

## MINNESOTA NORTHLAND NEMO PROGRAM

# NEMO – Nonpoint Education for Municipal Officials



### ABOUT

NEMO - Nonpoint Education for Municipal Officials provides educational and skill building programming to elected and appointed officials and *community* leaders that increases their knowledge about the connection of land use and management decisions to water quality and natural resources. NEMO provides non-regulatory, researched-based education that emphasizes

- ✦ natural resources based **PLANNING**,
- ✦ application of low impact best management **PRACTICES (BMPs)** and
- ✦ adoption or revision of **POLICIES**

that collectively supportive community desires and needs to maintain and improve clean water resources and minimize impact.



The program meets these niche needs by concentrating its efforts in the following areas:

- 1) Delivering programming in specific communities including cities, counties, and watersheds.
- 2) Developing new tools for effective education and the transfer of knowledge, skills, and research findings.
- 3) Leading train-the-trainer workshops to increase capacity across the state and region.
- 4) Contributing to collaborative efforts to deliver larger regional NEMO-related educational conferences and seminars.

Northland NEMO is led by Minnesota Extension and Minnesota Sea Grant and is a collaborative of organizations in Minnesota and Wisconsin that work together to offer educational programming, provide resources, and creates effective tools to assist and enable communities to make informed decisions regarding land use and natural resources. The mission is to help Minnesota and Wisconsin communities protect and improve natural resources while accommodating growth and redevelopment.

[WWW.NORTHLANDNEMO.ORG](http://WWW.NORTHLANDNEMO.ORG)



## NEMO PROGRAM DELIVERABLES

### NEMO MODULES (PRESENTATIONS & WORKSHOPS)

Modules are used both as a single point delivery presentation, but more often used as part of a larger program or workshop that includes other tools, resources, and interactive education activities. A partial list of modules include:

- **Linking Land Use to Water Quality (NEMO 101)**
- **Introduction to Low Impact Development (LID)**
- **Trees, Roots, and Their Role in Stormwater Management**
- **Rain Gardens and Bioretention Practices**
- **Minnesota Minimal Impact Design Standards & Revised, Model Stormwater Ordinances**

### THE WATERSHED GAME

The **Watershed Game** is a tool to help individuals understand the connection and impact that land use decisions have on water and natural resources, increase the knowledge of best management practices (BMPs), and increase participant familiarity with methods to achieve better water quality. The Watershed Game includes three versions: Lake Model, River Model, and Stream Model.



**NEMO ON-THE-WATER WORKSHOP** An interactive, hands-on workshop for appointed and elected officials is held on the water with a Guided View curriculum connecting participants with the water resource they have partial responsibility in managing..

**NEMO LESSONS-ACROSS-THE-LANDSCAPE WORKSHOP** An interactive hands-on land-based workshop that brings local decision makers out on the landscape, into the watershed, to observe, discuss, and provides examples about how land use and land management impacts water & natural resources.

**CONFERENCES AND SYMPOSIUMS** NEMO coordinates or assists in developing and offering a number of local, state, regional, and national conferences and symposiums that support the objectives and serve the primary and secondary audiences. Examples include the **Minnesota Water Resources Conference** and the **Clean Water Summit - Green Infrastructure for Clean Water**.

### ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

[WWW.NORTHLANDNEMO.ORG](http://WWW.NORTHLANDNEMO.ORG)

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## NEMO EXPECTED OUTCOMES AND RESULTS

### PRIMARY AUDIENCE - ELECTED AND APPOINTED OFFICIALS AND COMMUNITY LEADERS

**Increase the depth of knowledge local decision makers in the following areas:**

- How land use and land management decisions can impact water quality and natural resources.
- Their role as local leaders to prevent, minimize, and mitigate impacts from land use (includes regulatory motivations and requirements).
- The various tools of plans, practices, and policies available to them to meet clean water goals.

**Increase the skill of local decision makers to:**

- Ask critical questions before making a land use - water related decisions or recommendations.
- Review proposals or projects with a critical vantage point looking for, requiring, or recommending components to prevent, minimize, or prevent impacts to water resources.

**Trigger action by local decision makers including:**

- Investment in watershed-based planning, revise existing comprehensive plans, and refer to plan goals and policies when making decisions or recommendations
- Support the implementation of BMPs by investing in cost-share programs, making technical assistance available, applying for local implementation grants, and implementing BMPs as example stewards.
- Review existing ordinances and policies for water protection and restoration and revise if necessary.

### SECONDARY AUDIENCE - WATER EDUCATORS AND NATURAL RESOURCE PROFESSIONALS

- Increase their knowledge and skills in effective methods and tools to carry out NEMO-based education programs.
- Collaborate and expand NEMO programming in Minnesota communities.
- Will use U of MN and other NEMO sourced tools to provide enhanced water and natural resource education.
- Dedicate funding and human capital for the NEMO Program.

