



2019 Watershed Action Volunteer (WAV) Positions

VLAWMO requests volunteers to hold positions for the time outlined in each position description. Volunteers may renew their role upon completion of the outlined timeframe. VLAWMO provides certificate of achievement, letterhead for hours documentation, and mentorship to help build experience and knowledge in the field of water resources.

Citizen Advisory Commission (CAC):

See CAC description and application on separate form.

Adopt-a-Raingarden Coordinator:

Primary Responsibilities:

- Gather and motivate other WAV members and community members to help with raingarden maintenance at select public raingardens.
- Plan, advertise, and facilitate maintenance events.
- Coordinate disposal of debris to County yard waste site.

Secondary Responsibilities:

- Photograph events and before/after maintenance. Organize photos by event.
- Gather feedback from participants, summarize, and report to VLAWMO.
- Outline goals as a volunteer or elect for job mentorship from VLAWMO staff.

Timeframe:

Spring cleaning season (March 4th-June 21st), and/or Fall cleaning season (September 4th-November 15th).

20-30 hrs per season minimum, plan on volunteer's schedule, hold events during evenings and weekends.

Water-friendly Yard Care Promoter:

Primary Responsibilities:

- Network and reach out to neighbors asking them to try a yard care best practice that supports the watershed.
- Take video and photograph local residents engaging in yard care best practices:
 - Downspout redirect
 - Lawn mowing/watering practices
 - Adopt-a-drain
 - Proper salt use

Secondary Responsibilities:

- Gather feedback from residents about the practice they are trying out.
- Organize photos and video.
- Create educational memes or videos depending on tools and skill level.

Timeframe:

Spring (March 4th-June 21st), and/or Fall (September 4th-November 15th).

40 hrs per season. Schedule entirely determined by volunteer, visit VLAWMO office for planning during weekday working hours.

Watershed Photographer:

Primary Responsibilities:

- Call VLAWMO cost-share participants to coordinate photographs of VLAWMO-funded shorelines, native plantings, and raingardens. Invite residents to be in photos.
- Assemble highlight photos and organize them according to location.

Secondary Responsibilities:

- Facilitate a watershed photo contest and gallery viewing.
- Photograph scenery (animals, birds, lakes, wetlands) around the watershed at different times of day and in different seasons.

Timeframe:

4-month commitment.

40-80 hrs. Schedule entirely determined by volunteer and cost-share recipients, visit VLAWMO office for planning during weekday working hours.

Independent transportation preferred.

Watershed Storyteller:

Primary Responsibilities:

- Use VLAWMO's list of cost-share recipients and work with the watershed photographer to contact residents.
- Conduct a mini-interview with cost-share recipients about their motivation, interest, and how they did their project. Modeled off of a VLAWMO interview template

Secondary Responsibilities:

- Write-up interview with supporting photos from photographer.

Timeframe:

4 month commitment.

10-40 hrs. Schedule entirely determined by volunteer and cost-share recipients, visit VLAWMO office for planning during weekday working hours.

Neighborhood Event Planner:

Primary Responsibilities:

- Brainstorm with VLAWMO staff and other volunteers to coordinate fun, custom neighborhood events. Options include:
 - Spring plant swap
 - Neighborhood raingarden walk/bike tour with walking potluck
 - Kombucha tasting (i.e. “clean water for lakes & kombucha”)
 - Trash pick-up, storm drain clean-up, etc.
 - Host neighborhood house parties focused on VLAWMO’s watershed role play game. Rent kit and facilitate game with a group of friends and neighbors (grant funds available for hosting).
 - Coordinate around national night out, Earth Day, or other events.
- Provide watershed resources at event, such as lake fact sheets, pollutant example bottles, cost-share information, or adopt-a-drain, etc.

Secondary Responsibilities:

- Work with VLAWMO to advertise and summarize the event.
- Apply for Community Blue funds as available and when applicable.

Timeframe:

6 month commitment.

30-50 hrs. Schedule entirely determined by volunteer, visit VLAWMO office for planning during weekday working hours.

Independent transportation preferred.

Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Detector:

Primary Responsibilities:

- Attend a training with Ramsey County to learn about aquatic plants and aquatic invasives.
- Review and become familiar with information from VLAWMO about aquatic plants.
- Acquire supplies with help from VLAWMO (rake, rope, lanyard, etc.)
- Actively monitor your assigned lake for new invasive species infestations, and changes among existing invasive species.
- Contact proper authorities in the case of a new infestation.

Secondary Responsibilities:

- Photograph monitoring in action and help recruit other AIS volunteers.

Timeframe:

Any time with open water, 2+ years preferred. Plan around Ramsey County schedule for training, monitor on volunteer’s schedule.

Watershed Clean-up Coordinator:

Primary Responsibilities:

- Facilitate trash pick-up events at various locations around the watershed.
- Acquire supplies with help from VLAMWO (bags, trash-grabbers, safety vests, lanyards, car dash parking signs).
- Utilize VLAWMO email lists and social media to promote events and recruit volunteers.
- Coordinate volunteers during event pertaining to route, areas of need, timing, and allocation of supplies.

Secondary Responsibilities:

- Review and become familiar with information from VLAWMO.
- Photograph events, including the site before and after the clean up, and posed pictures of people smiling at the event (holding up a bag of trash, etc.)
- Send photos, description of event results, volunteer numbers and hours to VLWAMO within a week following the event.

Timeframe:

Any time from Spring to Fall, 2 or more years preferred.

1-2 coordinated trash pick-up events/yr, planned according to Coordinator's schedule.



Short-term Opportunities

Easy, low-commitment volunteering for groups, scouts, congregations, students, or neighborhood associations. VLAWMO provides letterhead documentation for service hours.

Stormdrain Clean-up Event:



- Review the activity on our website: vlawmo.org/get-involved
- Rent a kit with all the tools necessary, including a map of where to work from watershed staff.
- Coordinate a group and implement stormdrain clean-up and labeling.
- Help VLAWMO distribute educational brochures to residents.
- Can be easily combined with general trash pick-up in a targeted area. Especially relevant in Spring when roads are at their messiest.



Short-term Opportunities

Volunteering for groups, scouts, congregations, or neighborhood associations. VLA WMO provides letterhead documentation for service hours.

Adopt-a-Raingarden:



- Check out which community raingarden is closest to you.
- Sign-up to be on the volunteer team for helping to maintain that raingarden.
- Schedule within the team on maintenance activities, contact VLA WMO staff for questions.
- Dispose of plant debris at a county compost facility.
- Commit to a season, a year, or long-term maintenance.

Gardens needing adoption include:

- Vадnais Heights Elementary
- Central Middle School Bioswale
- Vадnais Heights South Fire Dept
- Lakeaires Elementary
- Chippewa Middle School
- Heritage Hall raingarden in Gem Lake



Short-term Opportunities

Volunteering for groups, scouts, congregations, or neighborhood associations. VLAWMO provides letterhead documentation for service hours.

Adopt-a-Drain:

ADOPT
@ STORM
DRAIN



- Visits adopt-a-drian.org to find your nearest drain and sign-up.
- Clean your nearest stormdrain individually (or with a neighbor) on your own schedule.
- Report an estimate for how much debris you removed from the stormdrain to the adopt-a-drain.org website.