

# GIDEON GLEN: A GREAT BIG WATER FILTER

## STORMWATER VS. SURFACE WATER

Stormwater is rainfall and snowmelt. Surface waters are lakes, streams and ponds. Stormwater eventually empties into surface waters, so it is important that stormwater be as clean as possible. Here at Gideon Glen, stormwater makes its way to the nearest surface water—Lake Minnetonka.

MAP OF GIDEON GLEN



## THE PATH TO CLEANER WATER

Starting from County Rd 19, polluted stormwater travels down these slopes. Grime, oil and sediment wash off pavement, tagging along with stormwater for a ride. Fortunately, runoff makes four stops before reaching the lake!

### 1 GRIT CHAMBER

You can only see three manhole covers but there's more than meets the eye. An underground structure captures large debris washing off the road.

### 2 PRAIRIE MEADOW

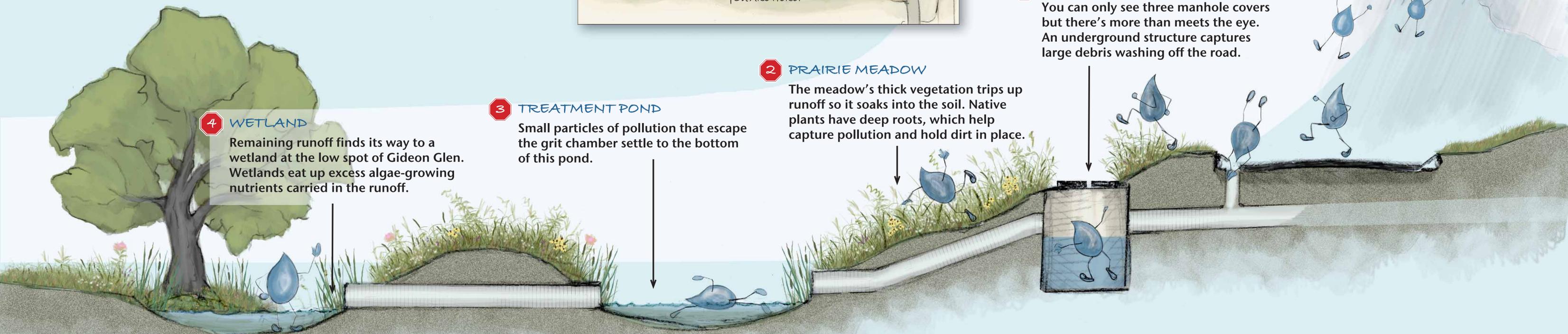
The meadow's thick vegetation trips up runoff so it soaks into the soil. Native plants have deep roots, which help capture pollution and hold dirt in place.

### 3 TREATMENT POND

Small particles of pollution that escape the grit chamber settle to the bottom of this pond.

### 4 WETLAND

Remaining runoff finds its way to a wetland at the low spot of Gideon Glen. Wetlands eat up excess algae-growing nutrients carried in the runoff.



## SEE THE RESULTS AT LAKE MINNETONKA

Beyond the wetland, a small outlet stream funnels water to Lake Minnetonka. At that point, water is much cleaner than when it began its journey. This means fewer algae blooms, a healthier fish population and better recreation at the lake!

You can reduce polluted stormwater runoff from your property, too: Build a rain garden, grow native plants and keep yard waste out of the street. To learn more, call 952-471-0590 or visit [www.minnehahacreek.org](http://www.minnehahacreek.org).