

# Changes to Plans



## With a Spotlight on South Carolina NEMO

**Community plans come in many forms: comprehensive plans, watershed plans, economic development plans, open space plans and many others. Regardless of the specific focus, all establish a vision and general guidelines related to how a community wants to look, grow and prosper. Therefore, it is important that such plans reflect the community's interest in protecting valued water (and other) resources. Development of new plans and updates to existing ones are a frequent result of NEMO educational programs.**

- ▶ **Truckee River Watershed, Nevada:** The NV NEMO Program, led by the University of Nevada Cooperative Extension, is working with communities along the Truckee River to implement a **watershed protection plan** for the tributary streams of the Truckee River. As part of the implementation, a low impact development (LID) manual is being developed to provide guidance to new developments. To date, a new 3,000 home development in the small rural community of Verdi is being required to use low impact development practices promoted in the manual.



*NV NEMO is helping implement a watershed protection plan for the Truckee River watershed.*

- ▶ **Bill Williams, Verde & Upper Gila Watersheds, Arizona:** The AZ NEMO Program, in partnership with the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality, has worked with local watershed groups to develop **watershed-based plans** for the Bill Williams, Verde and Upper Gila watersheds. Covering a little over 19,300 square miles, the watersheds have been mapped under the AZ NEMO Program and hydro-

logic modeling performed to identify areas susceptible to water quality impairment. The plans lay out the origins of nonpoint pollution and recommend management measures that should be put in place. NEMO is beginning this planning process for the Little Colorado, the Middle San Pedro and the Upper Agua Fria Watersheds.

- ▶ **Fairhope & Trussville, Alabama:** As a result of AL NEMO's educational efforts and support, the fast-growing City of Fairhope has developed a **Master Plan** that encourages the creation of walkable villages and preserves open space along waterfront areas. Trussville, located in Alabama's fastest growing region (Birmingham), is developing **greenway and open space plans**. (See *Regulations* section for more on Trussville's actions, page 18.)
- ▶ **Northport, Maine:** Northport incorporated watershed planning for nonpoint source pollution management into their **comprehensive plan** after working with the ME NEMO Program.



► **California:** The California Coastal Commission, which leads the CA NEMO Partnership, has begun requiring that the state’s 73 coastal cities and counties include **stormwater management plans** to address water quality impacts resulting from development in the coastal land use plans they must prepare. Common requirements include: siting and designing development to preserve the infiltration, purification and retention functions of natural drainage systems; minimizing increases in peak runoff rates; minimizing impervious surfaces in new development and redevelopment; inclusion of effective site design and source control Best Management Practices (BMPs) in all developments; and minimizing land disturbance during construction.



*IN NEMO is helping communities consider natural resource protection in their comprehensive plans.*

► **Dearborn, Howard & Elkhart Counties, Indiana:** The Indiana NEMO effort, *Planning with POWER*, worked with Dearborn and Howard Counties to incorporate natural resource protection language and guidance into their recently completed **county comprehensive land use plans**. POWER also helped Elkhart County update their com-

prehensive plan for the first time in 40 years, inserting new sections on farmland protection and watershed projects.

► **Woodstock, Connecticut:** Working with CT NEMO, Woodstock conducted a natural resources inventory, which was incorporated into a revision of the town’s Open Space Plan. The **Open Space Plan** was then incorporated into an update of the town **Comprehensive Plan**. Woodstock is also developing an **Economic Development Plan**.



*Old Saybrook, Connecticut has worked with CT NEMO to identify and protect critical recreational and conservation properties.*

► **Old Saybrook, Connecticut:** Working with CT NEMO, Old Saybrook has developed a **Plan for Conservation Areas** which identifies properties critical for their recreational and conservation value

or potential. The Planning and Zoning Commission now consults with the Conservation Commission in evaluating open space acquisitions under the plan’s standards. The town is also working to incorporate the Plan into their **Plan of Conservation and Development**.

► **Suffolk County, New York:** The NY NEMO Program, coordinated by New York Sea Grant and focused on Long Island, served on the Steering Committee for the Suffolk County **North Shore Embayments Management Plan**. The plan addresses the County’s Long Island Sound bays and harbors, with a specific focus on priority sub-watersheds. Noting that, “Implementation of Phase II Storm



*NY NEMO is helping Long Island Communities address Phase II stormwater issues.*

*Water Management Plans by local municipalities may have the largest impact on nitrogen management in Long Island Sound of any existing program,”* the draft plan goes on to recognize NY NEMO as a resource for improving municipal reduction of nitrogen inputs to the Sound and for facilitating effective municipal Phase II compliance.

# Spotlight on South Carolina

## Planning for Growth Along a Rapidly Growing Coastline

The South Carolina Sea Grant Extension Program (SCSGEP) and its partners started a NEMO project to help coastal communities protect natural resources while also planning for and accommodating growth.

After an initial pilot project in the Waccamaw watershed along South Carolina's northern coast, the program has expanded its efforts to watersheds throughout the state, providing educational programs in nearly 60% of the counties. Nevertheless, the rapid development of previously undeveloped lands along the coast has required a targeted coastal effort. Thus, NEMO launched the Coastal Community Initiative (CCI) grants program to provide intensive support and training focused on the development of land management



policies and practices to reduce polluted stormwater runoff, protect local natural resources and encourage sustainable development.

The Town of Edisto Beach in Colleton County, the Town of Bluffton in Beaufort County, and Horry County were chosen to each receive a CCI grant award of \$2,500. As a result, more than \$17,000 in additional funds were leveraged by these communities for project implementation. The SCSGEP staff provided water quality educational and technical assistance training to the local officials, in addition to providing input and recommendations on best management practices for reducing polluted runoff. All three communities have made good use of the educational and technical assistance.

The Town of Edisto Beach, which lies just south of Charleston, incorporated SC NEMO's recommendations on pervious and semi-pervious surfaces and the maintenance of roads and storm drains in the sections of its Comprehensive Plan for new development and water quality recommendations. After the comprehensive plan revisions were approved, the Town began to implement the plan by adopting ordinance changes that encourage on-site treatment of pol-

luted runoff with landscaping and buffer requirements, and the reduction of impervious surfaces through limitations on lot size and dwelling size. Edisto Beach is now in the process of completing an area-wide stormwater management plan and developing further code recommendations for zoning changes to further control runoff.

The Town of Bluffton, faced with overwhelming development pressures on and around the popular Hilton Head Island, used the grant funding to research and develop a map of the critical natural resources within the community. Based on the Critical Resources Map and Survey, the town has revised the natural resources portion of its comprehensive plan and drafted natural resource pro-

tection ordinances for wetlands, floodplains, trees, wildlife habitat and stormwater, all of which are awaiting final approval from the Town Council.

Horry County, which borders North Carolina and includes the resort mecca of Myrtle Beach, conducted an open space inventory of the County with NEMO's assistance and then developed an Open Space Plan that will be included in the County's Comprehensive Plan, currently under revision.



Federal, state and local staff tour buffers created along golf course ponds on Kiawah Island, South Carolina.

### Contact South Carolina NEMO

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