

# TECHNICAL MATTERS

VLAWMO's primary source of income is through Storm Sewer Utility (SSU) fees. The average single family homeowner in VLAWMO pays \$28.92/year (\$2.41/month) to support all of the projects and programs conducted by the watershed.

Additional funding for projects comes from grants from the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) and the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Recourses (LCCMR).

## EDUCATION & OUTREACH

Stewardship is fun when teamwork is involved. This year, the Alina Nurses, Sunrise Park Middle School, and residents from White Bear Lake and Vadnais Heights participated in stormdrain clean-up and labeling events.

Each of the 4 events included cleaning debris from stormdrains, labeling "no dumping-drains to lake" signs, and promoting adopt-a-drain to neighbors. Thank you to all of our great volunteers!



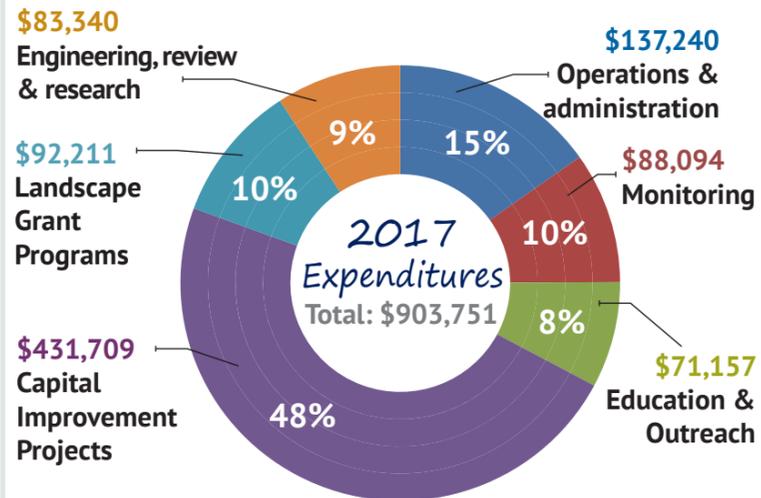
## REGULATIONS

As a local governing unit, VLAWMO administers the Wetland Conservation Act (WCA). WCA oversees new developments as they pertain to wetland conservation: any wetlands lost to development, by law, are to be replaced either on-site or elsewhere in the state through the purchase of wetland banking credits.

### 2017 Quick Stats:



## FINANCE



## DRAINAGE

Lambert Creek and its branch ditches have been a major focus of VLAWMO's work since its beginning in 1983. In 2017, we continued this work with bank restorations, weir inspections, and surveying how sediment is moving and gathering along the creek and it's major wetlands. This prepares us for future maintenance projects.



# ANNUAL REPORT SUMMARY



Established in 1983, VLAWMO is a unit of government co-created by Gem Lake, Lino Lakes, North Oaks, Vadnais Heights, White Bear Lake, and White Bear Township. Together, we use science and partnerships to protect and improve the water resources in the watershed.

## From the administrator

2017 was the first year of our 2017-2026 water plan, and we've hit the ground running. It's been a year of new and innovative projects, successful grant applications, lake and creek studies, and ditch maintenance planning. We look forward to sharing what we've learned in our upcoming 2018 reports, and continuing the valuable partnerships that are instrumental to watershed improvements.



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## Looking Ahead

### BIRCH LAKE IMPROVEMENT GRANT

VLAWMO received a 2018 grant for \$97,000 from the MN Board of Soil and Water Resources (BWSR) to install a stormwater filter at Birch Lake in White Bear Lake. The filter will treat thousands of gallons of stormwater from a nearby neighborhood, reducing nutrients and contaminants that wash into the lake.

VLAWMO staff used an automated storm sampler (right) to capture incoming stormwater at the intersection of 4<sup>th</sup> and Otter. Results showed that this is a problem area for Birch Lake.



### What can you do?

Water stewardship includes everyday lawn care, fixing auto leaks, proper use of de-icers, water conservation, and more. Learn more on our website under 'Residents' or 'Get Involved'. Join the Watershed Action Volunteers (WAV) or adopt a stormdrain to get started!



[www.vlawmo.org](http://www.vlawmo.org)



### Board of Directors:

- Dan Jones, White Bear Lake Chair
- Rob Rafferty, Lino Lakes Treasurer
- Marty Long, North Oaks
- Ed Prudhon, WB Township
- Jim Linder, Gem Lake
- Terry Nyblom, Vadnais Heights

2017

# WHAT DID WE DO IN 2017?

-  Event/booth locations
-  Water monitoring sites
-  Workshops/stakeholder planning
-  Projects

## VEGETATION & BATHOMETRY SURVEYS

Working with Ramsey Conservation District, VLAWMO studied these water bodies to understand their needs and gain tools for future actions.



## FISH SURVEYS

Surveying fish populations in Wilkinson and Goose Lakes helps us understand and track the changes of our most impaired water bodies. Results are available on the VLAWMO website.



## WHITAKER TREATMENT WETLANDS

Three lined wetland cells are being used to study bacteria treatment and treat polluted stormwater at the start of Lambert Creek. Filtration happens through various fill materials and native wetland plants.



## SUCKER CHANNEL RESTORATION

An improved channel between Pleasant Lake and Sucker Lake will prevent erosion and nutrient loading into the lake. New fishing platforms and trails increase handicap accessibility.



## E. COLI SOURCING AT LAMBERT CREEK

As a state-listed impaired water for E. coli, we're investigating where the E. coli is coming from, and how runoff influences bacteria levels.



## SEDIMENT CORES

Water and sediment samples were taken and meetings held to improve areas that drain to Goose Lake. A residential stormdrain clean-up event served as action and education.



**Technical Commission:**

**Mark Graham** - Chair  
Vadnais Heights

**Bob Larson** - Treasurer  
North Oaks

**Marty Asleson**  
Lino Lakes

**Gloria Tessier**  
Gem Lake

**Paul Duxbury**  
White Bear Township

Sources: MNDNR, Metropolitan Council, MNGSC, VLAWMO, ESRI

## THERE'S MORE!

Read all about the year in the complete annual report or on [www.VLAWMO.org](http://www.VLAWMO.org)

