

LAKE DATA & INVOLVEMENT

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

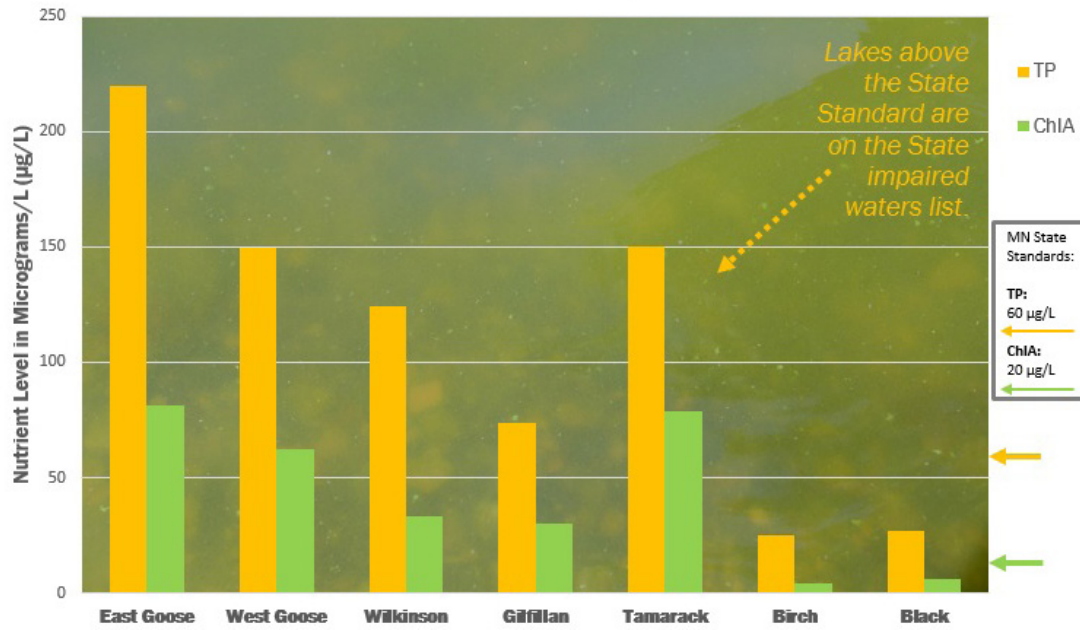
Additional funding for projects comes from grants from the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) and the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Recourses (LCCMR).

2019 Quick Stats:



STATE OF THE LAKES See the 2019 water monitoring report for more information.

Average Total Phosphorus (TP) and Chlorophyll A (ChIA) 2010-2019: Comparing lakes above and below state standards



VLAWMO has seven lakes impaired for nutrients, and Lambert Creek is impaired for bacteria. To improve these waterbodies, VLAWMO looks at the unique needs of each lake. Some issues are internal, while others are from the surrounding watershed including upland areas such as streets and yards. Sometimes, it's a combination of both! Because every City, Township, business, and property connects to water, improvements are truly a team effort. Learning and working together, we can work to protect our clean water.

A NEW ERA

In 2019, VLAWMO achieved the title of "priority small watershed" through the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA). Great partnerships and key water resources supported VLAWMO's selection. This designation will provide VLAWMO with unique funding opportunities every four years for a span of 16 years, providing for more project proposals and installations!

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 banking credits.

COST-SHARE PROGRAM

VLAWMO completed 18 cost-share grants in 2019. These grants supported the creation of raingardens, native plantings, shoreline restoration, and rainbarrels. All together the projects totaled 42,037 ft², and infiltrate an estimated 300,141 gallons of water per year. VLAWMO awarded a total of \$28,107 in designated cost-share funds for these projects. Next year, one of these projects could be your own! Check out VLAWMO.org/grants for more info and to request a free on-site visit!

What can you do?

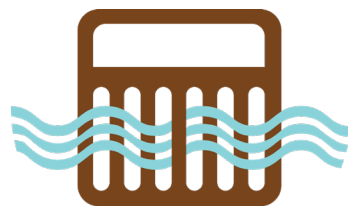
ADOPT-A-DRAIN

Cleaning one or several nearby stormdrains is a convenient and effective way to support clean water. While the stormdrain system is effective at keeping our neighborhoods dry, it wasn't designed for lake health. Visit adopt-a-drain.org to help tip the balance, and give your drain a name!

START AT HOME

What's happening and what's planted in the yard impacts local water. For water-friendly lawn care tips, smart salt and de-icer tricks, and what to plant for clean water, visit vlawmo.org/residents

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 service projects and long-term volunteer roles are available.

www.vlawmo.org/get-involved



YOUR WATERSHED AT A GLANCE



VLAWMO
Vadnais Lake Area
Water Management Organization

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

2019 was a year of new undertakings! Carp management efforts began on Pleasant and West Vadnais Lakes, and funds for VLAWMO's first alum treatment were secured for Goose Lake. An iron-enhanced sand filter is set for installation at Birch Lake, and a meander is slated for Lambert Creek in the Lambert Lake wetland area - both made possible through State grant funds. Volunteer and education activities have grown, particularly in the Adopt-a-Drain program. Check out the complete 2019 annual report and vlawmo.org for more on each project. We're thankful for our many partnerships in 2019, and welcome new and familiar partners for 2020.



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Photo: Debbie Hartmann

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WHAT DID WE DO IN 2019?

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

LOCAL LEARNING AND SERVICE

Master Water Stewards conducted a stormdrain clean-up event in Vadnais Heights, a native plant swap, and a raingarden/native plant tour around the neighborhood.



CARP ELECTRO-SHOCKING

To understand the impact of invasive European carp on Pleasant Lake, we started with a quest to understand the carp population. Using a non-lethal electric shock, staff and partners at Carp Solutions netted stunned carp and tagged each one. With a population estimate and the ability to track their movements, we're set up with the tools to remove the carp in 2020. Removing invasive carp is removing their influence of bottom-feeding, which re-suspends nutrients into the water column to create excessive algae.



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. The final report of the three-year study is scheduled for June, 2020.



SWANS AND LEAD

With the help of local residents and Girl Scouts, VLAWMO conducted education about the dangers of using lead sinkers and fishing tackle. The effort was a response to trumpeter swans dying of lead poisoning at Sucker Channel.



BUCKTHORN REMOVAL

Local volunteers and AFSA High School students helped remove buckthorn to restore a wooded wetland.



REMOTE MONITORING

Combining internet and cell phone technologies, VLAWMO installed four remote sensors to monitor flows in Lambert Creek in real time.



ADOPT-A-DRAIN
VLAWMO and the City of White Bear Lake led a special adopt-a-drain promotion to help improve Goose Lake.

**ADOPT
a STORM
DRAIN**

See back page for more info.

