

# What a Swell Swale!

This swath of vegetation isn't just a ditch. It's a carefully engineered garden known as a "vegetated swale."

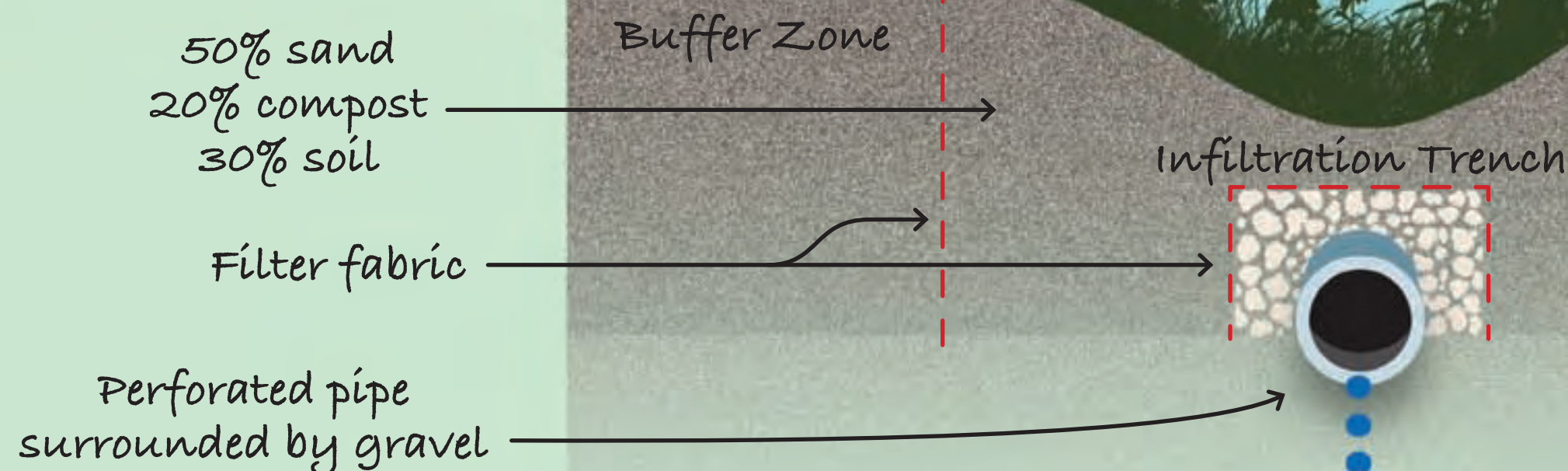
## What does it do?

It cleans stormwater runoff! In a typical situation, a storm sewer pipe would funnel precipitation straight into the lake. Unfortunately, that runoff could carry pollution with it.

The vegetated swale takes the place of a storm sewer pipe. Its thick vegetation slows runoff so water soaks into the ground.

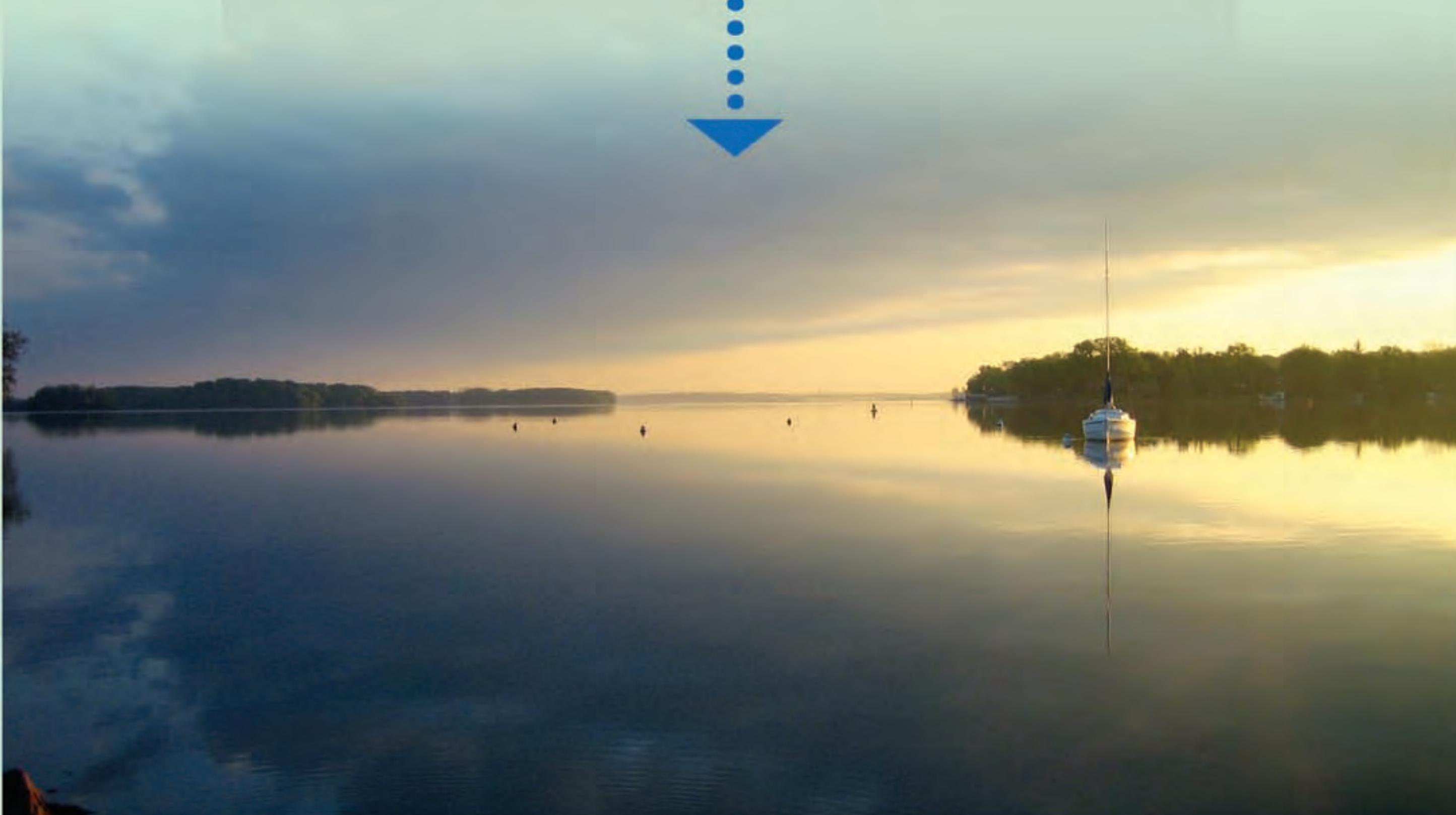
Grime, oil and sediment washing off the parking lot are filtered out by the quick-draining soil. Deep-rooted plants eat up excess algae-growing nutrients before they reach the lake.

The result is a cleaner Lake Minnetonka. And best of all, the process is 100% natural!



## Critter approved

The swale's native plants make a prairie in miniature! It offers needed habitat for small wildlife like butterflies, dragonflies, amphibians and songbirds.



This project is part of Mound's downtown redevelopment plan. In making Lake Minnetonka cleaner, you will find fewer algae blooms, better recreation and a revitalized lakefront.

Sign sponsored by Minnehaha Creek Watershed District, City of Mound and Our Lady of the Lake Catholic Church.

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