KARST FEATURES

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INTRODUCTION

Karst features mapped in Wabasha County (Fig. 1) include sinkholes, springs, intermittent streams, paleokarst features, and conduits. The Wabasha County map reflects the results of the field work described in Gillford et al. (this volume). The data presented here were used to interpret the pre-Holocene drainage systems (paleo-drainage) that were present in the study area before the last glacial advance into Minnesota. These pre-Holocene systems are referred to as paleokarst features. The Wabasha County karst features are defined and interpreted using classical paleokarst terminology, and many of the concepts and terms used are described in this volume. These concepts and terms are used here to explain and clarify the relationships between the pre-Holocene drainage systems and the surficial deposits that now cover them.

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KARST FEATURES

Karst features are defined as any feature associated with karstification (a process that involves the dissolution of carbonate rock). Karst features include sinkholes, springs, paleokarst features, and conduits. Sinkholes are depressions in the land surface that are formed by the collapse of the land surface due to the dissolution of underlying carbonate rock. Springs are points at which subsurface water enters the land surface. Paleokarst features are landforms that are associated with past karst systems. Conduits are underground passages that are formed by the dissolution of carbonate rock.

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