

Leadership for Midwestern Watersheds, Purdue, Nov 2-3, 2023

Fox River and Future Water Shortage NE Illinois

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“A down in the dirt conservationist”



“Just 50 miles from Lake Michigan, groundwater is running out, leaving Illinois towns with a tough choice to make”

Chicago Tribune, Feb 2021

Illinois State Water Survey, Univ of Illinois, reports

**** Risk to Sandstone Aquifer Supply Supplemental Information (Romeoville), December 4, 2021***

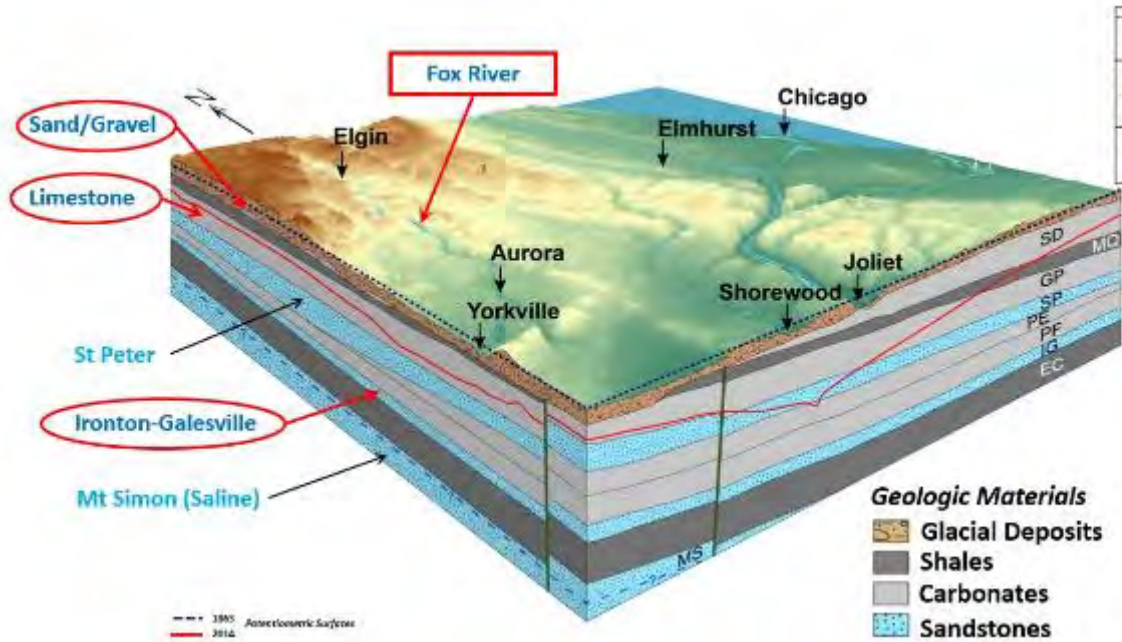
**** Kane County Water Resources Investigations: Simulation of Groundwater Flow in Kane County and Northeastern Illinois, 2009***

Fox River Watershed

- Starts in Wisconsin
- McHenry county relies on aquifers
- Some water from the Fox River
- ~ 85% Chicago area water comes from Lake Michigan



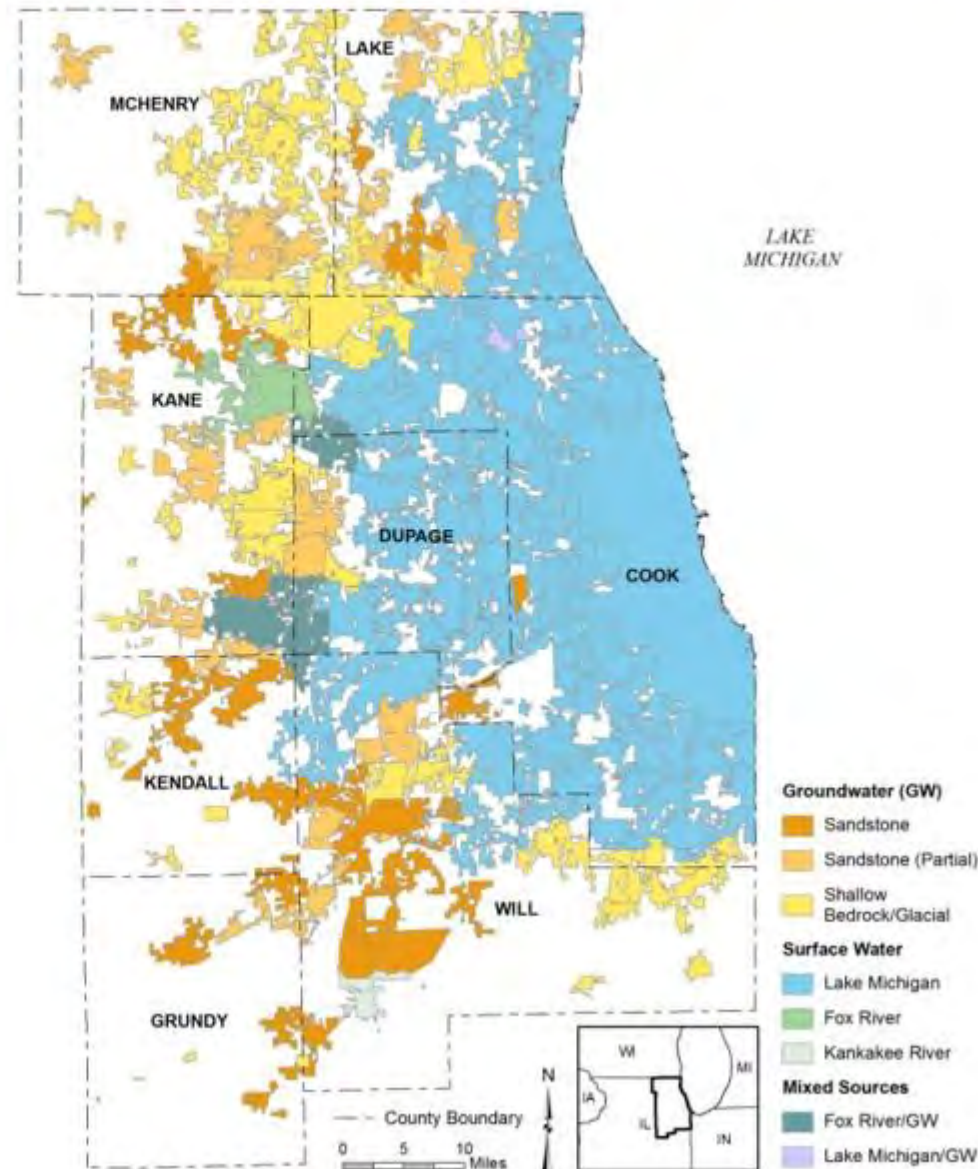
Aquifers as a water source



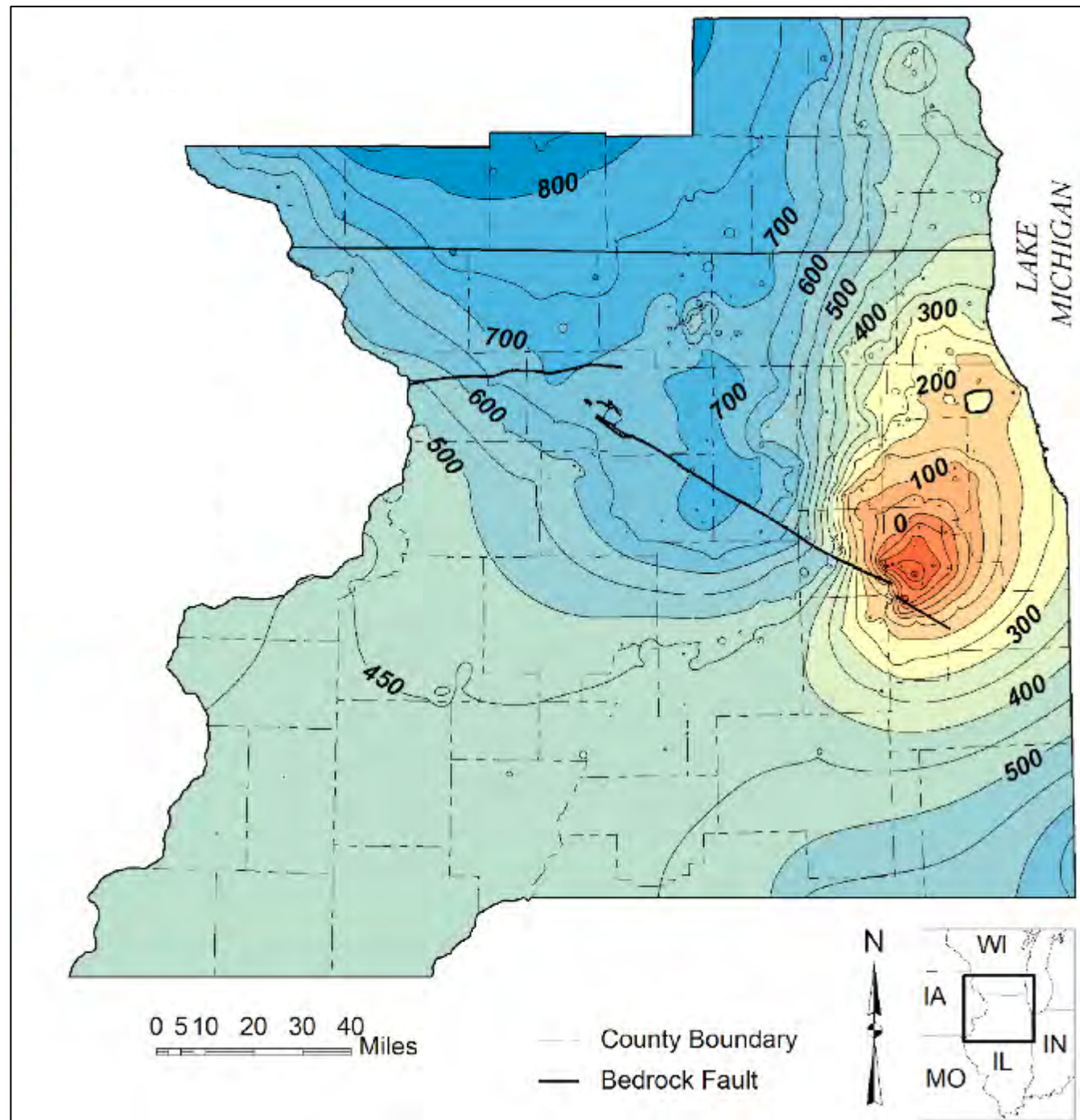
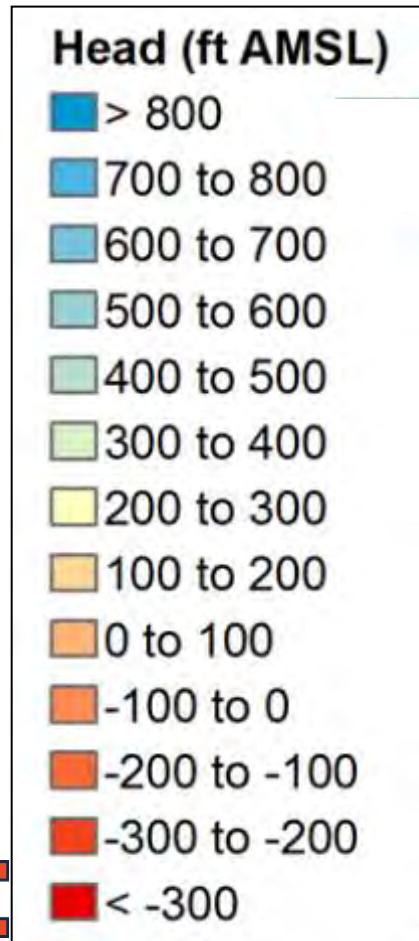
- Shallow aquifers – Glacial deposits
- Deep water aquifer The Ironton-Galesville
 - Covers 7 states
 - Being desaturated in NE Illinois
 - Primary recharge in Central Wisconsin

DISTRIBUTION OF WATER USE IN CHICAGO REGION

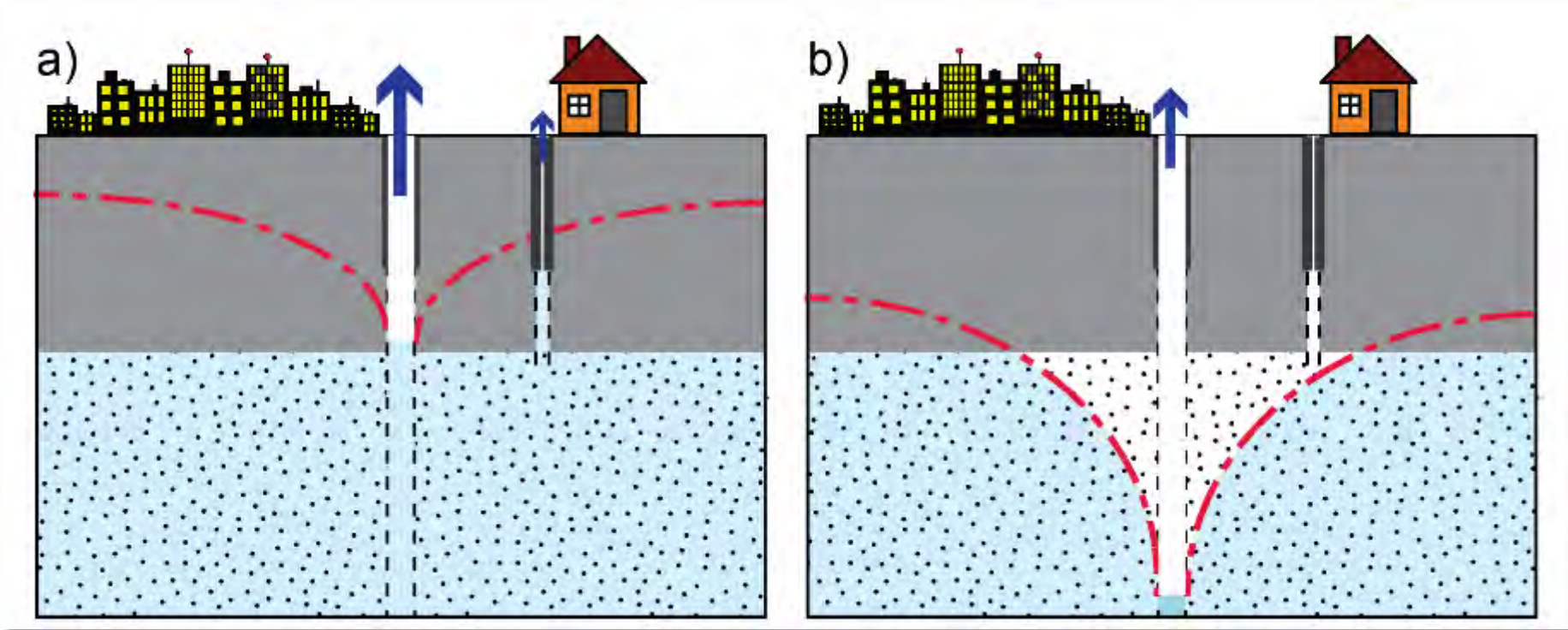
- Lake Michigan
- Groundwater
 - Elgin
 - Aurora (mixed sources)



2014 Water Level Surface



Desaturation of Aquifer



- Lost well capacity (including dry wells)
- Lowering of pumps (more expensive)
- Caving potential (well pumps sand)
- Possible water quality impacts

Friends of the Fox River (FOFRT)

“Voice of the Fox River”

It’s Our Fox River Day (IOFRD 23) – Sep 16 clean up





“Today we fight for water.
Tomorrow we fight for water.”

President George W. Bush