



## **2019 Watershed Action Volunteer (WAV) Positions**

VLAWMO requests volunteers to hold positions for the time outlined in each position description. Volunteers may renew their role upon completion of the outlined timeframe. VLAWMO provides certificate of achievement, letterhead for hours documentation, and mentorship to help build experience and knowledge in the field of water resources.

### **Citizen Advisory Commission (CAC):**

See CAC description and application on separate form.

### **Raingarden Chamberlain:**

#### Primary Responsibilities:

- Gather and motivate other WAV members and community members to help with raingarden maintenance at select public raingardens.
- Plan, advertise, and facilitate maintenance events. Design outreach flyers to be approved by VLAWMO.
- Coordinate disposal of debris to County yard waste site.

#### Secondary Responsibilities:

- Photograph events and before/after maintenance. Organize photos by event.
- Gather feedback from participants, summarize, and report to VLAWMO.
- Outline goals as a volunteer and receive mentorship from VLAWMO staff.

#### Timeframe:

Spring (March 4<sup>th</sup>-June 21<sup>st</sup>), and/or Fall (September 4<sup>th</sup>-November 15<sup>th</sup>).

30 hrs per season minimum, plan on volunteer's schedule, hold events during evenings and weekends.

## **Watershed Yard Care Promoter:**

### Primary Responsibilities:

- Network and reach out to neighbors asking them to try a yard care best practice that supports the watershed
- Take video and photograph local residents engaging in yard care best practices:
  - Downspout redirect
  - Lawn mowing/watering practices
  - Adopt-a-drain
  - Proper salt use

### Secondary Responsibilities:

- Gather feedback from residents about the practice they are trying out.
- Organize photos and video.
- Create educational memes or videos depending on tools and skill level.

### Timeframe:

Spring (March 4<sup>th</sup>-June 21<sup>st</sup>), and/or Fall (September 4<sup>th</sup>-November 15<sup>th</sup>).

40 hrs per season. Schedule entirely determined by volunteer, visit VLAWMO office for planning during weekday working hours.

## **Watershed Photographer:**

### Primary Responsibilities:

- Call VLAWMO cost-share participants to coordinate photographs of VLAWMO-funded shorelines, native plantings, and raingardens. Invite residents to be in photos.
- Assemble highlight photos and organize them according to location.

### Secondary Responsibilities:

- Facilitate a watershed photo contest and gallery viewing.
- Photograph scenery (animals, birds, lakes, wetlands) around the watershed at different times of day and in different seasons.

### Timeframe:

4-month commitment: Begin March-July.

60-120 hrs. Schedule entirely determined by volunteer and cost-share recipients, visit VLAWMO office for planning during weekday working hours.

Independent transportation preferred.

## **Watershed Storyteller:**

### Primary Responsibilities:

- Use VLAWMO's list of cost-share recipients and work with the watershed photographer to contact residents.
- Conduct a mini-interview with cost-share recipients about their motivation, interest, and how they did their project. Modeled off of a VLAWMO interview template

### Secondary Responsibilities:

- Write-up interview with supporting photos from photographer.

### Timeframe:

4-month commitment: Begin March-July.

40-60 hrs. Schedule entirely determined by volunteer and cost-share recipients, visit VLAWMO office for planning during weekday working hours.

## **Neighborhood Event Planner:**

### Primary Responsibilities:

- Brainstorm with VLAWMO staff and other volunteers to coordinate fun, custom neighborhood events. Options include:
  - Spring plant swap
  - Neighborhood raingarden walk/bike tour with walking potluck
  - Kombucha tasting (i.e. "clean water for lakes & kombucha")
  - Trash pick-up, storm drain clean-up, etc.
  - Host neighborhood house parties focused on VLAWMO's watershed role play game. Rent kit and facilitate game with a group of friends and neighbors.
  - Coordinate around national night out, Earth Day, or other events.
- Provide watershed resources at event, such as lake fact sheets and cost-share information. Integrate event into a watershed theme (clean water, pollinators, keep stormdrains clean, etc.)

### Secondary Responsibilities:

- Work with VLAWMO to advertise and summarize the event.
- Apply for Community Blue funds as available and when applicable.

### Timeframe:

5-month commitment: Begin March-July.

80-100 hrs. Schedule entirely determined by volunteer, visit VLAWMO office for planning during weekday working hours.

Independent transportation preferred.

## **Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Detector:**

### Primary Responsibilities:

- Attend a training with Ramsey County to learn about aquatic plants.
- Review and become familiar with information from VLAWMO about aquatic plants.
- Acquire supplies with help from VLAMWO (rake, rope, etc.)
- Actively monitor your nearest lake for new invasive species infestations, and changes among existing invasive species.
- Contact proper authorities in the case of a new infestation.

### Secondary Responsibilities:

- Photograph monitoring in action and help recruit other AIS volunteers.

### Timeframe:

Any time with open water, 2+ years preferred. Plan around Ramsey County schedule for training, monitor on volunteer's schedule.



## Short-term Opportunities

Easy, low-commitment volunteering for groups, scouts, congregations, students, or neighborhood associations. VLAWMO provides letterhead documentation for service hours.

### Stormdrain Clean-up Event:



- Review the activity on our website: [vlawmo.org/get-involved](http://vlawmo.org/get-involved)
- Rent a kit with all the tools necessary, including a map of where to work from watershed staff.
- Coordinate a group and implement stormdrain clean-up and labeling.
- Help VLAMWO distribute educational brochures to residents.
- Can be easily combined with general trash pick-up in a targeted area. Especially relevant in Spring when roads are at their messiest.



## Short-term Opportunities

Volunteering for groups, scouts, congregations, or neighborhood associations. VLA WMO provides letterhead documentation for service hours.

## Adopt-a-Raingarden:



- Check out which community raingarden is closest to you.
- Sign-up to be on the volunteer team for helping to maintain that raingarden.
- Schedule within the team on maintenance activities, contact VLA WMO staff for questions.
- Dispose of plant debris at a county compost facility.
- Commit to a season, a year, or long-term maintenance.

### Gardens needing adoption include:

- Vadnais Heights Elementary
- Central Middle School Bioswale
- Vadnais Heights South Fire Dept
- Lakeaires Elementary
- Fox Meadow Raingarden in White Bear Township
- Chippewa Middle School
- Heritage Hall raingarden in Gem Lake



## Short-term Opportunities

Volunteering for groups, scouts, congregations, or neighborhood associations. VLAJMO provides letterhead documentation for service hours.

## Adopt-a-Drain:



- Sign-up at [VLAJMO.org/get-involved](http://VLAJMO.org/get-involved) to get a packet in the mail.
- Clean your nearest storm drain individually (or with a neighbor) on your own schedule.
- Report an estimate for how much debris you removed from the storm drain to VLAJMO.
- In Spring 2019, this will transfer over to [www.adopt-a-drain.org](http://www.adopt-a-drain.org).