

## **Thinking Bioregionally in the Western Reserve**

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During the past 200 years of European settlement and exploitation of the Western Reserve, we have created a metropolitan region that is unsustainable—a region that is destroying the natural systems upon which life depends, a region that is dependent on the natural capital of other regions around the world. To achieve a sustainable society, we must develop a fundamentally different relationship with our home place. We must learn how to think bioregionally—become conscious of living in the Cuyahoga Watershed or the Glaciated Allegheny Plateau, rather than in arbitrary political constructs like Cleveland or Solon or Westlake. We must become rooted in this place, learn how live within the natural carrying capacities of the bioregion, and figure out how humans and other species can live well here for the next 200 years.