

Question #4

“What resources are you most passionate about and why?” – identifying the motives for the responses received in question #4 with an evaluation of the text that followed specific waterbody or park identification. Reference to data not utilized in part 1 (specific waterbody/park/trail identification).

Summary themes

1. Recreation, wildlife, and value of natural resources.
2. What’s close to home, visible, and interconnected.
3. Water quality, groundwater, drinking water, and water conservation.
4. Future use of water and natural resources.
5. Aquatic vegetation, climate change, and flooding.

Full themes – in survey results document

1. The largest motivators for responses in question #4 are recreation, wildlife, and value of natural resources. Swimming, boating, and wildlife watching are commonly mentioned with specific lake uses, types of wildlife, or a voiced support for maintenance and protection of wildlife.
Examples: *“Used to enjoy the lakes so much more, but now many, if not most, are not swimmable due to algae, swimmer's itch, bacteria, etc.”*
“We recreate around them all year.” “I want them in the most natural states.”
“...also am very fond of the trails and paths that we have in the watershed.”
2. Many are motivated by what’s close to home, visible, and interconnected. These are supported by notions of health, quality of life, a passion for water as a whole, dependence on water, and one area impacting another. A sense of responsibility, maintenance and community are also included in respondent reasoning.
Examples: *“We see it from my home every day.”*
“It's where I live.” “To keep people healthy and happy.”
“Quality of all life in our community.”
3. Water quality, groundwater, drinking water, and water conservation. Cleanliness, health and safety, specific pollutants, and protection are commonly referenced to support these interests.
Examples: *“Lambert Creek has been impaired and I would like it cleaned up before it exits to Vadnais.” “I worry about water quality.”*
“Need to improve groundwater quality for drinking”
4. Future use of water and natural resources.
Examples:
“So next generation will also have utility”
5. Aquatic vegetation, climate change, and flooding.
Examples:
“Protecting wetlands from invasive species” “Heavy weeds.”
“Concerns about flooding of neighborhoods with weather patterns creating more extreme extremes.” “Heartbreaking to see an important facet of MN culture deteriorate.”

Raw data step: Summary of raw data/qualitative analysis

Statements that articulate the messages observed in the data in a condensed form. Organized according to the number of data points extrapolated from responses given in the survey. For example, a one sentence response can contain one or multiple data points.

Survey responses on question 4: 127

Data points extrapolated from responses given in question 4: 178

The most common expressions pertain to trail use for walking and hiking (14) as well as a basic notion of recreation (13). Reference is also made to swimming both in Pleasant Lake and in general, with disappointment regarding obstacles to swimming (6). Occasional mention of boating and lake access with mixed opinions on use type (5).

2) Theme 1: Intrinsic value of wildlife, species diversity, and general natural resources - 27

Most respondents refer to an intrinsic value of wildlife and natural settings in their reasoning (14). Others frame support for wildlife and natural spaces out of a sense of proactive encouragement (7). Lastly, several frame support for wildlife and natural spaces in context of human forces such as development (6).

3) Theme 2: Living nearby, proximity, and visibility – 24

Because of living or working near certain bodies of water, and because they're most visible (21). Some state connections to community affiliations or refer to the notion of growing up near lakes or in the area (4).

4) Theme 2: A holistic sense of water for interconnectedness, health and happiness, quality of life, reliance, and passions.- 24

There is a strong acknowledgement of the interconnections of water, supported by passion for water as a whole (14). Responses emphasize the dependence on water and how one area impacts another (5), while calling for a sense of active stewardship, responsibly, and proper maintenance (5).

5) Theme 3: Measurable water quality, cleanliness, protection, and health - 19

Reasoning based on water quality derives from the notion of cleanliness, clarity, health, and concern about impaired waters (8). There are references made to specific pollutants or sources of harm to water quality (6), and some responses emphasize the notion of protection and maintenance in context of interconnected waters and systems such as parks, trails, aquatic life, and human life (3).

6) Theme 3: Groundwater, drinking water, and conservation - 16

The basic notion of drinking water and water supply is most heavily emphasized (7). Proactive call for improving, conserving, and protecting (5), or emphasizing drinking water cleanliness, safety, and risk (4).

7) Theme 4: General use – 11

Because of a value based on human and community use today and for the next generation (10). Mention of washing water (1).

8) Theme 5: Aquatic vegetation – 8

Concern expressed on invasive species and invasive species monitoring (5). Concerns on general aquatic weeds and lake function such as sedimentation and flowage (3).

9) Theme 5: Climate change – 5

Concerns on accommodating for and slowing climate change and flooding (5).

10) Theme 5: Concerns, support, organizational role – 5

Expression of conflict and disputes on VLAWMO organizational roles and policies or the interaction between communities (3). Expression of support on a specific project mixed with concern (1) and support for a specific project (1).

11) Theme 5: Brainstorming and programs – 4

Suggestions for wildlife well being, wildlife education (2). Advocacy on stopping fertilization practices (1) and recommendations to other departments outside of VLAWMO (1).

12) Theme 5: Specific concerns - 3

Specific issues cited such as lead fishing tackle, pet walking, and the risk of water being overlooked in the public eye (3).

13) Theme 5: MN culture - 2

Out of an emotional connection to Minnesota and MN culture (2).

Question #6

"Is there anything else you'd like us to know?"

Responses from question 6: 43

Data points extrapolated from responses given in question 6: 55

Subthemes from Q4 that were restated as part of responses given in Q#6: Recreation, water quality, wildlife, water's interconnectedness, and climate change re-appeared in question 6.

Recreation – 4

Advocacy for path maintenance and continuing and improving pet walking (3). Would love to see Pleasant Lake swimmable again (1).

Measurable water quality – 2

Encouragement for water source protection to be a huge priority and for financial investments and research to support safe water (2).

Wildlife – 1

A question on controlling buckthorn and concern how it chokes out native plants (1).

A holistic sense of water for interconnectedness – 1

Clean water framed as something that benefits humans, animals, and other species (1).

Climate change – 1

An expression of support for preventing home flooding in context of global warming, and interest in conveying flood details such as floodplain modeling and maps (1).

New themes stated in Q6:

Themes:

1. The most common response was suggestions that fit VLAWMO's focus.
2. The next most common responses were statements of organizational support.
3. Lastly, there were several statements of appreciation for the opportunity to provide feedback and concerns stated.

Theme 1: Suggestions on organization operations: Most fitting to VLAWMO's focus – 12

Most input includes encouragement or inquiries that relate to existing programs or areas of focus (6). There are also encouragement or inquiries expressed regarding public and municipal agency coordination, pollutants of concern, residential involvement, and environmental justice (3). Some express encouragement around organizational communication, advocating for transparency, maintaining measurable goals, and communicating progress (2).

Theme 1: None/opt-out of question – 11

A simple response of "no" or not having anything else to add (11).

Theme 2: Organizational support – 9

Expressions of support focused on community contributions, past actions, improving the environment, or using and increasing funds for a bigger impact (9).

Theme 2: Ideas and brainstorming: Peripheral to VLAWMO's focus – 8

Topics expressed that don't relate directly to VLAWMO's area of focus include boat access, park and land management, the WBL/DNR lawsuit, signs, and traffic (8).

Theme 3: Appreciation for survey opportunity – 4

Expressed appreciation for the survey opportunity with occasional sentiments of love and care. Recognition of being uninformed on opportunities and challenges (4).

Theme 3: Concerns – 3

Concerns about mission creep, tax increases, and the organization's actions making things worse (3).