

The Drop Stops Here!

Stormwater runoff can wash pollution into the lake. But this garden is helping to stop it.

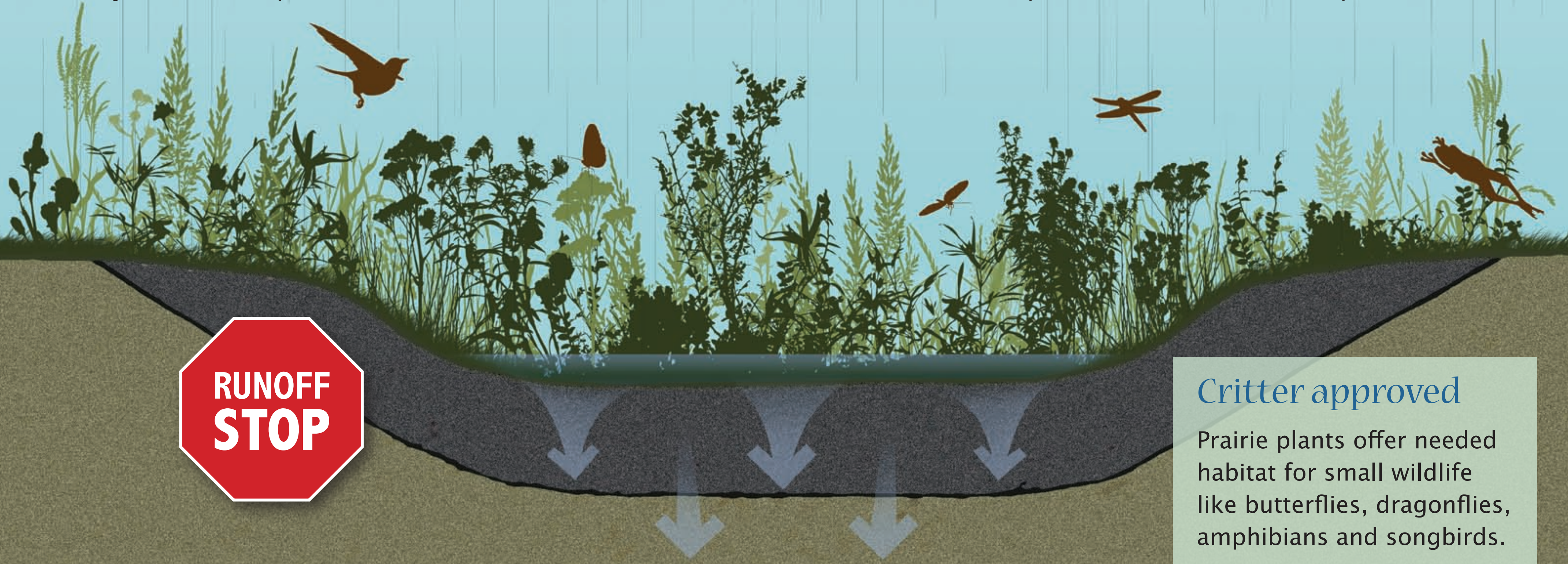
Raingarden: Nature's Water Filter

Instead of a lawn, this area has been planted with prairie grasses, flowers and shrubs. It's known as a "raingarden."

But it's not the vegetation that makes it a raingarden. Rather, a raingarden is a depression that forms a flat-bottomed bowl. It catches precipitation—along with pollution—that washes off the adjacent landscape.

At this location, water is diverted from surrounding rooftops and pavement into the garden. Once there, fast-draining soil allows quick infiltration, removing contaminants from the water as it passes through.

Plants also absorb nutrients that otherwise could produce algae in the lake, and deep roots stabilize the soil to prevent erosion.



Critter approved

Prairie plants offer needed habitat for small wildlife like butterflies, dragonflies, amphibians and songbirds.



Lawrence Sawyer

The Result: A Cleaner Lake Minnetonka

This project is part of Mound's downtown redevelopment plan. By stopping runoff before it reaches the lake, you will find less algae, better recreation and a revitalized lake front.

Sign sponsored by Minnehaha Creek Watershed District and City of Mound.