How healthy is the groundwater?

Groundwater in the Buried Valley Aquifer is generally of excellent quality. Under some conditions, naturally-occurring arsenic can be present at levels high enough to pose a risk to human health. Homeowners who drink water from a private well should have their water tested regularly.

Causes of Unhealthy Streams

• Changes to the shape of the stream channel
• Increased impervious surfaces
• Unhealthy levels of nitrogen and phosphorus
• Destruction of floodplain

How healthy are the streams?

The Great Miami River helps recharge the Buried Valley Aquifer, which provides flow to the Great Miami River. However, water quality challenges remain as nutrient levels, particularly nitrogen and phosphorus, are impacting water quality. Both nutrients enter waterways when it rains and are found in fertilizers, animal waste, sewage, and wastewater.

2.3 million people in southwest Ohio rely on groundwater for drinking. Water levels in Buried Valley Aquifer remain stable overall.