

Explore Your Watershed *Handout*

Part 1 of 4 in the "Exploring the Watershed Atlas" Series

INSTRUCTIONS: Go to the website: www.Hillsborough.WaterAtlas.org

1. Go to The Atlas > Interactive Map. You are looking at a Watershed Map of Hillsborough County.

2. Find your home or school:

- Under "Search for" on the right side of the screen, click "an address."
- Click inside the text box. Enter your street address > Go. Don't type the city.
- You will go right to a map with a red star for your house or school.

3. Find your watershed:

- Use the Map Navigation Tools on the left side of the screen. Click on "Select a Watershed" button. The curser is now "loaded" with that action.
- Click on the map to bring up your watershed. You may need to make the window full screen.
- The name of the watershed is highlighted in red at the top of your screen. You are in the _____ Watershed.

4. What is a watershed?

5. Find information about your watershed:

- How big is your watershed? _____ square miles
- Double click on the list of Water bodies (lakes and rivers) in your watershed. Name one you recognize, or one that has an interesting name.

c. What are the **Water Quality Trends** for your watershed?

As of the year _____: _____% Improving, _____% Stable, _____% Degrading, and _____% Unknown. The icon shows the overall trend to be _____.

d. What is the **Water Quality Status** of your watershed?

As of the year _____: _____% Good, _____% Fair, _____% Poor, and _____% Unknown.

The icon shows the overall water quality to be _____.

e. What is the difference between Water Quality Trend and Water Quality Status?

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f. What is the **Land Use** in your watershed? (Scroll down.)

As of the year _____, the land use is _____% Agriculture, _____% Built, and _____% Conservation.

g. What is the **land cover**?

As of the year _____, the land cover is _____% Wetlands, _____% Uplands

h. Rainfall is essential to the watershed.

As of the date _____, the month-to-date rainfall is _____inches, and the year-to-date rainfall is _____inches. The historic average for this month is _____inches.

Click on the ten-year trend and view the graph. What is the trend of yearly rainfall in this watershed?

i. How many volunteers are active in your watershed? _____

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Name:

Date: