

## **The Watershed Game: An interactive activity about land use and water quality**

*Julie Westerlund*

Gather 'round assume your role as a land use manager in the watershed of a river, stream, or lake! You will be charged with selecting best management practices to clean up a pollution problem in your community. But there's a catch! The BMPs cost money and you only get so much. See if you and your watershed neighbors can fix the pollution before the game runs out. In this activity, you will learn about a variety of best management practices, water regulatory programs, and get exposure to an activity you can use with elected and appointed officials to illustrate the importance of land use impacts on water quality.

### **Biography for Julie Westerlund**

Julie Westerlund is the Clean Water Coordinator for the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. Julie started out at DNR as a fisheries research biologist, then moved into coordination work with trout stream watersheds and community assistance, where she helped local communities understand land use impacts to water quality through the NEMO (Nonpoint Education for Municipal Officials) program. In the early 2000s, she became the Education and Communications Manager at the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District, where she ran multiple programs and events to raise awareness and change behavior at the local level. She returned to DNR in her current role in November of 2010.

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