

What is being done locally to protect Groundwater Quality?

The Hamilton to New Baltimore Groundwater Consortium began development of a multi-jurisdictional Wellhead Protection Program also known as the Source Water Protection Program in 1990. This program involves seven phases:

- Wellfield Delineation - Identifying areas contributing to the water supply over a defined period of time (time of travel zones). These areas are your Source Water Protection Areas;
- Potential Pollution Source Inventory - Identifying potential pollution sources in the delineated Source Water Protection Area;
- Contingency Planning - Response planning for hazardous materials releases within the Source Water Protection Areas;
- Monitoring Plan Assessment - Assessing the need for groundwater monitoring and implementation in the Source Water Protection Areas;
- Raising Awareness/Public Education; and
- Alternate Water Supply Planning.

The Consortium consists of 7 independent public and industrial water suppliers and users. Members are the Greater Cincinnati Water Works, City of Fairfield, City of Hamilton, Southwestern Ohio Water Company, Southwest Regional Water District, Butler County Water and Sewer, MolsonCoors, Beverage Co.

The Consortium meets monthly with the Manager regarding the Source Water Protection efforts.

How Does the Source Water Protection Program Apply to Homeowners?

All homeowners should be aware if their property is located within the Source Water Protection Areas. Additionally, some parts of a locally developed Source Water Protection Management Program may apply to you if you have a water supply well or an aboveground or underground storage tank for heating fuel, kerosene, or petroleum storage. Please contact the Groundwater Consortium Manager at (513) 383-3162 or email at tim.mclelland@hamilton-oh.gov.

QUESTIONS? COMMENTS?

If you have any questions about groundwater or the Source Water Protection Program, please contact:

Groundwater Consortium Manager
5140 River Road
Fairfield, Ohio 45014
Ph: (513) 383-3162

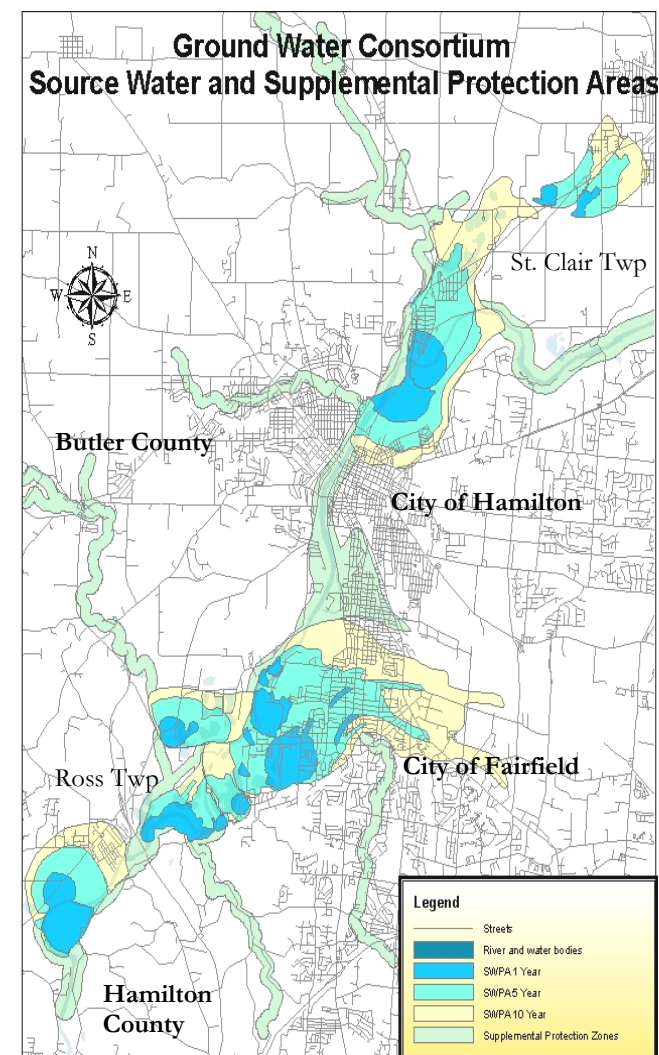


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Source Water
Protection
Program

What Every Homeowner Should Know About Protecting Their Source of Drinking Water

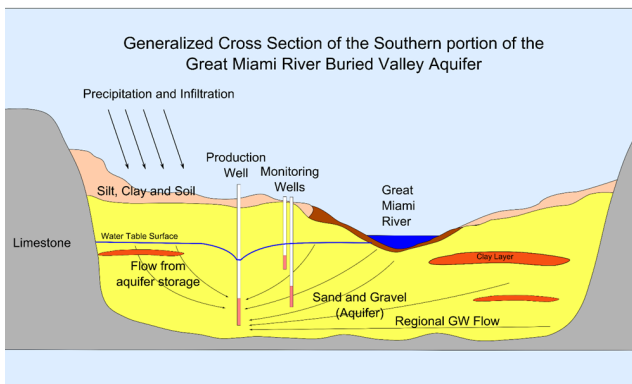


Where Does Our Drinking Water Come From?

The majority of residents in Butler County rely on groundwater to meet 100% of their drinking water needs. Groundwater is water stored underground. Our sole source of ground water is the Great Miami Buried Valley Aquifer, which was formed between 2 million to 10,000 years ago by glaciers covering much of southwest Ohio. The Great Miami Buried Valley Aquifer consists of large quantities of sand and gravel deposited in an ancient river valley as the glaciers melted. The Aquifer generally follows the course of the present day Great Miami River and is recharged by precipitation (rain, snow) and the river.





Generalized Cross Section of the Great Miami Buried Valley Aquifer



How Can Homeowners Impact Water Quality?

Home owners can have a significant positive impact - or negative impact - on ground water quality depending on the choices they make. Read on for ways you can make a positive impact on ground water quality!

- * Properly dispose of household hazardous wastes. Many pesticides, rodenticides, batteries, solvents, and paints can be hazardous if disposed of improperly. Take your household hazardous waste to one of Butler County's household Hazardous Waste Days. For dates, locations, and other disposal alternatives call (513) 887-3653 or visit www.butlercountyrecycles.org.
 
- * Reduce the amount of household hazardous waste you store at home. Buy only what you need for a particular job. If you have extra, see if a neighbor might be able to use it.
- * Try pesticide-free gardening. When applying pesticides and fertilizers, follow directions closely. Over application does not give you better results and wastes money in addition to polluting the environment.
 
- * Recycle your used car batteries and motor oil at collection centers. Many local auto service stations will accept used motor oil and car batteries. Call ahead to make sure.
 

- * Try non toxic alternatives to harsher household chemicals. Check your local retail or hardware store for these alternatives or make your own. Call (513) 383-3162 for more information.
- * Conserve water! Check for leaky faucets and have them repaired. Install a toilet dam or displacement device in your toilet. Water conservation reduces the overall amount of water pumped from the aquifer while saving money.
 
- * Do not dispose of harsh chemicals in your septic system. These chemicals can harm bacteria that helps break down waste products. Have your septic tank pumped at least once every five years to maintain treatment effectiveness.
 
- * Properly sealing any unused water supply wells. These wells provide direct access for pollutants into the ground water supply. Find out how to seal up your unused well by calling (513) 383-3162.
- * Participate in local ground water protection and education activities. For more information on how to get involved, call (513) 383-3162 or visit us on Facebook.

