

# LAKE DATA & PROGRAMS

VLAWMO's primary source of income is Storm Sewer Utility (SSU) fees. The average single family homeowner in VLAWMO pays \$57.96/year (\$4.83/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).

## 2021 Quick Stats:



## STATE OF THE LAKES

See the 2021 water monitoring report for more on VLAWMO lake impairments and their causes.

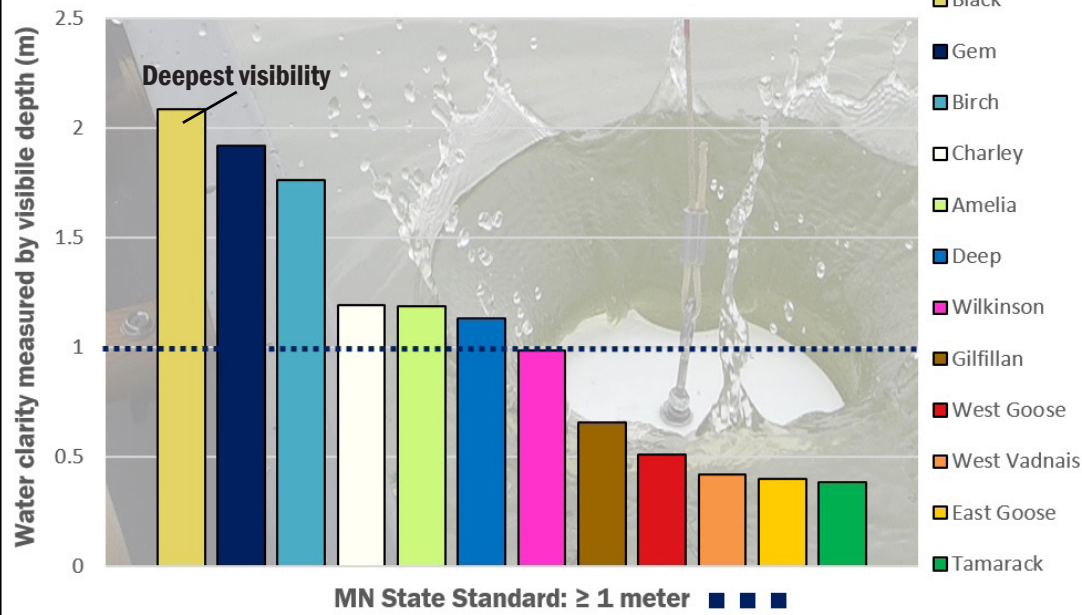
VLAWMO has seven lakes impaired for nutrients, and Lambert Creek is impaired for bacteria during storm events. To improve these waterbodies VLAWMO looks at the unique needs of each lake inside the lake and in its surroundings. A Secchi disk (graph, left) is one of several tools we use measure water clarity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

### STUDIES

Successful projects are backed by months or even years of planning and studies. Check out our full 2021 annual report for more on this year's watershed studies:

- Invasive common carp studies for future removals
- East Goose Adaptive Lake Management
- Wilkinson Lake sub-watershed planning and feasibility study
- Ash Street Spent Lime Study in Lino Lakes
- ...and more!

### Average Secchi Disk of VLAWMO Shallow Lakes: 2009-2021



# 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.

# 2021



## From the administrator

Greetings!  
2021 was a very active year for VLAWMO. The organization implemented two regional partnership-based projects including the Lambert Lake Pond and Meander project and the Lambert Creek/Ditch 14 maintenance and dredging project. The partnerships that surrounded each of these projects were critical to achieving an outcome that met a variety of stakeholder needs.

The VLAWMO cost-share program is seeing a surge in curb-cut raingardens, which are raingardens that capture stormwater from the street. In 2021, VLAWMO implemented 16 cost-share grants in 2021. Each project helps us keep water clean and represents a community approach to protecting the watershed. See the back page for how to join us in the pursuit, and its ok to start small - it all adds up!

There's much more to share, so we hope you enjoy this 2021 summary and the full 2021 annual report. It's an honor to work with an outstanding VLAWMO Board of Directors, Technical Commission, and staff that make our work possible. The team looks forward to an even more exciting 2022 and beyond.



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## COST-SHARE PROGRAM

VLAWMO completed 16 cost-share grants in 2021. These grants supported the creation of raingardens, native pollinator plantings, and shoreline restorations, and installed number of new rainbarrels. All together the projects infiltrate an estimated 384,374 gallons of water per year. VLAWMO awarded a total of \$55,873 funds for these projects. If you're ready to renovate for beauty and watershed improvement, check out [VLAWMO.org/grants](http://VLAWMO.org/grants) for more info and a free on-site visit!

## 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.

## 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](http://adopt-a-drain.org) to find your drain and get started. Yard signs are available to help spread the word.



### START AT HOME

For water-friendly lawncare tips, smart deciding, and more tips: [vlawmo.org/residents](http://vlawmo.org/residents)

Ready to renovate? Visit [vlawmo.org/grants](http://vlawmo.org/grants) to see how we can support raingardens, native plants, and rainbarrels - beauty and function!

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](http://www.vlawmo.org/get-involved)



### Board of Directors:

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# WHAT DID WE DO IN 2021?

## NORTH OAKS BIOSWALE

Minnesota Water Steward Sierra Weirens led a bioswale renovation with help from VLAWMO and the North Oaks Home Owner's Association (NOHOA). The new bioswale supports drainage into Giffillan Lake.



- Volunteer and public booth events
- Water monitoring sites
- Workshops and planning efforts
- Projects

## CARP TRACKING

From 2019 to 2020 staff and partners conducted several studies and tracking efforts to understand the invasive Common Carp population in Pleasant Lake. From this foundation, VLAWMO is able to pursue invasive carp removal in 2022. Similar efforts are underway at West Vadnais Lake.



## TEAL POND RESTORATION

This wetland restoration from 2020 continued into 2021 through a partnership between VLAWMO, Tamarack Nature Center (TNC), and Ramsey County. With invasive buckthorn removed in 2020, VLAWMO and TNC volunteers helped plant native shrubs around Teal Pond in May and September.



## DITCH 14 MAINTENANCE

VLAWMO conducted ditch maintenance with the City of Vadnais Heights. A portion of Lambert Creek and Branch Ditch #5 was dredged with debris clearing and bank re-seeding.



## GET THE LEAD OUT

VLAWMO teamed up with partners at the Get the Lead Out program (MN Pollution Control Agency) to install a lead drop-off box. The effort encourages switching to non-lead sinkers and tackle to protect swans and other wildlife.



## LAMBERT LAKE POND

Originally built in 2005, Lambert Lake Pond was renovated with a new steel sheetpile, extending the pond's valuable water storage into the future.



## LAMBERT LAKE MEANDER

A segment of Lambert Creek/Ditch 14 was switched over to a meander. This provides slower flow rates and enhanced floodplain access into the Lambert Lake wetland.



## EAST GOOSE ALM

The East Goose Adaptive Lake Management web hub was launched under vlawmo.org/projects. This year staff and City of WBL partners completed a stakeholder engagement process and a Fall fish survey.

