slowly and runs off quickly. Contains limited sand and sandstone aquifers on top of bedrock.

**4 Central Province:** Thick sandy and clay soil from glacial drift holds numerous sand aquifers over the bedrock. Aquifers recharge quickly but are also easily contaminated.

**2 South-Central Province:** Thick clay glacial drift with limited extent sand aquifers overlie sandstone, limestone, and dolostone aquifers.

► The quantity and quality of groundwater varies a great deal depending on where you are in the state.



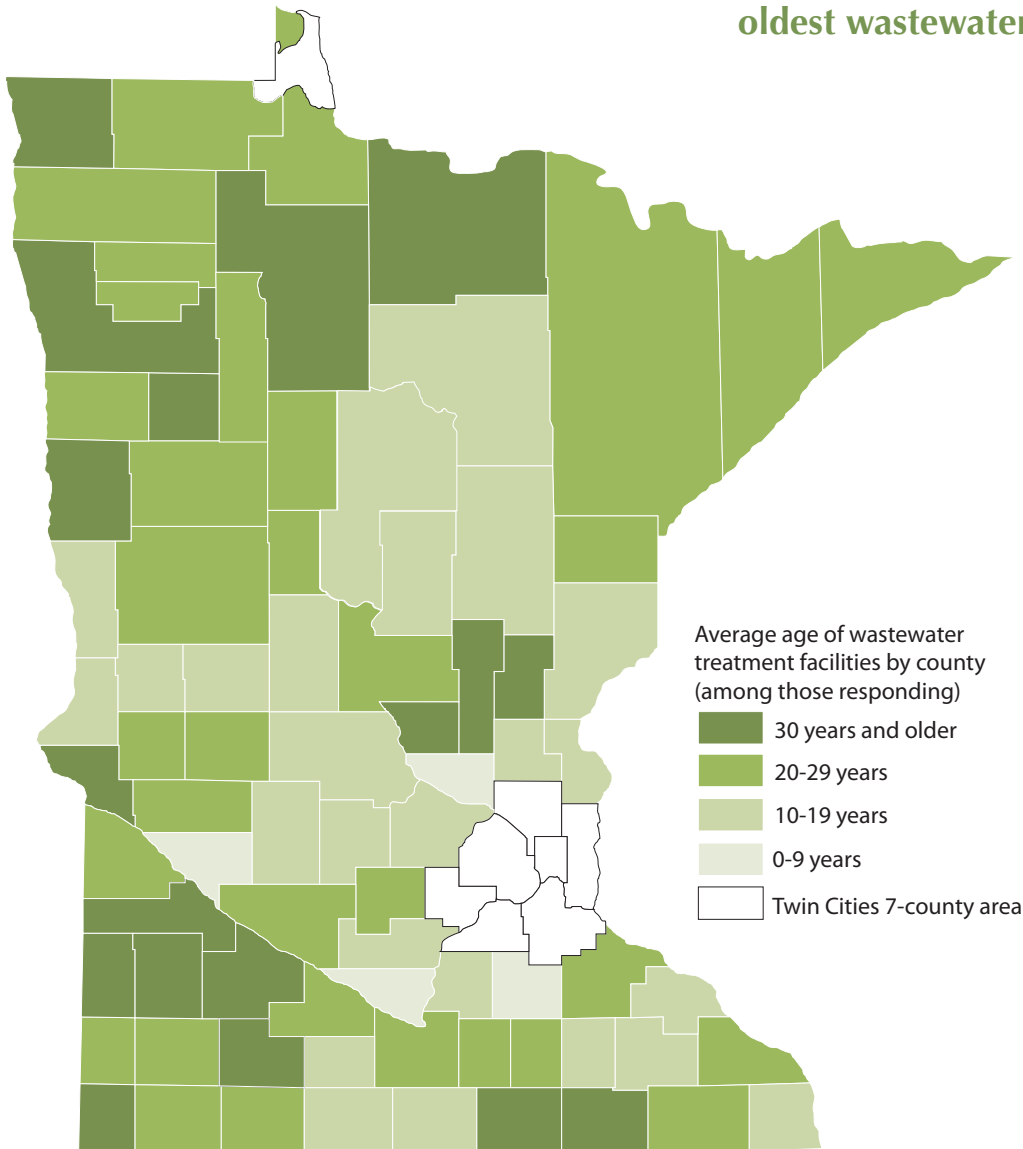
**6 Arrowhead Province:** Granite bedrock exposed at the surface through very thin glacial drift. Groundwater is almost non-existent, found mostly in fractures.

**1 Metro Province:** Sand aquifers in thick sandy and clay glacial drift overlying sandstone, limestone, and dolostone. Plentiful water, recharges well.

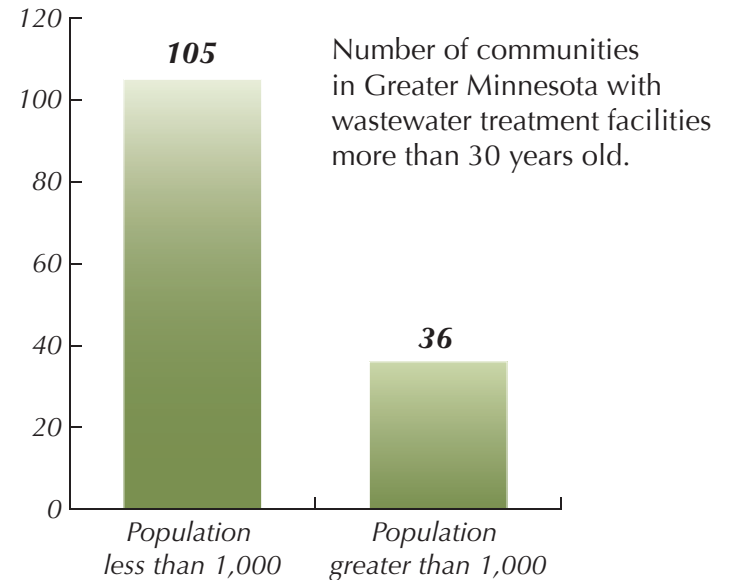
**3 Southeastern Province:** Thin clay glacial drift overlies sandstone, limestone and dolostone aquifers. A karst region of limestone and dolostone rock, characterized by caverns and steep erosion-carved bluffs.

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► Minnesota's smallest communities tend to also have the oldest wastewater infrastructure.



Data source: Minn. Pollution Control Agency.



\* Out of 558 cities or sanitary sewer districts outside the Twin Cities seven-county area responding to the PCA's Wastewater Infrastructure Needs Survey for 2013. Communities in the Twin Cities were not counted since most of them are served by a regional wastewater system.

Visit our web site at [www.ruralmn.org](http://www.ruralmn.org) to read the policy brief.



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