

Bayou Assessment Report for Mill Bayou in Hillsborough County, Florida

Date Assessed: July 12, 2011

Assessed by: David Eilers

Reviewed by: Jim Griffin

INTRODUCTION

This assessment was conducted to update existing physical and ecological data for Mill Bayou on the [Hillsborough County & City of Tampa Water Atlas](#). The project is a collaborative effort between the University of South Florida's Center for Community Design and Research and Hillsborough County Stormwater Management Section. The project is funded by Hillsborough County and the Southwest Florida Water Management District. The project has, as its primary goal, the rapid assessing of up to 150 water bodies in Hillsborough County during a five-year period. The product of these investigations will provide the County, water body property owners and the general public a better understanding of the general health of Hillsborough County lakes, rivers and bayous in terms of shoreline development, water quality, water body morphology (bottom contour, volume, area, etc.) and the plant biomass and species diversity. These data are intended to assist the County and its citizens to better manage water bodies and watersheds.



Figure 1. General Photograph of Mill Bayou.

The first section of the report provides the results of the overall morphological assessment of the bayou. Primary data products include: a contour (bathymetric) map of the bayou, area, volume and depth statistics, and the water level at the time of assessment. These data are useful for evaluating trends and for developing management actions such as plant management where depth and bayou volume are needed.

The second section provides the results of the vegetation assessment conducted on the bayou. These results can be used to better understand and manage vegetation in the bayou. A list is provided with the different plant species found at various sites around the bayou. Potentially invasive, exotic (non-native) species are identified in a plant list and the percent of exotics is presented in a summary table. Watershed values provide a means of reference.

The third section provides the results of the water quality sampling of the bayou. Both field data and laboratory data are presented. The trophic state index (TSI)ⁱ is used to develop a general bayou health statement, which is calculated for both the water column with vegetation and the water column if vegetation were removed. These data are derived from the water chemistry and vegetative submerged biomass assessments and are useful in understanding the results of certain bayou vegetation management practices.

The intent of this assessment is to provide a starting point from which to track changes in the bayou, and where previous comprehensive assessment data is available, to track changes in the bayou's general health. These data can provide the information needed to determine changes and to monitor trends in physical condition and ecological health of the bayou.

Section 1: Bayou Morphology

Bathymetric Mapⁱⁱ. Table 1 provides the bayou's morphologic parameters in various units. The bottom of the bayou was mapped using a Lowrance LCX 28C HD Wide Area Augmentation System (WAAS)ⁱⁱⁱ enabled Global Positioning System (GPS) with fathometer (bottom sounder) to determine the boat's position, and bottom depth in a single measurement. The result is an estimate of the bayou's area, mean and maximum depths, and volume and the creation of a bottom contour map (Figure 2). Besides pointing out the deeper fishing holes in the bayou, the morphologic data derived from this part of the assessment can be valuable to overall management of the bayou vegetation as well as providing flood storage data for flood models.

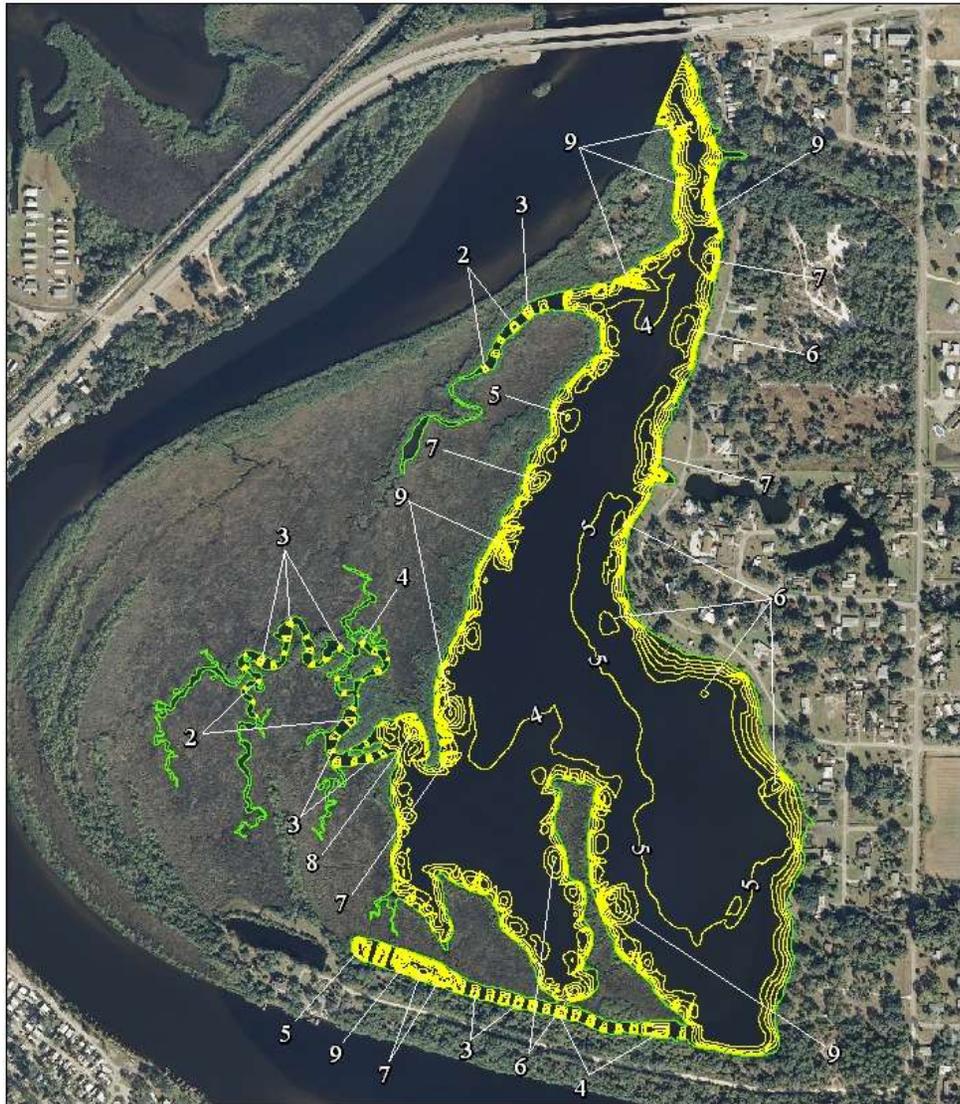
Table 1. Bayou Morphologic Data (Area, Depth and Volume)

Parameter	Feet	Meters	Acres	Acre-Ft	Gallons
Surface Area (sq)	4,409,520.38	409,657.85	101.23		
Mean Depth	3.65	1.11			
Maximum Depth	9.26	2.82			
Volume (cubic)	17,497,186.58	495,465.15		401.68	130,888,952
Gauge (relative)	5.40	1.65			

ⁱ The trophic state index is used by the Water Atlas to provide the public with an estimate of their bayou resource quality. For more information, see end note 1.

ⁱⁱ A bathymetric map is a map that accurately depicts all of the various depths of a water body. An accurate bathymetric map is important for effective herbicide application and can be an important tool when deciding which form of management is most appropriate for a water body. Bayou volumes, hydraulic retention time and carrying capacity are important parts of bayou management that require the use of a bathymetric map.

ⁱⁱⁱ WAAS is a form of differential GPS (DGPS) where data from 25 ground reference stations located in the United States receive GPS signals from GPS satellites in view and retransmit these data to a master control site and then to geostationary satellites. For more information, see end note 2.



Mill Bayou

Section - Township - Range
18 & 19-32-19; 13-32-18

-  Contour Lines
Expressed in
1-Foot Intervals
-  Bayou Perimeter
Ground Level

EXPLANATION:
 Survey Date: July 12, 2011
 Bayou water level was 5.12 ft above sea level at USGS 2300500 at time of the assessment N GVD29.
 Contours are expressed in absolute depth below this level.

BAYOU MORPHOLOGY:
 Perimeter 13,228.66 ft;
 Area 101.22 Acres
 Mean Depth 3.64 ft;
 Volume 401,683 Acre-ft, (130,888,952.10 gallons);
 Deepest point 9.26 ft

DATA SOURCES:
 2009 aerial photography provided by the SWFWMD.
 Bayou perimeter digitized from SWFWMD 2009 aerial photographs.
 All contours generated by the Florida Center for Community Design and Research from survey data collected by USF Lake and Stream Assessment Program.

DISCLAIMER:
 This map is for illustrative purposes only, and should not be used for lake navigation.

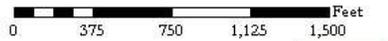


Figure 2. 2011 Bathymetric Contour Map for Mill Bayou

Section 2: Bayou Ecology (Vegetation)

The bayou's apparent vegetative cover and shoreline detail are evaluated using the latest bayou aerial photograph as shown in and by use of WAAS-enabled GPS. Submerged vegetation is determined from the analysis of bottom returns from the Lowrance 28c HD combined GPS/fathometer described earlier. As depicted in Figure 3, 6 vegetation assessment sites were chosen for intensive sampling based on the *Bayou Assessment Protocol* (copy available on request) for a bayou of this size. The site positions are set using GPS and then loaded into a GIS mapping program (ArcGIS) for display. Each site is sampled in the three primary vegetative zones (emergent, submerged and floating)^{iv}. The latest high resolution aerial photos are used to provide shore details (docks, structures, vegetation zones) and to calculate the extent of surface vegetation coverage. The primary indices of submerged vegetation cover and biomass for the bayou, percent area coverage (PAC) and percent volume infestation (PVI), are determined by transiting the lake by boat and employing a fathometer to collect "hard and soft return" data. These data are later analyzed for presence and absence of vegetation and to determine the height of vegetation if present. The PAC is determined from the presence and absence analysis of 100 sites in the bayou and the PVI is determined by measuring the difference between hard returns (lake bottom) and soft returns (top of vegetation) for sites (within the 100 analyzed sites) where plants are determined present.

The data collected during the site vegetation sampling include vegetation type, exotic vegetation, predominant plant species and submerged vegetation biomass. The total number of species from all sites is used to approximate the total diversity of aquatic plants and the percent of invasive-exotic plants on the bayou (

Table 2). The Watershed value in Table 2 only includes lakes, rivers and bayous sampled during the water body assessment project begun in May of 2006. These data will change as additional water bodies are sampled. Table 3 through Table 5 detail the results from the 2011 aquatic plant assessment for the bayou. These data are determined from the 6 sites used for intensive vegetation surveys. The tables are divided into Floating Leaf, Emergent and Submerged plants and contain the plant code, species, common name and presence (indicated by a 1) or absence (indicated by a blank space) of species and the calculated percent occurrence (number sites species is found/number of sites) and type of plant (Native, Non-Native, Invasive, Pest). In the "Type" category, the codes N and E0 denote species native to Florida. The code E1 denotes Category I invasive species, as defined by the [Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council](#) (FLEPPC); these are species "that are altering native plant communities by displacing native species, changing community structures or ecological functions, or hybridizing with natives." The code E2 denotes Category II invasive species, as defined by FLEPPC; these species "have increased in abundance or frequency but have not yet altered Florida plant communities to the extent shown by Category I species." Use of the term invasive indicates the plant is commonly considered invasive in this region of Florida. The term "pest" indicates a plant (native or non-native) that has a greater than 55% occurrence in the bayou and is also considered a problem plant for this region of Florida, or is a non-native invasive that is or has the potential to be a problem plant in the bayou and has at least 40% occurrence. These two terms are somewhat subjective; however, they are provided to give bayou property owners some guidance in the management of plants on their property. Please remember that to remove or control plants in a wetland (bayou shoreline) in Hillsborough County the property owner must secure an [Application To Perform Miscellaneous Activities In Wetlands](#) permit from the [Environmental Protection Commission of Hillsborough County](#) and for management of in-bayou vegetation outside the wetland fringe (for bayou s with an area greater than ten acres), the property owner must secure a [Florida Department of Environmental Protection Aquatic Plant Removal Permit](#).

^{iv} See end note 3.

Table 2. Total Diversity, Percent Exotics, and Number of Pest Plant Species

Parameter	Lake	Watershed
Number of Vegetation Assessment Sites	6	29
Total Plant Diversity (# of Taxa)	29	73
% Non-Native Plants	13.14%	26.03%
Total Pest Plant Species	1	2



Figure 3. 2011 Vegetation Assessment Region Map for Mill Bayou

Table 3. List of Floating Leaf Zone Aquatic Plants Found

Plant Species Code	Scientific Name	Common Name	Percent Occurrence	Type
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Figure 4. *Juncus roemerianus* on Mill Bayou

Table 4. List of Emergent Zone Aquatic Plants Found

Plant Species Code	Scientific Name	Common Name	Percent Occurrence	Type
JRO	<i>Juncus roemerianus</i>	Needle Rush, Black Rush	100%	N, E0
RZM	<i>Rhizophora mangle</i>	Red Mangrove	100%	N, E0
VRA	<i>Vitis rotundifolia</i>	Muscandine Grape	83%	N, E0
STS	<i>Schinus terebinthifolius</i>	Brazilian Pepper	83%	E1, P
PIN	<i>Pinus spp.</i>	Pine Tree	83%	N, E0
BHA	<i>Baccharis halimifolia</i>	Sea Myrtle	83%	N, E0
SPO	<i>Sabal palmetto</i>	Sabal Palm, Cabbage Palm	66%	N, E0
AVG	<i>Avicennia germinans</i>	Black Mangrove	50%	N, E0
JVA	<i>Juniperus virginiana</i>	Red cedar	50%	N, E0
EUP	<i>Eupatorium capillifolium</i>	Dog Fennel	33%	N, E0
QLA	<i>Quercus laurifolia</i>	Laurel Oak; Diamond Oak	33%	N, E0
ALK	<i>Albizia lebbbeck</i>	Woman's Tounge	33%	E1
CAL	<i>Callicarpa americana</i>	Beautyberry	33%	N, E0
CLA	<i>Casuarina equisetifolia</i>	Australian Pine	33%	E1
COC	<i>Coccoloba uvifera</i>	Seagrape	33%	N, E0
TYP	<i>Typha spp.</i>	Cattails	33%	N, E0
SPA	<i>Spartina spp.</i>	Cordgrass	33%	N, E0
WAX	<i>Myrica cerifera</i>	Wax Myrtle	33%	N, E0
SMI	<i>Smilax spp.</i>	Catbriar, Greenbriar	16%	N, E0
SOL	<i>Solidago spp.</i>	Goldenrod	16%	N, E0
DBA	<i>Dioscorea bulbifera</i>	Air Potato	16%	E1
CAM	<i>Crinum americanum</i>	Swamp lily	16%	N, E0
ACE	<i>Acer rubrum</i>	Southern Red Maple	16%	N, E0
ADM	<i>Acrostichum danaeifolium</i>	Leather Fern	16%	N, E0
RF	<i>Osmunda regalis</i>	Royal Fern	16%	N, E0
PNA	<i>Phyla nodiflorea</i>	Frog-fruit, Carpetweed, Turkey Tangle Fogfruit	16%	N, E0
PQA	<i>Parthenocissus quinquefolia</i>	Virginia Creeper, Woodbine	16%	N, E0
HTM	<i>Hypericum tetrapetalum</i>	Fourpetal St. John's-Wort	16%	N, E0
OCA	<i>Osmunda cinnamomea</i>	Cinnamon Fern	16%	N, E0



Figure 5. Shoreline emergent vegetation zone of Mill Bayou dominated by *Rhizophora mangle*.

Table 5. List of Submerged Zone Aquatic Plants Found.

Plant Species Code	Scientific Name	Common Name	Percent Occurrence	Type
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Figure 6. Typical emergent vegetation zone of Mill Bayou

Table 6. List of All Plants and Sample Sites

Plant Common Name	Found at Sample Sites	Percent Occurrence	Growth Type
Needle Rush, Black Rush	1,2,3,4,5,6	100	Emergent
Red Mangrove	1,2,3,4,5,6	100	Terrestrial
Brazilian Pepper	1,2,3,4,6	83	Emergent
Muscandine Grape	1,2,3,4,6	83	Emergent
Pine Tree	1,2,4,5,6	83	Emergent
Sea Myrtle	1,3,4,5,6	83	Emergent
Sabal Palm, Cabbage Palm	1,3,4,6	66	Terrestrial
Black Mangrove	1,3,6	50	Terrestrial
Red cedar	1,2,4	50	Terrestrial
Australian Pine	1,6	33	Emergent
Beautyberry	3,6	33	Emergent
Cattails	5,6	33	Emergent
Cordgrass	1,4	33	Emergent
Dog Fennel	3,6	33	Emergent
Laurel Oak; Diamond Oak	3,4	33	Emergent
Seagrape	1,5	33	Terrestrial
Wax Myrtle	4,6	33	Emergent
Woman's Tounge	1,6	33	Emergent
Air Potato	6	16	Emergent
Catbriar, Greenbriar	3	16	Emergent
Cinnamon Fern	6	16	Emergent
Fourpetal St. John's-Wort	6	16	Emergent
Frog-fruit, Carpetweed, Turkey Tangle Fogfruit	6	16	Emergent
Goldenrod	6	16	Emergent
Leather Fern	3	16	Emergent
Royal Fern	6	16	Emergent
Southern Red Maple	6	16	Emergent
Swamp lily	5	16	Emergent
Virginia Creeper, Woodbine	6	16	Emergent

Section 3: Long-term Ambient Water Chemistry

A critical element in any bayou assessment is the long-term water chemistry data set. These data are obtained from several data sources that are available to the Water Atlas and are managed in the Water Atlas Data Download and graphically presented on the water quality page for bayous in Hillsborough County. The Mill Bayou Water Quality Page can be viewed at <http://www.hillsborough.wateratlas.usf.edu/bay/?wbodyatlas=bay&wbodyid=6040>

A primary source of bayou water chemistry in Hillsborough County is the [Hillsborough County Stream Waterwatch](#) volunteer monitoring and the Hillsborough County Environmental Protection Commission laboratory. Mill Bayou has never had a LAKEWATCH volunteer, which makes trend analysis impossible. Other source data are used as available; however these data can only indicate conditions at time of sampling.

These data are displayed and analyzed on the Water Atlas as shown in Figure 7, Figure 8, and Figure 9 for Mill Bayou. The figures are graphs of: (1) the overall trophic state index (TSI)ⁱ, which is a method commonly used to characterize the productivity of a bayou, and may be thought of as a bayou's ability to support plant growth and a healthy food source for aquatic life; (2) the chlorophyll *a* concentration, which indicates the bayou's algal concentration, and (3) the bayou's Secchi Disk depth which is a measure of water visibility and depth of light penetration. These data are used to evaluate a bayou's ecological health and to provide a method of ranking bayous and are indicators used by the US Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) to determine a bayou's level of impairment. The chlorophyll *a* and Secchi Disk depth graphs include benchmarks which indicate the median values for the various parameters for a large number of bayous in Florida expressed as percentiles.

Based on best available data, Mill Bayou has a color value determined as a platinum cobalt unit (pcu) value of 139.4 and is considered a dark bayou (has a mean color in pcu greater than 40). The FDEP and USEPA may classify a bayou as impaired if the lake is a dark bayou and has a TSI greater than 60, or is a clear bayou (has a mean color in pcu less than or equal to 40) and has a TSI greater than 40. Mill Bayou has a TSI of 62 and meets the FDEP Impaired Waters Rule (IWR) criteria and could be classified as impaired. See also Table 7.

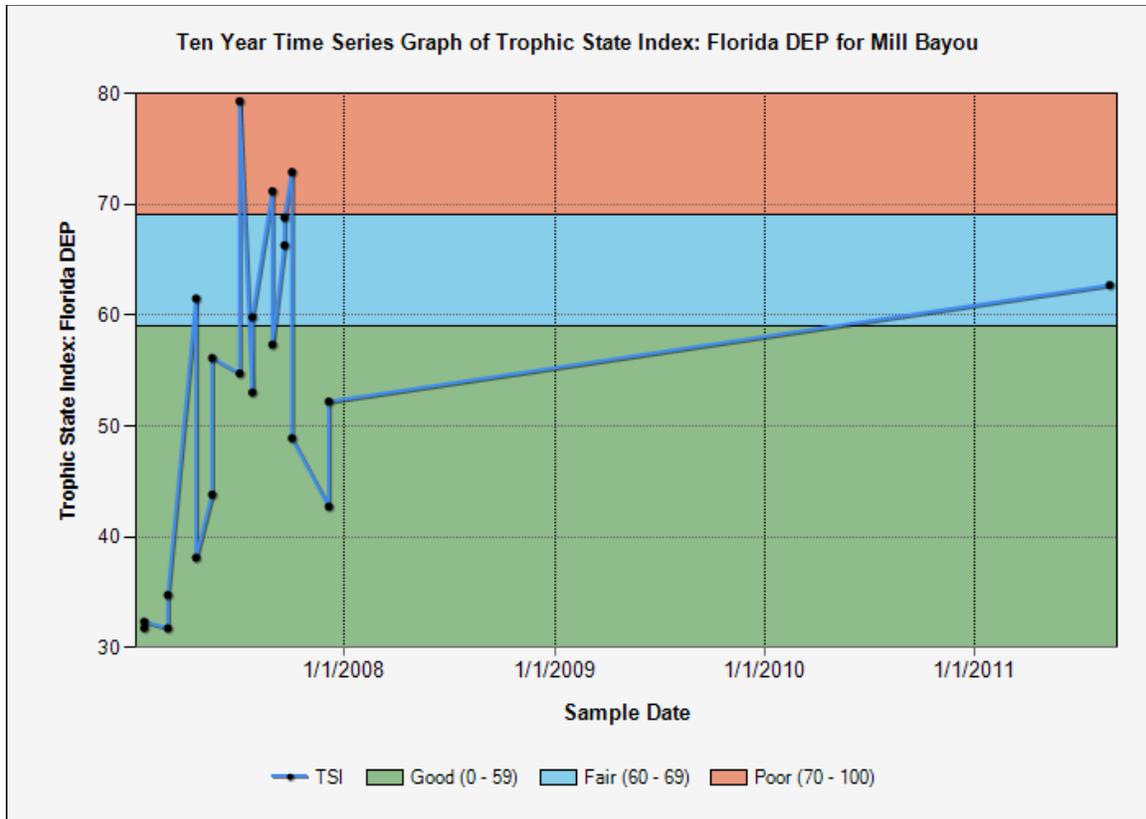


Figure 7. Recent Trophic State Index (TSI) graph for Mill Bayou^v

^v Graph source: Hillsborough County Water Atlas. For an explanation of the Good, Fair and Poor benchmarks, please see the notes at the end of this report. For the latest data go to: http://www.hillsborough.wateratlas.usf.edu/graphs20/graph_it.aspx?wbodyid=6040&data=TSI&data_type=WQ&waterbodyatlas=bay&ny=10

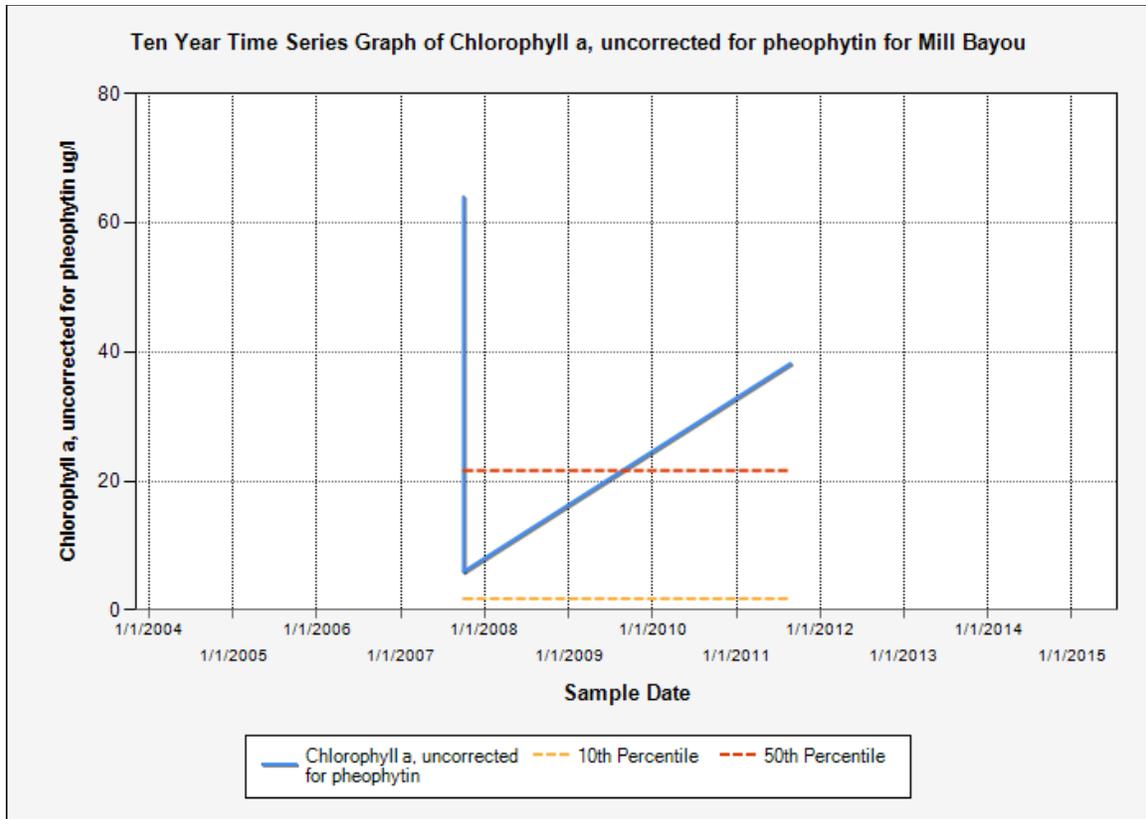


Figure 8. Recent Chlorophyll a graph for Mill Bayou^{vi}

^{vi} Graph Source: Hillsborough County Water Atlas. For the latest data go to http://www.hillsborough.wateratlas.usf.edu/graphs20/graph_it.aspx?wbodyid=6040&data=Chla_ugl&datatype=WQ&waterbodyatlas=bay&ny=10

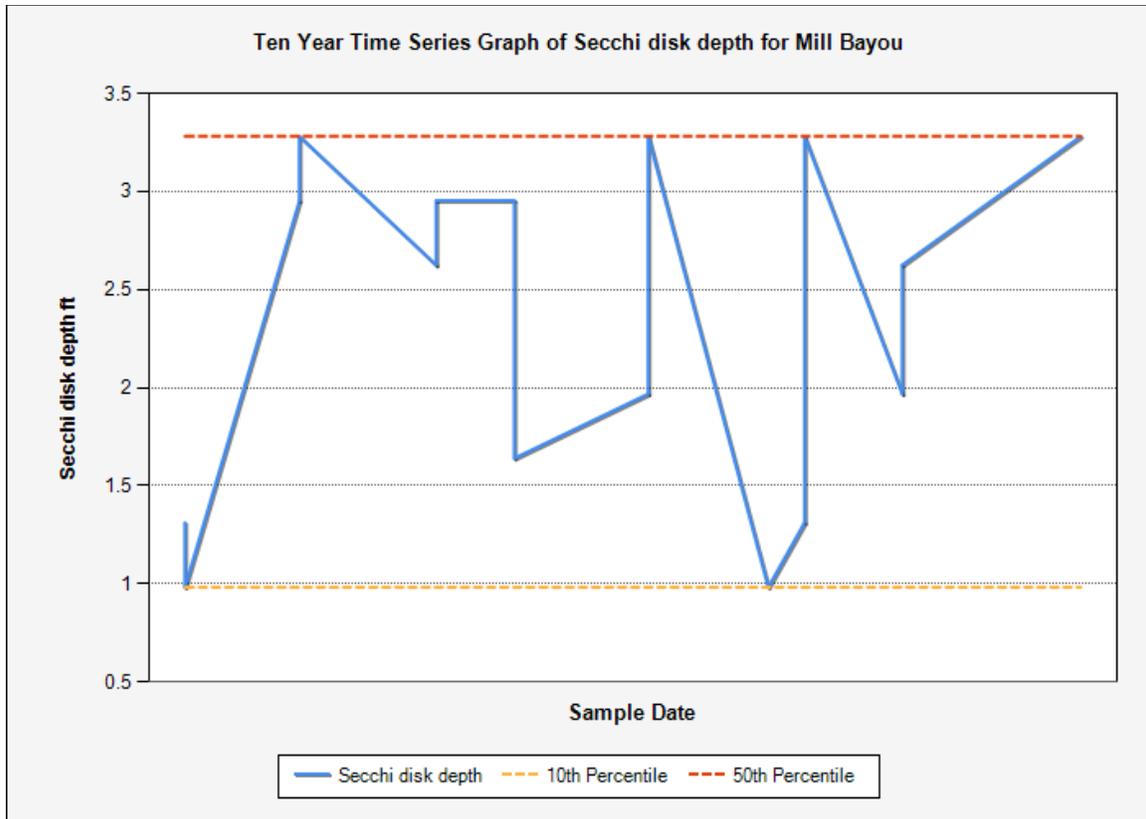


Figure 9. Recent Secchi Disk graph for Mill Bayou^{vii}

As part of the bayou assessment the physical water quality and chemical water chemistry of a bayou are measured. These data only indicate a snapshot of the bayou’s water quality; however they are useful when compared to the trend data available from Stream Waterwatch or other sources. Table 7 contains the summary water quality data and index values and adjusted values calculated from these data. The total phosphorus (TP), total nitrogen (TN) and chlorophyll a water chemistry sample data are the results of chemical analysis of samples taken during the assessment and analyzed by the Hillsborough County Environmental Protection Commission laboratory.

The growth of plants (planktonic algae, macrophytic algae and rooted plants) is directly dependent on the available nutrients within the water column of a bayou and to some extent the nutrients which are held in the sediment and the vegetation biomass of a lake. Additionally, algae and other plant growth are limited by the nutrient in lowest concentration relative to that needed by a plant. Plant biomass contains less phosphorus by weight than nitrogen so phosphorus is many times the limiting nutrient. When both nutrients are present at a concentration in the bayou so that either or both may restrict plant growth, the limiting factor is called “balanced”. The ratio of total nitrogen to total phosphorous, the “N to P” ratio (N/P), is used to determine the limiting factor. If N/P is greater than or equal to 30, the bayou is considered phosphorus limited, when this ratio is less than or equal to 10, the bayou is considered nitrogen limited and if between 10 and 30 it is considered balanced.

^{vii} Graph Source: Hillsborough County Water Atlas. For the latest data go to http://www.hillsborough.wateratlas.usf.edu/graphs20/seasonal_graph_it.aspx?wbodyid=6040&data=Secchi_ft

Table 7. Water Quality Parameters (Laboratory) for Mill Bayou

Parameter	Value	Mean Value
Bayou Area (Acres)	101.23	
Bayou Area (m ²)	409,657.85	
Bayou Volume (m ³)	495,465.15	
Number of Vegetation Sites	6	
Average Station SAV Weight	0.00	
Wet Weight of Vegetation (g)	0.00	
Dry Weight of Vegetation (g)	0.00	
Total Phosphorus (ug/L)	401.00	282.95
Total Nitrogen (ug/L)	853.00	977.52
Chlorophyll a (ug/L)	38.20	36.07
TN/TP	2.1	3.45
Limiting Nutrient	Nitrogen	Nitrogen
Chlorophyll TSI	69	68
Phosphorus TSI	93	87
Nitrogen TSI	56	59
TSI	62	63.5
Color (PCU)	139.40	84.75
Secchi disk depth (ft)	2.70	2.31
Impaired TSI for Bayou	60	60
Bayou Status (Water Column)	Impaired	Impaired

The color of a bayou is also important to the growth of algae. Dark, tannic bayous tend to suppress algal growth and can tolerate a higher amount of nutrient in their water column; while clear bayous tend to support higher algal growth with the same amount of nutrients. The color of a bayou, which is measured in a unit called the “cobalt platinum unit (PCU)” because of the standard used to determine color, is important because it is used by the State of Florida to determine bayou impairment as explained earlier. A new rule which is being developed by USEPA and FDEP, will use alkalinity in addition to color to determine a second set of “clear-alkaline bayous” which will be allowed a higher TSI than a “clear-acid” bayou. This is because alkaline bayous have been found to exhibit higher nutrient and algal concentrations than acid bayous. Additionally, bayous connected to a river or other “flow through” system tend to support lower algal growth for the same amount of nutrient concentration. All these factors are important to the understanding of your bayou’s overall condition. Table 7 includes many of the factors that are typically used to determine the actual state of plant growth in your bayou. These data should be understood and reviewed when establishing a management plan for a bayou; however, as stated above other factors must be considered when developing such a plan. Please contact the [Water Atlas Program](#) if you have questions about this part or any other part of this report.

Table 8 provides data derived from the vegetation assessment which is used to determine an adjusted TSI. This is accomplished by calculating the amount of phosphorus and nitrogen that could be released by existing submerged vegetation (Adjusted Nutrient) if this vegetation were treated with an herbicide or managed by the addition of Triploid Grass Carp (*Ctenopharyngodon idella*). The table also shows the result of a model that calculates the potential algae, as chlorophyll a (Adjusted Chlorophyll), which could develop due to the additional nutrients held within the plant biomass. While it would not be expected that all the vegetation would be turned into available phosphorus by these management methods, the data is useful when planning various management activities. Approximately 0.00 % of the bayou has submerged vegetation present (PAC) and this vegetation represents about 0.00 % of the available bayou volume (PVI). Please see additional parameters for adjusted values where appropriate in Table 8. The vegetation holds enough nutrients to add about 0 µg/L of phosphorus and 0 µg/L of nitrogen to the water column and increase the algal growth potential within the bayou.

Mill Bayou is nitrogen-limited; i.e., an increase in nitrogen could change the TSI and increase the potential for algal growth.

Table 8. Field parameters and calculations used to determine nutrients held in Submerged Aquatic Vegetation (SAV) biomass.

Parameter	Value	Mean Value
% Area Covered (PAC)	0.0 %	
PVI	0.0 %	
Total Phosphorus - Adjusted (ug/L)	0.00	
Total Phosphorus - Combined (ug/L)	401.00	
Total Nitrogen - Adjusted (ug/L)	0.00	
Total Nitrogen - Combined (ug/L)	853.00	
Chlorophyll - Adjusted from Total Nutrients (ug/L)	0.00	
Chlorophyll - Combined (ug/L)	38.20	
Adjusted Chlorophyll TSI	69	
Adjusted Phosphorus TSI	93	
Adjusted Nitrogen TSI	56	
Adjusted TSI (for N, P, and CHLA)	62	
Impaired TSI for Bayou	60	60

Table 9 contains the field data taken in the center of the bayou using a multi-probe (Eureka Manta) which has the ability to directly measure the temperature, pH, dissolved oxygen (DO), percent DO (calculated from DO, temperature and conductivity). These data are listed for three levels in the bayou and a mean value measurement.

Table 9. Water Chemistry Data Based on Manta Water Chemistry Probe for Mill Bayou

Sample Location	Sample Depth (m)	Time	Temp (deg C)	Conductivity (mS/cm3)	Dissolved Oxygen (%)	Dissolved Oxygen (mg/L)	pH
Surface	0.44	8/24/2011 1:45:00 PM	31.22	3.580	95.51	7.15	7.43
Mean Value	0.77	8/24/2011 1:50:00 PM	30.95	6.114	82.13	6.14	7.38
Middle	0.66	8/24/2011 1:50:00 PM	30.76	3.917	95.23	7.17	7.48
Bottom	1.22	8/24/2011 1:55:00 PM	30.85	10.845	55.65	4.10	7.21

To better understand many of the terms used in this report, we recommend that the reader visit the [Hillsborough County & City of Tampa Water Atlas](#) and explore the “Learn More” areas which are found on the resource pages. Additional information can also be found using the [Digital Library](#) on the Water Atlas website.

Section 4: Conclusion

Mill Bayou is a medium area (101.23-acre) bayou that would be considered in the Eutrophic category of bayous based on water chemistry. It has a plant diversity of 29 species relative to the total watershed plant diversity of 73 species with about 0.00 % percent of the open water areas containing submerged aquatic vegetation. Vegetation helps to maintain the nutrient balance in the bayou as well as provide good fish habitat. The bayou has many open water areas to support various types of recreation and has a fair diversity of plant species. The primary pest plants in the bayou include *Schinus terebinthifolius*.

This assessment was accomplished to assist bayou property owners to better understand and manage their bayous. Hillsborough County supports this effort as part of their [Stream Waterwatch \(SWW\)](#) and has developed guidelines for bayou property owner groups to join the SWW and receive specific assistance from the County in the management of their bayou. For additional information and recent updates please visit the [Hillsborough County & City of Tampa Water Atlas](#) website.

Bayou Assessment Notes

1. The trophic state index is used by the Water Atlas to provide the public with an estimate of their bayou resource quality. A "Good" quality bayou is one that meets all bayou use criteria (swimmable, fishable and supports healthy habitat). Based on the discussion above, bayous that are in the oligotrophic through low eutrophic range, for the most part, meet these criteria. A trophic state below 60 indicates lakes in this range and these bayous are given the "Good" descriptor. A trophic state above 60 but below 70 can be considered highly productive and a reasonable bayou for fishing and most water sports. This bayou is considered "Fair", while a bayou in the Hypereutrophic range with a TSI greater than 70 will probably not meet the bayou use criteria and these bayous are considered to be poor. Please see Table 10 below.

Table 10. Comparison of Classification Schemes

Trophic State Index	Trophic State Classification	Water Quality
0 – 59	Oligotrophic through Mid-Eutrophic	Good
60 – 69	Mid-Eutrophic through Eutrophic	Fair
70 – 100	Hypereutrophic	Poor

Also see the [Florida LAKEWATCH](#) publication, "[Trophic State: A Waterbody's Ability to Support Plants Fish and Wildlife](#)" and the [Trophic State Index Learn More page](#) on the [Hillsborough County & City of Tampa Water Atlas](#).

In recent years FDEP staff have encountered problems interpreting Secchi depth data in many tannic (tea or coffee-colored) waterbodies where transparency is often reduced due to naturally-occurring dissolved organic matter in the water. As a result, Secchi depth has been dropped as an indicator in FDEP's recent TSI calculations ([1996 Water-Quality Assessment for The State of Florida Section 305\(b\) Main Report](#)). This modification for black water TSI calculation has also been adopted by the Water Atlas.

Also, according to Florida LAKEWATCH use of the TSI is often misinterpreted and/or misused from its original purpose, which is simply to describe biological productivity. It is not meant to rate a lake's water quality. For example, higher TSI values represent lakes that support an abundance of algae, plants and wildlife. If you love to fish, this type of lake would not be considered to have "poor" water quality. However, if you are a swimmer or water skier, you might prefer a lake with lower TSI values.

The trophic state index is one of several methods used to describe the biological productivity of a waterbody. Two scientists, Forsberg and Ryding, 1980, developed another method that is widely used. It's known as the Trophic State Classification System. Using this method, waterbodies can be grouped into one of four categories, called trophic states:

Oligotrophic (oh-lig-oh-TROH-fik) where waterbodies have the lowest level of productivity;

Mesotrophic (mees-oh-TROH-fik) where waterbodies have a moderate level of biological productivity;

Eutrophic (you-TROH-fik) where waterbodies have a high level of biological productivity;

Hypereutrophic (HI-per-you-TROH-fik) where waterbodies have the highest level of biological productivity. The trophic state of a waterbody can also affect its use or perceived utility. Figure 10 illustrates this concept.

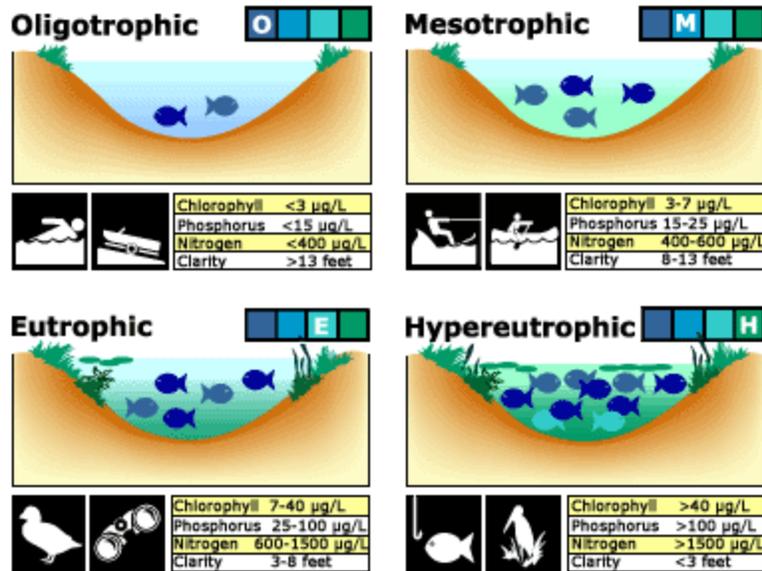
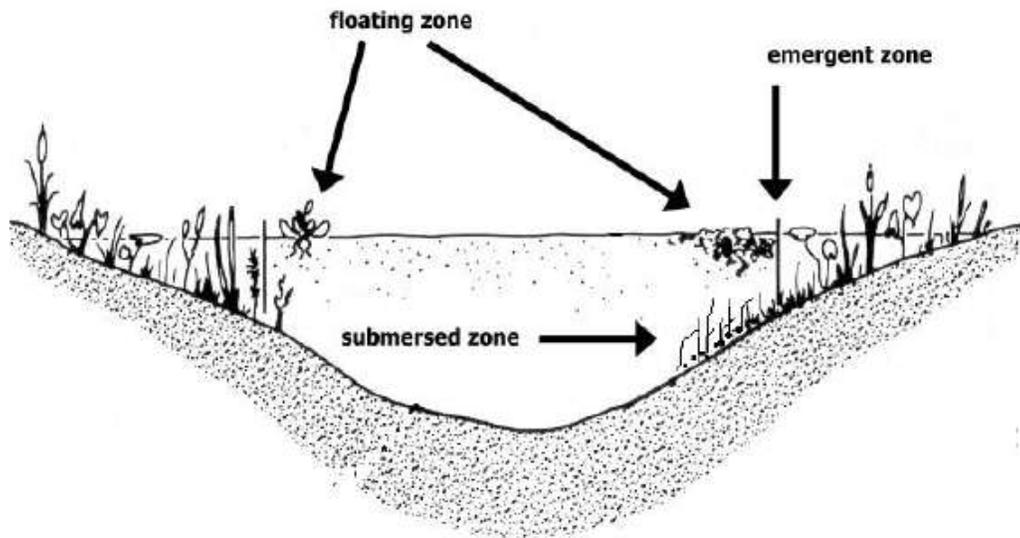


Figure 10. Tropic States

- Wide Area Augmentation System (WAAS)** is a form of differential GPS (DGPS) where data from 25 ground reference stations located in the United States receive GPS signals from GPS satellites in view and retransmit these data to a master control site and then to geostationary satellites. The geostationary satellites broadcast the information to all WAAS-capable GPS receivers. The receiver decodes the signal to provide real time correction of raw GPS satellite signals also received by the unit. WAAS-enabled GPS is not as accurate as standard DGPS which employs close by ground stations for correction, however; it was shown to be a good substitute when used for this type of mapping application. Data comparisons were conducted with both types of DGPS employed simultaneously and the positional difference was determined to be well within the tolerance established for the project.
- The three primary aquatic vegetation zones are shown below:



- A lake is **impaired** if: "For the purposes of evaluating nutrient enrichment in lakes, TSIs shall be calculated based on the procedures outlined on pages 86 and 87 of the State's 1996

305(b) report, which are incorporated by reference. Lakes or lake segments shall be included on the planning list for nutrients if: (1) For lakes with a mean color greater than 40 platinum cobalt units, the annual mean TSI for the lake exceeds 60, unless paleolimnological information indicates the lake was naturally greater than 60, or (2) For lakes with a mean color less than or equal to 40 platinum cobalt units, the annual mean TSI for the lake exceeds 40, unless paleolimnological information indicates the lake was naturally greater than 40, or (3) For any lake, data indicate that annual mean TSIs have increased over the assessment period, as indicated by a positive slope in the means plotted versus time, or the annual mean TSI has increased by more than 10 units over historical values. When evaluating the slope of mean TSIs over time, the Department shall require at least a 5 unit increase in TSI over the assessment period and use a Mann's one-sided, upper-tail test for trend, as described in Nonparametric Statistical Methods by M. Hollander and D. Wolfe (1999 ed.), pages 376 and 724 (which are incorporated by reference), with a 95% confidence level."

References: 62-303.352—Nutrients in Lakes. Specific Authority 403.061, 403.067 FS. Law Implemented 403.062, 403.067 FS. History - New 6- 10-02, Amended 12-11-06. Please see page 12 of the [Impaired Waters Rule](#). Updated activity regarding impaired waters may be tracked at: <http://www.dep.state.fl.us/water/tmdl/>

5. An **adjusted chlorophyll a value** ($\mu\text{g/L}$) was calculated by modifying the methods of Canfield et al (1983). The total wet weight of plants in the lake (kg) was calculated by multiplying lake surface area (m^2) by PAC (percent area coverage of macrophytes) and multiplying the product by the biomass of submersed plants (kg wet weight m^2) and then by 0.25, the conversion for the 1/4 meter sample cube. The dry weight (kg) of plant material was calculated by multiplying the wet weight of plant material (kg) by 0.08, a factor that represents the average percent dry weight of submersed plants (Canfield and Hoyer, 1992) and then converting to grams. The potential phosphorus concentration (mg/m^3) was calculated by multiplying dry weight (g) by 1.41 mg TP g⁻¹ dry weight, a number that represents the mean phosphorus (mg) content of dried plant material measured in 750 samples from 60 Florida lakes (University of Florida, unpublished data), and then dividing by lake volume (m^3) and then converting to $\mu\text{g/L}$ (1000/1000). From the potential phosphorus concentration, a predicted chlorophyll a concentration was determined from the total phosphorus and chlorophyll a relationship reported by Brown (1997) for 209 Florida lakes. Adjusted chlorophyll a concentrations were then calculated by adding each lake's measured chlorophyll a concentration to the predicted chlorophyll a concentration.