Rain Barrel Grant Application

Landowners may purchase and receive reimbursement for up to 2 rain barrels and applicable installation equipment per grant year. VLAWMO will reimburse 50% of the cost, up to \$100 for each rain barrel. Total reimbursement cannot be more than \$200. Reimbursement is on a first come, first served basis until grant funds are depleted. VLAWMO reserves discretion in determining the eligible materials, grant funding, and reimbursement amounts.

Steps for Reimbursement:

- 1. Submit completed application.
- 2. Submit copies of paid receipts/invoices for the rain barrel(s). Rain barrel(s) purchased must be clearly stated on proof of purchase. Proof of purchase may not be more than 2 years past the day the application is received.
- 3. VLAWMO review of application & notification of application completeness.

Application:

Name:			
Address:			
City/Township, State, Zip:			
Phone:			
Email:			
Signature & Date:			
GRANT AMOUNT REQUESTE	D	# OF RAIN BARRELS PURCHASED:	

Send completed application via mail/email to:

Lauren Sampedro, Watershed Technician & Program Coordinator 800 County Road E East | Vadnais Heights, MN 55127 lauren.sampedro@vlawmo.org | (651) 204-6071

VLAWMO may inspect rain barrel grant projects for up to 5 years after grant approval. By signing, the grantee agrees and certifies the approved rain barrel(s) will be installed as rain water capture or storage device(s) and be contained within the VLAWMO boundary. VLAWMO reserves the right to deny all future grant applications if these criteria are not met.





Soil Health Grant Policy



The Soil Health Grant Program is a reimbursement program to help landowners install small-scale practices that improve water quality and soil health within the VLAWMO watershed. Applicants may apply for 75% of the project cost, up to a maximum of \$1,000. An applicant may apply for up to \$1,250 if located in a <u>VLAWMO priority area</u>.

Eligible Projects:

- Native plantings & pollinator gardens
- Turf grass replacement and pollinator-friendly yards (i.e. bee lawns)
- Downspout or small-scale yard raingardens
- Buffer strips
- Erosion control or stabilization

Ineligible Projects:

- Non-native plant landscaping, decorative, or recreational projects
- Retaining walls
- Chemical treatment of aquatic vegetation
- Projects that have received funding from other VLAWMO grant programs in the same year
- Maintenance of awarded grant projects

There are more living organisms in 1 Tbsp of soil than there are people on earth.



Soil Health Grant Process:

Soil Health Grant funding is available to landowners within the VLAWMO boundary. The grant program operates on a first-come, first-served basis. Applications must be submitted by the 4th Friday of the month for review and potential consideration at VLAWMO's Technical Commission (TEC) meetings.

- 1. Contact staff to schedule a site visit of your property and discuss your proposed project before submittal of a grant application.
- 2. Complete a grant application and submit to staff listed on the grant application.
- 3. VLAWMO will review application and confirm completeness.
- 4. Complete applications will be presented at the next VLAWMO TEC meeting per its meeting schedule.
- 5. VLAWMO will notify applicant of application status and next steps.

It takes at least 500 years to form 1" of topsoíl.

Program Details: Planning for Success

		 Projects started prior to VLAWMO approval are not eligible. A grant application must be approved for funding, and the grant agreement must be signed by the applicant and VLAWMO prior to starting work.
		Changes to the project after grant approval may not be made without VLAWMO approval.
Start & Finish	 Eligible project costs are those only directly related to installing the proposed project such as plants, erosion control materials, mulch, drainage structures, and rented equipment. Purchased tools and equipment are not eligible. Eligibility of materials is subject to VLAWMO approval. 	
	 Grant awards will expire within 1 year of grant approval unless the project is extended with VLAWMO approval. 	
		 Landowners are limited to 1 grant application every other year unless a single project must be completed in phases and approved by VLAWMO.
		 Grantee must agree to maintain the project for at least 5 years. The site may be inspected by VLAWMO staff to ensure compliance.
Labor & Plant	pecifics	 Eligible labor costs must be those associated with a landscaper/contractor subject to approval by VLAWMO staff. VLAWMO reserves the right to adjust costs submitted for reimbursement based on final paid receipts and invoices. Reimbursement will not exceed the cost of eligible materials and labor.
8	S.	Erosion control activities must use natural erosion control material (i.e. non-plastic).
Labor Spe	 For all projects, only plants native to MN are eligible for reimbursement. Hybrids/ cultivars of native plants are not eligible unless otherwise noted on VLAWMO's cost share plant guide. Bee lawns must use specially marked bee lawn mixes. A list of proposed plants must be included with the application for VLAWMO review and approval. 	
he		Grantee must participate in VLAWMO's education efforts by:
ng t	tory	\Rightarrow Providing photos of project progress including before, during installation, freshly completed, and one year after project completion; OR
Telli	Ś	\Rightarrow Providing a posed picture with completed project & short quote about what was enjoyable about the project or lessons learned.
_	_	

Reimbursement Steps:

- 1. Execute grant agreement with VLAWMO.
- 2. After project completion, contact VLAWMO staff to request a final inspection of the project for verification it meets the approved plans. This must occur within 1 year from the date of grant approval.
- 3. Submit all **paid** invoices and receipts of project expenses for VLAWMO review. Plant expenses must show species on proof of payment or via grantee's annotations or supplemental spreadsheet. Final grant award amounts will be based on the completed work and total paid project amount.
- 4. If the above steps are completed and approved by staff, VLAWMO will mail a reimbursement check per the VLAWMO TEC monthly meeting schedule.

Soil Health Grant Application



Submit completed application to: Lauren Sampedro lauren.sampedro@vlawmo.org

Applicant Information:

Name:	
Address:	
City/Township, State, Zip:	
Phone:	
Email:	

PROJECT TYPE:

Project Summary:

ESTIMATED TOTAL PROJECT COST	Downspout/Small
	Raingarden
(\$)	Native Restoration/
AMOUNT REQUESTED	Pollinator Garden
(\$1,000 MAX or \$1,250 in Priority Area)	Turfgrass
EXPECTED PROJECT COMPLETION	Replacement
(Month, Year)	Other
, ,	

If other, please describe the proposed project:

Project Background:

Describe your property.	
What is the purpose of your project?	
Does your property connect to a lake,	
stream, ditch, or wetland in VLAWMO?	

Project Background: Continued

Describe how your project will support the goals of the Soil Health Grant Program. (See grant policy)	
Briefly describe the planned installation and maintenance activities for your project.	

Project Specifications:

TOTAL PROPERTY AREA (Acres)	
Total PROJECT SIZE (SQ FT)	
IF APPLICABLE: DEPTH OF RAINGARDEN BASIN (Inches)	



Required Attachments:

- \Rightarrow Detailed drawing or plan of the proposed project.
- ⇒ Detailed project budget estimate with itemized costs and materials that equal your total estimated cost.

VLAWMO Soil Health Grant Agreement



It is understood that:

- 1. The grantee is responsible for maintaining the project for at least 5 years after its installation. VLAWMO is not responsible for completing maintenance activities.
- 2. The grantee will participate in VLAWMO's outreach and project sharing efforts.
- 3. A project may be visited and inspected by a VLAWMO representative during the 5-year maintenance period.
- 4. Grant awards will expire within 1 year of grant approval unless the project is extended with VLAWMO approval.

The applicant's signature indicates their agreement to the above terms and certifies the grant application information is true and accurate. A VLAWMO staff signature will constitute an approved and executed grant agreement between the grantee and the VLAWMO.

Applicant/Grantee	
Signature	Date
Print	
VLAWMO Staff	
Signature	Date
Print	

Landscape Level 1 Grant Policy



The Landscape Level 1 (LL1) Grant Program is a reimbursement program to help landowners install practices that improve water quality and preserve groundwater within VLAWMO.

VLAWMO may fund 25-50% of the total cost of approved materials and contracted labor up to a maximum of \$5,000. Highly beneficial projects that significantly reduce stormwater volume and nutrients like curb cut raingardens may receive 75% of the cost of the project up to a maximum of \$7,500. VLAWMO reserves the right to adjust requested funding levels based on funding availability and estimated benefits.



LL1 Program Goals:

- Reduce stormwater rate and volume
- Stabilize and restore actively-eroded shorelines/streambanks
- Reduce nutrient loading and improve water quality
- Protect and preserve groundwater quality and quantity

Eligible Projects:

- Infiltration projects including but not limited to raingardens, infiltration basins, permeable pavers or pavement, and tree trenches
- Filtration projects including but not limited to filtration basins, swales, and green roofs
- Shoreline and streambank restorations of actively-eroding banks
- Critical erosion control and stabilization projects
- Agricultural water quality practices
- Projects that improve existing water quality projects (i.e. a new pre-treatment inlet structure)
- Stormwater reuse for irrigation or other groundwater preservation projects

Ineligible Projects:

- Landscaping and decorative projects for recreational or aesthetic purposes
- Chemical treatment of aquatic vegetation (excluding alum or spent lime)
- Vegetation restoration without stormwater treatment (see Soil Health Grant Program)
- Projects necessary to meet minimum permit requirements or VLAWMO water management standards
- Projects that have received funding from other VLAWMO grant programs in the same year
- Maintenance of awarded grant projects

Application Process:

Landscape Level 1 Grant funding is available to landowners within the VLAWMO boundary. The grant program operates on a first-come, first-served basis. All submitted applications are subject to VLAWMO scoring to determine funding eligibility and approval by the VLAWMO Technical Commission (TEC) and/or Board of Directors.

- 1. **Contact staff** to schedule a site visit of your property before submittal of a grant application to discuss your proposed project.
- 2. **Complete a grant application** and submit to staff listed on the grant application.
- 3. VLAWMO may require a **final design** completed by a qualified professional or engineer for complex projects.
- 4. VLAWMO will review application and confirm completeness.
- Complete applications that meet the minimum criteria will be presented at the next VLAWMO TEC meeting and/or Board of Directors meeting per their <u>meeting schedule</u>.
- 6. VLAWMO will **notify applicant** of application status and next steps, including execution of a grant agreement.

Grant Funding Agreement:

Each grantee must enter into a grant agreement with VLAWMO defining the obligations of the grantee and VLAWMO and expectations for project maintenance. The agreement also allows VLAWMO access to the project area for inspection and promotion of the project. The grant agreement must be signed by both parties prior to starting work on the project.

Reimbursement Steps:

- 1. Execute grant agreement with VLAWMO.
- 2. After project completion, contact VLAWMO staff to request a final inspection of the project for verification it meets the approved plans. This must occur within 1 year from the date of grant approval.
- 3. Submit all **paid** invoices and receipts of project expenses for VLAWMO review. Plant expenses must show species on proof of payment or via grantee's annotations or supplemental spreadsheet. Final grant award amounts will be based on the completed work and total paid project amount.
- 4. If the above steps are completed and approved by staff, VLAWMO will mail a reimbursement check per the VLAWMO TEC's monthly meeting schedule.



Program Details: Planning for Success

Start & Finish	 Projects started prior to VLAWMO approval are not eligible. A grant application must be approved for funding, and the grant agreement must be signed by the applicant and VLAWMO prior to starting work. Changes to the project after grant approval may not be made without VLAWMO approval. Grantee is responsible for securing any and all required permits, easements, and approvals prior to the start of the project. Grantee must complete the project and submit a reimbursement request within year from date of grant approval unless the project is extended with VLAWMO approval. Grantee must agree to maintain the project for a minimum of 10 years. The site may be inspected by VLAWMO staff during this time period to ensure compliance.
Labor & Plant Specifics	 Eligible project costs are those only directly related to installing the proposed project such as plants, erosion control materials, mulch, drainage structures, and rented equipment. Purchased tools and equipment are not eligible. Eligibility of materials is subject to VLAWMO approval. Eligible labor costs must be those expenses associated with a qualified landscaper/ contractor subject to approval by VLAWMO staff. VLAWMO reserves the right to adjust costs submitted for reimbursement based on final paid receipts and invoices. Reimbursement will not exceed the cost of eligible materials and labor. VLAWMO may consider design costs through the Ramsey County Soil & Water Conservation Division or from another contractor as eligible grant costs, up to \$1,500. Erosion control activities must utilize natural erosion control material (i.e. non-plastic). For all projects, only plants native to Minnesota are eligible for grant reimbursement. Hybrids/cultivars of native plants are not eligible for reimbursement unless otherwise noted on the VLAWMO cost share plant guide. A list of proposed plants must be included with the application for VLAWMO review and approval. At least 2 bids for construction of proposed projects must be submitted with the application. VLAWMO reserves the right to reject a project design or submitted bid for any reason. Permeable paver projects must meet Minnesota Pollution Control Agency installation guidelines and treat at least 1,500 sq. ft. of hard surface runoff.
Admin	 VLAWMO reserves the right to withdraw or withhold funding for any project not completed in accordance with these guidelines or the terms of its executed grant agreement. Landowners are limited to 1 grant application every other year unless a single project must be completed in consecutive phases and approved by VLAWMO. The VLAWMO Board of Directors may shift grant funding amounts between LL1 and LL2 program budgets. Any submitted information (applications, designs, cost estimates, bids, permits, studies, reports, and proof of expenditures) becomes part of the public record.

LL1 Grant Application



Submit completed application to: Lauren Sampedro lauren.sampedro@vlawmo.org

Applicant Information:

Name:	
Address:	
City/Township, State, Zip:	
Phone:	
Email:	

Project Summary:

ESTIMATED TOTAL PROJECT COST	\subseteq
(\$)	\bigcap
AMOUNT REQUESTED	
(\$5,000 reg, \$7,500 curb cut)	
EXPECTED PROJECT COMPLETION	
(Month, Year)	

PROJECT TYPE:

\bigcirc	Raingarden/Infiltration Basin: Curb cut
\bigcirc	Raingarden/Infiltration Basin: Regular
\bigcirc	Shoreline/Streambank Stabilization and/or Restoration
\bigcirc	Filtration
	Other

If other, please describe the proposed project:

Project Background:

Describe the project location.	
Does it connect to a lake, stream,	
ditch, or wetland in VLAWMO?	
What issues will be addressed with	
this project?	

Project Background: Continued

Describe how your project will support the goals of the Landscape Level 1 Grant Program. (See LL1 policy)	
Briefly describe the planned installation and maintenance activities for your project.	

Project Specifications:

TOTAL PROPERTY AREA (Acres)	Total PROJECT SIZE (Sq Ft)	
IMPERVIOUS (HARD) AREA DRAINING TO PROJECT (Sq Ft):	PERVIOUS (GRASSY, NON- PAVEMENT) AREA DRAINING TO PROJECT (Sq Ft):	
DEPTH OF PRACTICE (In):	BOTTOM SURFACE AREA (Sq Ft):	
Provide if project includes infiltration/filtration	Provide if project includes infiltration/filtration	

Required Attachments:

- ⇒ Detailed drawing or plan of the proposed project. If project is complex, VLAWMO may require project final designs to be completed by a qualified professional or engineer. Drawing must include project dimensions that enable VLAWMO staff to model the project for estimated water quality benefits.
- \Rightarrow At least 2 bids for construction of proposed project.
- ⇒ Detailed project budget estimate with itemized materials and costs that equal the total project cost.

Landscape Level 2 Grant Policy



The Landscape Level 2 (LL2) Grant Program is a reimbursement program to partner with communities to install practices that improve water quality, manage stormwater, and preserve groundwater within VLAWMO.

VLAWMO may fund 25-75% of the total cost of a project, or up to 90% for large-scale or highly beneficial projects that significantly improve water quality, increase flood storage, conserve groundwater, or provide regional benefits. VLAWMO reserves the right to adjust requested funding levels based on funding availability and estimated benefits.





LL2 Program Goals:

- Reduce stormwater rate and volume
- Stabilize and restore actively-eroding shorelines/streambanks
- Reduce nutrient loading and improve water quality
- Protect and preserve groundwater quality and quantity
- Increase flood storage
- Address goals and policies identified in the VLAWMO Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan
- Provide educational value and highly visible projects

Eligible Projects:

- Water quality treatment projects
- Stormwater rate and volume control projects
- Water reuse
- Smart irrigation controllers
- Flood storage projects
- Stormwater retrofit or reconstruction projects that exceed permit or VLAWMO water management standards

Ineligible Projects:

- Landscaping and decorative projects for recreational or aesthetic purposes
- Chemical treatment of aquatic vegetation (excluding alum or spent lime)
- Projects necessary to meet minimum permit requirements or VLAWMO water management standards
- Projects that have received funding from other VLAWMO grant programs in the same year
- Maintenance of awarded grant projects

Application Process:

LL2 Grant funding is available to landowners including but not limited to municipalities, public agencies, private businesses, homeowner's associations, or nonprofit organizations. Projects within targeted areas listed in VLAWMO's Watershed Management Plan, Sustainable Lake Management Plans, or other feasibility reports will be prioritized. All applications are subject to VLAWMO scoring to determine funding eligibility and approval by the VLAWMO Technical Commission (TEC) and Board of Directors.

- 1. Contact staff to **schedule a pre-application meeting** to discuss project before submittal of a grant application.
- 2. Schedule a site visit with staff to review the proposed project area.
- 3. Complete a grant application and submit to staff listed on the grant application.
- 4. Applications are reviewed and scored by staff and/or consulting VLAWMO engineer if necessary.
- 5. Complete applications that meet the minimum criteria will be **presented** at the next VLAWMO TEC meeting and Board of Directors meeting per their <u>meeting schedule</u>.
- 6. VLAWMO will **notify applicant** of application status and next steps, including execution of a grant agreement.

Grant Funding Agreement:

Each grantee must enter into a grant agreement with VLAWMO defining the obligations of the grantee and VLAWMO, and expectations for project maintenance. The agreement also allows VLAWMO access to the project area for inspection and promotion of the project. The grant agreement must be signed by both parties prior to starting work on the project.

If the project is funded with a State of Minnesota grant, additional Technical Quality Assurance grant agreement standards may be necessary to fulfill state eligibility requirements. Where VLAWMO's policies differ from state standards, the grant agreement requirements with the state agency shall prevail.

Reimbursement Steps:

- 1. Execute grant agreement with VLAWMO.
- 2. After the project is complete, contact VLAWMO staff to request a final inspection of the project for verification it meets the approved plans. This must occur within 1.5 years from the date of grant approval.
- 3. Submit all **paid** invoices and receipts of project expenses for VLAWMO review. Final grant award amounts will be based on the completed work and total paid project amount.
- 4. If the above steps are completed and approved by staff, VLAWMO will mail a reimbursement check per the VLAWMO TEC's monthly meeting schedule.

Program Details: Planning for Success

Start & Finish	•	 Projects started prior to VLAWMO approval are not eligible. A grant application must be approved for funding, and the grant agreement must be signed by the applicant and VLAWMO prior to starting work. Eligible project costs are those only directly related to the proposed project, such as those associated with design and engineering, construction materials, labor, and drainage structures. Purchased tools and equipment are not eligible. Eligibility of materials is subject to VLAWMO approval. Grantee is responsible for securing any and all required permits, easements, and approvals prior to the start of the project. Grantees must complete their approved project and submit a grant reimbursement request within 1.5 years from date of approval unless the project is extended with VLAWMO approval. Grantee must agree to maintain the project area for a minimum of 10 years. The site may be inspected by VLAWMO staff during this time period to ensure compliance.
	•	Smart irrigation controllers to be used on pilot/test sites are eligible project costs.
Labor & Plant Specifics	•	Work associated with design, installation, and labor of crucial infrastructure must be performed by an experienced professional. Final plans are subject to professional review and approval by consulting VLAWMO engineer to ensure design standards, specifications, and outcomes meet program goals.
	•	VLAWMO may cover design costs through the Ramsey County Soil & Water Conservation Division depending on the project.
Lat S	•	At least 2 bids for construction of proposed projects must be submitted with the application. VLAWMO reserves the right to reject a project design or submitted bid for any reason.
	•	Erosion control projects must utilize natural erosion control material (i.e. non-plastic).
	•	For all projects, at least a 50% plant coverage must be native to Minnesota. VLAWMO encourages all vegetation used to be native species.
i	•	VLAWMO reserves the right to withdraw or withhold funding for any project not completed in accordance with these guidelines or the terms of its executed grant agreement.
Admin	•	The VLAWMO Board of Directors may shift grant funding amounts between LL1 and LL2 program budgets.
	•	Any submitted information (applications, designs, cost estimates, bids, permits, studies, reports, and proof of expenditures) becomes part of the public record.
		Vadnais Lake Area Water Management Organization

800 County Road E East Vadnais Heights, MN 55127 | www.VLAWMO.org | (651) 204-6070

LL2 Grant Application



Submit completed application to: Lauren Sampedro lauren.sampedro@vlawmo.org

Applicant Information:

Organization Name:	
Project Contact:	
Address:	
City/Township, State, Zip:	
Phone:	
Email:	

PROJECT TYPE:

Project Summary:

ESTIMATED TOTAL PROJECT COST			Water Quality Treatment
(\$)		\sim	Ctownwater Data and
AMOUNT REQUESTED			Stormwater Rate and Volume Control
	(\frown	Groundwater
EXPECTED PROJECT COMPLETION			Conservation
(Month, Year)			Other

If other, please describe
the proposed project:

Project Background:

Project Background: Continued

Provide estimated water quality results, stormwater rate/volume reduction, or groundwater conservation benefits associated with the project.	
Describe the public education and outreach efforts or signage planned for the project.	
List or describe any partnerships or other forms of support for the project, including external funding sources.	

Project Specifications:

TOTAL PROPERTY AREA (Acres)	Total PROJECT SIZE (Sq Ft)	
IMPERVIOUS AREA DRAINING TO PROJECT (Sq Ft):	PERVIOUS AREA DRAINING TO PROJECT (Sq Ft):	

Required Attachments:

- ⇒ Detailed final plan set of the proposed project that includes the estimated, quantitative outcomes of the project.
- \Rightarrow At least 2 bids for construction of proposed project.
- ⇒ Detailed project budget estimate with itemized materials and costs that equal the total project cost.

Cost Share Plant Guide

Nonnative and noninvasive plants are commonly found in the landscaping industry but a select few are eligible for reimbursement in VLAWMO's cost share programs.

For any plant purchase, pay attention to the scientific (noncommon) name on the label. Hybrid cultivars will include 'single quotations' at the end of the names. Check this list to ensure that any cultivars sought are also some of the few eligible for cost share reimbursement.

Grasses:

Bee Lawn mixes: Creeping Thyme, Dutch White, Red Clover, Self-heal, etc. Fescue lawn and "lo-mow" seed mixes Blue-eyed Grass

Perennials:

Black-eyed Susan 'Goldstrum'

Sedum 'Autumn Joy'

Creeping Phlox Garden Phlox

Coral Bells/ Heuchera

Downy Wood Mint

Blanket Flower hybrids

Poppy Mallow

Bee Balm hybrids

Russian Sage

Yarrow hybrids

Catmint

Phantom Joe Pye Weed Foxglove Beardtongue

Shrubs and Trees:

Redbud Dogwood 'Artic Fire' Crabapple Gro-low Sumac





Native Alternatives:

Side Oats, Bottlebrush Grass, Buffalo Grass, Little Bluestem, Switchgrass, Pennsylvania Sedge, Palm Sedge

Sweet Black/brown-eyed Susan Rattlesnake Master Prairie Phlox, Wild Blue Phlox Columbine, Prairie Alumroot Nodding Wild Onion, Prairie Onion Spotted Beebalm Blazing Star, Wild Petunia Milkweeds Aromatic Aster Purple Coneflower Narrow-leaved Coneflower Hoary Puccoon Sweet/spotted Joe Pye Weed Large-flowered Beardtongue

> Nannyberry, River Birch New Jersey Tea, Dogwoods, Service Berry, Witch Hazel High Bush Cranberry, Snowberry