

ADOPT a DRAIN

Every stormdrain connects to a local lake, wetland, or stream.

Join VLAWMO and dozens of volunteers actively helping to keep storm drains tidy and water resources clean.

Keeping drains clear is easy:

◦ PROMOTE CLEAN WATER

Leaves and grass clippings bring excess nutrients such as phosphorus and nitrogen into water bodies, causing algae blooms, low oxygen levels, and harm to aquatic life. Leaves and grass also collect trash, motor oil, gasoline, and other debris that doesn't belong in a lake. Water in VLAWMO leads to Vadnais Lake, a public source of drinking water.

◦ HELP MAINTAIN INFRASTRUCTURE

Even with street sweepers and a dedicated staff, Cities are unable to consistently maintain thousands of drains all year. Every time a drain is cleaned, the life of the drain as well as the infrastructure below the street is lengthened, saving time and money.

◦ REDUCE FLOODING

Debris can clog stormdrains quickly and without warning. The best team to prevent flash floods on streets are the residents and businesses on the ground and close to the action.



“ONLY RAIN DOWN THE DRAIN”



*For residents and businesses within the **VLAWMO** watershed:

North Oaks, WBL, WB Twnshp, Gem Lake, Vadnais Heights, Lino Lakes
Visit **VLAWMO.org** and click “find” for a map of the watershed.

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What do I do?

◦ PLAN

Locate the drains closest to your home or business, and identify the number and location of the drains you'd like to adopt. Businesses or neighbors can team up to adopt one or several drains.

◦ REGISTER

Sign up at VLAWMO.org/get-involved*. Identify the street or intersection and the compass direction that the drain(s) are located on the street. Also include a name, address, and email of someone leading the effort. VLAWMO will display adopted drains on the website, with names of businesses or homeowners (optional).

◦ TEND

Anything that's not water shouldn't be in the drain. Check stormdrains and surrounding street surface a minimum of **three times a month**. Sweep up leaves, sand, grass clippings, salt, and trash as needed. Pull weeds by hand (chemicals will go straight to water), and keep extra watch for debris during messy months (Spring and Fall). Leaves and grass may be treated as yardwaste, but sediment must go into the trash. Contact your local public works department if blockages can't be removed by hand.

◦ REPORT!

VLAWMO will guide volunteers in reporting pounds of debris that's removed from drains. Data provides results and helps the program grow.

