

LAKE DATA & PROGRAMS

VLAWMO's primary source of income is Storm Sewer Utility (SSU) fees. The average single family homeowner in VLAWMO pays \$62.04/year (\$5.17/month) to support projects and programs that improve the watershed.

Additional funding for projects comes from grants from the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency 319 Grant, and the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources.

2022 Quick Stats:

14

Cost-share grants

9

Workshops facilitated

9

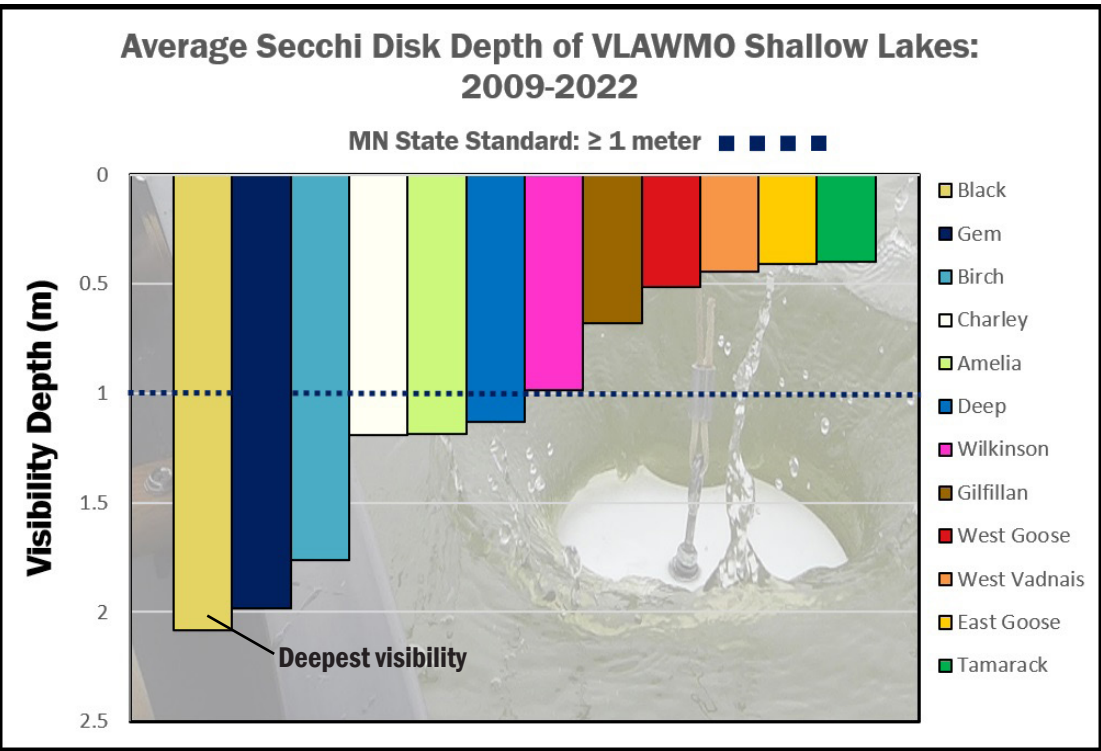
Service projects

11

WCA* permits approved

STATE OF THE LAKES

See the full water monitoring report for more on VLAWMO lake impairments and their causes.



VLAWMO has seven lakes impaired for nutrients, and Lambert Creek is impaired for bacteria during storm events. To improve these waterbodies VLAWMO looks at the unique needs of each lake inside the lake and in its surroundings. A Secchi disk (graph, left) is one of several tools we use to measure water clarity and assess lake health.

STUDIES

- Successful projects are backed by months or even years of planning and studies. Check out our full 2022 annual report for more on this year's watershed studies:
- Spent Lime study in Oak Knoll Pond/Wood Lake
 - Wilkinson Lake sub-watershed planning and feasibility study
 - ...and more!

GRANT PROGRAMS

VLAWMO completed 14 grants in 2022. Highlights included 5 native plant restorations, 1 bee lawn, 1 downspout raingarden, and a large curb-cut raingarden as part of the new City of North Oaks entrance.

The 2022 impact of all the projects combined is estimated to reduce sedimentation into waterbodies by 167 lbs/yr, reduce total phosphorus by 1 lb/yr, and infiltrate into the ground about 4,518 gallons/yr.

REGULATIONS

As a local governing unit, VLAWMO administers the Wetland Conservation Act (WCA). WCA oversees new development as it pertains 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 bank credits.

What can you do?

ADOPT-A-DRAIN

Cleaning a nearby stormdrain is a convenient way to support clean water, and it keeps the stormdrain system working smoothly. This voluntary program allows users to name their drain and report cleanings to track our impact. Visit adopt-a-drain.org to find your drain and get started.

START AT HOME

For water-friendly lawn care tips, smart de-icing, and more tips: vlawmo.org/residents

Ready to renovate? Visit vlawmo.org/grants to see how we can support raingardens, native plants, and rain barrels - beauty and function!

ADOPT
A STORM
DRAIN



Volunteers play a major role for the watershed, and a team effort makes it fun! The Watershed Action Volunteers (WAV) is a group of local residents who desire to learn more about the watershed while building community and making a difference. Short-term, long-term, and citizen advisory roles are available.

www.vlawmo.org/get-involved



WATERSHED AT A GLANCE



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.



2022-23

From the administrator

Greetings,

2022 was a very active year for VLAWMO, including construction of several partnership projects that help to enhance and protect the natural environment.

Over at Pleasant and Deep Lakes, a removal effort helped reduce carp population in the chain of lakes that drains into East Vadnais Lake, a valuable reservoir for the Saint Paul Regional Water Services. The VLAWMO grant program featured a large raingarden at the entrance to the City of North Oaks, and the Whitaker Pond Biochar Filter was a first in the watershed. These and several other voluntary restorations made a positive impact for water quality. The VLAWMO Board approved several policies and technical studies in 2022 including a public drainage policy and completion of early design guidance for a proposed wetland restoration upstream of Wilkinson Lake.

It's an honor to work with VLAWMO's array of outstanding municipal and local partners, Board of Directors, Technical Commission, and staff. We look forward to another exciting 2023 and to celebrating VLAWMO's 40th anniversary!



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John Schuman
North Oaks

Rob Rafferty
Lino Lakes

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN 2022-23?



Volunteer and public booth events

Water monitoring sites

Workshops and planning efforts

Projects

CARP HARVEST

A total of 916 carp were removed from a barrier set up in a Deep Lake channel during spring/summer 2022. Post-removal surveys indicate that the total carp biomass has dropped below the critical threshold to achieve the desired water quality results. Monitoring will continue into 2023.



NORTH OAKS ENTRANCE RAINGARDEN

The North Oaks Home Owner's Association utilized a VLAWMO Landscape Level 2 grant to include a large raingarden in the new City entrance. The effort helps to improve water quality in the Sucker Lake subwatershed.



WHITAKER POND BIOCHAR FILTER

A new stormwater filter uses a charcoal-like substance made from burnt organic material (i.e. ag wastes). The filter is designed to capture the "first flush" of nutrients and bacteria after a storm event. The pond was built in 1996 for water storage on Lambert Creek, and now has a water quality strategy to go with it.



VADNAIS-SUCKER HABITAT RESTORATION

A wetland and forest restoration began in the Vadnaiss-Sucker Lakes Regional Park. The effort is a partnership with Ramsey County, Saint Paul Regional Water Services, Great River Greening, and VLAWMO.



BRIDGEWOOD PARK RAINGARDEN

A new curb-cut raingarden was installed near the pickle ball courts. The raingarden is estimated to store and clean 4,634 bathtubs of water annually, benefiting downstream Lambert Creek.



Saint Mary's of the Lake Raingarden Renovation

Local resident Alex Nelson completed a VLAWMO Community Blue Grant to renovate this raingarden and achieve his Eagle Scout Badge.



SPENT LIME STUDY

Starting in 2022 and going into 2023, VLAWMO is working with the City of White Bear Lake to learn more about the possible use of spent lime as a water quality tool. This is a new area of study for the field of water resources in Minnesota.

