Black Creek, known by the Seneca Indians as Cheakanango Creek, begins in Middlebury, Wyoming County and is 8 miles wider than a drawing stick before entering Genesee County. It is about 80 miles long and about 4 miles wide at its mouth. Black Creek joins the Genesee River just north of the Ballantyne Bridge. The Black Creek watershed has an approximate area over 130 square miles and the main stem (stream) is about 4 miles wide at its mouth. Total relief in the Black Creek watershed is about 800 feet; the creek flows about 1200 feet above sea level (A.S.L.) and reaches the confluence with the Genesee River at an elevation of 52 feet A.S.L. —The Onondaga Escarpment, a regional bluff area trending west over most of the watershed, joins the Genesee River in the vicinity of the Lakeshore to the north.

Land use in the Black Creek watershed is predominantly agricultural, but also includes residential, commercial, wetland, and forest areas. The 2000 Census indicates that population in the Black Creek watershed is approximately 40,000.

Natural history
The headwaters of the Black Creek watershed—composed of limestone, dolomite, and sandstone—extend several miles north and south of the creek and are designated as a Sensitive Area. Millions of years ago, when the area was a shallow sea, the sediments formed a thin blanket of glacial till was deposited. Much of the area was eroded by streams and rivers flowing through the region. A thin layer of resistant bedrock as low areas. A thin blanket of glacial till was deposited approximately 400 million years ago, when this region and the surrounding area filled with water rich in calcium carbonate. The gently sloping terrain of the area filled with water rich in calcium carbonate. A sensitive area, known for its array of rare species of plants and animals, Bermuda Swamp is on the Black Creek watershed. An ornate, 16th-century water mill, which is still in operation. Today Black Creek winds its way downstream on the Genesee River.

Drew’s Nature Center, accessible only by hiking, is a 600-acre nature preserve located in the western part of Monroe County, generally following the original alignment. This map guide is funded by a grant from The Finger Lakes – Lake Ontario Watershed Protection Alliance, Monroe Litho, a Forest Stewardship Council-certified printer using 100% renewable, wind-generated electricity, and the Black Creek Watershed Coalition and the Finger Lakes – Lake Ontario Watershed Protection Alliance. To find out more about Black Creek watershed studies and grant-funded projects, ways to restore and protect Black Creek, call your County for advice.

Black Creek Park provides many opportunities for recreation and education, making it a great destination for families on Memorial Day weekend. The park includes a 15-minute shuttle tour area, formerly a marina-rising operation.