

# CHAPTER 3 AGRICULTURE, NATURAL, AND CULTURAL RESOURCES ELEMENT FACT SHEET

## Topography

- Topographic elevation ranges from approximately 730 feet above mean sea level in the extreme eastern portions of the County to 1,233 feet at Lapham Peak in the Town of Delafield, a variation of over 500 feet.

## Nonmetallic Mining

- Waukesha County has abundant supplies of sand, gravel, and stone. A total of 4,000 acres in the County are current or former lands used for extractive uses.
- One former extraction site in the Town of Genesee, is utilized by the County as a municipal composting facility. The compost is used to create soil for reclamation of the extraction site.

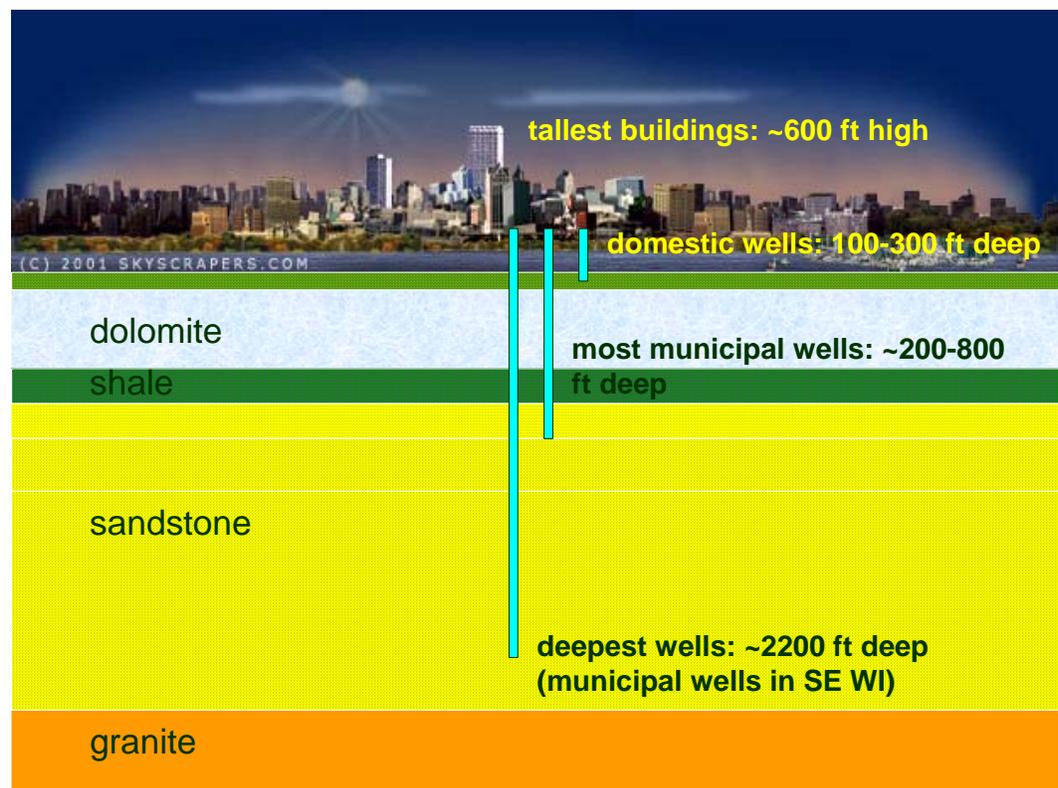
## Agricultural Soils

- Twenty-eight percent of the land in Waukesha County was in agricultural uses in 2005 (104,475 acres).
- The most highly productive soils in the County are categorized as either National prime farmland or as farmland of statewide significance.

## Groundwater Resources

- Groundwater is present in three major aquifers that underlie the County. The first two are referred to as the shallow aquifer and the third one is labeled the deep aquifer.
- Within most of the County, the shallow and deep aquifers are separated by Maquoketa Shale, which forms a relatively impermeable barrier between the two aquifers.

## RELATIVE WELL DEPTHS



Source: SEWRPC

- Groundwater use in Waukesha County has increased by 36 percent over the period from 1985 to 2000.
- The recharge capacity of the shallow aquifer by precipitation is greater than current levels of water withdrawal.
- This situation is different for the deep aquifers where withdrawals of groundwater cause imbalance in areas of concentrated use, as the deep aquifers do not recharge at a sustainable level.

### **Lakes**

- Waukesha County has 33 major lakes (50 acres in size or larger) with a combined surface area of 14,000 acres.
- These lakes range in size from 58 acres (Crooked Lake) to 2,493 acres (Pewaukee Lake).

### **Rivers and Streams**

- Waukesha County contains a total of 268 miles of perennial streams. The longest major streams are the Fox (Illinois) and Bark Rivers, with 46.1 and 31.8 miles, respectively, in the County.

### **Environmental Corridors**

- Defined as the best remaining woodlands, wetlands, prairies, wildlife habitat, surface water and associated shorelands and floodlands, and related features, including existing park and open space sites, scenic views, and natural areas and critical species habitat sites that occur in linear patterns in the landscape, termed “environmental corridors.” The most important of these have been identified as “primary environmental corridors,” which are by definition at least two miles long, 200 feet wide, and 400 acres in area. These areas are mainly found along river and major stream valleys, around major inland lakes, and the Kettle Moraine. Environmental corridors also include “secondary environmental corridors” and “isolated natural resource areas”.

### **Cultural Resources**

- 655 historic sites in Waukesha County are listed on the National or State Register of Historic Places.
- 445 of these sites (68%) are within the City of Waukesha.
- 102 additional sites were identified within the County that are potentially eligible for historic site designation but require additional evaluation. 35 % of these sites are within the City of Brookfield.

### **Parks and Open Space**

- The Waukesha County Parks System developed the first County Park and Open Space Plan in 1973.
- A regional park and open space plan for Southeastern Wisconsin was adopted by SEWRPC in 1977.
- The proposed comprehensive development plan includes an update of the County park and open space plan.