



Build a Watershed NOAA Data Tool Extension

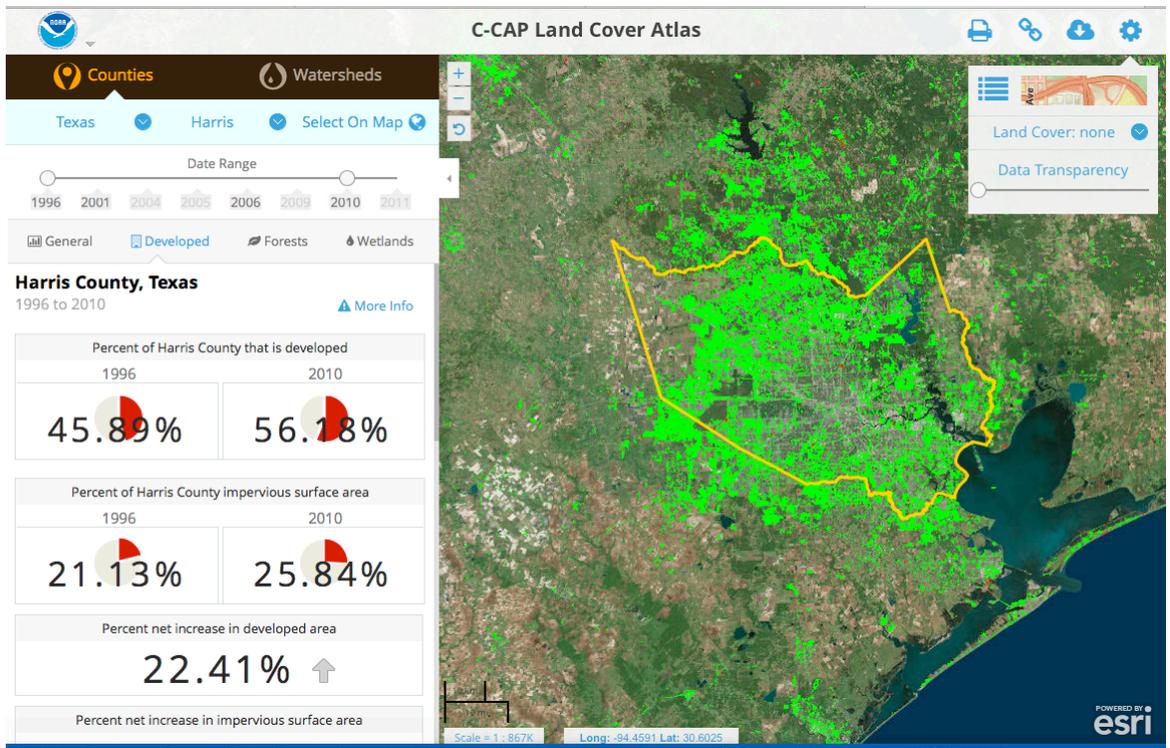
Background:

The type of land cover in a watershed is an important predictor of the health of larger water bodies. For example, a watershed that has a high amount of impervious cover (roads, concrete, etc.) will generally have worse water quality than an area with a lot of forested, wetland, or other green cover. This is because water cannot pass through impervious substrate, therefore all of the trash, oil, bacteria, and other pollutants are directly washed into the nearest body of water when it rains. In contrast, wetlands, forests, and other green spaces filter the rainwater runoff before it reaches a water body, helping to improve water quality.

The NOAA C-CAP Land Cover Atlas provides user-friendly access to coastal land cover and land cover change information developed through NOAA's Coastal Change Analysis Program (C-CAP). The tool eliminates the need for advanced technical expertise by processing data for the user and providing easy access to the distilled information. The tool summarizes general change trends (such as forest losses or new development) and provides tables, maps, and reports to enhance communication and decision-making.

Procedure:

1. Go to the NOAA C-CAP Land Cover Atlas at: <https://coast.noaa.gov/ccapatlas/>
2. At the blue bar near the top, select your state and county.
3. Click on the different land cover categories (General, Developed, Forests, and Wetlands)
4. Click on the different date ranges for each land cover category.
5. Fill out Tables 1-3 below for each land cover category on the C-CAP Worksheet



Integrating the arts & sciences for exploration & appreciation of coastal habitats.

C-CAP Worksheet

Table 1 – Developed Land Cover

| Developed Category | 1996 | 2001 | 2006 | 2010 |
|----------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Percent Land Developed | | | | |
| Percent Impervious Surface | | | | |
| Percent change in Developed Area | | | | |

Table 2 – Forested Land Cover

| Forested Category | 1996 | 2001 | 2006 | 2010 |
|--|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Percent Forested | | | | |
| Percent net change in forested area | | | | |
| Percent net change in upland forested area | | | | |
| Percent net change in forested wetland area | | | | |

Table 3 – Wetland Land Cover

| Wetland Category | 1996 | 2001 | 2006 | 2010 |
|---|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Percent wetland | | | | |
| Percent net change of total wetlands | | | | |
| Percent net change of freshwater (palustrine) wetlands | | | | |
| Percent net change of saltwater (estuarine) wetlands | | | | |

