

## Observation Well Network

### North and East Metro Groundwater Management Area

Since 1944, the DNR has managed a statewide network of water level observation wells, commonly referred to as “obwells”. Most of these are dedicated observation or monitoring wells. Soil and water conservation districts under contract with the DNR measure most of the obwells quarterly and report the readings to the DNR. Some of the obwells are active water supply wells and are measured less frequently.

The DNR has also installed automated water level recording instruments in many of the obwells in the 11-county metropolitan area. Water level readings are available via the DNR [cooperative groundwater management](https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/waters/cgm/index.html) webpage (<https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/waters/cgm/index.html>). There are 72 actively measured obwells within the North and East Metro Groundwater Management Area (Figure). 37 of these wells have been constructed since 2009.

Some water appropriation permit holders also maintain observation wells as required by permit conditions. The cities of Hugo and Woodbury, for example, monitor water levels in multiple observation wells as permit conditions. Additionally, municipal water suppliers are required to monitor water levels in their water supply wells too. Historical data from inactive or sealed obwells and data from obwells in areas outside of the GWMA boundary also provide useful information.

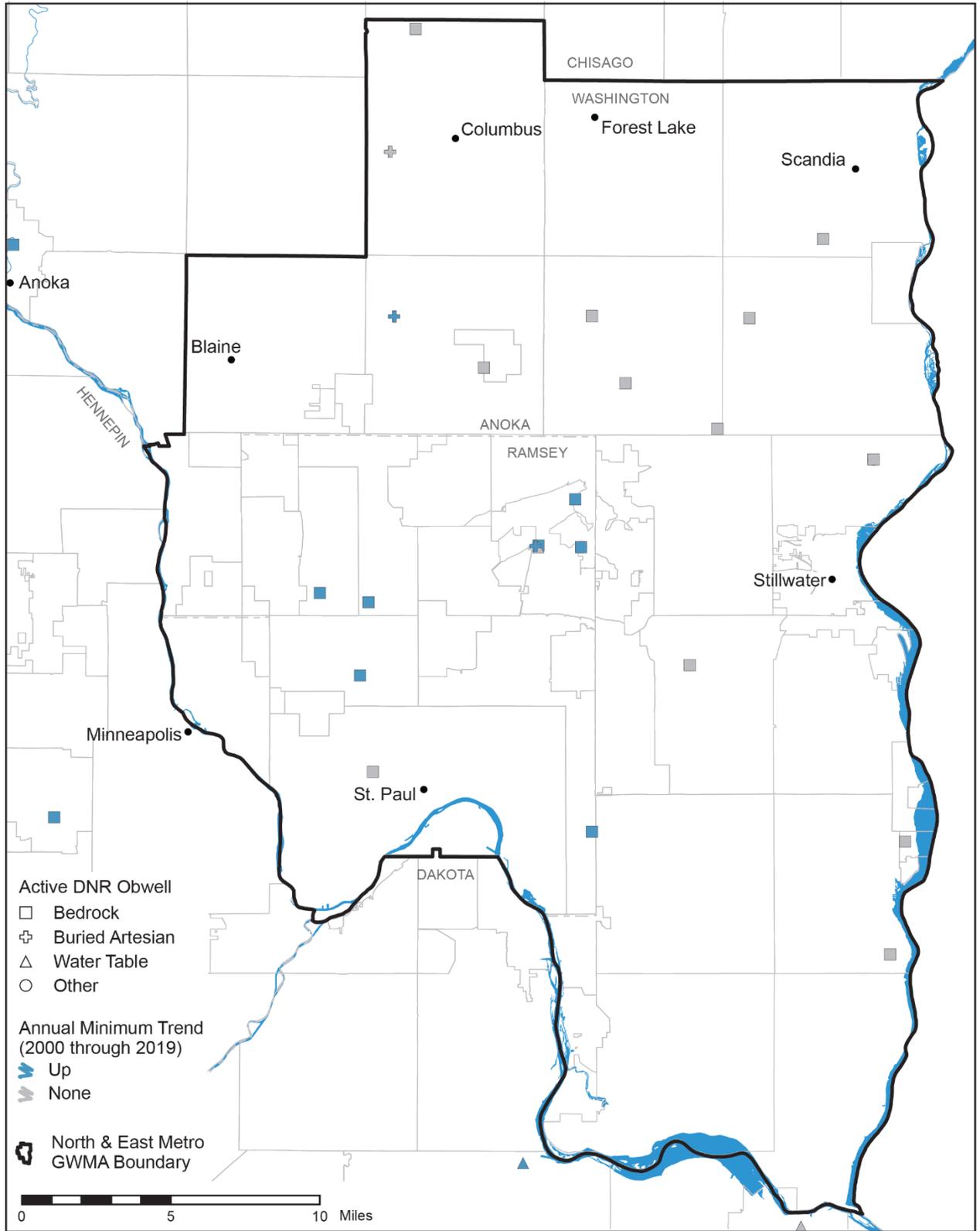


Figure: Active obwells in the DNR network and trends in annual water level minima (2000 -2019)