

# GROUNDWATER OBSERVATION WELLS

In Minnesota, there are over 700 observation wells managed by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR). Data from these wells are used to assess ground water resources, determine long term trends, interpret impacts of pumping and climate, plan for water conservation, evaluate water conflicts and otherwise manage the water resource.

Lake levels within the Chisago Lakes Chain of Lakes fluctuate substantially over time. Currently, lake levels are low for some of the major lakes in the system. Historically, there is not good information in the Chisago Lakes area to determine whether lake level fluctuations are related to climate variability, ground water pumping or a combination of the two.

In November 2014, an observation well was installed in the Tunnel City/Wonewoc sandstone aquifer at the South Center Lake public water access. An additional well was installed in the shallow sand and gravel aquifer in 2015. Data collected from these two wells will complement data already being collected from a well, located south of North Lindstrom Lake, at the former creamery 550 feet deep in the Mount Simon Hinckley bedrock aquifer.

## Partners:

- Chisago Lakes Lake Improvement District
- Chisago County
- Minnesota DNR

