

VLAWMO TECHNICAL COMMISSION MEETING

8:15 AM October 14, 2026

Vadnais Heights City Hall, Council Chambers, 800 County Road E East, Vadnais Heights, MN 55127

Action items: 🍁

- I. Call to Order – 8:15am –Chair Ousky 🍁
- II. Approval of Agenda 🍁
- III. Approval of Minutes (September 9, 2026) 🍁 2
- IV. Administration & Operations - Phil
 - A. October Financial Report and Consider Authorization for Payment 🍁 7
 - B. TEC Report to Board 14
- V. Programs –Angela, Lauren
 - A. Watershed Award Nominations Open 15
 - B. Consider Recommendation on Digital Accessibility 🍁 15
 - C. Update on Recent Outreach Events 16
 - D. SHG 2026-08 Fitzpatrick Native Plant Restoration Phase 1 Grant Application 🍁 16, 19
 - E. FY 26-27 BWSR WBIF Grant Program Process 🍁 17
- VI. Projects
 - A. Update on Phase 2, 319 Proposed Project 17
 - B. Lake Survey/RCSWCD and NST Scopes for 2027 🍁 17,37
- VII. Commissioner Reports
- VIII. NOHOA
- IX. Ramsey Soil & Water Conservation Division
- X. St. Paul Regional Water Services
- XI. Public Comment
- XII. Next meetings: TEC: Thursday, November 12, 2026; Board Meeting: October 28, 2026
- XIII. Adjourn 🍁

Upcoming Events: Visit vlawmo.org/events

MN Water Steward “Love Our Lakes” Event, Part Two
MPCA Smart Salting for Community Leaders Workshop

Oct. 24
Nov. 9

**Vadnais Lake Area Water Management Organization
Technical Commission (TEC) Minutes
September 9, 2026
Vadnais Heights City Hall, Council Chambers
800 County Road E East, Vadnais Heights, MN 55127**

Commission Members Present:

Nick Ousky	Vadnais Heights (VH)
Gloria Tessier	Gem Lake (GL)
Susan Miller	North Oaks (NO)
Jami Philip	White Bear Township (WBT)
Terry Huntrods	White Bear Lake (WBL)
Tom Hoffman	Lino Lakes (LL)

Others in attendance: Phil Belfiori, Brian Corcoran, Lauren Sampedro, Angela Hugunin (VLAWMO staff), James Brown (SPRWS).

I. Call to Order

Chair Ousky called the meeting to order at 8:14 am.

II. Approval of Agenda

It was moved by Commissioner Tessier and seconded by Commissioner Philip to approve the September 9, 2026 TEC agenda as revised with the addition of agenda item V. C. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

III. Approval of Minutes (August 12, 2026)

It was moved by Commissioner Tessier and seconded by Commissioner Philip to approve the August 12, 2026 meeting minutes as presented. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

IV. Administration & Operations

A. September Financial Report and Consider Authorization for Payment

Administrator Belfiori summarized the September financial statement as included in the TEC packet. He highlighted expenditures for insurance with the League of Minnesota Cities as well as continued design work for two Lambert Creek ditch repair projects. Administrator Belfiori recommended approval of the September financial report and payment of the bills.

It was moved by Commissioner Tessier and seconded by Commissioner Huntrods to approve the September financial report and authorize for payment. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

V. Programs

A. Outreach Update: August into September

Hugunin outlined recent outreach efforts, including the Vadnais Heights Family Fun Zone and the August round of Neighborhood Garden Tours. Staff thanked the volunteers who contributed their time and efforts to these events. Hugunin outlined educational efforts from National Water Quality Month, including a short video centered on creek monitoring. Commissioner Miller asked about the drought and its impact on Lambert Creek, which was shown in the video. Hugunin responded that later in the summer, the creek was drier than shown in the video. Sampedro affirmed that multiple points along the creek were dry late in the season.

Hugunin highlighted upcoming event opportunities including a workshop about native garden care, an upcoming Watershed Action Volunteers meeting, and the first event in the series by Minnesota Water Stewards Josie and Caden. She also noted that the Metro Children's Water Festival is still recruiting volunteers for this field day that serves fourth graders across the metro area.

B. SHG 2026-06 Hilpisch Native Plant Restoration Grant Application

Sampedro presented a Soil Health Grant application for a native plant restoration project in Vadnais Heights. She shared the proposed location of the project, 0.7 acres that drains directly to a wetland before ultimately draining to Sucker Lake. Sampedro stated that the proposed project will replace existing invasive species with native plants, and the homeowner has hired a contractor to begin this removal process independently of VLAWMO's grant programs. The homeowner is motivated to reduce stormwater runoff, improve pollinator habitat, and reduce the amount of mowing needed for the area.

Sampedro stated that a variety of shade-tolerant native plants will be added to create a native plant groundcover that outcompetes the invasives. The proposed planting area will be 1,750 square feet. The total estimated project cost is \$2,235.00. Staff recommended approval of SHG 2026-06 in the amount of \$1,250.

It was moved by Commissioner Miller and seconded by Commissioner Huntrods to approve SHG 2026-06 in the amount of \$1,250. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

C. SHG 2026-07 Steffl Native Plant Restoration Application

Sampedro shared a Soil Health Grant application for a native plant restoration project in North Oaks. The property is on 1.5 acres that drains to a wetland which ultimately drains to Gilfillan Lake. Sampedro highlighted proposed changes from the existing project area, noting that woody debris will be removed and planting will occur in existing mulch areas, in addition to the removal of existing sod. The project would involve plantings natives in an area of approximately

600 square feet. Selected species are largely deer resistant. The total estimated project cost is \$1,960. Staff recommended approval of SHG 2026-07 in the amount of \$1,000.

Sampedro noted that the applicant's decision to pursue a grant was largely motivated by her attending the August neighborhood garden tour event. The applicant shared that she felt inspired by the tour's projects.

It was moved by Commissioner Miller and seconded by Commissioner Philip to approve SHG 2026-07 in the amount of \$1,000.00.

D. Smart Irrigation Controller Project Highlights

Sampedro presented an update on smart irrigation controller grant projects. She explained that staff have been collecting water usage information from past smart irrigation controller grant projects over the last three years, noting that the TEC previously approved 10 applications for adding smart irrigation controllers through the Landscape Level 2 Grant program. These grant awards included a requirement for reporting water savings.

Sampedro stated that data was received from seven of the ten projects. Since all the projects were recently installed, data was requested from the years 2024-2025. Sampedro explained that just one year's worth of data illustrates decreased water usage. The highest individual savings from one of the ten projects was approximately 9 million gallons. In total, the seven featured projects saved over 17 million gallons of water from irrigation.

Commissioner Miller asked whether the grantees were generally satisfied with the systems installed. Sampedro responded that, while some grantees have had a learning curve with utilizing the systems, the majority are overall satisfied with the new systems and ease of use.

Commissioner Miller asked whether most of the featured grantees are within the White Bear Township water system. In response, Sampedro pointed out which of the featured projects utilized water from White Bear Township. Commissioner Miller responded that given that the Township is facing pressure to reduce groundwater use, these projects sound like a positive step toward water conservation. Sampedro replied noting that, while a few other smart irrigation controller projects are beyond the White Bear Township area, overall, they all fall within an area that is encouraged to reduce groundwater use in the White Bear Lake zone.

Sampedro stated that cost savings have been another factor that has driven interest in these projects. From the three grantees who reported on their cost savings, a total of \$111,522 was saved in irrigation costs in just one year. Staff anticipate that cost savings will continue to be a motivating factor for smart irrigation controller use.

Commissioner Miller asked whether VLAWMO has ever proactively contacted HOAs within its boundaries to share these opportunities now that there is data to share about the impact of these offerings. Sampedro responded that it has historically been challenging to connect directly with

HOAs due to a variety of factors, however when staff have been contacted by HOAs about grant programs, the smart irrigation controller information has been shared as an additional opportunity. Sampedro also shared that resources are continuing to be developed by partnership groups throughout the metro area. Staff are continuing to explore the tools that may be available for sharing with HOAs.

Chair Ousky and Commissioner Philip shared that they also have had challenges connecting with the proper representatives from HOAs in their communities given the structure of these organizations and difficulties with finding ways to contact their leadership. This audience faces unique challenges such as not frequently having an online presence. Commissioner Philip noted that it can be difficult to locate stormwater agreements between municipalities and HOAs.

Sampedro shared that she will continue gathering data on these smart irrigation controller projects and will bring updates to the TEC as possible. She also stated that the smart irrigation controllers will continue to be included in the Landscape Level 2 program's offerings in 2027.

E. Grant Projects Revisited: Before and After Photos

Sampedro presented a series of before and after photos from a variety of projects that have gone through VLAWMO's grant programs. She shared that this update was motivated by recent neighborhood garden tour events that have shown significant project updates. She stated that there are often prominent visual differences between how the projects begin and their end results.

Sampedro highlighted project photos from a variety of grant projects throughout the watershed. These included rain gardens and a native prairie. Commissioner Miller asked about the grantee's maintenance practices for the first project—a ten-year old double rain garden. Sampedro responded that this grantee typically leaves all the plants until spring to ensure any maintenance occurs after pollinator hibernation. Then, the grant recipient will cut down the plants to encourage renewed blooms, will weed throughout the year, and has created mulch pathways to improve ease of access to the plants. She also noted that these initial projects visually attract lots of life from pollinators and hummingbirds.

Chair Ousky stated that these projects are good examples of what people can do with native landscapes and they illustrate that these projects can be intentional and well-maintained. Sampedro affirmed that these projects are a reminder of the importance of sharing with grantees that maintenance is essential so that their projects can look nice well into the future.

Sampedro shared further project transformations including low-mow fescue in place of traditional turfgrass, a bee lawn and native plantings, swales, a shoreline restoration, a municipal-level rain garden, curb cut rain gardens at the residential scale, and a prairie restoration at a church. Sampedro stated that it is rewarding to observe how these projects transform over time, particularly when they are well maintained.

VII. Commissioner Reports

Commissioner Philip shared that White Bear Township Day will be held on Saturday, September 19th from 2-8pm.

Commissioner Miller shared from North Oaks that she will no longer be on the Technical Commission after this year but will be available as an alternate.

VIII. NOHOA

None.

IX. Ramsey Soil & Water Conservation Division (RCSWCD)

None.

X. St. Paul Regional Water Services

James Brown from SPRWS joined the meeting. No updates to report.

XI. Public Comment

None.

XII. Next Meetings

TEC meeting: October 14, 2026 at 8:15 am; Board meeting: October 28, 2026.

XIII. Adjourn

It was moved by Commissioner Tessier and seconded by Commissioner Philip to adjourn the meeting at 9:10 am. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

VLAWMO Finance Summary: October 2026

Oct-26		Actual 10/1/26	Actual to Date	2026 Budget (June 2025 Board Approved)	Carry over from 2025 to 2026	Remaining in Budget	2026 Available (Dec. 2025 Board approved)	Act vs. Budget
BUDGET #	INCOME							
5.11	Storm Water Utility		\$747,697	\$1,335,000	\$0	\$587,303	\$1,335,000	56%
5.12	Service Fees			\$1,000	\$0	\$1,000	\$1,000	0%
5.13	Interest + mitigation acct	\$4,235	\$41,296	\$30,000	\$0	(\$11,296)	\$30,000	138%
5.14	Misc. income - WCA admin & other		\$400	\$3,000	\$0	\$2,600	\$3,000	13%
5.15	Other Income Grants/ <u>loan</u>	\$1,625	\$52,730	\$180,000	\$0	\$127,270	\$180,000	29%
5.16	Transfer from reserves			\$1,138,245	\$172,445	\$1,310,690	\$1,310,690	0%
	TOTAL	\$5,860	\$842,123	\$2,687,245	\$172,445	\$2,017,567	\$2,859,690	31%
EXPENSES								
3.1	Operations & Administration							
3.110	Office - rent, copies, post tel supplies	\$2,283	\$20,880	\$35,544	\$0	\$14,664	\$35,544	59%
3.120	Information Systems	\$2,200	\$23,089	\$37,150	\$0	\$14,061	\$37,150	62%
3.130	Insurance		\$9,581	\$12,000	\$0	\$2,419	\$12,000	80%
3.141	Consulting - Audit		\$16,238	\$29,900	\$0	\$13,662	\$29,900	54%
3.142	Consulting - Bookkeeping	\$68	\$688	\$1,500	\$0	\$812	\$1,500	46%
3.143	Consulting - Legal	\$414	\$2,412	\$9,000	\$0	\$6,588	\$9,000	27%
3.144	Consulting - Eng. & Tech.	\$372	\$2,536	\$50,000	\$0	\$47,464	\$50,000	5%
3.150	Storm Sewer Utility	\$9,657	\$48,129	\$22,500	\$93,619	\$67,990	\$116,119	41%
3.160	Training (staff/board)	\$900	\$1,594	\$18,000	\$0	\$16,406	\$18,000	9%
3.170	Misc. & mileage	\$613	\$2,409	\$7,276	\$0	\$4,867	\$7,276	33%
3.191	Administration - staff	\$38,808	\$386,529	\$511,724	\$0	\$125,195	\$511,724	76%
3.192	Employer Liability	\$12,733	\$120,506	\$169,583	\$0	\$49,077	\$169,583	71%
3.2	Monitoring and Studies							
3.210	Lake and Creek lab analysis	\$4,193	\$20,654	\$25,000	\$0	\$4,346	\$25,000	83%
3.220	Equipment			\$3,000	\$0	\$3,000	\$3,000	0%
3.230	Wetland assessment & management			\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	#DIV/0!
3.240	Watershed planning /special study		\$28,194	\$80,000	\$0	\$51,806	\$80,000	35%
3.3	Education and Outreach							
3.310	Public Education	\$45	\$2,062	\$8,000	\$0	\$5,938	\$8,000	26%
3.320	Comm., Outreach & Marketing		\$17,275	\$25,000	\$0	\$7,725	\$25,000	69%
3.330	Community Blue Ed Grant		\$7,939	\$12,000	\$0	\$4,061	\$12,000	66%
Total Core functions: Ops, Monitoring, Education		\$72,286	\$710,715	\$1,057,177	\$93,619	\$440,081	\$1,150,796	62%
Capital Improvement Projects and Programs								
3.4	Subwatershed Activity							
3.410	Gem Lake			\$10,000	\$0	\$10,000	\$10,000	0%
3.420	Lambert Creek			\$455,000	\$0	\$455,000	\$455,000	0%

3.421	Lambert Lake Loan		\$19,284	\$38,568	\$0	\$19,284	\$38,568	50%
3.425	Goose Lake		\$4,377	\$40,000	\$0	\$35,623	\$40,000	11%
3.430	Birch Lake		\$35,255	\$102,500	\$20,000	\$87,245	\$122,500	29%
3.440	Gilf Black Tam Wilk Amelia	\$2,474	\$96,601	\$383,000	\$0	\$286,399	\$383,000	25%
3.450	Pleasant Charley Deep		\$13,650	\$115,000	\$0	\$101,350	\$115,000	12%
3.460	Sucker Vadnais		\$506	\$271,000	\$20,000	\$290,494	\$291,000	0%
3.48	Programs							
3.480	Soil Health Grant	\$1,244	\$6,505	\$25,000	\$15,530	\$34,025	\$40,530	16%
3.481	Landscape 1		\$7,450	\$50,000	\$11,558	\$54,108	\$61,558	12%
3.482	Landscape 2/BWSR WBF		\$5,334	\$80,000	\$11,738	\$86,404	\$91,738	6%
3.483	Project Research & feasibility			\$5,000		\$5,000	\$5,000	0%
3.485	Facilities Maintenanc/ Pub. Ditch Main.	\$1,254	\$20,838	\$50,000		\$29,162	\$50,000	42%
3.5	Regulatory							
3.510	Engineer Plan review			\$5,000	\$0	\$5,000	\$5,000	0%
	<i>Total CIP & Program</i>	\$4,972	\$209,800	\$1,630,068	\$78,826	\$1,499,094	\$1,708,894	12%
	Total of Core Operations & CIP	\$77,258	\$920,515	\$2,687,245	\$172,445	\$1,939,175	\$2,859,690	32%

Fund Balance		9/1/2026	10/1/2026
4M Account		\$1,165,377	\$1,077,932
4M Plus Savings		\$270,037	\$270,864
Total		\$1,435,414	\$1,348,796

Restricted funds		10/1/2026
Mitigation Savings		\$0
Term Series		\$0

Vadnais Lake Area Water Management Organization
Check Detail
September 10 through October 14, 2026

7:55 AM
10/06/2026

	Type	Num	Date	Name	Item	Account	Paid Amount	Original Amount
	Check	eft	09/17/2026	Reliance Standard		Checking - 1987		-228.36
					Insurance Benefit		-228.36	228.36
TOTAL							-228.36	228.36
	Check	eft	09/29/2026	US Bank		Checking - 1987		-68.68
					3.142 · Bookkeeping help		-68.68	68.68
TOTAL							-68.68	68.68
	Check	6239	10/14/2026	Dawn Tanner		Checking - 1987		-315.40
					3.170 · Misc. & mileage		-315.40	315.40
TOTAL							-315.40	315.40
	Check	6240	10/14/2026	Lauren Sampedro		Checking - 1987		-63.54
					3.170 · Misc. & mileage		-63.54	63.54
TOTAL							-63.54	63.54
	Check	6241	10/14/2026	Brian Corcoran		Checking - 1987		-129.96
					3.170 · Misc. & mileage		-129.96	129.96
TOTAL							-129.96	129.96
	Check	6242	10/14/2026	Angela Hugunin		Checking - 1987		-103.74
					3.170 · Misc. & mileage		-103.74	103.74
TOTAL							-103.74	103.74
	Check	6243	10/14/2026	Press Publications		Checking - 1987		-786.22
					3.143 · Legal		-257.50	257.50
					3.143 · Legal		-156.30	156.30
					3.144 · Eng. & Tech.		-231.75	231.75
					3.144 · Eng. & Tech.		-140.67	140.67
TOTAL							-786.22	786.22
	Check	6244	10/14/2026	Metro - Inet		Checking - 1987		-2,200.00
					IT Support		-2,200.00	2,200.00
TOTAL							-2,200.00	2,200.00
	Check	6245	10/14/2026	City of Vadnais Heights		Checking - 1987		-2,283.41
					Rent		-1,865.00	1,865.00
					Phone/Internet/Machine Overhead		-335.00	335.00
					Postage		-30.59	30.59

			Copies	-52.82	52.82
TOTAL				-2,283.41	2,283.41
	Check 6246	10/14/2026 RMB Environmental Laboratories, Inc.	Checking - 1987		-4,192.55
			3.210 · Lake & Creek lab analysis	-465.03	465.03
			3.210 · Lake & Creek lab analysis	-1,433.74	1,433.74
			3.210 · Lake & Creek lab analysis	-508.92	508.92
			3.210 · Lake & Creek lab analysis	-94.05	94.05
			3.210 · Lake & Creek lab analysis	-79.42	79.42
			3.210 · Lake & Creek lab analysis	-1,517.34	1,517.34
			3.210 · Lake & Creek lab analysis	-94.05	94.05
TOTAL				-4,192.55	4,192.55
	Check 6247	10/14/2026 Barr Engineering Co	Checking - 1987		-2,473.50
			3.440 · Gilfillan Black Tamarack Wilkin	-2,473.50	2,473.50
TOTAL				-2,473.50	2,473.50
	Check 6248	10/14/2026 City of White Bear Lake	Checking - 1987		-51,312.88
			payroll	-38,808.29	38,808.29
			Administration FICA	-2,838.34	2,838.34
			Administration PERA	-2,910.64	2,910.64
			Insurance Benefit	-6,294.76	6,294.76
			Admin payroll processing	-266.05	266.05
			Employer PFML	-194.80	194.80
TOTAL				-51,312.88	51,312.88
	Check 6249	10/14/2026 Ehlers & Associates, Inc.	Checking - 1987		-8,912.50
			3.150 · Storm Sewer Utility	-8,912.50	8,912.50
TOTAL				-8,912.50	8,912.50
	Check 6250	10/14/2026 Houston Engineering, Inc	Checking - 1987		-1,630.25
			3.150 · Storm Sewer Utility	-744.25	744.25
			3.485 · Facilities & Maintenance	-506.75	506.75
			3.485 · Facilities & Maintenance	-379.25	379.25
TOTAL				-1,630.25	1,630.25
	Check 6251	10/14/2026 Town Law Center, PLLP	Checking - 1987		-368.00
			3.485 · Facilities & Maintenance	-368.00	368.00
TOTAL				-368.00	368.00
	Check 6252	10/14/2026 Jessie Lamb	Checking - 1987		-1,244.15
			3.480 · Soil Health Grant	-1,244.15	1,244.15
TOTAL				-1,244.15	1,244.15

Vadnais Lake Area Water Management Organ
Profit & Loss
September 10 through October 14, 2026

7:57 AM
10/06/2026
Cash Basis

Sep 10 - Oct 14, 26

Ordinary Income/Expense

Income

5.1 · Income

5.13 · Interest

4,235.44

Total 5.1 · Income

4,235.44

6.6.6 · Grants

1,625.00

Total Income

5,860.44

Gross Profit

5,860.44

Expense

3.1 · Administrative/Operations

3.110 · Office

Copies

52.82

Phone/Internet/Machine Overhead

335.00

Postage

30.59

Rent

1,865.00

Total 3.110 · Office

2,283.41

3.120 · Information Systems

IT Support

2,200.00

Total 3.120 · Information Systems

2,200.00

3.142 · Bookkeeping help

68.68

3.143 · Legal

413.80

3.144 · Eng. & Tech.

372.42

3.150 · Storm Sewer Utility

9,656.75

3.160 · Training (staff/board)

900.00

3.170 · Misc. & mileage

612.64

3.191 · Employee Payroll

payroll

38,808.29

Total 3.191 · Employee Payroll

38,808.29

3.192 · Employer Liabilities

Admin payroll processing

266.05

Administration FICA

2,838.34

Administration PERA

2,910.64

Employer PFML

194.80

Insurance Benefit

6,523.12

Total 3.192 · Employer Liabilities

12,732.95

Total 3.1 · Administrative/Operations

68,048.94

3.2 · Monitoring and Studies

3.210 · Lake & Creek lab analysis

4,192.55

Total 3.2 · Monitoring and Studies

4,192.55

3.3 · Education and Outreach

3.310 · Public Education	44.60
Total 3.3 · Education and Outreach	44.60
3.4 · Capital Imp. Projects/Programs	
3.440 · Gilfillan Black Tamarack Wilkin	2,473.50
Total 3.4 · Capital Imp. Projects/Programs	2,473.50
3.48 · Programs	
3.480 · Soil Health Grant	1,244.15
3.485 · Facilities & Maintenance	1,254.00
Total 3.48 · Programs	2,498.15
Total Expense	77,257.74
Net Ordinary Income	-71,397.30
Net Income	-71,397.30

Vadnais Lake Area Water Management Organization

Custom Transaction Detail Report

August 1 through October 1, 2026

7:52 AM

10/06/2026

Accrual Basis

Type	Date	Num	Name	Memo	Account	Clr	Split	Amount	Balance
Aug 1 - Oct 1, 26									
Credit Card Charge	08/01/2026		Google*SVCAPPS_VLAWM		US Bank CC	√ WEB		21.00	21.00
Credit Card Charge	08/13/2026		Go Daddy	domain renewal	US Bank CC	√ WEB		38.18	59.18
Credit Card Charge	08/17/2026		Amazon.com	camera cord	US Bank CC	√ 3.320 · Marketing		12.94	72.12
Transfer	08/20/2026			Funds Transfer	US Bank CC	√ Checking - 1987		-600.25	-528.13
Credit Card Charge	08/25/2026		Target	tour supplies	US Bank CC	√ 3.310 · Public Education		59.13	-469.00
Credit Card Charge	08/25/2026		mnl	tour host e-cards	US Bank CC	√ 3.310 · Public Education		60.00	-409.00
Credit Card Charge	08/25/2026		Target	event table	US Bank CC	√ 3.310 · Public Education		11.91	-397.09
Credit Card Charge	09/02/2026		Google*SVCAPPS_VLAWM		US Bank CC	√ WEB		21.00	-376.09
Credit Card Charge	09/15/2026		University of Minnesota	Lauren 2026 WRC	US Bank CC	3.160 · Training (staff/board)		450.00	73.91
Credit Card Charge	09/15/2026		University of Minnesota	Angela 2026 WRC	US Bank CC	3.160 · Training (staff/board)		450.00	523.91
Credit Card Charge	09/15/2026		Amazon.com	literature for Watershed Partners	US Bank CC	3.310 · Public Education		44.60	568.51
Aug 1 - Oct 1, 26								568.51	568.51

TEC Report to Board -October 2026

Programs & Projects	Effort Level	Completion Date	Comments																								
	LOW																										
	MED																										
	HIGH																										
Projects				Administration & Operation																							
E. Vadnais Lake Subwatershed Resiliency Study		Ongoing	Staff are continuing to work with the City of Vadnais Heights on exploring early design concepts and data collection for the resiliency project. Staff will be working with the City on a MOU /partnership agreement to begin collaborating on community outreach/engagement efforts for the project.	Audit		2027	2026 early audit work with start Q1 of 2027																				
Vadnais Heights Resiliency Study (Whole City)		2026	The resiliency study was completed and a final grant report was submitted to the MPCA on 6/30/26. Additional data collection tasks for potential future projects is under consideration.	Budget		for 2027 budget	The VLAWMO Board will be considering the 2027 working budget at the December VLAWMO Board meeting.																				
MPCA 319 /Wilkinson Lake BMPs		Ongoing	Project easement filed and recorded. HEI working on soil sampling and tree survey.	SSU		2027	The VLAWMO Board will be considering the certification of SSU charges at the Oct. 28, 2026 meeting.																				
Pleasant Lake Carp Management		Ongoing	Spring removal likely completed. Transition to maintenance beginning.	2027-2036 Watershed Mgmt. Plan		2026	The VLAWMO Board approved WMP at the June 17, 2026 meeting. Distribution of the approved WMP to member communities occurred in August.																				
Rotary Park partnership		2025-29	Task Order 1 complete in July; Task order 2 will carry project through the end of the year.																								
CD14 Stabilization		2026-27	Contractor selected, estimated work to begin mid November.																								
Programs																											
City/Township MS4		Ongoing	Public participation opportunities continue to be regularly shared with partners. Staff are continuing development for a new site for sharing MCM 1 and MCM 2 resources with member communities, as well as recording offerings for EOY reporting.	FINANCIAL SUMMARY as of 10/1/2026																							
				4M Account (1.10)	4M Plus (1.23)	Total																					
Communication & Outreach		Ongoing	Outreach materials continue to be updated. Community events continued throughout September, with a second round of Neighborhood Garden Tours in August and VLAWMO hosting a "Caring for a Native Garden" Blue Thumb workshop on September 15th.	\$1,077,932	\$270,864	\$1,348,796																					
Cost Share & BWSR WBIF		Ongoing	Site visits continue. Several designs are underway in partnership with the RCSWCD. 2025 projects continue to be closed out as final site visits are completed. VLAWMO and RCSWCD are actively working on a Metropolitan Council/Metro Transit partnership at the Vadnais Heights Park and Ride as a likely WBIF project. Next steps have begun for BWSR WBIF 25-27 program. Planning for minor grant program changes also underway.	<table><tr><th>Budget Summary</th><th>Actual Expense YTD</th><th>2026 Budget "working"</th><th>Remaining In Budget</th><th>% YTD</th></tr><tr><td>Operations</td><td>\$710,715</td><td>\$1,150,796</td><td>\$596,846</td><td>62%</td></tr><tr><td>CIP</td><td>\$209,800</td><td>\$1,708,894</td><td>\$1,513,680</td><td>12%</td></tr><tr><td>Total</td><td>\$920,515</td><td>\$2,859,690</td><td>\$2,110,526</td><td>32%</td></tr></table>				Budget Summary	Actual Expense YTD	2026 Budget "working"	Remaining In Budget	% YTD	Operations	\$710,715	\$1,150,796	\$596,846	62%	CIP	\$209,800	\$1,708,894	\$1,513,680	12%	Total	\$920,515	\$2,859,690	\$2,110,526	32%
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Total	\$920,515	\$2,859,690	\$2,110,526					32%																			
Monitoring		Ongoing	2026 regular monitoring is complete. Data analysis underway.																								
WAV		Ongoing	Volunteers have continued supporting community events. The fall WAV planning meeting and lake cleanup event took place in October. Two current Stewards were awarded a Community Blue grant for their hosting of a two-part Adopt-a-Drain event this fall, with the second event to be held on 10/24.																								
WCA		Ongoing	Administering WCA as needed.																								
Website		Ongoing	New website content is updated as needed. Staff are planning more robust efforts to ensure digital accessibility compliance by the 2028 deadline, including developing a scope of work with a consultant.																								

Budget Summary	Actual Expense YTD	2026 Budget "working"	Remaining in Budget	% YTD
Operations	\$710,715	\$1,150,796	\$596,846	62%
CIP	\$209,800	\$1,708,894	\$1,513,680	12%
Total	\$920,515	\$2,859,690	\$2,110,526	32%

TEC Staff Memo – October 14, 2026

IV. Administration & Operations

A. October Financial Report and Consider Authorization for Payment

Please find the October financial report and authorization to pay bills for consideration and approval.

B. October TEC Report to the Board

Please find the October TEC report to the Board attached in the ePacket for review and approval.

V. Programs

A. Watershed Award Nominations Open

Nominations are now being accepted for VLAWMO's annual watershed awards. VLAWMO staff are eager to celebrate the community collaboration that is critical to VLAWMO's mission through the Watershed Steward Award. Eligible nominees include volunteers, VLAWMO grant recipients, neighborhood or lake associations, or community groups who have worked independently or with VLAWMO staff to improve water resources or community understanding of water issues within the Vadnais Lake Watershed.

TEC members, municipal partners and affiliates, and the general public are all encouraged to participate in the nomination process. Nominations can be made anonymously, and self-nominations will be accepted.

Nomination forms are available at [VLAWMO.org/watershed-awards](https://www.vlawmo.org/watershed-awards). All nominations must be submitted by Friday, November 20th. Staff will provide more information on award criteria and timelines at the TEC meeting.

B. Consider Recommendation on Digital Accessibility

TEC members may remember that in May 2026, staff presented an overview of the upcoming requirements for compliance with the [Americans with Disabilities Act Title II Web and Mobile Accessibility Rule](#). As a local government organization, VLAWMO will need to comply with the ruling and meet Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) level AA. As a special district, VLAWMO's compliance deadline will be April 26, 2028.

Since May, staff have developed a draft overview of anticipated tasks to prepare VLAWMO for compliance with this ruling. At the recommendation of several local watershed organizations, staff connected with Weco, a local digital accessibility consultant. Staff met with Weco in July to request more information on their offerings, and they submitted a proposal with potential services. From that proposal, staff have determined recommended services to help VLAWMO reach compliance and develop sustainable digital accessibility practices moving forward, including training, manual audits for select webpages, service hours,

document conversion, and coaching. Anticipated cost for these selected services will be less than \$10,000, with the scope of services anticipated to begin in late 2026 and span through early 2028 or as needed for compliance requirements. Staff anticipate bringing further steps to a future Board meeting for their consideration and will provide further information at the TEC meeting.

Requested action: Staff request that the TEC recommend Board consideration of a scope of services for digital accessibility work with the consultant Weco beginning in late 2026 and extending into 2028 as needed to achieve compliance with the new web rule.

C. Update on Recent Outreach Events

September held a variety of community engagement opportunities in the VLAWMO watershed. These included a Blue Thumb workshop focused on native garden care, a Watershed Action Volunteers meeting and cleanup event, and an educational open house hosted by local Minnesota Water Stewards with support from staff. In the weeks ahead, watershed opportunities include a second [Minnesota Water Steward-hosted event](#) on October 24th and a [Smart Salting for Community Leaders workshop](#) through the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) on November 9th. Staff will provide more information at the TEC meeting.

D. SHG 2026-08 Fitzpatrick Native Plant Restoration Phase 1 Grant Application

Landowner Ann Fitzpatrick submitted a Soil Health Grant application for a native plant restoration project in the backyard of her 0.7-acre property in the City of Vadnais Heights. The project area drains directly to a wetland that ultimately drains to East Vadnais Lake. The project is also within a VLAWMO priority zone area for volume reduction. This is the first phase of a multi-phase restoration and stormwater management project. The proposed native plant restoration for this first phase will involve site preparation such as the removal of existing vegetation, seeding with a diverse mix of native grasses, sedges, and forbs, stabilizing an existing steep slope, and planting shrubs and additional native plant plugs over a total area of about 500 square feet. 252 native plant plugs and 6 shrubs will be added. The landowner will be hiring a contractor to complete the work next spring or summer. Phase 2 is expected in 2028 and may involve a rain garden to help address stormwater issues. The landowner has attended both of VLAWMO's neighborhood garden tours this year and native plant maintenance workshop and is enthusiastic about enhancing pollinator habitat and capturing stormwater runoff before it reaches the wetland behind her home.

The total estimated project cost is \$4,258.

Requested action: Staff recommends approval of SHG 2026-08 in the amount of \$1,250.

E. FY 26-27 BWSR WBIF Grant Program Process

BWSR has allocated \$147,921 to the Vadnais Lake Area Watershed Planning Area again through its fiscal year 26-27 Watershed-based Implementation Funding (WBIF) program. In order to secure the funding, VLAWMO and its partners need to begin BWSR's recommended convene meeting process.

At the TEC meeting, staff will revisit the WBIF convene meeting process, which is the same process that occurred in 2022 and 2024. Prior to scheduling a convene meeting, municipalities need to self-select two decision-making representatives to attend the convene meeting and be part of the process for choosing grant activities and submitting a funding request to BWSR. These representatives should coordinate with the other municipalities during the process. Partners must also select a local government entity or BWSR staff to coordinate and facilitate the convene meeting, which VLAWMO staff recommend selecting at the October 14, 2026 TEC meeting.

VI. Projects

A. Update on Phase 2, 319 Proposed Project

Project partners met on-site on September 21 to discuss possible access routes and navigation considerations for construction and development of plans and specifications. The meeting highlighted considerations that HEI has incorporated into the most current design draft. A follow-up meeting with permitting entities is scheduled for October 9. An update with responses or guidance received as part of this meeting will be shared with TEC members at the October meeting.

B. Lake Survey/RCSWCD and NST Scopes for 2027

VLAWMO staff are working on scopes for maintenance and surveys for 2027.

Received to date are scopes for:

- Lake surveys and site support from RCSWCD
- NST maintenance for multiple VLAWMO sites
- NST maintenance scope for the Wilkinson Deep-Water Wetland.

MOUs and/or maintenance agreements are in place and ongoing with the City of White Bear Lake and NOC for 50/50 partnership funding. An MOU for 2027 is underway with NOHOA for ongoing invasive yellow iris removal support and 50/50 partnership funding has been confirmed for 2027. As part of the RCSWCD quote, VLAWMO requested pricing for pre/post surveys in Birch Lake. That is tentative contingent upon notification from BLID if they will be conducting AIS removal work.

VLAWMO appreciates the support and involvement of these key partners for ongoing survey and maintenance work.

Contract/Letter Agreement	Total Amount in 2027
Ramsey County Soil and Water Conservation Division: Lake Surveys for	\$5,450-\$8,355

Tamarack and Birch Lakes, Flowering rush site support near Amelia, and Yellow iris survey in remaining areas to recheck outside of NO.	(For comparison, 2026 range was \$7,020-\$9,485) *Birch Lake surveys dependent upon notification from BLID
Natural Shore Technologies: Project sites maintenance and enhancement	\$14,200 (For comparison, 2026 quote was: \$13,960) Partner support anticipated to include: WBL: \$1,200 BL shoreline, \$300 if the Amur silvergrass treatment goes forward, and \$1,100 IESF (MOUs completed) NOHOA: \$3,000 invasive yellow iris removal (MOU in process) VLAWMO total = \$8,600
Natural Shore Technologies: Wilkinson deep-water wetland site maintenance and enhancement	\$5,000 (2026 quote was the same amount) Partner support w/NOC anticipated to be \$2,500. (MOU and Maintenance Agreement completed) VLAWMO total = \$2,500

Requested Action: VLAWMO staff request a recommendation to the Board for approval of the contracts provided in the packet with dollar amounts summarized in the table above with RCSWCD and NST.

Attachments:

1. RCSWCD 2027 quote
2. Letter agreement from NST for maintenance sites
3. Letter agreement from NST for Wilkinson deep-water wetland

Soil Health Grant Application



Submit completed application to:

Lauren Sampedro

lauren.sampedro@vlawmo.org

Applicant Information:

Name:	Ann Fitzpatrick
Address:	220 Woodridge Drive
City/Township, State, Zip:	Vadnais Heights MN 55127
Phone:	612-816-5886
Email:	fitzp016@gmail.com



Project Summary:

ESTIMATED TOTAL PROJECT COST (\$)	\$4258 (Phase 1)
AMOUNT REQUESTED (\$1,000 MAX or \$1,250 in Priority Area)	\$1250
EXPECTED PROJECT COMPLETION (Month, Year)	8/2027

PROJECT TYPE:

- ☐ Downspout/Small Rain Garden
☐ Native Restoration/Pollinator Garden
☐ Turfgrass Replacement
☒ Other

If other, please describe the proposed project: wetland buffer, erosion control

Project Background:

Describe your property. What is the purpose of your project? Does your property connect to a lake, creek, ditch, or wetland in VLAWMO?	Our home backs up to a wetland and to Vadnais lake park. There is a steep hill from the street to the back yard and then a more hill down to the woodland and wetland area. There is a storm sewer draining into the wetland adjacent to our property. The purpose of Phase 1 of the project is to improve the water quality of the water draining into Vadnais Lake, to improve erosion control on the hills on the the property
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Project Background: Continued

Describe how your project will support the goals of the Soil Health Grant Program. (See grant policy)	The project will support the goals of the soil health grant program by improving water quality and soil health through removal of weeds and planting native species, stabilizing the soil on the hill and providing habitat for pollinators.
Briefly describe the planned installation and maintenance activities for your project.	Phase 1 west and northwest side of hills: See attached proposal from Natural Resource Services (NRS). Certified staff from NRS will apply aquatic approved herbicide, remove weeds, seed the area with native seed (see list in proposal), mulch area, plant native seed plants and shrubs (252 plugs and 6 shrubs - see attached list). Maintenance will be conducted as directed by NRS. Phase 2 will be in the west/southwest side of the yard/hill. See attached drawing.

Project Specifications:

TOTAL PROPERTY AREA (Acres)	0.7 acres
Total PROJECT SIZE (SQ FT)	500 square feet - Phase 1
IF APPLICABLE: DEPTH OF RAIN GARDEN BASIN (Inches)	NA



Required Attachments:

- ⇒ Detailed drawing or plan of the proposed project.
- ⇒ Detailed project budget estimate with itemized costs and materials that equal your total estimated cost.

VLAWMO Soil Health Grant Agreement



It is understood that:

1. The grantee is responsible for maintaining the project for at least 5 years after its installation. VLAWMO is not responsible for completing maintenance activities.
2. The grantee will participate in VLAWMO's outreach and project sharing efforts.
3. A project may be visited and inspected by a VLAWMO representative during the 5-year maintenance period.
4. Grant awards will expire within 1 year of grant approval unless the project is extended with VLAWMO approval.

The applicant's signature indicates their agreement to the above terms and certifies the grant application information is true and accurate. A VLAWMO staff signature will constitute an approved and executed grant agreement between the grantee and the VLAWMO.

Applicant/Grantee

Signature **Ann Fitzpatrick** Digitally signed by Ann Fitzpatrick
Date: 2026.09.14 11:09:28 -05'00' Date 9/14/26

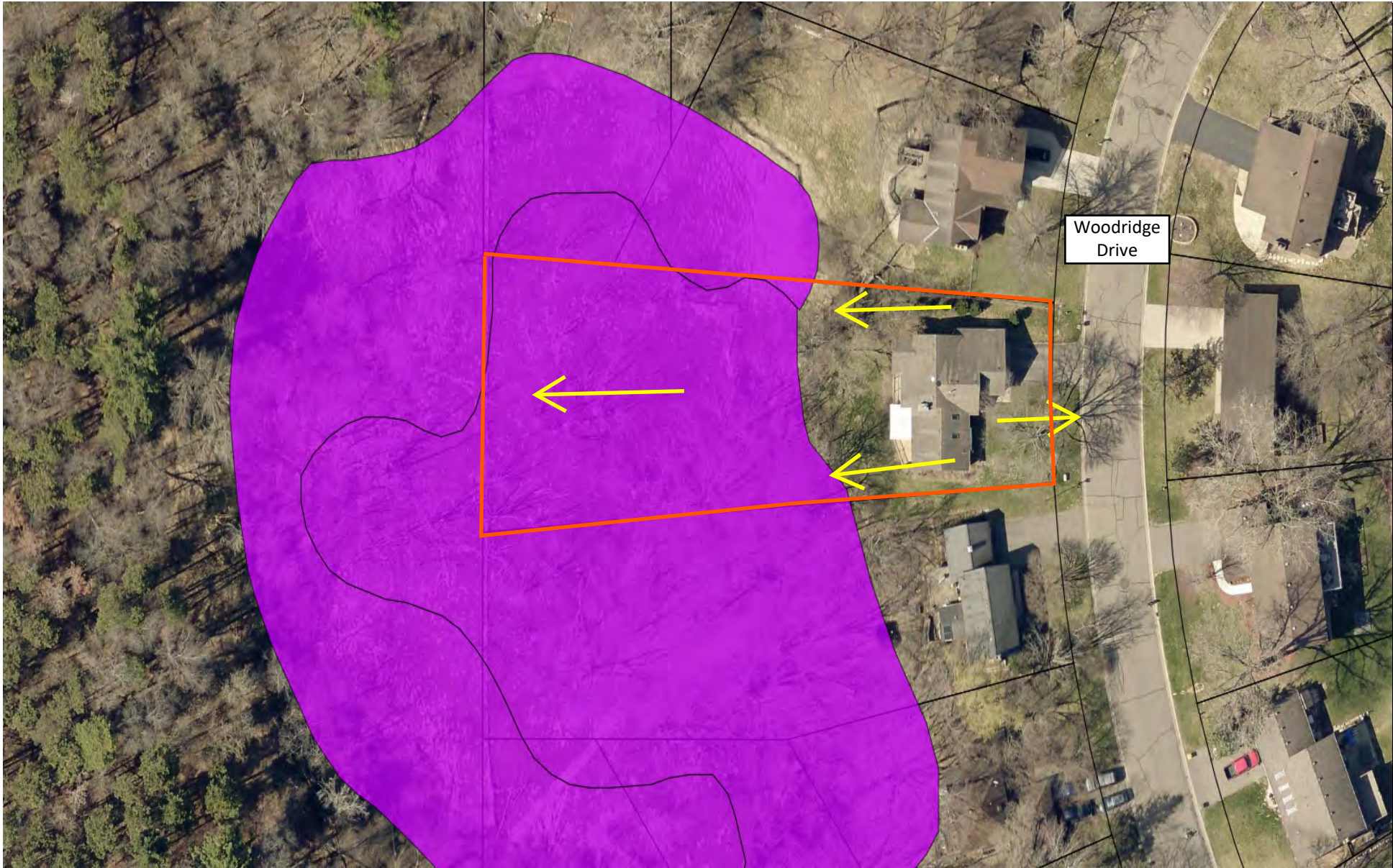
Print Ann Fitzpatrick

VLAWMO Staff

Signature _____ Date _____

Print _____

SHG 2026-08 Fitzpatrick Native Plant Restoration Application



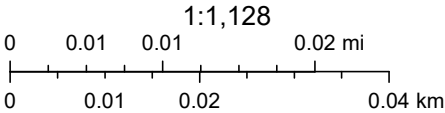
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Ramsey County Parcels
- 

Project Location
- 

Flow Arrows
- 

Wetland



Esri, HERE, Garmin, (c) OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS user community, County of Ramsey, Esri, HERE, Garmin, GeoTechnologies, Inc.,

ArcGIS Web AppBuilder
County of Ramsey, Esri, HERE, Garmin, GeoTechnologies, Inc., US EPA



www.naturalresourceservice.com

DATE: 8/7/26

Natural Resource Services, Inc.
2885 Quail Rd. NE
Sauk Rapids, MN 56379

TO: Ann Fitzpatrick	Phone: 612-816-5886	EMAIL: fitzp016@gmail.com
PROJECT NAME	LOCATION	APPROXIMATE SIZE
Fitzpatrick Residence	220 Woodridge Rd. Vadnais Heights, MN	500 sq. feet

Project steps and specifications:

I. Site and seedbed preparation

1. Herbicide application(s):

- Certified NRS staff will complete herbicide application using aquatic-approved glyphosate herbicide (Rodeo® or equivalent) and triclopyr herbicide (Garlon 3A® or equivalent) as per manufacturer's directions. Allow a minimum of 30 days before disturbing the soil or completing seeding activities.
- If needed, after adequate re-growth has been achieved, conduct a second herbicide application using aquatic approved glyphosate herbicide (Rodeo® or equivalent) as per manufacturer's directions in areas with undesirable vegetation growing. Allow a minimum of 14 days before disturbing the soil or completing seeding activities.

2. Soil tillage and preparation:

- If needed, prior to soil raking, completion of a site mowing to chop dead vegetation, allowing for proper soil tillage. All dead vegetation will be raked off project area. It is assumed that the vegetation will be able to be piled and left on the property.
- Rake the soil to achieve the proper seedbed.

II. Seeding techniques and seed mixes

- Grass and flower seed will be hand broadcast across the project area.
- Hand raking will follow grass seeding.
- All native seed is provided in pure live seed (PLS) form. PLS is defined as: the quantity of seed capable of germination.
- Proposed grass and forb mixes are listed below:

Savanna Mix- Short grass (12#/acre)

		Mix	% of	Seeds/ Sq Ft	PLS lbs/ac
	Scientific Name	Common Name			
Grasses:	Bouteloua curtipendula	Side-oats Grama	14.00	6.14	1.68
	Bromus kalmii	Prairie Brome	5.00	1.76	0.60
	Elymus hystrix	Bottlebrush Grass	3.75	1.26	0.45
	Elymus trachycaulus	Slender Wheat Grass	9.00	2.74	1.08
	Elymus villosus	Silky Wild Rye	5.75	1.39	0.69
	Elymus virginicus	Virginia Wild Rye	11.00	2.04	1.32
	Schizachyrium scoparium	Little Bluestem	24.00	15.87	2.88
Sedges/Rushes:	Carex blanda	Eastern Woodland Sedge	2.00	1.10	0.24
	Carex brevior	Plains Oval Sedge	3.50	4.47	0.42
	Carex houghtoniana	Houghtons Sedge	1.50	0.31	0.18
	Carex molesta	Troublesome Sedge	1.75	1.93	0.21
	Carex sprengeii	Long-beaked Sedge	0.75	0.33	0.09
Forbs:	Achillea millefolium	Yarrow	0.15	1.16	0.02
	Agastache foeniculum	Fragrant Giant Hyssop	0.35	1.39	0.04
	Amorpha canescens	Leadplant	0.50	0.35	0.06
	Anemone canadensis	Canada Anemone	0.10	0.04	0.01
	Aquilegia canadensis	Columbine	0.50	0.84	0.06
	Asclepias syriaca	Common Milkweed	1.10	0.19	0.13
	Baptisia bracteata	Cream Wild Indigo	0.20	0.01	0.02
	Campanula americana	Tall Bellflower	0.10	0.75	0.01
	Chamerion angustifolium	Fireweed	0.05	1.10	0.01
	Coreopsis palmata	Prairie Coreopsis	0.20	0.09	0.02
	Dalea purpurea	Purple Prairie Clover	4.00	2.64	0.48
	Dalea candida	White Prairie Clover	2.00	1.67	0.24
	Desmodium canadense	Showy Tick-trefoil	2.35	0.57	0.28
	Drymocallis arguta	Prairie Cinquefoil	0.30	3.04	0.04
	Helianthus maximiliani	Maximillian's Sunflower	0.40	0.23	0.05
	Lespedeza capitata	Round-headed	0.25	0.09	0.03
		Bushclover			
	Liatrias aspera	Rough Blazing Star	0.20	0.14	0.02
	Monarda fistulosa	Wild Bergamot	0.25	0.77	0.03
	Monarda punctata	Spotted Bee Balm	0.10	0.40	0.01
	Oenothera biennis	Common Evening	0.50	1.98	0.06
		Primrose			
	Pseudognaphalium obtusifolium	Sweet Everlasting	0.10	4.17	0.01
	Rosa arkansana	Prairie Rose	0.25	0.01	0.03
	Rudbeckia hirta	Black-eyed Susan	1.20	4.87	0.14
	Solidago nemoralis	Gray Goldenrod	0.15	1.98	0.02
	Solidago rigida	Stiff Goldenrod	0.50	0.90	0.06
	Solidago speciosa	Showy Goldenrod	0.20	0.84	0.02
	Symphotrichum lateriflorum	Calico Aster	0.50	5.51	0.06
	Symphotrichum oolentangiense	Sky-blue Aster	0.40	1.41	0.05
	Verbena stricta	Hoary Vervain	0.75	0.93	0.09
	Veronicastrum virginicum	Culver's Root	0.05	1.76	0.01
	Zizia aptera	Heart-leaved Alexanders	0.30	0.16	0.04
			100.00	79.33	12.00

Mesic Prairie (12#/acre)

			% of Mix	Seeds/ Sq Ft	PLS lbs/ac
	Scientific Name	Common Name			
Grasses:	Andropogon gerardii	Big Bluestem	7.00	3.09	0.84
	Bouteloua curtipendula	Side-oats Grama	14.00	6.14	1.68
	Bromus kalmii	Prairie Brome	2.50	0.88	0.30
	Elymus canadensis	Canada Wild Rye	5.25	1.20	0.63
	Elymus trachycaulus	Slender Wheat Grass	6.00	1.82	0.72
	Elymus virginicus	Virginia Wild Rye	5.50	1.02	0.66
	Panicum virgatum	Switchgrass	3.50	2.16	0.42
	Schizachyrium scoparium	Little Bluestem	18.00	11.90	2.16
	Sorghastrum nutans	Indian Grass	11.00	5.82	1.32
	Sporobolus compositus	Rough Dropseed	2.00	2.64	0.24
	Sporobolus heterolepis	Prairie Dropseed	0.25	0.18	0.03
Forbs:	Achillea millefolium	Yarrow	0.05	0.39	0.01
	Agastache foeniculum	Fragrant Giant Hyssop	0.20	0.79	0.02
	Amorpha canescens	Leadplant	1.20	0.85	0.14
	Asclepias syriaca	Common Milkweed	0.75	0.13	0.09
	Asclepias incarnata	Rose Milkweed	0.30	0.06	0.04
	Astragalus canadensis	Canada Milk Vetch	1.75	1.31	0.21
	Baptisia alba	White Wild Indigo	0.25	0.02	0.03
	Dalea candida	White Prairie Clover	2.70	2.26	0.32
	Dalea purpurea	Purple Prairie Clover	4.00	2.64	0.48
	Desmodium canadense	Showy Tick-trefoil	2.90	0.70	0.35
	Drymocallis arguta	Prairie Cinquefoil	0.25	2.53	0.03
	Eryngium yuccifolium	Rattlesnake Master	1.00	0.33	0.12
	Helianthus maximiliani	Maximillian's Sunflower	0.75	0.43	0.09
	Heliopsis helianthoides	Common Ox-eye	1.65	0.46	0.20
	Liatris ligulistylis	Meadow Blazing Star	0.60	0.26	0.07
	Liatris pycnostachya	Prairie Blazing Star	0.60	0.29	0.07
	Monarda fistulosa	Wild Bergamot	0.40	1.23	0.05
	Pycnanthemum virginianum	Mountain Mint	0.10	0.97	0.01
	Ratibida pinnata	Yellow Coneflower	0.80	1.06	0.10
	Rudbeckia hirta	Black-eyed Susan	1.30	5.27	0.16
	Solidago rigida	Stiff Goldenrod	0.60	1.08	0.07
	Solidago speciosa	Showy Goldenrod	0.20	0.84	0.02
	Symphyotrichum laeve	Smooth Blue Aster	0.25	0.61	0.03
	Symphyotrichum novae-angliae	New England Aster	0.30	0.87	0.04
	Symphyotrichum oolentangiense	Sky-blue Aster	0.25	0.88	0.03
	Verbena hastata	Blue Vervain	0.40	1.64	0.05
	Tradescantia ohiensis	Ohio Spiderwort	0.25	0.09	0.03
	Veronicastrum virginicum	Culver's Root	0.10	3.53	0.01
	Zizia aptera	Heart-leaved Alexanders	0.10	0.05	0.01
	Zizia aurea	Golden Alexanders	1.00	0.48	0.12
			100.00	68.93	12.00

III. Sediment and erosion control practices and procedures

1. Depending on planting date, oats or winter wheat cover crop will be applied at a rate of 20 lbs./acre. These annual species will germinate quickly and help lessen weed pressure and aid in the reduction of soil loss.
2. The project area will be hand mulched using clean oats or wheat straw.

IV. Native seedling plants

1. The project area will be further enhanced with additional forbs, grasses and sedges/rushes plants. These can be planted in select areas to create a “drift” or splash of additional color or planted across the project area to increase overall plant and species diversity.
2. Seedling plants are often used for species that can be difficult to establish or acquire. They can also often be used in small areas where quick and immediate vegetation establishment is critical.
3. Plant a total of 252 native seedling plants. Species will be a mix of flowers, sedges and grasses that are appropriate for site conditions within the project area. Additional species can be added as budget allows.

V. Shrubs

1. Container grown native shrubs will be planted in select areas of the project.
2. Exact species will be selected closer to planting time. Potential species include: red osier dogwood, gray dogwood, and bush honeysuckle.

VI. Restoration management/maintenance

1. Management is crucial to the overall success of the planted landscape, especially during the early years of your planting. New plantings are a fragile landscape and can be susceptible to various outside forces and weed pressure that can prevent successful establishment.
2. During the first growing season mowing may need to be completed to control annual weed development. Mowing is completed to reduce weed competition and keep an open canopy to prevent the young newly emerging seedlings from becoming shaded out. Frequency and height of mowing is determined by age of planted landscape, planting date(s), seed mixes planted and soil types present.
3. Following the first growing season additional management activities will likely be required to ensure the best overall success of the planting. These services typically consist of spot herbicide applications, spot mowing, hand weeding/chopping, wicking or complete site mowing. During this time period biannual and perennial weeds are targeted.
4. As the planting matures, these management activities will typically decrease but almost never completely disappear.
5. Prescribed burning may be recommended to control invading woody species and alleviate buildup of plant biomass. Burns are typically completed on a rotation of every 3-5 years depending on species present. Grassland landscapes have evolved through the presence of fire and benefits greatly from periodic burning. The growing season following a prescribed fire often has the most colorful blooms.
6. During years when prescribed burning is not completed, a dormant mowing may be recommended. These mowing's are completed in the spring (before many of the species are actively growing) or in the fall (after the plants have gone dormant). When these mowing's are completed, they allow for the newly emerging blooms and growth to be seen more easily and assists in the breakdown of accumulated plant biomass.

7. The below installation quote does not include management activities. A quote to perform these practices can be provided upon request.

VII. Pricing

BASE PROJECT	QTY	UNIT PRICE	LINE TOTAL
Project management	1	LS	\$500
Site preparation, seed, seeding and straw mulch	1	LS	\$2,275
Native seedling plugs	252	\$4/each	\$1,008
Native potted shrubs (2 gallon)	6	\$75/each	\$475
TOTAL			\$4,258

Thank you for contacting Natural Resource Services and we look forward to the opportunity of working with you on this project. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

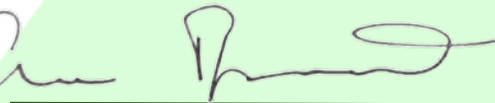
Sincerely,
Brad Vierkant
Director of Ecological Projects
Natural Resource Services, Inc.
320-309-2316
Brad@naturalresourceservice.com

Notes:

- Includes seeding cover crop at the time of permanent seeding.
- Does not include any erosion blanket.
- Does not include seeding maintenance (a quote can be provided).
- Does not include watering of shrubs or plugs.

If you accept the quote as provided and would like to proceed, please sign below and return to Natural Resource Services, Inc.

Property owner/manager:



Date: 9/1/2026

Proposed Fitpatrick Residence plugs- Total of 252

Forbs

<i>Common Name</i>	<i>Scientific Name</i>
Stiff goldenrod	Solidago rigida
Showy goldenrod	Solidago speciosa
Purple coneflower	Echinacea pallida
Purple prairie clover	Delea purpurea
Prairie phlox	Phlox pilosa
Rough blazing star	Liatris aspera
Meadow blazing star	Liatris ligulistylis
Butterfly milkweed	Asclepias tuberosa
Columbine	Aquilegia canadensis
Zig zag goldenrod	Solidago flexicaulis
Swamp milkweed	Asclepias incarnata
Golden alexander	Zizia aurea
Sky blue aster	Symphyotrichum oolentangiense
Culvers root	Veronicastrum virginicum

Grasses/sedges/rushes

<i>Common Name</i>	<i>Scientific Name</i>
Plains oval sedge	Carex brevior
Side oats grama	Bouteloua curtipendula
Bottlebrush grass	Elymus hystrix
Big bluestem	Andropogon gerardii
Prairie dropseed	Sporobolus heterolepis
Little bluestem	Schizachyrium scoparium
Awl fruited sedge	Carex stipata

Proposed Fitpatrick Residence Shrubs- Total of 6

<i>Common Name</i>	<i>Scientific Name</i>
Red twig dogwood	Cornus sericea
Wild rose	Rosa arkansana or blanda
Bush honeysuckle	Diervilla lonicera

V. D. Fitzpatrick Native Plant Restoration

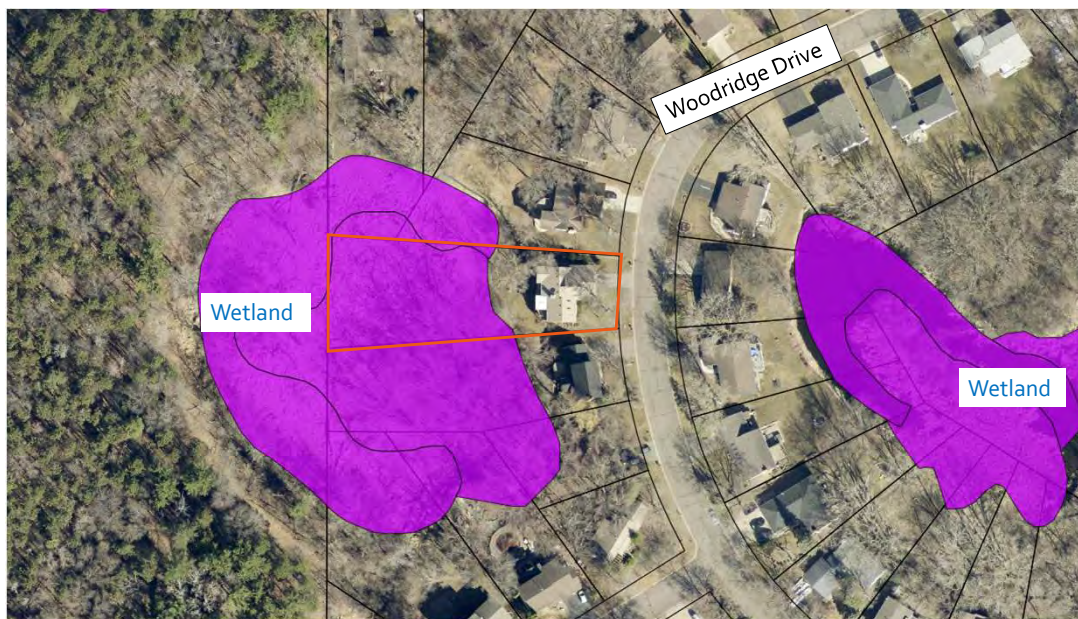
SHG 2026-08 Grant Application

Lauren Sampedro
TEC Meeting
10/14/2026



1

SHG 2026-08–Location Aerial



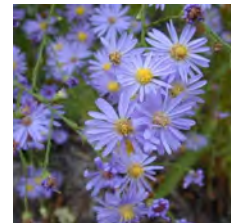
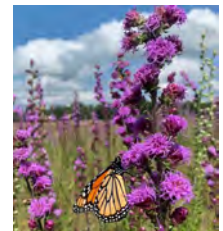
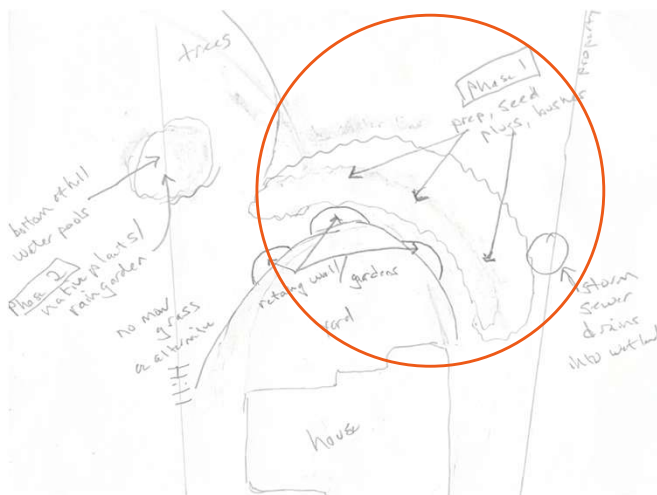
2

Existing Area



3

Proposed Plan



4

V. E.



BWSR Watershed-based Implementation Funding (WBIF) Program Convene Process

FY '26-27

Lauren Sampedro
TEC Meeting
10/14/2026



1

Background on BWSR WBIF



- Funding made available from the Clean Water Fund
 - ❖ Funds for advancing State's water resource goals through prioritized and targeted cost-effective actions with measurable water quality results.
- Purpose of WBIF is to enhance existing funding to implement clean water activities towards State's water resource goals



Vadnais Lake Area Water Management Organization

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BWSR WBIF Fund Allocation



- WBIF funds allocated to statewide and metro
- \$9 million allocated to metro area this funding cycle by smaller watersheds
- Allows LGUs to pursue projects based on a specific watershed's local priorities
- Vadnais Lake Area allocated **\$147,921**
- Requires 10% match



3

BWSR WBIF Eligibility



- Eligible entities for WBIF: partners located within the Vadnais Lake Area Partnership (watershed allocation area) such as counties, municipalities, SWCDs, tribal nations, WDs, and **WMOs**
- Eligible activities must be in implementation section of current State-approved & locally adopted plans like **WMP**, county groundwater plan, SWCD comprehensive plan

Vadnais Lake Area Water Management Organization

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BWSR WBIF Eligible Grant Activities



- Primary purpose to protect, enhance, or restore water quality in lakes, rivers, or streams or protect groundwater & drinking water from degradation
- Multi-beneficial projects encouraged but must primarily benefit water quality.
- Activities focused on prioritized, targeted, & measurable **water quality** benefits



Vadnais Lake Area Water Management Organization

5

Process Guidance from State



- Hold at least 1 convene meeting with partners to jointly choose proposed grant activities and coordinate a WBIF funding request to BWSR
- Select decision-making representatives before holding convene meetings
- Select convene meeting coordinator/facilitator



Vadnais Lake Area Water Management Organization

6

Selecting Decision-Making Representatives



- Requires a minimum of 1 representative from the WD/WMO, 1 from SWCD, 1 county with approved groundwater plan, and up to 2 municipal representatives

Select 2 people to serve as decision-making representatives

-Recommend involving municipal staff members

Vadnais Lake Area Water Management Organization

7

Selecting Convene Meeting Facilitator



**Consider selecting VLAWMO staff as facilitator
or coordinator of convene meetings**

Vadnais Lake Area Water Management Organization

8

Current FY '24-25 WBIF Program



- \$147,921 total awarded amount for grant program implementation
 - ❖ \$38,808.74 towards the White Bear Lake Sports Center bioswale project in Birch Lake subwatershed
 - ❖ Remaining \$109,112.26 focused on potential Metro Transit Park & Ride lot redevelopment in Vadnais Heights in Vadnais-Sucker subwatershed (*in design phase*)
 - ❖ Pursuing additional partnership projects if any funding remains

Vadnais Lake Area Water Management Organization

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Proposed FY '26-27 WBIF VLAWMO Process



- Hold first convene meeting in November/early December & host virtually
 - Invite municipal staff not currently on VLAWMO TEC
- Given success of previous approaches, VLAWMO initially proposes using FY'26-27 Vadnais Lake Area allocation of \$147,921 towards partnership projects through the existing LL2 Grant Program

Vadnais Lake Area Water Management Organization

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Proposed Timeline



- **October 2026 TEC meeting :**
 - Start selection of decision-making representatives & convene meeting coordinator
- **November/December 2026 or January 2027:** Convene meeting/s to select activities for funding
- **July 1, 2026:** Funding becomes available
- **January-February 2027:**
 - Send proposed grant activities Work Plan to BWSR
 - Submit eLINK funding request
- **April 30, 2027:** Last day to submit an eLINK funding request
- **June 1, 2027:** Grant execution deadline
- **Dec. 31, 2029:** Grant expiration

Vadnais Lake Area Water Management Organization

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2027 Birch Lake Eurasian Watermilfoil Delineation Survey Proposal

October 5, 2026

Prepared for:

Vadnais Lake Area Water Management Organization

Prepared by:

Ramsey County Parks & Recreation, SWCD

Scope of Services

NOTE: This task is pending and dependent on removal funding from the Birch Lake Improvement District. VLAWMO staff will approve or deny via email.

Delineation Surveys

Delineation surveys will be used to collect data on the abundance of aquatic vegetation, specifically Eurasian Watermilfoil (EWM), using a meandering survey method consistent with DNR requirements for permitting.

Bathymetry and Biovolume Surveys (optional)

Bathymetric surveys are completed by connecting a Lowrance unit + transducer to the boat to capture lake bottom depth data. This data is then processed, corrected using physically measured field data points where necessary, and then used to create new contour lines with ArcGIS software. It may be completed in conjunction with the delineation survey if desired. RC-SWCD staff members will also use the Lowrance unit and transducer to generate data that produces a biovolume map showing concentration of aquatic vegetation growing in the lake if desired.

BIRCH LAKE

Eurasian Watermilfoil Delineation Pre- Harvest Survey

Birch Lake Survey Estimate, May-July 2027

Task	Cost/hr	Hours	Cost
Boat Use	unit	-	\$50
Field Work, 1 day (2 people)*	\$85	12	\$1,020
GIS Post-processing and Mapping	\$85	2	\$170
TOTAL		14	\$1,240

*Total field work cost would be \$510 if VLAWMO staff will be second person in the boat. Total survey cost would then be \$730.

Deliverables

The macrophyte report will include:

- Static map, in PDF format, of the delimitation of Eurasian Watermilfoil shown as a survey point heat maps showing rake density of Eurasian milfoil at each survey point.
- Shapefiles including Eurasian Watermilfoil area and point location layers

Eurasian Watermilfoil Delineation Post- Harvest Survey

Birch Lake Survey Estimate, May-August 2027

Task	Cost/hr	Hours	Cost
Boat Use	unit	-	\$50
Field Work, 1 day (2 people)*	\$85	12	\$1,020
GIS Post-processing and Mapping	\$85	2	\$170
TOTAL		14	\$1,240

* Total field work cost would be \$510 if VLAWMO staff will be second person in the boat. Total survey cost would then be \$730.

Timeline

SWCD staff will plan to complete the survey between June and August but no later than September 15, 2027, with the full report to be completed by December 31, 2027. Initial findings and raw data will be available by September 30, 2027.

Deliverables

The macrophyte report will include:

- Static map, in PDF format, of the delineation of Eurasian Watermilfoil shown as a survey point heat maps showing rake density of Eurasian milfoil at each survey point.
- Shapefiles including Eurasian Watermilfoil area and point location layers

2027 Gallup Farm, Sucker Lake and East Vadnais Proposal

October 5, 2027

Prepared for:

Vadnais Lake Area Water Management Organization

Prepared by:

Ramsey County Parks & Recreation, Soil and Water Conservation Division

Scope of Services

Flowering Rush (*Butomus umbellatus*) Delineation

Invasive Flowering Rush (*Butomus umbellatus*) will be delineated across the entire wetland utilizing visual searches. Plants found will be treated with mechanical or chemical methods. The EDDMapS report will be updated and any treatment entered into ISMTrack. If desired, native plantings completed in 2025 will be surveyed for establishment. Additional documentation, surveys, and planting may occur at the discretion of VLAWMO and agreement of the SWCD.

Yellow Iris (*Iris pseudacorus*) Delineation

Invasive Yellow Iris (*Iris pseudacorus*) will be delineated across the entire shoreline utilizing visual searches. A map of the zones will be created along with submission into EDDMapS and any treatment entered into ISMTrack. Extent of the infestation and any treatment will be included in the final report. surveyors will go from East Vadnais up the channel as far as they can reasonably pass. In Sucker Lake they will complete from Highway 96 south to the lake outlet but not travel south into the outlet.

2027 Lake Amelia Area Flowering Rush (*Butomus umbellatus*) Treatment

Lake Amelia Area Flowering Rush Treatment Estimate
May-July 2027

Task	Cost/hr	Hours	Cost
Mapping, treatment, and planting	\$85	20	\$1,700
TOTAL		20	\$1,700

2027 Sucker and East Vadnais Lakes Yellow Iris (*Iris pseudacorus*) Mapping and Treatment

Sucker Lake Area Yellow Iris (*Iris pseudacorus*) Mapping and Treatment Estimate Early June 2027

Task	Cost/hr	Hours	Cost
Searching and mapping via EDDMapS (2 staff)	\$85	8	\$680
Contingency time for treatment not to exceed (2 staff)	\$85	2	\$340
TOTAL		10	\$850

East Vadnais Area Yellow Iris (*Iris pseudacorus*) Mapping and Treatment Estimate Early June 2027

Task	Cost/hr	Hours	Cost
Searching and mapping via EDDMapS (2 staff)	\$85	12	\$1,020
Contingency time for treatment not to exceed (2 staff)	\$85	4	\$340
TOTAL		16	\$1,360

Timeline

SWCD staff will plan to complete the flowering rush survey between June and August. Yellow Iris (*Iris pseudacorus*) survey will be completed during blooming time in early June. All data will be entered into EDDMapS and ISMTrack within 7 days of the survey or treatment. Initial findings and raw data will be available by September 30, 2027.

Deliverables

Will include:

- All data, notes, and pictures will be uploaded to EDDMapS and ISMTrack.



October 1st, 2026

VLAWMO 2027 Vegetative Management Bid

Dear Dawn,

Thank you for considering Natural Shore for several VLAWMO BMPs and restoration sites again next season. Please find below our cost estimates outlined below for each individual site and what those costs include:

Estimated Maintenance for 2027:

Birch Lake Shoreline- \$2,400

- 5 visits minimum throughout the growing season
- Spring clean-up of senesced material to reduce thatch layer
- Control and disposal of undesirable weeds
- Small invasive tree removal and disposal (buckthorn/grapevine/honeysuckle/etc.)
- Supplemental native plants to boost biodiversity
- Supplemental shrubs in areas where non-native woodies are removed

*Birch Lake Amur Silvergrass Treatment- \$600

- Spring mowing of senesced material (rake off excess material as needed)
- Late summer herbicide treatment
- Follow up monitoring and herbicide treatment (if needed)

*Treatment contingent on approval from the City of White Bear Lake. No removal will be done until their permission to proceed is granted.

Birch Lake IESF (including inlet and sand cleaning)- \$2,200

- 5 visits minimum throughout the growing season
- Spring mowing of senesced material to break up thatch
- Small invasive tree removal and disposal (buckthorn/grapevine/honeysuckle/etc.)
- Supplemental native plant seed where needed
- Inlet or catch basin cleaning during site visits
- Raking top crust of sand to the adjacent retaining wall for pickup by City's vacuum truck

Deep Lake, Pleasant Lake (and connecting corridor), and Sucker/Vadnais Corridor Yellow Iris Control- \$6,000

- Site Assessment-tagging & mapping by boat
- Cut seed head & herbicide treatment #1
- Herbicide treatment #2
- Follow up assessment and possible treatment #3

Birch Lake IESF/CPL Grant Maintenance Area- \$3,000

- Spring mowing plus 4 visits minimum throughout the growing season



- Control and disposal of undesirable weeds (reed canary grass, garlic mustard, Japanese Hedge parsley)
- Small invasive tree removal and disposal (buckthorn/grapevine/honeysuckle/etc.)
- Supplemental native plant seed where needed

Total 2027 VLAWMO Restoration Maintenance - \$14,200*

*\$600 for Amur Silvergrass treatment optional until White Bear Lake gives approval to proceed with removal.

These costs are based on site conditions observed during a site assessment and the previous years' maintenance inputs. Prices include consultations, professional monitoring, plant identification, labor, removal and proper disposal of weeds, herbicide, and transportation.

Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns regarding the above estimate.

Thank you,
Tracy Lawler
Maintenance Program Manager
Cell: 612-220-4178
tracy@naturalsshore.com

2027 Maintenance Contract-
Approval of 2027 Vegetative Maintenance

Contract Value: \$14,200
Client names: VLAWMO

Signed: _____ Date _____

Contractor: *Natural Shore Technologies, Inc.*
Signed:

William M. Bartodziej, M.S.
Senior Restoration Ecologist
Natural Shore Technologies, Inc.
6275 Pagenkopf Rd.
Maple Plain, MN 55359

September 28, 2026

Dear Dawn,

Thank you for giving Natural Shore the opportunity to maintain the buffer surrounding the Wilkinson wetland. These costs are based on site conditions and the previous years' maintenance input, our observations, and the site objectives we have discussed with you. Prices include consultations, professional monitoring, plant identification, labor, removal and proper disposal of weeds, herbicide, and transportation.



2027 Shoreline Restoration Maintenance (blue): Not to exceed \$5,000

- Includes all areas planted in 2024 and 2025 by Natural Shore
- Regular site visits throughout the growing season (minimum 4 visits)
- Spring and fall selective herbicide treatments
- Temporary Fence removal along restoration shoreline
- Volunteer tree removal (buckthorn, mulberry, honeysuckle, etc.)
- General site management, monitoring, and regular reporting after each visit

Please feel free to email or phone us with any questions you may have regarding these estimates. We look forward to working with you again on this project next season.

Thank you,

Tracy Lawler
Maintenance Program Manager
Cell: 612-220-4178
tracy@naturalshore.com



2027 Maintenance Contract

Approval of 2027 Maintenance Service

Contract Value: Not to Exceed \$5,000 total

Client names: VLAWMO

Signed: _____ Date _____

Contractor: *Natural Shore Technologies, Inc.*

Signed:

William M. Bartodziej, M.S.
Senior Restoration Ecologist, Natural Shore Technologies

Please return a signed copy of this contract to:

Natural Shore Technologies, Inc.
6275 Pagenkopf Rd.
Maple Plain, MN 55359