

ABOUT THE SOUTHERN HILLS AQUIFER SYSTEM

AQUIFER PROCESSES

SALTWATER
INTRUSION

1500-FT + 2000-FT
SANDS

AQUIFER USAGE

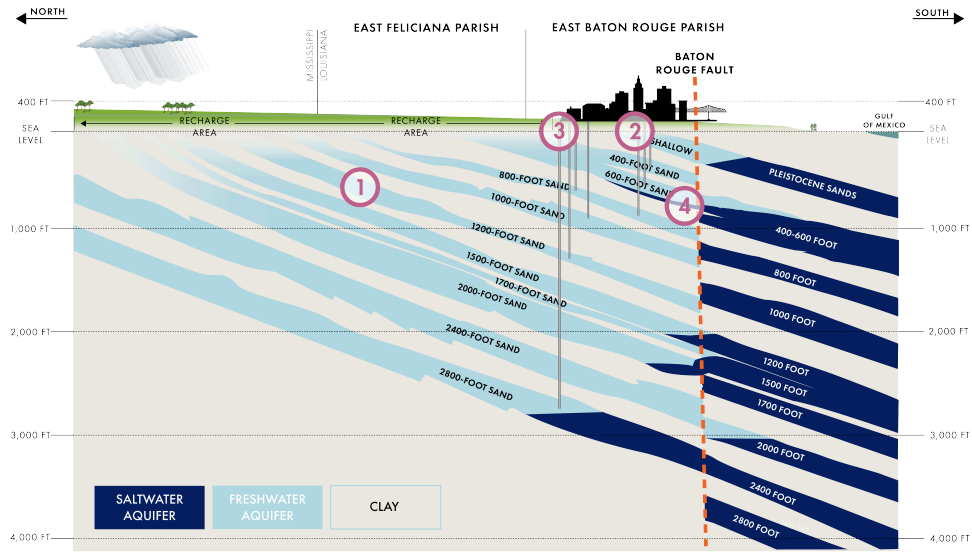
WHAT IS AN AQUIFER?

An aquifer is an underground area where permeable rock, sand, or other material has enough empty space (pore spaces) to allow fresh water to accumulate in the form of ground water. This ground water can then be pumped back to the surface via wells to provide water for public use, industry, and agriculture. Ground water withdrawn from aquifers provided 29% of all fresh water used in the United States in 2015 (https://www.usgs.gov/special-topic/water-science-school/science/groundwater-use-united-states?qt-science_center_objects=0#qt-science_center_objects).

WHAT IS THE SOUTHERN HILLS AQUIFER SYSTEM?

The Southern Hills Aquifer System covers approximately 14,000 square miles of southeast Louisiana and southwest Mississippi. It is a system made up of alternating layers of water separated by barrier materials much like a layer cake. There are as many as 13 layers that contain water throughout the system, but in Baton Rouge, there are only 10 that are recognized as important for public consumption and industrial use, with the majority of water for public consumption sourced from the 1,500 and 2,000-foot aquifer layers ("sands"). Fresh water drawn from the Southern Hills Aquifer System provides 100% of the public water supply and 83% of the industrial and power generation water supply in East Baton Rouge Parish.

PROCESSES IN THE SOUTHERN HILLS AQUIFER SYSTEM



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