

# How the water flows

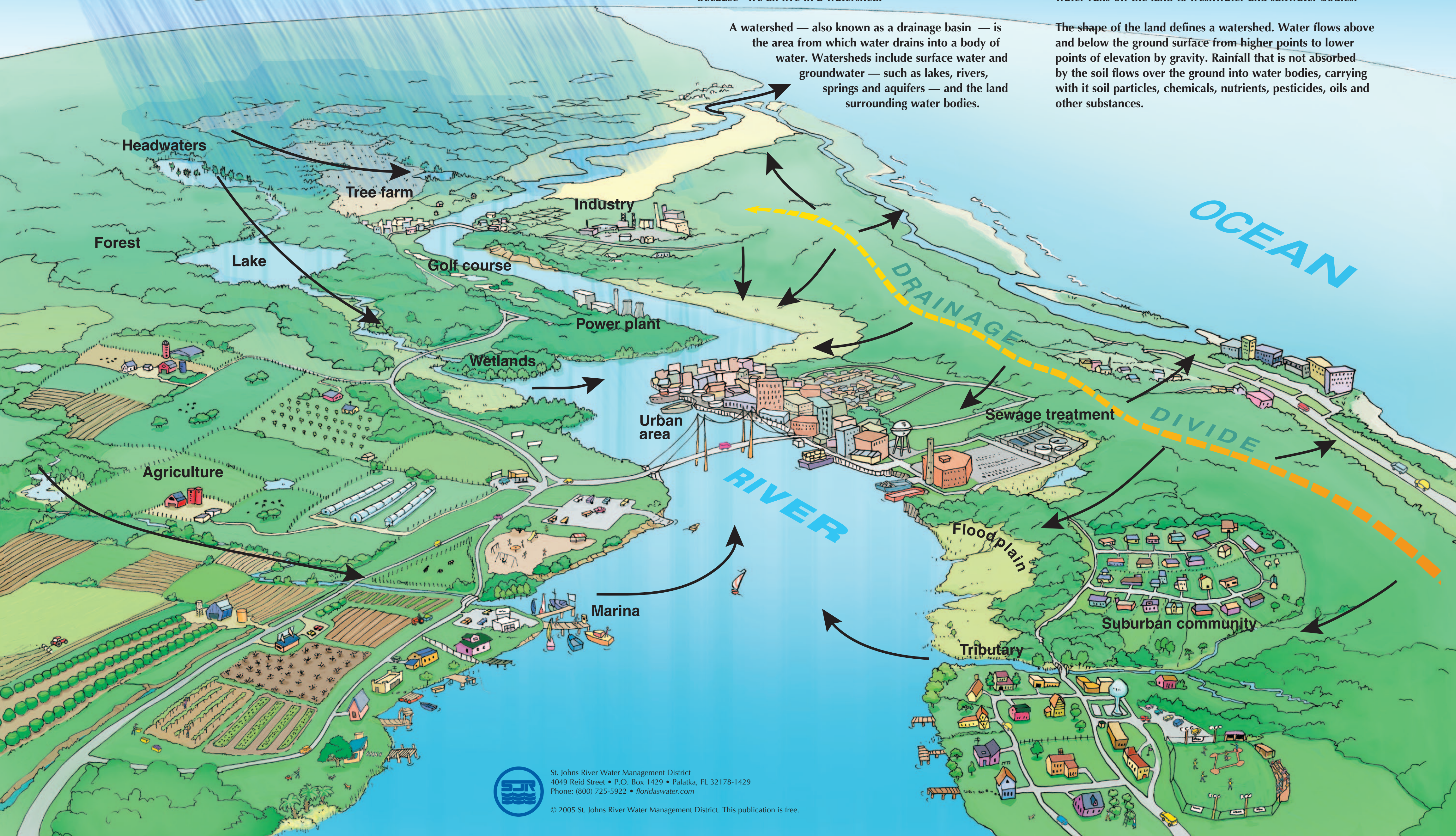
## A typical Florida watershed

We might not all live on or near a waterway, but what we all do has an impact on the health of Florida's waters. That's because "we all live in a watershed."

This poster represents a typical Florida watershed, showing different types of land uses and showing (with arrows) how water runs off the land to freshwater and saltwater bodies.

A watershed — also known as a drainage basin — is the area from which water drains into a body of water. Watersheds include surface water and groundwater — such as lakes, rivers, springs and aquifers — and the land surrounding water bodies.

The shape of the land defines a watershed. Water flows above and below the ground surface from higher points to lower points of elevation by gravity. Rainfall that is not absorbed by the soil flows over the ground into water bodies, carrying with it soil particles, chemicals, nutrients, pesticides, oils and other substances.



St. Johns River Water Management District  
4049 Reid Street • P.O. Box 1429 • Palatka, FL 32178-1429  
Phone: (800) 725-5922 • [floridaswater.com](http://floridaswater.com)

© 2005 St. Johns River Water Management District. This publication is free.