

# Explore Your Watershed *Handout*

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

**INSTRUCTIONS:** Go to the website: [www.Seminole.WaterAtlas.org](http://www.Seminole.WaterAtlas.org)

1. Go to The Atlas > Interactive Map. You are looking at a Watershed Map of Seminole County.
2. Find your home or school:
  - a. Under "Search for" on the right side of the screen, click "an address."
  - b. Click inside the text box. Enter your street address > Go. Don't type the city.
  - c. You will go right to a map with a red star for your house or school.
3. Find your watershed:
  - a. The name of the watershed is highlighted in yellow. You are in the \_\_\_\_\_ Watershed.
  - b. Use the Map Navigation Tools on the left side of the screen. Click on "Select a Watershed" button. The cursor is now "loaded" with that action.
  - c. Click on the map to bring up your watershed. You may need to make the window full screen.

4. What is a watershed?

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5. Find information about your watershed:

- a. How big is your watershed? \_\_\_\_\_ square miles
- b. Drop down the list of Waterbodies (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. The data started in 2001, so it won't be a full 10-year graph until 2011. What is the trend of yearly rainfall in this watershed?

\_\_\_\_\_

i. Does this watershed have a real-time weather station? If there is no weather station for your watershed, go to the list of watersheds with active stations, and click on a star in an adjacent watershed to view its weather station.

Check on the current weather, and view some of the two-day (24 hour) graphs. (You may need to press Control-R Windows or Command-R Mac to refresh the graph when calling up a new graph.)

New data points are added every \_\_\_\_\_ minutes.

What is the relationship between the temperature readings and the U.V. (ultra violet) readings?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

j. How many volunteers are active in your watershed? \_\_\_\_\_

Click on "Learn more about volunteering."

Read, "What Does This Mean?"

Scroll down and go to the Water Action Volunteers (WAV) website > General information about the program.

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- k. The Water Action Volunteers program is sponsored by the St. Johns River Water Management District. Scroll down for a map of the St. Johns River basins. Click on the map to see the extent of the district.  
You can see that your watershed is part of a much larger watershed—all of the lands drained by the St. Johns River.

The St. Johns River is divided into smaller basins. We are in the Middle St. Johns River Basin. The headwaters in the Upper St. Johns River Basin are to the (north, south) of us. \_\_\_\_\_ The mouth of the St. Johns River in the Lower St. Johns River Basin is to the (north, south) of us. \_\_\_\_\_

- l. Close the WAV link and go back to Volunteering > What does this mean? > Additional Information. What other volunteer organization collects data on our waterways?

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Name:

Date: