



SOIL HEALTH COST SHARE GRANT APPLICATION

What is VLAWMO's Soil Health Grant?

The Soil Health Grant is a reimbursement grant program to inspire, assist, and enable residents to install small-scale watershed best management practices that improve water quality and native habitat within VLAWMO. Applicants may apply for up to \$750 in Soil Health Grant funding, with a 25% applicant project match (example: total applicable project cost is \$1,000, where \$750 would be available for grant funding, and the applicant is responsible for paying \$250 of the project cost). If a project is in either a Targeted Habitat or Volume Reduction Zone, the applicant may apply for up to \$1,000 in grant funding.

Eligible Projects include:

- Native plantings & pollinator gardens
- Bee lawns from specially marked bee lawn mixes (subject to staff review and inspection)
- Pollinator-friendly yards or turf replacement
- Downspout or yard raingardens
- Native planting buffer strips
- Erosion control or stabilization with native species

Ineligible Projects include:

- Purely landscaping or decorative projects with no native plant incorporation
- Rock or block decorative retaining walls
- Surface water chemical treatment of nuisance vegetation

Soil Health Grant Process

Soil Health Grant funding is available to residents for projects within the VLAWMO watershed boundary, and the grant program is first-come, first-serve, with limited program funding available for 2022. If you are interested in applying for a grant, contact staff to schedule a site visit on your property to discuss your proposed project and to ask and answer questions regarding the Soil Health Grant process. Applications must be submitted by the last Wednesday of the month for review of eligibility, and applications will be considered for funding at VLAWMO's monthly Technical Commission meetings on the 2nd Wednesday of each month on the Commission's meeting Agenda.

1. Contact staff to schedule a site visit of your property to discuss your project *before* submitting a grant application
2. After discussing with staff, complete a draft of your grant application, along with the required attachments
3. Staff will confirm receipt of your submitted application and will begin the review process, or will inform the applicant if edits or more information is needed
4. Staff will inform the applicant if their application has passed application scoring criteria and will be heard for approval at the next VLAWMO Technical Commission meeting

Funding Agreement

Each project selected and approved for funding must enter into an agreement with VLAWMO defining the obligations of the applicant and VLAWMO. This includes, but is not limited to, such items as terms of the agreement, use of funds, cost overruns, and cancellation. The agreement also allows VLAWMO access to the project area for evaluation and promotion of the project. Applicant is responsible for securing any and all permits for the work. This agreement must be signed by both parties prior to commencement of work on the project; funding will only cover work done after the agreement has been signed, and work that was included for funding in the VLAWMO-approved grant application. **Questions regarding the grant program and completed applications can be sent to:**

Lauren Sampedro, Watershed Technician and Program Coordinator

(651) 204-6071

Email: lauren.sampedro@vlawmo.org

Vadnais Lake Area Water Management Organization

800 County Rd E East

Vadnais Heights, MN 55127

Grant Program Details

- Eligible materials are those which stay on the property such as plants, erosion control blanket, mulch, and drainage infrastructure. Ineligible materials would include work gloves, shovels, tools and equipment used to implement the project but may be used again for future projects (rented equipment IS an eligible expense).
- Eligible labor costs must be those expenses associated with a qualified landscaper/contractor and are subject to approval by VLAWMO staff. Ineligible labor would include the use of friends or a volunteer group helping to implement the project. VLAWMO reserves the right to adjust costs submitted for reimbursement, based upon final receipts and invoices.
- For all projects, at least 50% of the plants used must be native to this ecoregion. Hybrids of native plants are not counted as native. You must provide a list of plants that will be used to allow for review and comment by VLAWMO staff. Native restoration projects must be 100% native species.
- Projects completed or in progress are not eligible for funding. A grant application must be approved for funding and grant agreement must be signed by the applicant and VLAWMO prior to the commencement of work or any associated purchases to be eligible for VLAWMO grant funds. However, the landowner may begin project site preparation before grant approval, but will not be reimbursed for any associated expenses.
- A site visit by VLAWMO staff is required once the project is complete before a reimbursement check is released to the Grantee.
- Grantee must complete project and submit reimbursement request within one (1) year from date of grant approval.
- **Grantee must agree to maintain the project area for a minimum of 5 years.** Common maintenance includes weeding, watering, removal of invasive species, replacement of plants, repair of inlets/outlets, and other duties. The site may be inspected by VLAWMO staff on an annual basis to ensure compliance. VLAWMO staff may provide technical assistance and resources for project maintenance.
- Property owners may receive one grant every 2 years, unless opting into education incentives (below). If wanting to apply over the course of multiple years to complete projects in phases, your current project must be complete prior to the approval of a subsequent grant.

Applicant Landowner Information

Name:
Address of property where project will be implemented:
City, State, Zip:
Phone:
Email address:

Grant Specifics

ESTIMATED TOTAL COST
OF YOUR PROJECT:

\$

AMOUNT OF GRANT REQUESTED:
(\$750 MAXIMUM)

\$

(\$1,000 Maximum if within Targeted
Priority Zone)

WHEN DO YOU PLAN TO COMPLETE YOUR PROJECT?

PROJECT TYPE:

Raingarden

☐

Native
Restoration/Pollinator
Planting

☐

Turf Replacement

☐

Other

If other, please describe
proposed project:

Project Background

Describe your property: Does your property connect to a lake, stream, ditch, or wetland in VLAWMO? What is the purpose of your project?

Describe how your project will support the goals of the Soil Health Grant Program (see guidance page for more Information). Does your proposed project directly reduce, capture, or treat stormwater?

Please briefly describe anticipated maintenance activities of your project:

Project Specifications

In order to determine the water quality benefit of your project (amount of stormwater and pollutants captured), specific information is required for VLAWMO staff to perform the calculations. If you are working with a professional landscaper, they should be able to provide you with this information.

TOTAL PROPERTY AREA
(Acres): _____

TOTAL PROJECT
SIZE (SQ.FT.): _____

IMPERVIOUS AREA
DRAINING TO PROJECT
(SQ.FT.): _____

PERVIOUS AREA
DRAINING TO
PROJECT (SQ.FT.): _____

IF YOUR PROJECT **INCLUDES INFILTRATION**, PLEASE PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION

SOIL INFILTRATION
RATE (INCHES/HR): _____

DEPTH OF RAINGARDEN BASIN
(INCHES): _____

Additional Required Attachments

To complete your application, please include:

- Detailed drawing or plan of the proposed project, drafted by either the landowner or a contractor.
- Detailed project budget estimate with clear cost and material breakouts that equate to your total project cost estimate.

****This information, along with the application, may be scanned and emailed to VLAWMO****

Opting in to the education incentives would allow reapplying for Soil Health Grant funds the consecutive year after being awarded grant funding. Incentives entail committing to one of the following options for 2 years:

1. Documenting seasonal photos, organizing them, and sending them to VLAWMO via jump drive or email, to show the progress and growth of the project.
2. Provide a neighborhood spotlight article featuring a photo of participants posing in front of the project, as well as a mini-interview 1-2 years after the project was installed. Document photos of the project over time, include a posed photo of property owners/family members standing in or near the project, and complete an interview describing maintenance, any problems, surprises and things you've enjoyed, what you'd do differently next time, or other items learned along the way.

VLAWMO Soil Health Grant Operations & Maintenance Requirements:

Projects must be maintained for a minimum of 5 years, and applicants must be willing to participate in VLAWMO's Education & Outreach and project sharing efforts. The applicant is responsible for Project maintenance items referenced in the Soil Health Grant Guidance document for a 5 year period, after Project completion. VLAWMO is not responsible for completing maintenance activities, but will assist with staff guidance. A project may be visited and inspected by VLAWMO staff during the 5 year maintenance period. Please inform VLAWMO if you move within the 5 years of project implementation so we may provide the new owners with information and guidance on the Project.

Are you willing to commit to the following Soil Health Grant requirements?

- | | | |
|--|------------|-----------|
| • Maintain the project for at least 5 years after its implementation? | YES | NO |
| • Participate in VLAWMO's outreach and project sharing efforts? | YES | NO |
| • Do you understand that your Project may be visited and inspected by a VLAWMO representative during the 5 year Project maintenance period? | YES | NO |

Please print and sign below to indicate that the above information and attachments are accurate and complete, and constitute a complete and submitted grant application. If approved by the VLAWMO Technical Commission or Board, a VLAWMO staff signature will constitute an executed grant agreement between the grantee and the Vadnais Lake Area Water Management Organization (VLAWMO).

APPLICANT/GRANTEE

Print Name _____

Signature _____ Date _____

VLAWMO STAFF

Signature _____ Date _____