VLAWMO Spring newsletter 2023

Text for partner newsletters

*Option A: Outreach focus*

Spring is to water as biscuits are to gravy – but a good recipe doesn’t appear instantly. Many folks use spring as a time to dust up those books, tidy up the cupboards, and reflect on what’s working and what isn’t. The same concept applies to our yards, gardens, driveways, and home water use. If you could pick just one water-friendly strategy to adopt this year, do you know what it would be?

VLAWMO is excited to offer a variety of workshops and resources to help residents and business plan for a water-friendly year. Rest assured, taking care of the watershed isn’t a tricky or secret recipe.

**Workshops:** Visit VLAWMO.org/events for times, locations, and free registration.

* + Winter Seed Sowing: February 23rd
  + Grant program open house: March 23rd
  + “But if fell in my cart!” Tips for Smarter Plant Planning: April 11th
  + Raingardens 101: April 20th

**Watershed Care Calendar:**

Follow the VLAWMO web calendar for tips and tricks in water friendly yard care every first of the month. You’ll find tips for what’s happening that month plus what to plan for the following month. Follow along online or on social media @VLAWMO to get reminders and build familiarity with all things water-friendly.

**Explore VLAWMO’s cost share grant program:**

The cost share grant program is updated for 2023. Residents, business, neighborhood or lake associations, congregations, schools, and more are eligible for a variety of watershed improvement grants. If you’re looking to freshen up or improve a drainage issue, let VLAWMO help do it in a way that’s good for both you and local water resources. Visit vlawmo.org/grants for more details and to get started – applicants must live or work in the VLAWMO watershed. Visit vlawmo.org for a map of the watershed boundary.

*Option B: If your City doesn’t include a substantial area within the VLAWMO watershed, you may also choose to take a yard care and yard waste focus. Swap “Explore VLAWMO’s cost share grant program” with the following:*

**Reliable wetlands and waterways starts with you:**

Yard waste may seem like an innocent and flexible thing that can be disposed of wherever, but it’s actually important to dispose of leaves, grass clippings, and other household wastes properly. In fact, improper dumping could be an illegal illicit discharge subject to fines. Dumping yardwaste, chemicals, or construction debris into ditches, wetlands, or stormdrains harms local water resources and increases the maintenance burden for maintaining clear and reliable waterways. Visit (City website link?) or vlawmo.org/residents under “water stewardship at home” for responsible disposal guides. Thank you for your help and cooperation.





