

# OPERATIONS & OUTREACH

VLAWMO's primary source of income is Storm Sewer Utility (SSU) fees. The average single family homeowner in VLAWMO pays \$28.92/year (\$2.41/month) to support projects and programs that improve the watershed.

Additional funding for projects comes from grants from the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) and the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Recourses (LCCMR).

## OUTREACH

- Outreach initiatives for 2018 covered all ages and almost every community in the watershed. Examples include:
- Picture posts installed on Sucker and Pleasant Lakes.
  - Over a dozen newspaper articles
  - Stakeholder meetings for Goose Lake improvement efforts.
  - Continued growth in volunteer activity, including stormdrain clean-ups and adopt-a-drain.
  - Native plant and raingarden workshops.
  - Raingarden maintenance efforts with schools (pictured below).



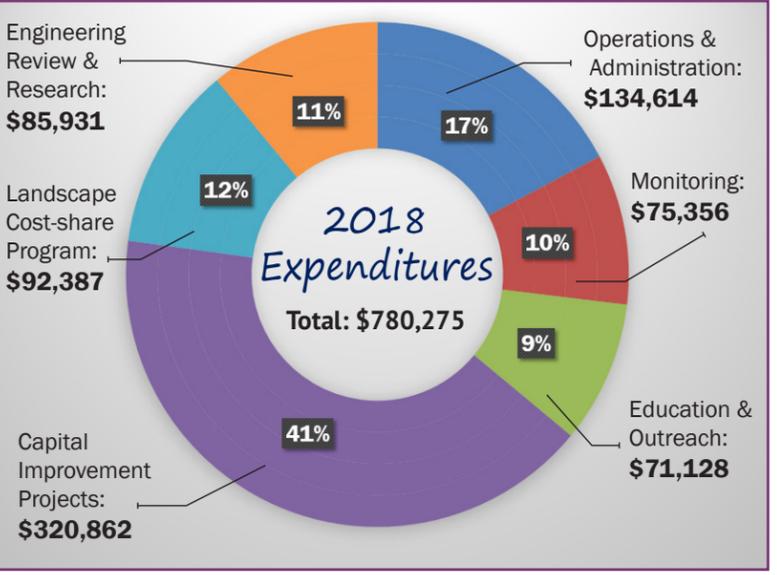
Visit [adopt-a-drain.org](http://adopt-a-drain.org) to join in!



## 2018 Quick Stats:



## FINANCE



## COST-SHARE PROGRAM

VLAWMO completed 18 cost-share grants in 2018. These grants supported the creation of raingardens, native plantings, permeable pavement, shoreline restoration, and rainbarrels. The projects all together total 56,507 ft<sup>2</sup>, and infiltrate an estimated 123,172 gallons of water per year. 4 of the projects were native plantings, 2 were permeable driveways, 2 were raingardens, 1 was a shoreline restoration, and 9 were rainbarrels.

## REGULATIONS

\*As a local governing unit, VLAWMO administers the Wetland Conservation Act (WCA). WCA oversees new development as it pertains to wetland conservation. Any wetlands lost to development, by law, are to be replaced either on-site or elsewhere in the state through the purchase of wetland banking credits.

# ANNUAL REPORT SUMMARY



Established in 1983, VLAWMO is a unit of government co-created by Gem Lake, Lino Lakes, North Oaks, Vadnais Heights, White Bear Lake, and White Bear Township. Together, we use science and partnerships to protect and improve the water resources in the watershed.

## From the administrator

VLAWMO turns 36 years old this year and we are busier than ever. The Whitaker Treatment Wetlands were installed and the preliminary results are looking promising! Education and outreach efforts grew with the addition of Master Water Stewards. Several studies were completed, including a survey of Lambert Creek and its branch ditches. Special water monitoring projects laid the foundation for upcoming projects. We look forward to 2019, particularly with upcoming work on Birch and Goose Lakes.



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## Looking Ahead

### SPENT LIME STUDY

VLAWMO is working with Barr Engineering to conduct a spent lime study in Oak Knoll Pond/Wood Lake. As a feeder pond into Goose Lake, this study will analyze the effect of spent lime on excess nutrient levels. Results will inform future treatment options for Goose Lake, which is listed as impaired by the State of Minnesota.



### 4TH & OTTER HOTSPOT

VLAWMO is working with Ramsey County, the City of White Bear Lake, and Barr Engineering to install a sand-iron filter at 4th and Otter near Birch Lake. This filter will collect of stormwater runoff from 85.3 acres each year. This location has shown to a hotspot for excess nutrients entering Birch Lake.

### What can you do?

Water stewardship includes everyday lawn care, fixing auto leaks, proper use of de-icers, water conservation, and more. Learn how to help on our website under the 'Residents' tab. Check out the Watershed Action Volunteers (WAV) or adopt a nearby stormdrain to be a leader.

[www.vlawmo.org](http://www.vlawmo.org)



# 2018

- Board of Directors:**
- Dan Jones, White Bear Lake Chair
  - Rob Rafferty, Lino Lakes Treasurer
  - Marty Long, North Oaks
  - Ed Prudhon, WB Township
  - Jim Lindner, Gem Lake
  - Terry Nyblom, Vadnais Heights

# WHAT DID WE DO IN 2018?

## Whitaker Treatment Wetlands

After a multiple years of planning and construction, The Whitaker Wetlands project is now up and running.

Three engineered wetland cells are testing which soils are most effective at treating polluted stormwater runoff. Contaminants in focus include excess nutrients and E.coli bacteria (avian and canine). Water samples are taken throughout the growing season. Visit [vlawmo.org/projects](http://vlawmo.org/projects) for more information and a video on how it works.

## Raingarden & Native Plant Workshops

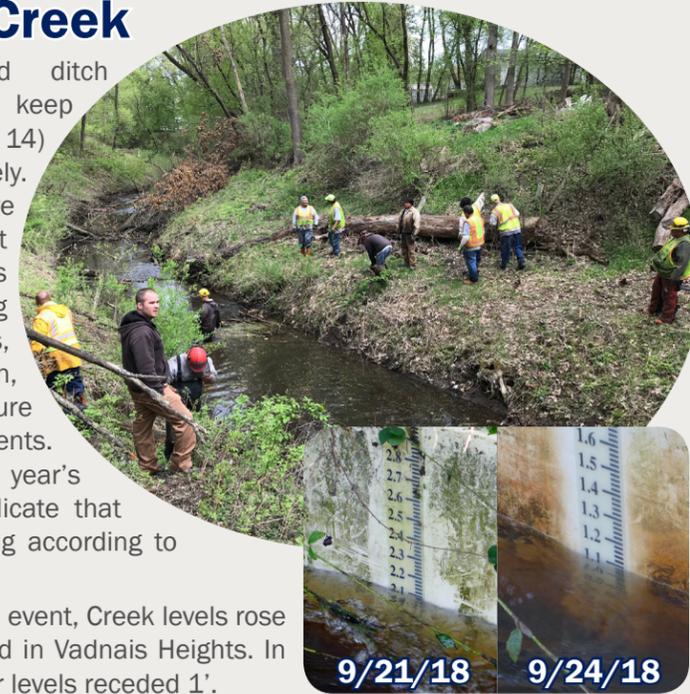
Our Spring workshops taught residents how to install raingardens and native plants on their properties. For the second year in a row, the native plant workshop has grown in popularity. Both raingardens and native plantings are covered in VLAWMO's cost-share program. Check out [vlawmo.org/grants](http://vlawmo.org/grants) for grant information and examples of how residents are taking a cooperative strategy to deal with tricky drainage issues.



## Lambert Creek

VLAWMO conducted ditch cleaning efforts to keep Lambert Creek (Ditch 14) functioning effectively. A comprehensive study of Lambert Creek's drainage was completed, providing baseline elevations, floodplain information, and guidance for future ditch improvements. Observation of the year's heaviest rainfalls indicate that the creek is operating according to ditch operating laws.

Following a 3.75" rain event, Creek levels rose to 2.1' at Kohler Road in Vadnais Heights. In three days time, water levels receded 1'.



9/21/18 9/24/18

## Smart Salting & Turf Maintenance



Working independently and with neighboring watershed districts, VLAWMO provided two workshops for public and private maintenance staff. These workshops instructed on sustainable de-icing and turf practices that reduce impact on the watershed while continuing to provide quality services to the community.

## Lake Plans



Sustainable Lake Management Plans (SLMP's) were completed for Deep and Charley Lakes. These plans consist of vegetation studies, lake depth studies, analysis of water quality issues, and drainage patterns from the area surrounding the lakes. The plans serve as guides for grant applications and future improvement projects.

## Sucker Channel

The Sucker Channel restoration at Vadnais/Sucker Park is complete. This project was a partnership between Ramsey County Parks, the Saint Paul Water Service, and VLAWMO. The new channel features a stabilized shoreline that protects Sucker Lake and public drinking water with a buffer of native plants.



## VLAWMO HISTORY

**1983**  
**VLAWMO founded.**  
A response to the Metropolitan Surface Water Management Act.

**1987**  
**First Watershed Plan Adopted.** Watershed accepts ditch authority for County ditches 14 (Lambert) and 13 (Dillon)

**1991**  
**Wetland Conservation Act (WCA)**  
VLAWMO becomes the local governing unit (LGU) to administer WCA; a state law to ensure a zero-net-loss of crucial wetland resources.

**1993**  
**Whitaker Pond Construction**  
A storage pond for 640 acres of stormwater runoff.

**1996**  
**Rice Lake & Grass Lake Control Structures**  
Installations to help improve water quality, flooding, and erosion on Lambert Creek won a national award for technical excellence.

**2004**  
**Structure & Program Growth**  
Second staff added, cost share program begins, governance changes expand funding.

**2007**  
**Lambert Lake Pond**  
Installation of a pond at the site of former Lambert Lake, which was ditched in the early 1900's. The new pond trapped sediments and nutrients and alleviated flooding.

**2009**  
**Whitaker Pond Forebay**  
Whitaker Pond forebay added for sediment trapping.

**2014**  
**TMDL Approved**  
A Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) study is approved by the EPA. Documents needs, setting goals and guiding lake and creek improvement efforts.

**2017**  
**Water Plan & JPA**  
VLAWMO's 4th Water Management Plan and Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) with Cities adopted.

**2018**  
**Project Construction**  
Whitaker Treatment Wetlands and Sucker Channel Restoration were installed. Many more projects were installed over the decades, and can be found at [vlawmo.org/projects](http://vlawmo.org/projects)

**Technical Commission:**

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White Bear Lake  
Chair

**Mark Graham**  
Vadnais Heights  
Chair

**Bob Larson**  
North Oaks  
Treasurer

**Marty Asleson**  
Lino Lakes

**Gloria Tessier**  
Gem Lake

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