

LANDSCAPE LEVEL 1 GRANT GUIDANCE

This program exists to provide assistance to public and private landowners for implementing projects that support one or more of the following:

- Prevention of flooding or mitigation of drought
- Water quality improvement or increase in watershed storage capacity
- Preservation, protection, and restoration of native plant and wildlife communities, especially along lakes, rivers, and wetlands
- Protection and preservation of groundwater quality and quantity

Available funds will vary by year. Once the annual amount is depleted, applicants will be advised to reapply the following year. VLAWMO may offer to fund 75% of the cost of materials and contracted labor; up to a \$2000.00 maximum.

ELIGIBILITY

Grants are available to those who are property owners within the VLAWMO area.

Examples of eligible projects include:

- Raingardens
- Redirect water runoff projects
- Volume reduction and runoff treatment projects (infiltration basins and trenches, cisterns, green roofs, filtration)
- Unique solutions for soil erosion and sediment control practices
- Native habitat restoration with priority given to waterways, lakes, ponds, buffers, and wetlands
- Purchase of rainbarrels to recycle rainwater
- Pervious asphalt and pavers

The following conditions exist to meet eligibility requirements for expenses shared:

- Eligible materials are those which stay on the property such as plants, erosion control blanket, mulch, and top soil. Ineligible materials would include work gloves, shovels, tools and equipment used to implement the project but may be used again for future projects.
- Eligible labor costs must be contracted and are subject to approval by VLAWMO staff. Ineligible labor would include the use of friends or a volunteer group helping to implement the project.
- If the project is a planting project, at least 50% of the plants used must be native to this ecoregion.
- Projects completed or in progress are not eligible for funding. A grant agreement must be signed by the applicant and VLAWMO prior to the commencement of work.
- Submitted projects must be for items above and beyond VLAWMO's minimum Development Standards.
- A site visit by VLAWMO staff is required once the project is complete before a reimbursement check is released to the Grantee.
- Grantee must complete project and submit reimbursement request within one (1) year from date of grant approval.
- **Grantee must agree to maintain the project area for a minimum of 5 years.** Maintenance includes weeding, watering, removal of invasive species, replacement of plants, repair of inlets/outlets, and other duties to ensure that the project is providing the intended water quality benefit. The site may be inspected by VLAWMO staff on an annual basis to ensure compliance.
- Property owners may receive one Landscape Level 1 Cost Share Grant or one Landscape Level 2 Cost Share Grant per calendar year.

EVALUATION CRITERIA

Projects will be judged on the following:

- Are the activities and goals clearly stated and support one or more of the Landscape Grant Program purposes?
- Are there concisely defined, measurable results? What are the pollutant reduction estimates for the proposed project (using MIDS calculator or other comparable method)?
- Has a reasonable budget, work plan, and timeline been submitted?
- What water resources border the property? Is it within priority drainage areas or provide water quality treatment for large pieces of land?

SELECTION PROCESS

The VLAWMO Technical Commission (TEC) will consider Landscape Level 1 grant applications at their monthly meetings, held on the 2nd Friday each month. **Applications must be received by the 25th of the month PRIOR to the next TEC meeting.** This is a competitive grant program and proposals that are incomplete will not be referred to the TEC for consideration.

Funding Agreement

Each project selected will enter into an agreement with VLAWMO defining the obligations of the applicant and VLAWMO. This includes, but is not limited to, such items as terms of the agreement, use of funds, cost overruns, and cancellation. The agreement also allows VLAWMO access to the project area for evaluation and promotion of the project. Applicant is responsible for securing any and all permits for the work. This agreement must be signed by both parties prior to commencement of work on the project; funding will only cover work done after the agreement has been signed.

Applications can be submitted through the online form on the VLAWMO website, via email to Kristine Jenson at kristine.jenson@vlawmo.org or via US Mail to:

Kristine Jenson

Vadnais Lake Area Water Management Organization

800 East County Rd E

Vadnais Heights, MN 55127