## **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	ED	# 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 VLAWMO priority area.



#### **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 Tosp 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 topsoil.

#### **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.

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- 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.

# bor & Plant Specifics

- 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.
- Erosion control activities must use natural erosion control material (i.e. non-plastic).
- 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.

# elling the Story

- Grantee must participate in VLAWMO's education efforts by:
  - ⇒ Providing photos of project progress including before, during installation, freshly completed, and one year after project completion; OR
  - ⇒ 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	tion:	
Name:		
Address:		
City/Township, State, Zip:		
Phone:		
Email:		
Project Summary:		PROJECT TYPE:
ESTIMATED TOTAL PROJECT	COST	Downspout/Small
(\$)		Raingarden
AMOUNT REQUESTED		Native Restoration/ Pollinator Garden
(\$1,000 MAX or \$1,250 in Prior	itv Area)	
EXPECTED PROJECT COMPL		Turfgrass Replacement
(Month, Year)		Other
		Other
If other, please describe		
the proposed project:		
Project Backgrour	ıd:	
Describe your property.		
What is the purpose of your	project?	
Does your property connect stream, ditch, or wetland in		

#### **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:**

- ⇒ 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:

- 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 meeting schedule.

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.
- 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.
- 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**

# Labor & Plant Specifics

- **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
- 1 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.

# • 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.

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- 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

lauren.sampedro@vlaw	mo.org		
<b>Applicant Informat</b>	ion:		20
Name:			
Address:			
City/Township, State, Zip:			
Phone:			
Email:			
Project Summary:		PROJECT 1	YPE:
ESTIMATED TOTAL PROJECT	COST		Raingarden/Infiltration Basin: Curb cut
(\$)			Raingarden/Infiltration Basin: Regular
AMOUNT REQUESTED			_
(\$5,000 reg, \$7,500 curb cut)			Shoreline/Streambank Stabilization and/or Restoration
EXPECTED PROJECT COMPL	ETION		Filtration
(Month, Year)			
	<u> </u>		Other
If other, please describe the proposed project:			
Project Backgroun	d:		
Describe the project location	1.		
Does it connect to a lake, str ditch, or wetland in VLAWMO			
What issues will be addresse this project?	ed with		

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

- 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.
- ⇒ 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 meeting schedule.
- 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**

#### **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. 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 Labor & Plant approval by consulting VLAWMO engineer to ensure design standards, specifications, and Specifics outcomes meet program goals. VLAWMO may cover design costs through the Ramsey County Soil & Water Conservation Division depending on the project. 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. 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. 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.

## **LL2 Grant Application**



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

Applicant Informat	ion:		
Organization Name:			
Project Contact:			
Address:			
City/Township, State, Zip:			
Phone:			-
Email:			
Project Summary:		PROJECT TYPE:	
ESTIMATED TOTAL PROJECT (\$)	COST	Water Q	Quality Treatment
AMOUNT REQUESTED		/	ater Rate and e Control
EXPECTED PROJECT COMPL	ETION	Ground	
(Month, Year)		Other	
If other, please describe the proposed project:			
Project Backgroun	ıd:		
Describe the project location water resources that will benthe project.			
What issues will be addresse this project?	ed with		

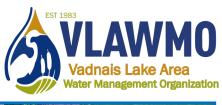
<b>Project Background: C</b>	ontinued		
Provide estimated water			
quality results, stormwater			
rate/volume reduction, or			
groundwater conservation			
benefits associated with			
the project.			
Describe the public			
education and outreach			
efforts or signage planned			
for the project.			
List or describe any			
partnerships or other forms			
of support for the project,			
including external funding			
sources.			
<b>Project Specifications</b>			
TOTAL PROPERTY AREA		Total PROJECT SIZE	
(Acres)		(Sq Ft)	
IMPERVIOUS AREA DRAINING		PERVIOUS AREA DRAINING	
TO PROJECT (Sq Ft):		TO PROJECT (Sq Ft):	
Peguired Attachments			
Required Attachments		that includes the setiments of	
⇒ Detailed final plan set of the quantitative outcomes of the plan in the plan is the		that includes the estimated,	
⇒ At least 2 bids for construct	ion of proposed pro	oject.	
⇒ Detailed project budget est	mate with itemized	materials and costs that equal the	

total project cost.

#### **Cost Share Plant Guide**

Nonnative and noninvasive plants that are commonly found in the landscaping industry and 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

#### **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

#### **Shrubs and Trees:**

Redbud, Dogwood 'Artic Fire' Crabapple Gro-low Sumac Nannyberry, River Birch New Jersey Tea, Dogwoods Serviceberry, Witch Hazel High Bush Cranberry Snowberry