2021 Watershed Action Volunteer (WAV) Positions 

VLAWMO’s mission is greatly advanced through volunteer efforts. Each position is a basic outline of tasks needed and of interest for watershed education and outreach, and may be customized in content and time commitment to best suit the volunteer. Positions are annual by default, but volunteers may renew their role each year as desired. VLAWMO provides certificate of achievement, letterhead for hours documentation, and mentorship to help build experience and knowledge in the field of water resources.

**Cost-share Project Photographer:**

Photograph BMP’s (best management practices) that VLAWMO installed through cost-share funding (raingardens, shoreline restorations, native plantings, etc). Connect with landowners for accessibility, target rain and nice weather or sunset photos, take photos of landowners with BMP when feasible. VLAWMO will provide addresses and contact information. Transportation required.

**Clean Streets Maven:**

Coordinate stormdrain clean-ups using the VLAWMO stormdrain stencil kit and adopt-a-drain door hangers.

Water friendly car-wash promotion: A water-friendly carwash kit is a kit that blocks a stormdrain and diverts car wash water into a grassy area or sanitary sewer. This is an option for community groups who do carwash fundraisers in the summer.

Water-friendly carwashes include washing a car on the lawn, or using rolled towels to divert runoff water into the grass. Demonstrating these strategies to residents will be a helpful way to promote water-friendly yard practices.

This volunteer would find community groups who do community car washes, foster relationships (with VLAWMO’s help), and walk them through the process of doing a car wash with this method. Volunteer will test procedure, fine-tune the technique based on findings, and assist groups in following lessons learned. If car wash fundraisers aren’t occurring, volunteer will make future connections and inform communities of this resource.

**Watershed Custodian:**

This volunteer will plan and facilitate community trash clean-ups in various parks around the watershed. Early spring and late fall are the best times to pick-up trash due to lower vegetation. Volunteer will set pick-up dates at least a month in advance, work with VLAWMO for community promotion, and receive trash pick-up supplies from VLAWMO for the day of the event. On the day of the event, volunteer will take photos, record amount of trash removed, and consolidate trash bags for

**Watershed Culture Crafter:**

How does water-friendly yard care become a norm? Peer-to-peer interactions are often the most influential way for new habits and awareness to take hold. This volunteer will network and reach out to friends or neighbors asking them to try a yard care best practice that supports the watershed. Gather feedback from partners concerning habit changes and the adoption of new or slightly different practices.

Take video and photograph local residents engaging in yard care best practices:

* + - * Downspout redirect
      * Lawn mowing at a height of 3”, keep clippings out of the street
      * Watering practices
      * Adopt-a-drain (hang-up door hangers, photograph work in action)
      * Smart salting, sweeping up extra sand/grit/salt
      * Pet waste pick up

Facilitate the watershed role play game.

**VLAWMO Workshop & Event Support:**

This volunteer will help set-up a welcome table at workshops and special guest speaker events. A cash box will be provided to sell books, volunteer will welcome guests and get them checked-in on a sign-in sheet. VLAWMO conducts 2-3 events/yr.

Assisting with public booth displays (MarketFest, Vadnais Ice Cream Social, Lions Waffle Breakfast, etc) as available.

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

Attend a training in partnership with VLAWMO and Ramsey County. Monitor aquatic vegetation and/or zebra mussels in a VLAWMO lake. Acquire supplies from VLAWMO, conduct rake-throws independently, and contact proper authorities in the case of new infestations.

**Adopt-a-Raingarden:**

Similar to the watershed custodian, the Raingarden Maestro will coordinate raingarden clean-ups in public and community raingardens. Efforts will include recruiting volunteers to help, working with VLAWMO to understand the raingarden maintenance needs and gather tools and supplies, ordering mulch or plants with VLAWMO funding as needed, and facilitating a maintenance event. Maintenance events usually consist of 2-3 hours of weeding, cleaning out raingarden inlets, taking photos of people and progress, gathering dead debris from previous years, and picking up trash. Schools or public works staff may assist in disposing of debris, but on occasion volunteers utilize a truck or trailer to transport debris to a county compost site.

Adopt-a-Raingarden sites: Vadnais Elementary, Gem Lake Heritage Hall, Fox Meadow, Chippewa Middle School, Central Middle School, Vadnais Heights Fire Dept

* + Adopt-a-Raingarden sites in need: Heritage Estates, St. Mary’s, Chippewa Middle School, Central Middle School

**Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC):**

The Citizen Advisory Committee is a role that provides feedback, advice, and community input on watershed efforts. It is a bridge between the community and the VLAWMO staff, Technical Commission, and Board of Directors. CAC members may opt in for custom tasks such as assisting with public surveys or assisting other volunteers in their activities. The minimum requirement in this role is to attend two WAV meetings annually.

**Leaf Pack Water Monitoring:**

The Leaf Pack program consists of monitoring aquatic macroinvertebrates as bioindicator of water quality. VLAWMO has four locations on Lambert Creek for monitoring stream flow and depth in live time, and the Leaf Pack project accompanies these sites. A pack of leaves is placed in the stream for 3 weeks, and then the volunteer collects it to ID the specimens that have gathered in the pack. A formal training is required to serve in this role, covering the aquatic macroinvertebrate species, use of tools, and sampling and collecting protocols. Tools and resources provided by VLAWMO. Transportation and year-long commitment desired.

**Birch Lake Support:**

Help maintain the stormwater filter at the corner of 4th St and Otter Lake Road in White Bear Lake. This activity involved raking, pulling weeds, wheelbarrowing, and transporting debris to a nearby compost facility. Leaves and sediment that gather on the top layer of the filter are easily raked off, exposing the sand below. Contact VLAWMO for more details and to arrange a custom plan of action for this role.

**Invasive Species Control/Buckthorn Bustin':**

Help VLAWMO and other WAV members take a bite out of buckthorn, garlic mustard, and other invasive species. This activity is event-based and consistently outdoors. Closed-toed shoes are requited, Participants are notified of opportunities at least two weeks in advance.