

Black Creek Watershed - State of the Basin Report Executive Summary

Black Creek Watershed Coalition July 2003

The State of the Basin Report is an environmental inventory of the natural and human resources of the Black Creek Watershed. The report characterizes the watershed with respect to its physical features and cultural characteristics, identifies valuable resources within the watershed, analyzes current water quality and quantity conditions and identifies critical issues facing the watershed in the future.

The Black Creek Watershed municipalities have organized as the Black Creek Watershed Coalition (BCWC) to work cooperatively on water quality and quantity issues in the Black Creek Watershed. An Intermunicipal Agreement between Monroe, Genesee, and Orleans Counties is the beginning of a collaborative process that includes Village, Town, County, State and Federal participation.

A web site was created to disseminate BCWC information to its members and to the public. The address is www.blackcreekwatershed.org. The complete *Black Creek Watershed State of the Basin Report* is available at the web site. The BCWC plans to continue its activities in areas of governmental policy initiatives, technical investigations, and public outreach and education.

The State of the Basin inventory was prepared using a Geographic Information System (GIS) as a central component of the project. The GIS provides interested persons a detailed view of acquired data, the ability to conduct additional analysis of watershed characteristics and the ability to update the database in the future.

This report includes a geographical description of the watershed, uses of land and water from the 1970's to the present and water quality and water quantity summaries from available data. A map set accompanies the report to graphically illustrate spatial trends across the Black Creek Watershed.

A summary of problems and risks that can affect the future of the Black Creek Watershed is presented for public consideration. Water quality risks include point sources discharges, agricultural sources of pollution and nonpoint sources from developed areas. Water quantity risks are associated with flooding and low flow conditions; it is recognized that water quantity issues may have relevance to water quality issues. The BCWC intends to develop and implement an integrated Watershed Management Plan to minimize water quality impacts and water quantity problems in the Black Creek Watershed to the most practical extent possible.