

Water Resources in the Great Miami River Watershed



Our Region's Water:

Protecting.
Preserving.
Promoting.

The Great Miami River Watershed drains all or parts of 15 counties in southwest Ohio. The watershed includes both groundwater and surface water resources in surplus quantities. These abundant resources are used for public and private water supply, agriculture, industry, power generation, and recreation. The total drainage area of the watershed in Ohio is 3,946 square miles. The population of the watershed includes 1.6 million people with more than 80 percent of people residing in urban areas.

Groundwater – Buried Valley Aquifer

Because of the groundwater's abundant supply and high quality, the buried valley aquifer system is the most important aquifer in southwest Ohio. This system consists of highly permeable sand and gravel deposits as thick as 200 feet that can store a great deal of groundwater. Because the system underlies the river and streambeds, there is plenty of opportunity for groundwater recharge. This essentially makes the aquifer an unending renewable resource.

- Total aquifer storage of approximately 1.5 trillion gallons of groundwater.
- Sole source aquifer designation by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.
- Principal drinking water source for an estimated 1.6 million people.
- Yields in excess of 2,000 gallons of water per minute are possible in wells near large streams.
- Much of the groundwater maintains a constant temperature of 56 degrees Fahrenheit providing a valuable source of geothermal energy that can reduce heating and cooling costs.
- Appropriate use and proper protection will ensure that the aquifer is available as a long-term healthy fresh water supply.



Surface Water – Great Miami River and tributaries

There are more than 2,300 miles of rivers and streams in the Great Miami River Watershed.

- The Great Miami River flows 170 miles southwest from Indian Lake to its confluence with the Ohio River west of Cincinnati.
- Major tributaries include the Stillwater and Mad rivers and Twin and Wolf creeks.
- Excellent world class trout and smallmouth bass fishing and many launch points for power boats or canoes and kayaks.
- Access to extensive recreation trail network and many amenities along the river corridors.

