



Ohio NEMO Program

Program Initiated: July, 1999

How the Program Developed

In 1999, Ohio State University (OSU) Extension, the Ohio Department of Natural Resources and the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency created a new watershed initiative to help Ohio communities deal with the upcoming Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) and Stormwater Phase II regulatory programs.

Ohio Extension watershed staff, hearing of NEMO through the Land Grant University network, came to Connecticut in 1999 to learn more about the program. The meeting resulted in an Ohio NEMO Program, and a training workshop held in spring of 2000.

How/Where NEMO Works

Ohio NEMO is led by OSU Extension, but involves many partner organizations and agencies. Initial funding, which came from the USDA Water Quality Program, has now been replaced by funding that OSU Extension receives from the Ohio Watershed Initiative. A recent grant from NOAA is focused on increasing NEMO programming in the Great Lakes region, and cements

additional partnerships with the Ohio Coastal Management Program and Ohio Sea Grant. The state NEMO Coordinator oversees a multi-level educational program that involves five OSU Extension Watershed Agents, as well as running workshops for partner agency personnel that have trained 80 professional staff in

the presentation of NEMO materials to local officials. These trainees then work directly with local officials and watershed groups on stormwater management and other land use planning and natural resource issues. NEMO also conducts statewide topical workshops. For example, one featuring the national nonprofit *Center for Watershed Protection*, a NEMO

Network partner, was attended by 65 OSU students and 145 water and planning professionals. NEMO presentations, publications and other educational materials are available on the program's extensive website.

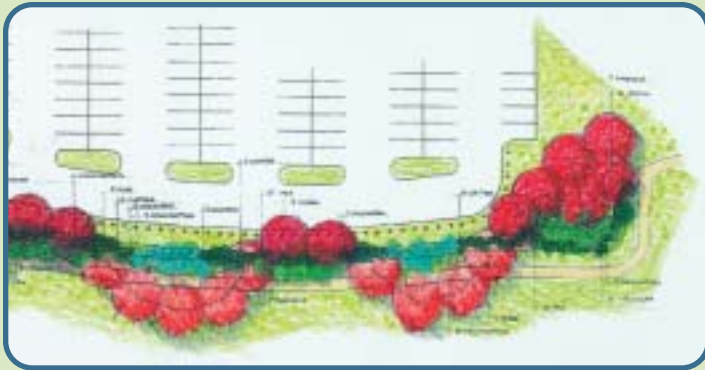


Accomplishments

Ohio NEMO has had true “bottom line” success in fostering real change at the local level. The City of Columbus used NEMO principles as a basis for developing a progressive stormwater overlay zone to help protect Darby Creek, a national and state designated scenic river. The City, which is the 15th largest metropolitan area in the United States, is considering a similar ordinance city-wide in the coming year. The village of New Albany has fully incorporated NEMO

(from top) An aerial view of Darby Creek area shows recent suburban growth. A soybean field at The Ohio State University's Waterman Farm facility grows with the Columbus skyline in the background. Photos courtesy of Jodi Miller, Ohio State University.

(below) A landscaping plan for a future bioretention swale designed to handle stormwater runoff from a 500-stall parking lot on Ohio State University's Campus.



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stormwater management principles into their regulations. Closer to home, Ohio NEMO worked within the University (a virtual city unto itself, with a student populace of 49,000) to develop a vegetated “bioretention” swale to treat the stormwater from a 500-stall parking area (above). The “CampUShed” project, devoted to reducing the environmental impacts of the OSU campus, is also developing other stormwater and stream restoration programs in concert with NEMO. Additional bioretention installations are cropping up in Ohio villages and towns, in part as a result of Ohio NEMO publications and programs.

The Future

Business is brisk for NEMO in the Buckeye State. The program has three additional conferences planned for the coming year,

including one on open space protection in concert with the Network Hub and the EPA's Smart Growth office. Work continues with the City of Columbus, to keep up the momentum of the landmark Darby Creek stormwater overlay. The partnership with CampUShed continues to grow. Finally, the program is beginning a new relationship with Franklin County to develop a natural resource-based comprehensive land use plan that NEMO Program Director Tim Lawrence of OSU Extension hopes “...will become a model for developing a quantifiable, parcel-by-parcel evaluation of important natural resources within a community.” Clearly, NEMO can play an important role as Ohio embraces revitalization of its urban areas and protection of its agricultural heritage.

On the Web at: nemo.osu.edu

Ohio NEMO is a charter member of the National NEMO Network.



Program Partners

Ohio State University Extension

Ohio Department of Natural Resources

Ohio Environmental Protection Agency

Soil & Water Conservation Districts

Ohio Stormwater Task Force

Ohio Watersheds Network

County Commissioners Association of Ohio

County Engineers Association of Ohio

Ohio Township Association

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