

Appendix D

The Lower Olentangy Watershed Inventory

December 2003

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“A Snapshot: The State of the Lower Olentangy River Watershed in 2001”

Lower Olentangy River Watershed Inventory



Photograph by George C. Anderson

December 2003

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**“A Snapshot:
The State of the Lower Olentangy
River Watershed in 2001”**

Lower Olentangy River Watershed Inventory

Produced by:

FLOW

Explore. Discover. Understand.

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1. Introduction

Lower Olentangy River Watershed Inventory

The Friends of the Lower Olentangy Watershed (FLOW) is a non-profit, grassroots, citizens' organization dedicated to protecting and promoting the beneficial use of the Olentangy River and its resources. FLOW formed in August 1997. Our mission is to increase public awareness of the extensive environmental, recreational, historical, and cultural resources of the Lower Olentangy River Watershed and to promote responsible policies and uses of the river. To date, FLOW has over 100 dues-paying members. Our ultimate goal is to implement a **watershed action plan**, involving all affected parties that work to decrease non-point source pollution and increase the recreational value of the river. The largest role we play in the community is education. We also work to provide a forum for diverse interests to discuss issues concerning the river and its watershed.

The Lower Olentangy River **Watershed Inventory** is a compilation of the characteristics of the Lower Olentangy River and its tributary streams as well as the features of the surrounding landscape that affect the quality of these critical water resources. These characteristics and features include: topography and physiography (Section 2); geology, soils, and riparian habitats (Section 3); hydrologic factors such as precipitation and stream flow (Section 4); the biological diversity and resources, both aquatic and terrestrial, which have been documented from the river and its watershed (Section 5); and human influences such as population, land use, and human modification of these natural areas (Section 6). This inventory also includes a summary of the results from the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency's 1999 water quality monitoring of the mainstem of the Olentangy River and select tributary streams (Section 7, 8) and conclusions of this inventory (Section 9).

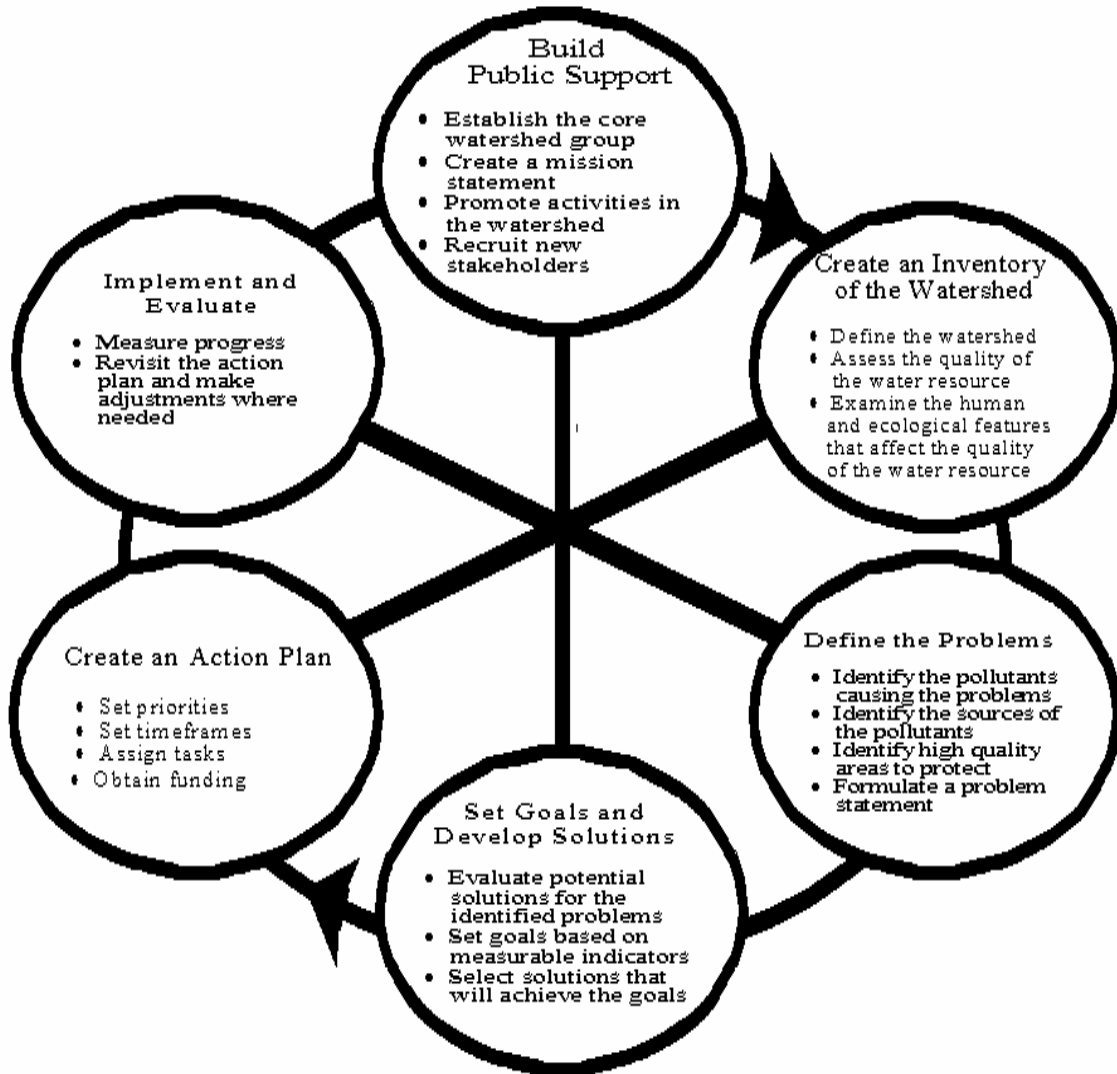
The information found in this inventory report will be used to evaluate potential sources of water quality and biological habitat degradation and to identify actions needed to address these impacted areas as well as areas of high water and biological quality that may need additional protection. This will be accomplished by the creation of a group of stakeholders and the formulation of a **watershed action plan** for the Lower Olentangy River Watershed. This plan will help guide FLOW and other decision-making entities along the river and its tributaries to make policies and procedures that will facilitate the goals and strategies laid out by the action plan (Figure 1-1, Watershed Action Plan process, Ohio EPA, 1997).

We would like to thank the FLOW Inventory Committee for collecting and compiling the information in this report and editing the many drafts. We would especially like to thank Dr. Robert C. Frey and Erin Miller, the main authors of the report, David White who prepared many of the maps and line drawings and formatted the document; George C. Anderson for his beautiful photographs of the river and Promedia of Ohio for providing a discount on CD duplication services. Photos copyrighted by George C. Anderson, all rights reserved.

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FLOW Inventory Committee Members

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Watershed groups often start at the top of the wheel by building public support and then move clockwise. A group is likely to travel around the wheel several times, with each cycle building upon the information and experience gained previously. The "spokes" connecting each step to the center illustrate that the process does not always proceed in one direction, and that the steps are interrelated. Information gained at one step may lead the group to move to another step in the process. For example, information gained during the inventory step may lead the group back to seeking new stakeholders.

Figure 1-1: Watershed Action Planning Process (Ohio EPA, 1997).