

ADOPT a DRAIN

Join VLAWMO and dozens of volunteers helping to keep water resources clean.

Why adopt a drain?

◦ HELP SURFACE AND GROUND WATER

Leaves and grass clippings are natural but bring excess nutrients such as phosphorus into lakes and wetlands, causing algae blooms (photo at bottom) and harm to fish, insects, and aquatic birds. Water in VLAWMO leads to Vadnais Lake, a public source of drinking water, and the many surrounding wetlands are connected to groundwater.

◦ PREVENT "SILENT SPILLS"

Storm drains collect trash, gas, salt, metals from brake dust, and other debris that don't belong in lakes or wetlands. These sneaky contaminants are known as "silent spills" because they happen undetected. Unused paint, cleaning supplies, or water softening salts should never be dumped into drains or ditches, as this is an illegal illicit discharge.

◦ REDUCE FLOODING

Debris can clog stormdrains quickly and without warning. Periodic, voluntary cleaning can prevent bigger pile-ups when a storm hits.



"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.

WAV@VLAWMO.ORG (651) 204-6070



How does it work?

◦ PLAN

Locate the drains closest to your home or business, and identify the number and location of 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*, or call (651) 204-6070. Identify the street or nearest intersection of the drains(s). Include name, address, phone, and email of a main contact leading the effort. Upon registering, volunteers will receive a free instruction packet and stick-on drain label in the mail.

◦ TEND

Cleaning frequency is up to the volunteer and as needed. VLAWMO asks that drains are checked minimum of three times a month. Sweep up leaves, sand, grass clippings, salt, and trash as needed. Pull weeds by hand and keep extra watch for debris during the messy Spring and Fall months. Leaves and grass must be treated as yard waste, but sediment, salt, and non-organic debris go into the trash.

◦ REPORT!

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

