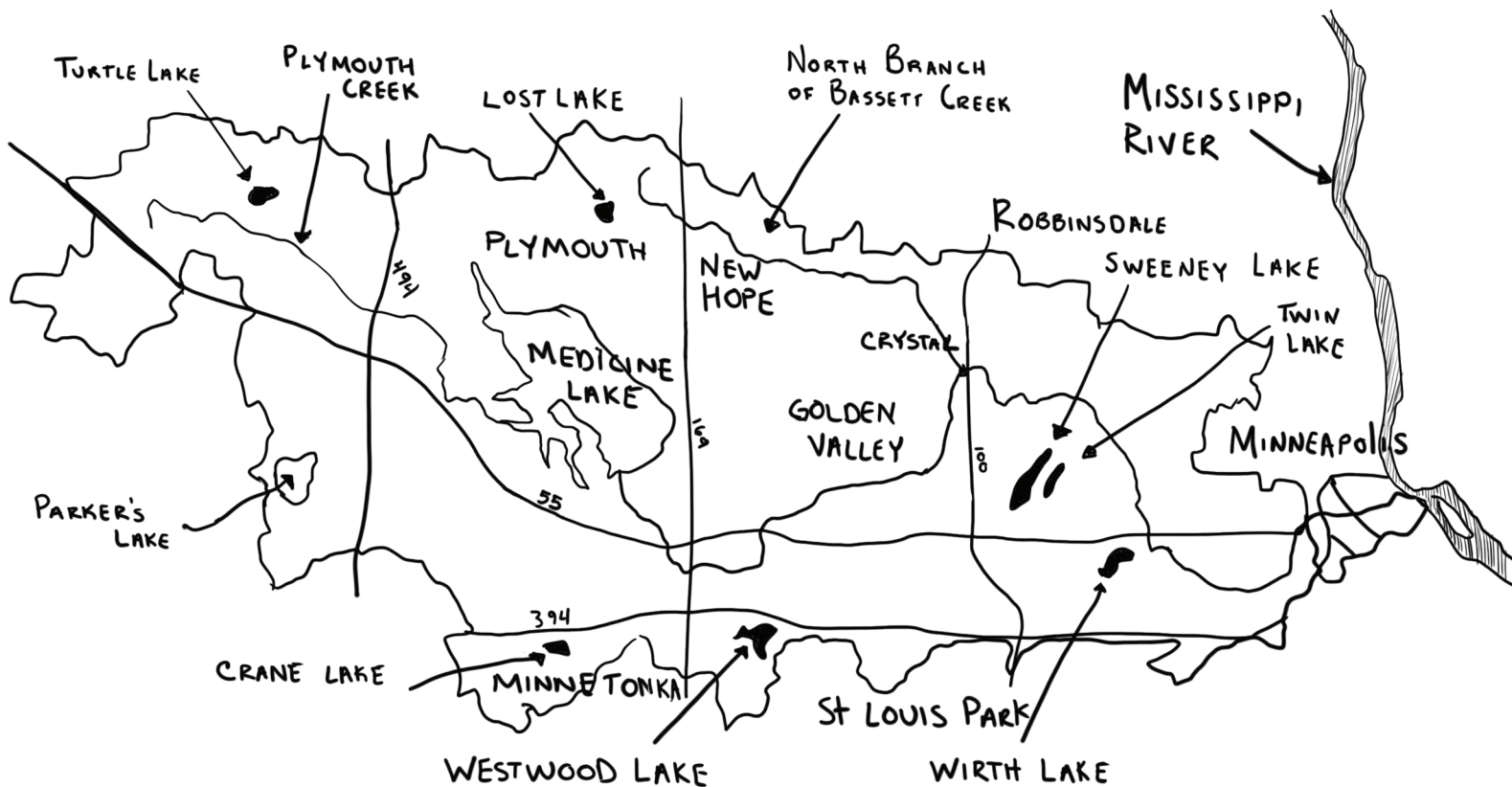


Bassett Creek Watershed Coloring Book



Erika Finne

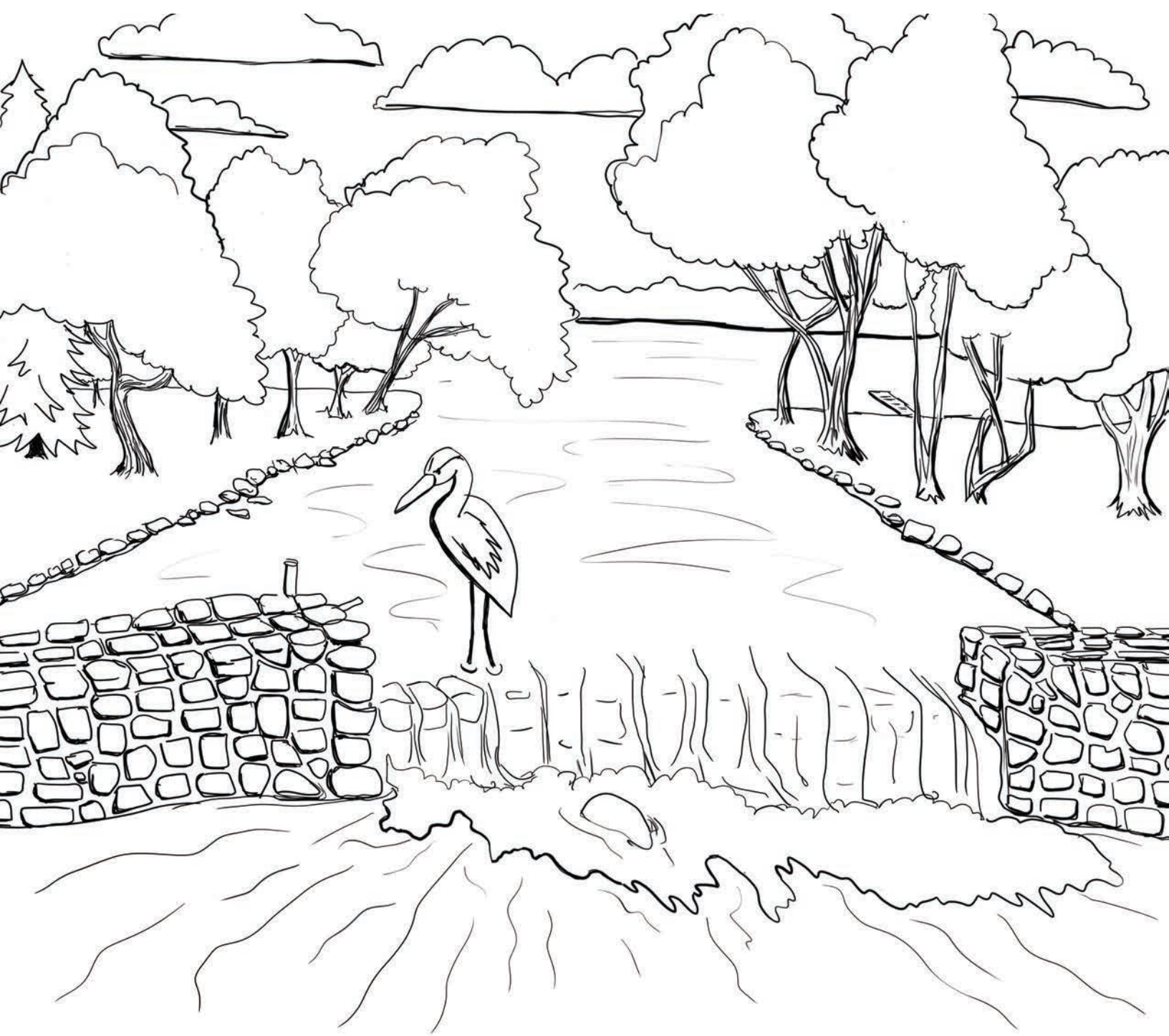
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Bassett Creek was named after Judge Bassett in 1852. Prior to 1852, the Ojibwe people had named it Haha Wakpadan, or Little Falls River. It was a river full of fish until the Mills were built on its shores and people started using it as a sewer.

In the 1890s, the city of Minneapolis decided to cover the open sewer and send the creek underground to the Mississippi, under Downtown Minneapolis. It is underground for a little over 2 miles.

Bassett Creek has two branches, the North Branch and the Main Branch that come from Medicine Lake.

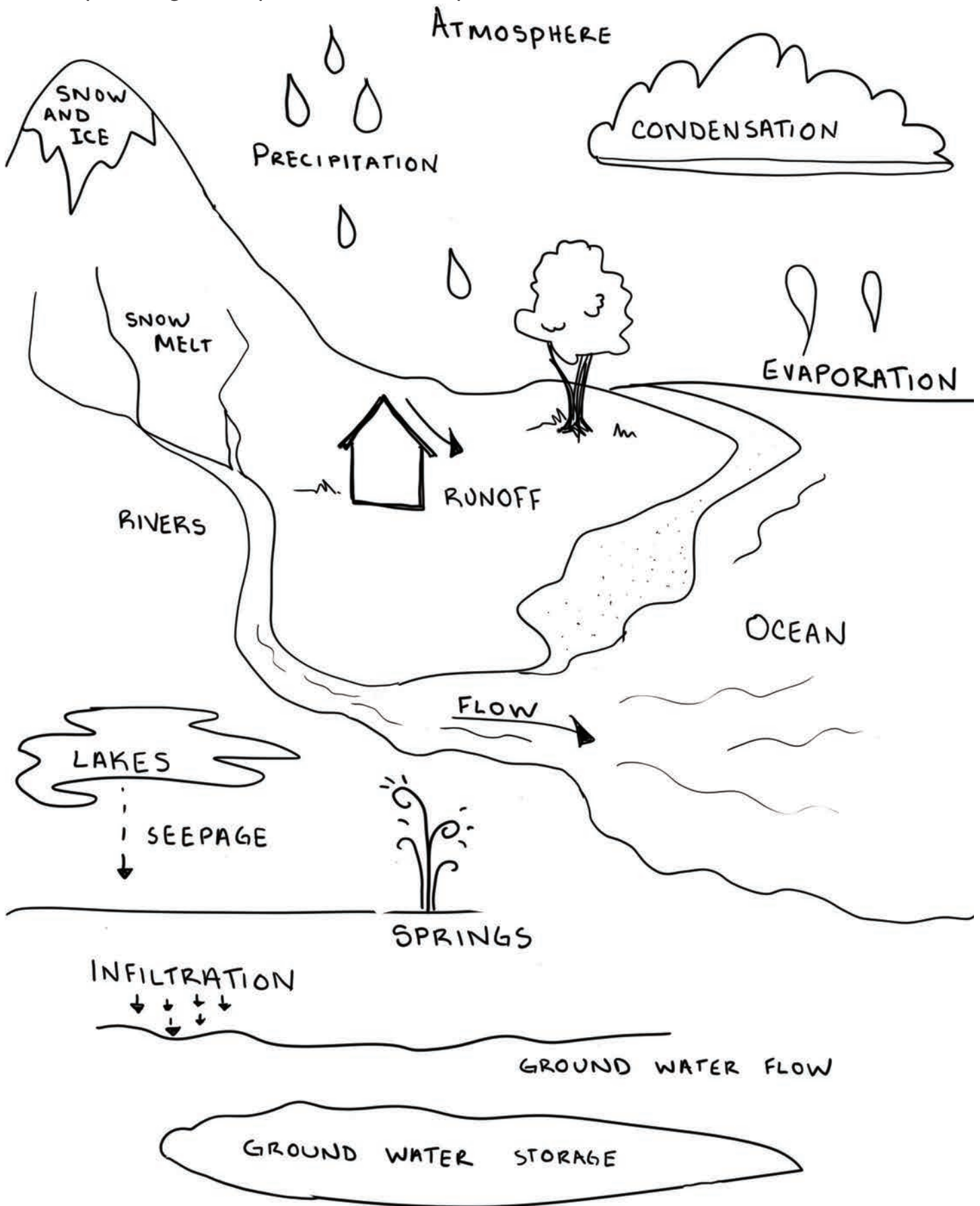


The south side of Medicine Lake is where the main branch of Bassett Creek starts.

There are many lakes, ponds, wetlands, smaller streams and storm sewers that feed into Bassett Creek along it's 12 miles to the Mississippi.

Some of the other lakes are Parker's, Turtle, Crane, Westwood, Lost, Sweeney, Twin and Wirth Lake.

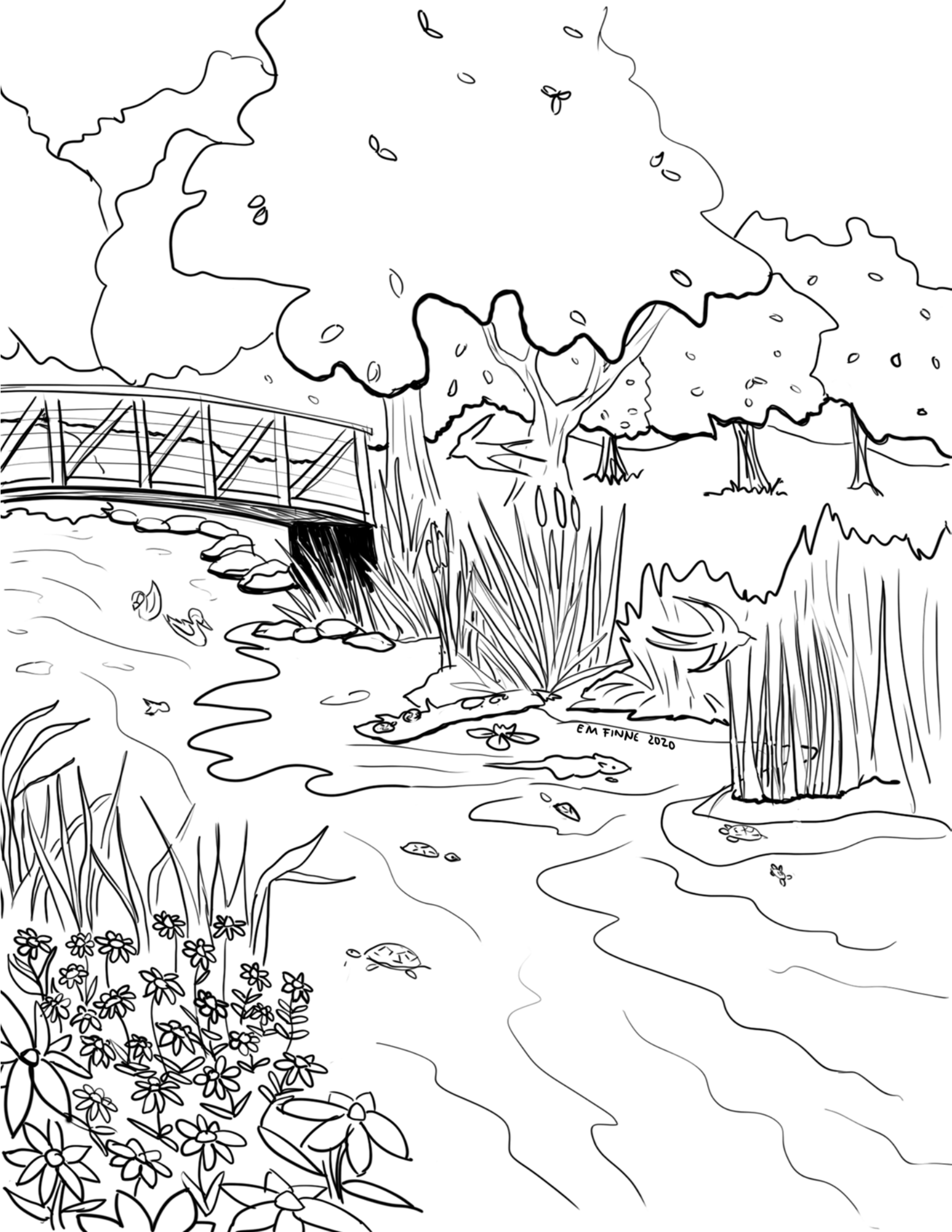
The Hydrological Cycle or Water Cycle

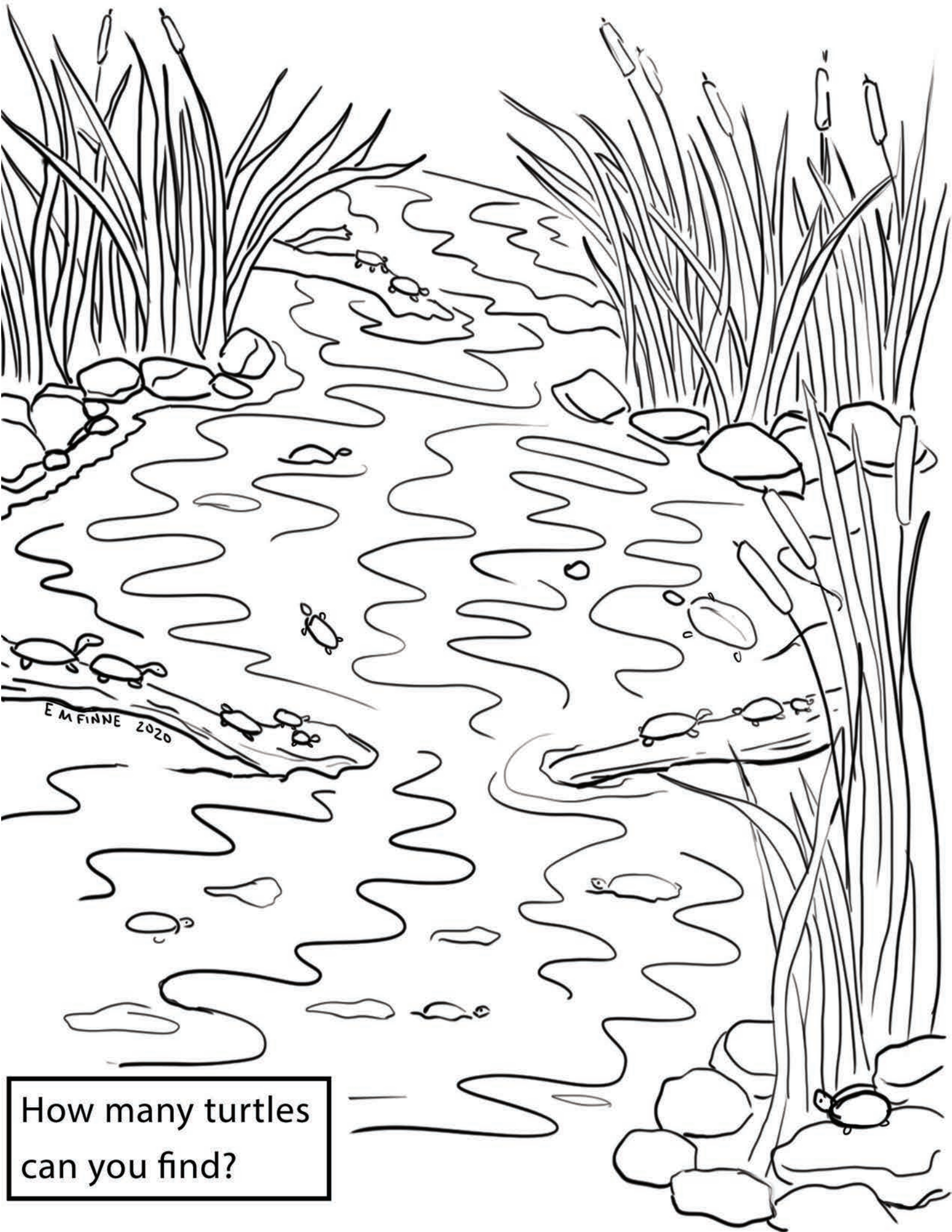


Scenes from Northwood Park



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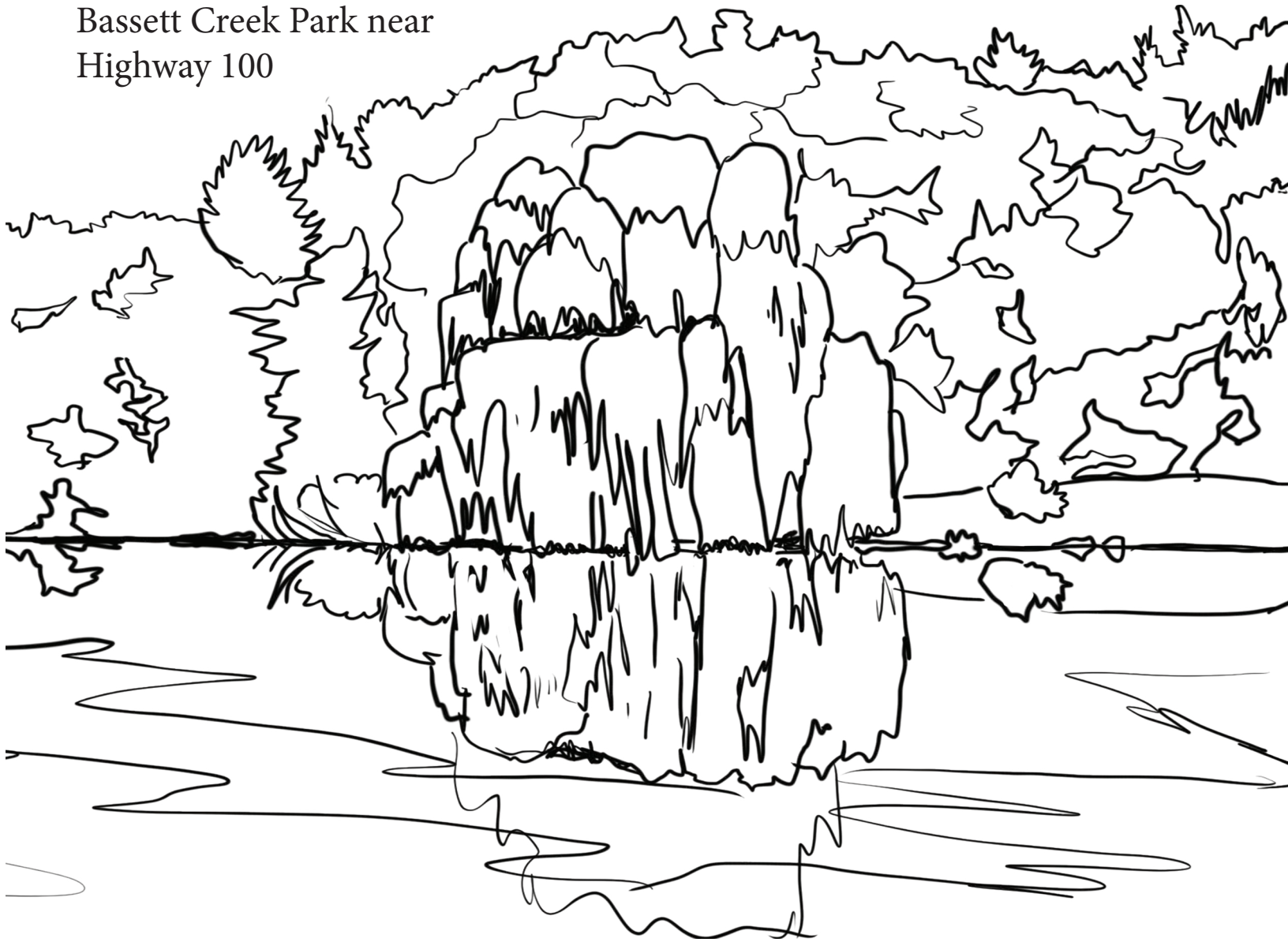




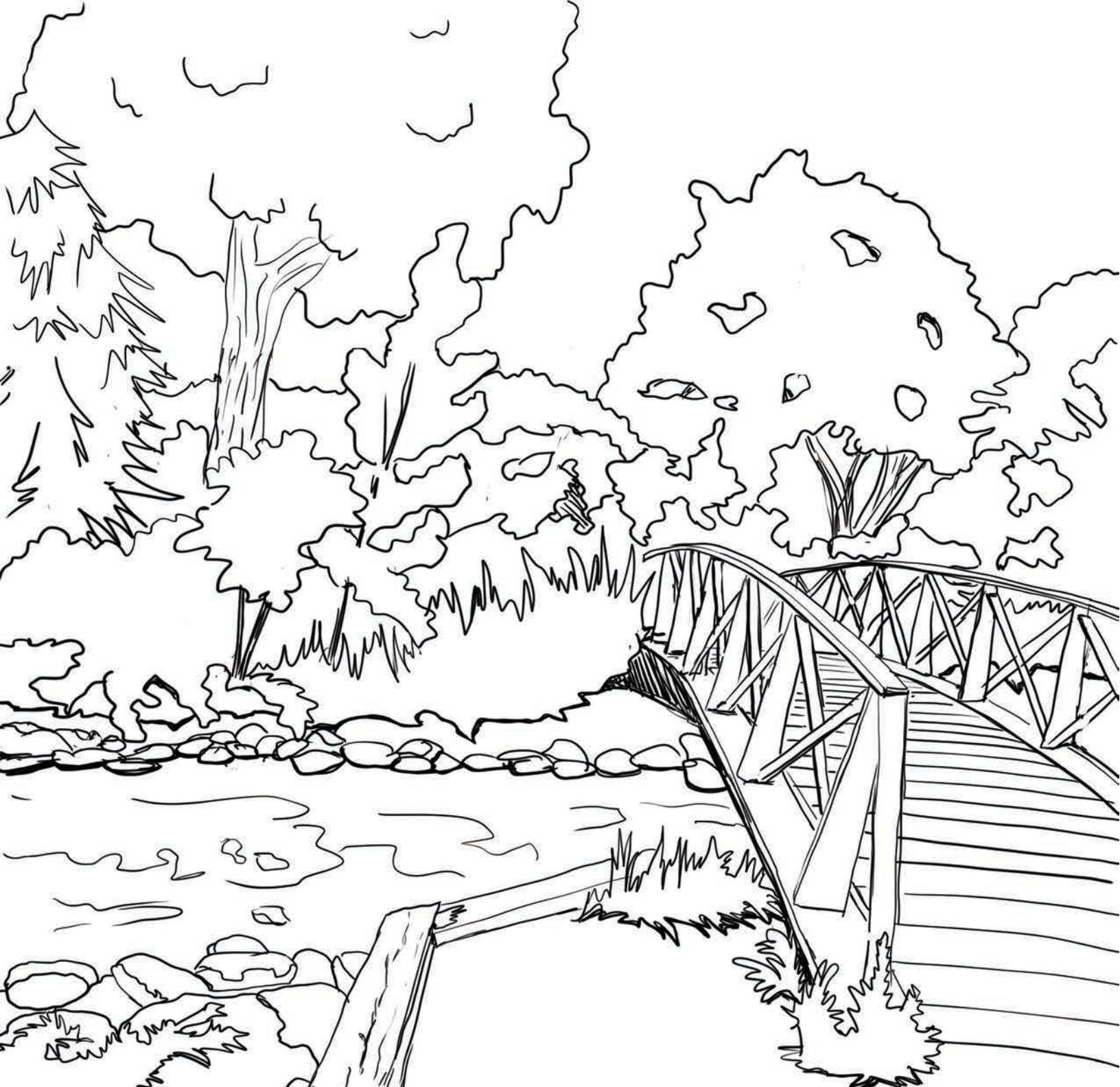
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How many turtles
can you find?

Bassett Creek Park near
Highway 100

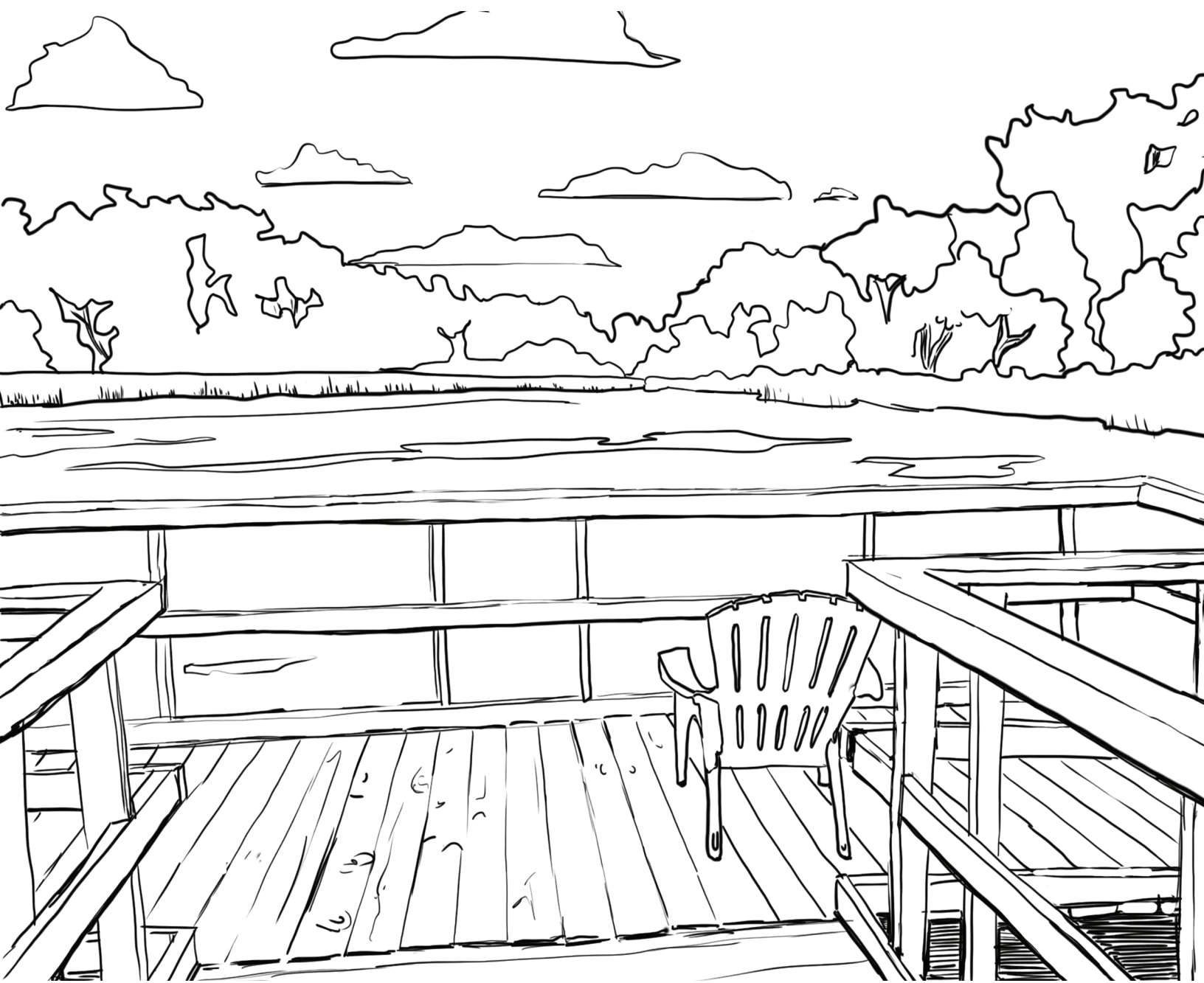


Storm water run off brings contaminants from yards and non-porous surfaces. Rain, snow melt and yard watering brings fertilizers, pet waste and other contaminants to the creek and then to the Mississippi.



Restoration near Highway 100

Currently 9 cities are in the Bassett Creek Watershed area. Along with these cities, The Bassett Creek Watershed Management, area businesses, non-profits and citizens are working together to restore the natural state of the creek.



Sochacki Park pond

What can you do to keep our waters clean?

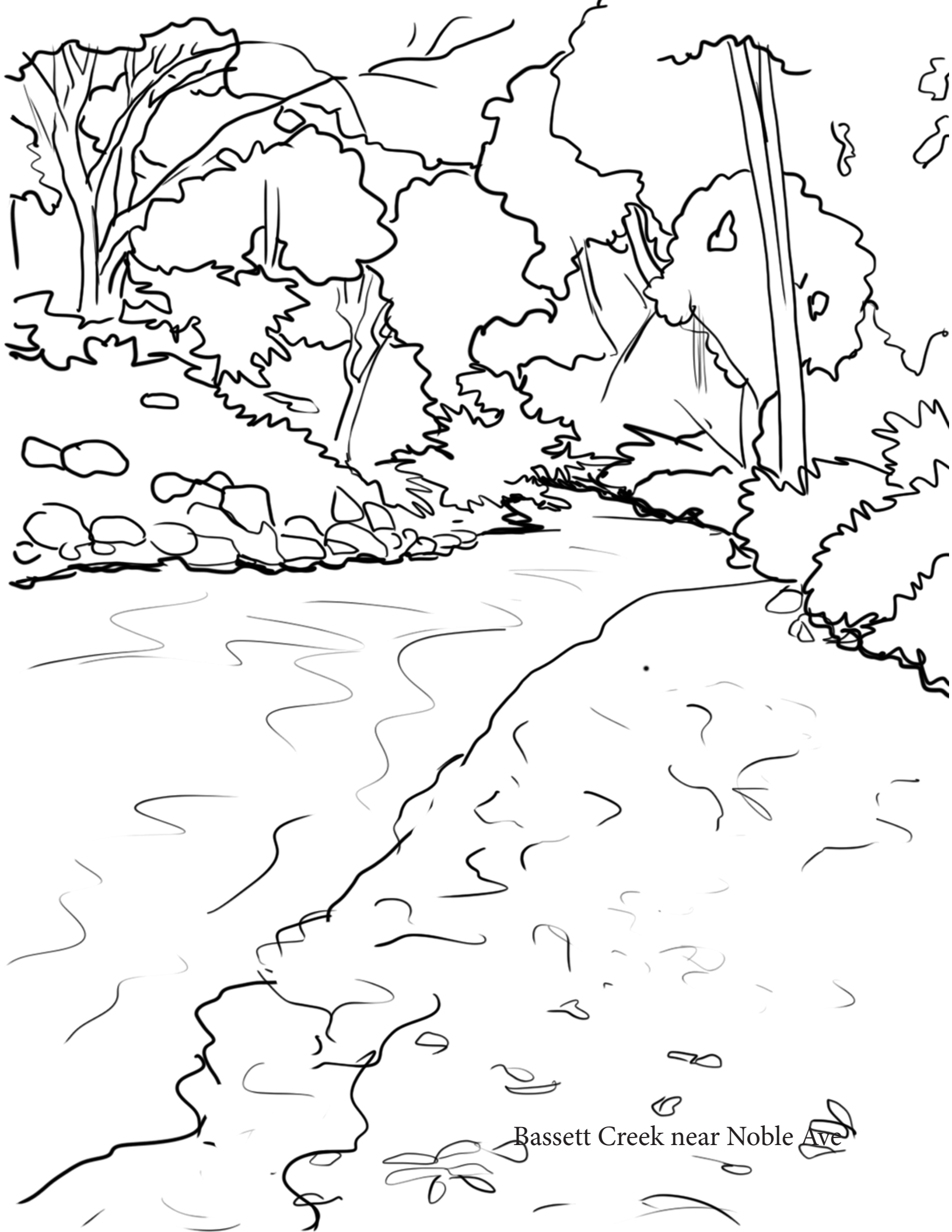
Pick up litter

Clean a street drain on your block

Rake up leaves

Create a pollinator friendly lawn

Use less fertilizer on your lawn



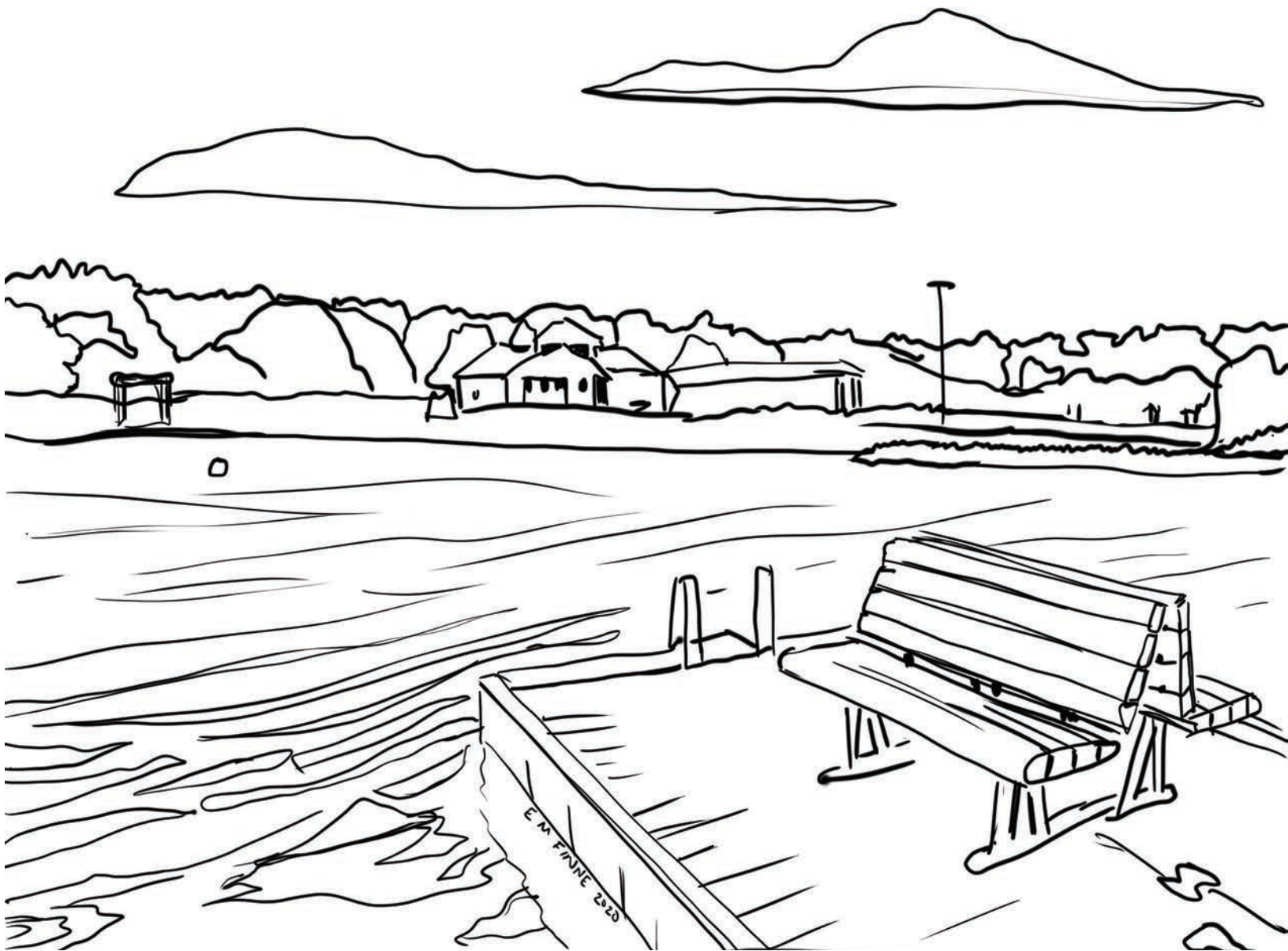
Bassett Creek near Noble Ave



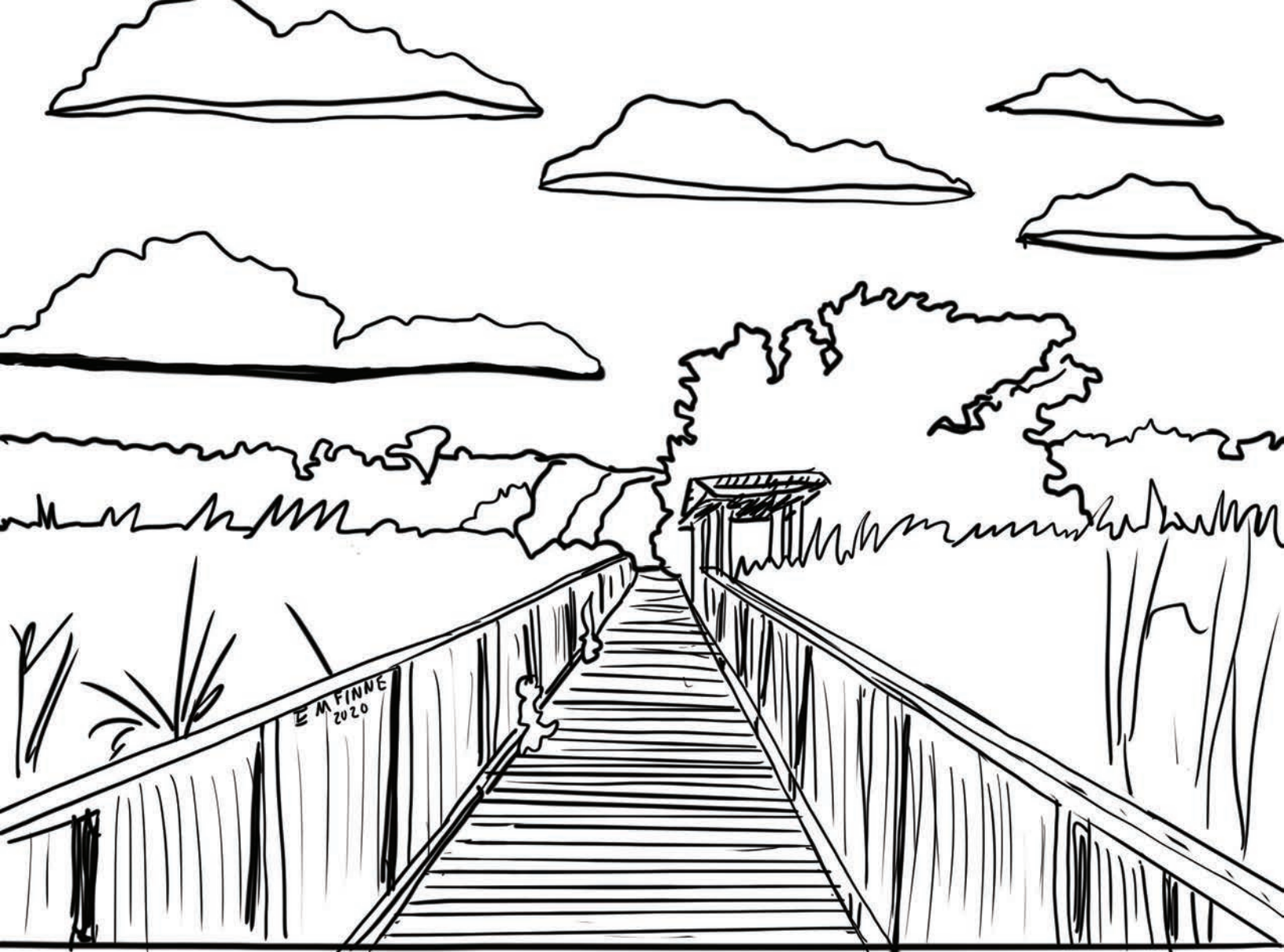
Theodore Wirth Pavilion over looks Wirth Lake. Wirth Lake has an outflow into Bassett Creek. The park is in both Golden Valley and Minneapolis.



The Theodore Wirth Golf Course is one of the oldest public golf courses in Minnesota. The front 9 holes include Bassett Creek and views of Downtown Minneapolis.

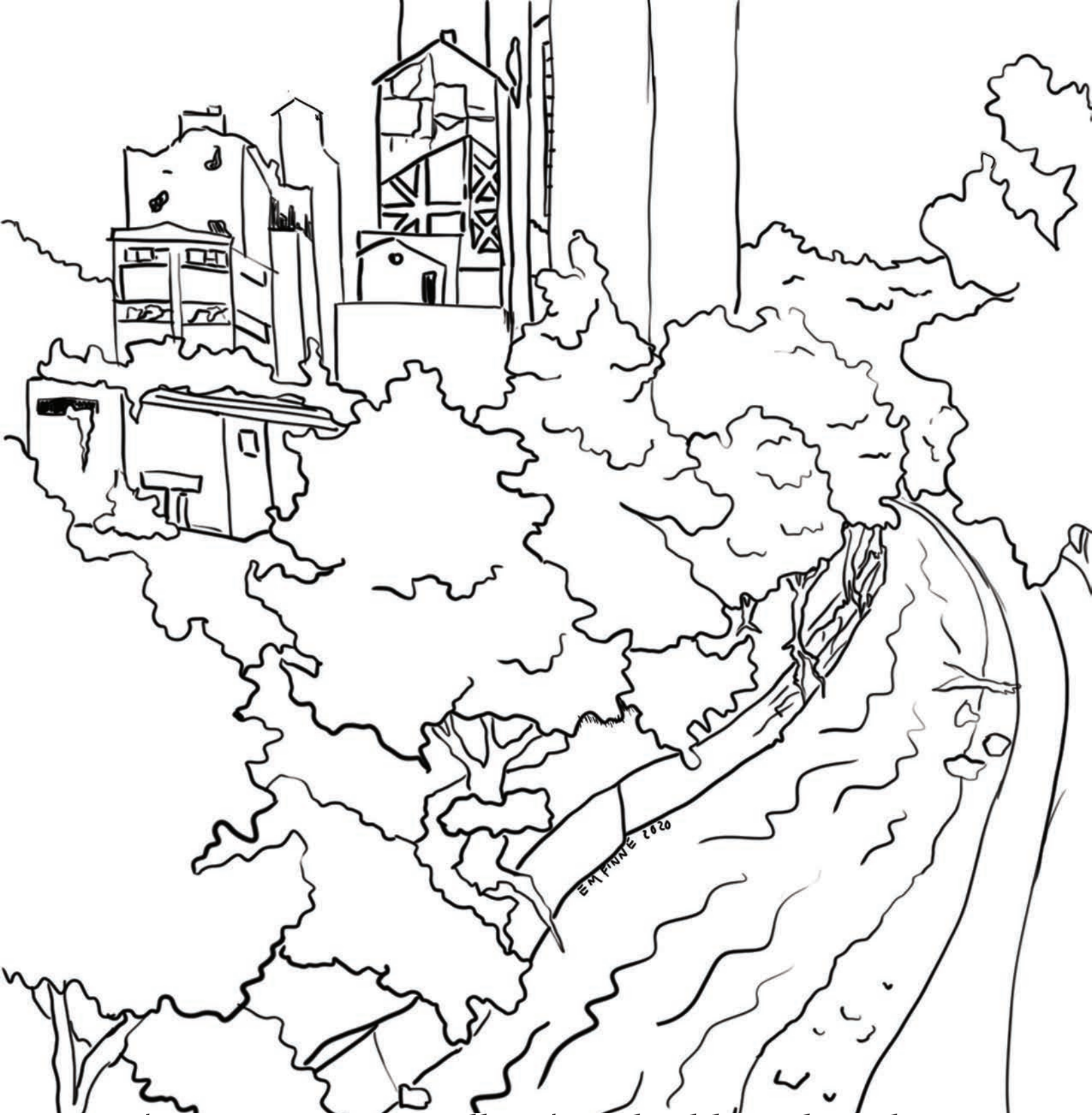


Wirth Lake has seating and a walking path around the swimming area. They also have swimming lessons and boat rentals.

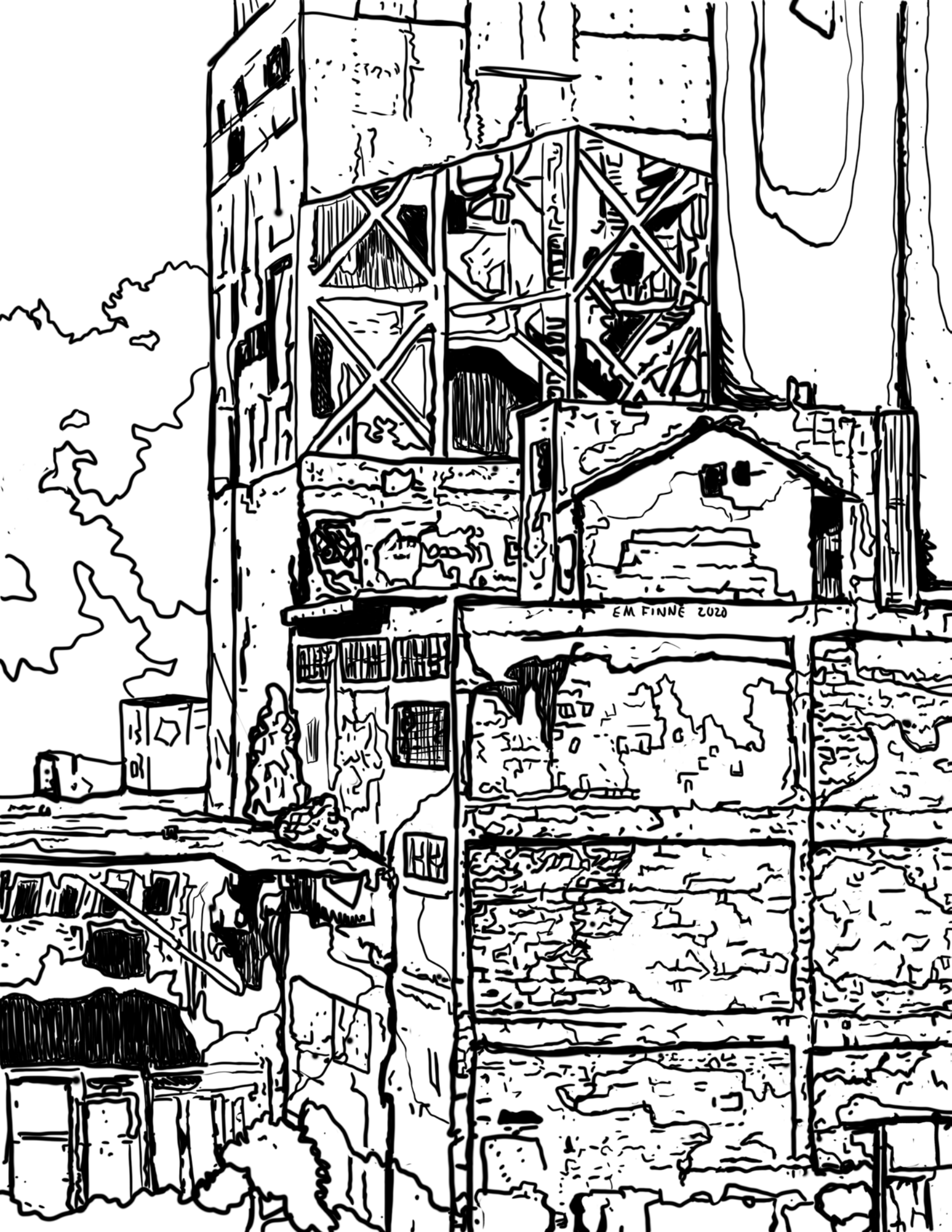


The Boardwalk around the Wirth Beach swimming area showcases the diversity of plants and animals.

Currently, there are two Aquatic Invasive Species in the lake, Eurasian Watermilfoil and Curly leaf Pondweed.



The iconic Fruen Mills. These buildings have been unused for many years. It was built by William H. Fruen in 1872. It originally manufactured screws and water-wheel governors in his workshop.



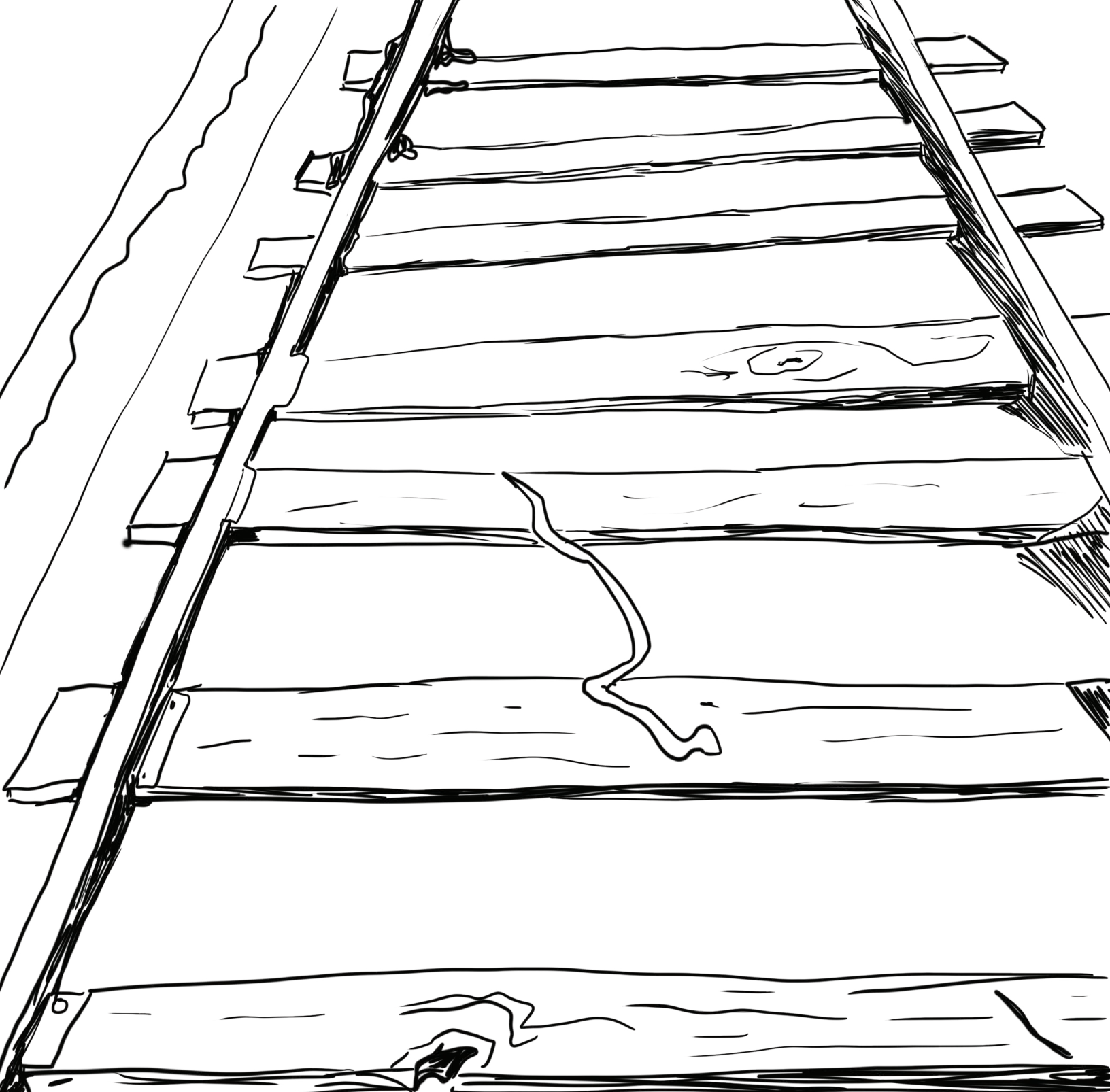
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Hidden stairs near Fruen Mills





Across the creek from Fruen Mills

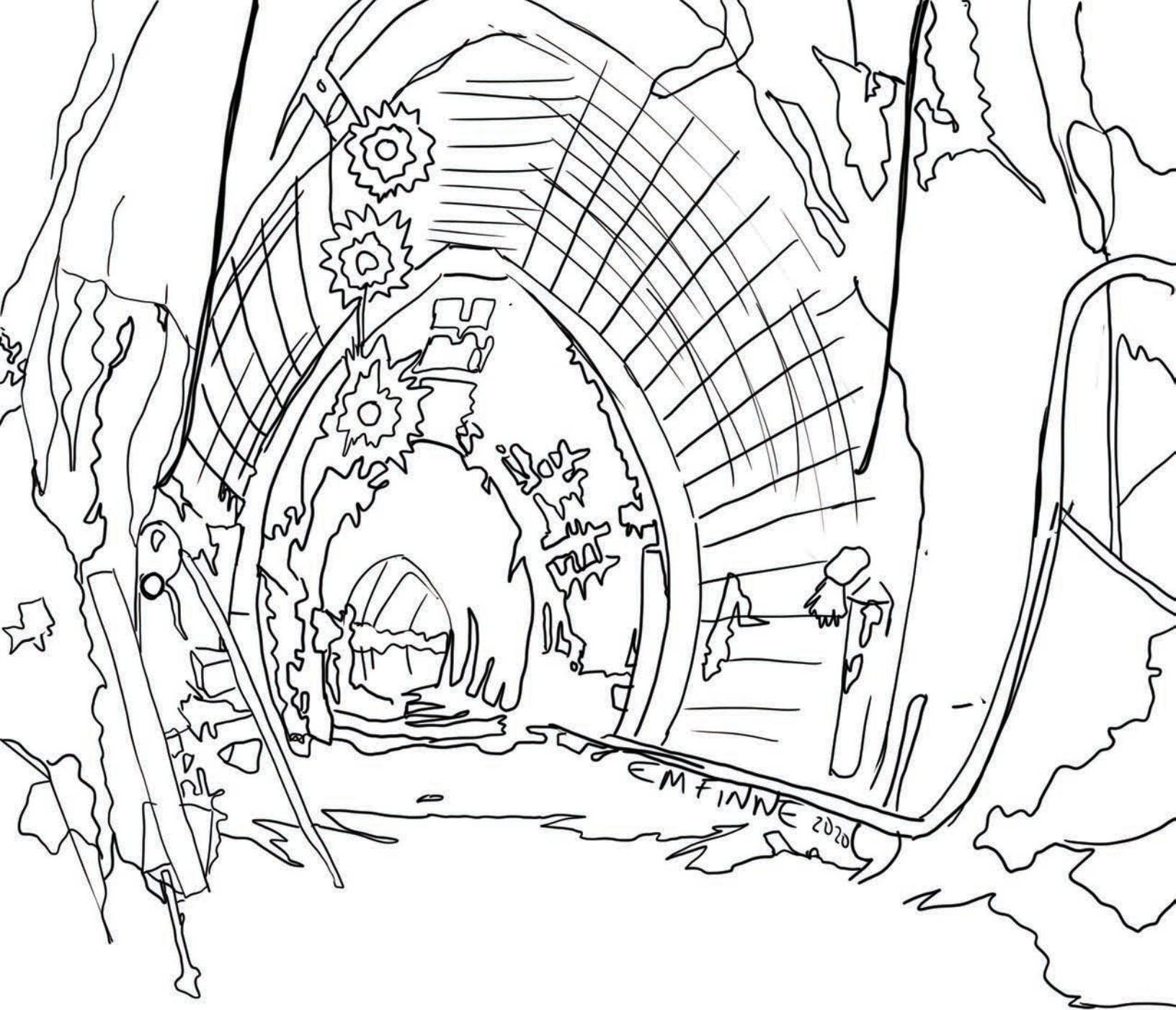


Train tracks near the creek and Fruen Mills.
Watch out for Garter snakes!
(Luckily non poisonous)



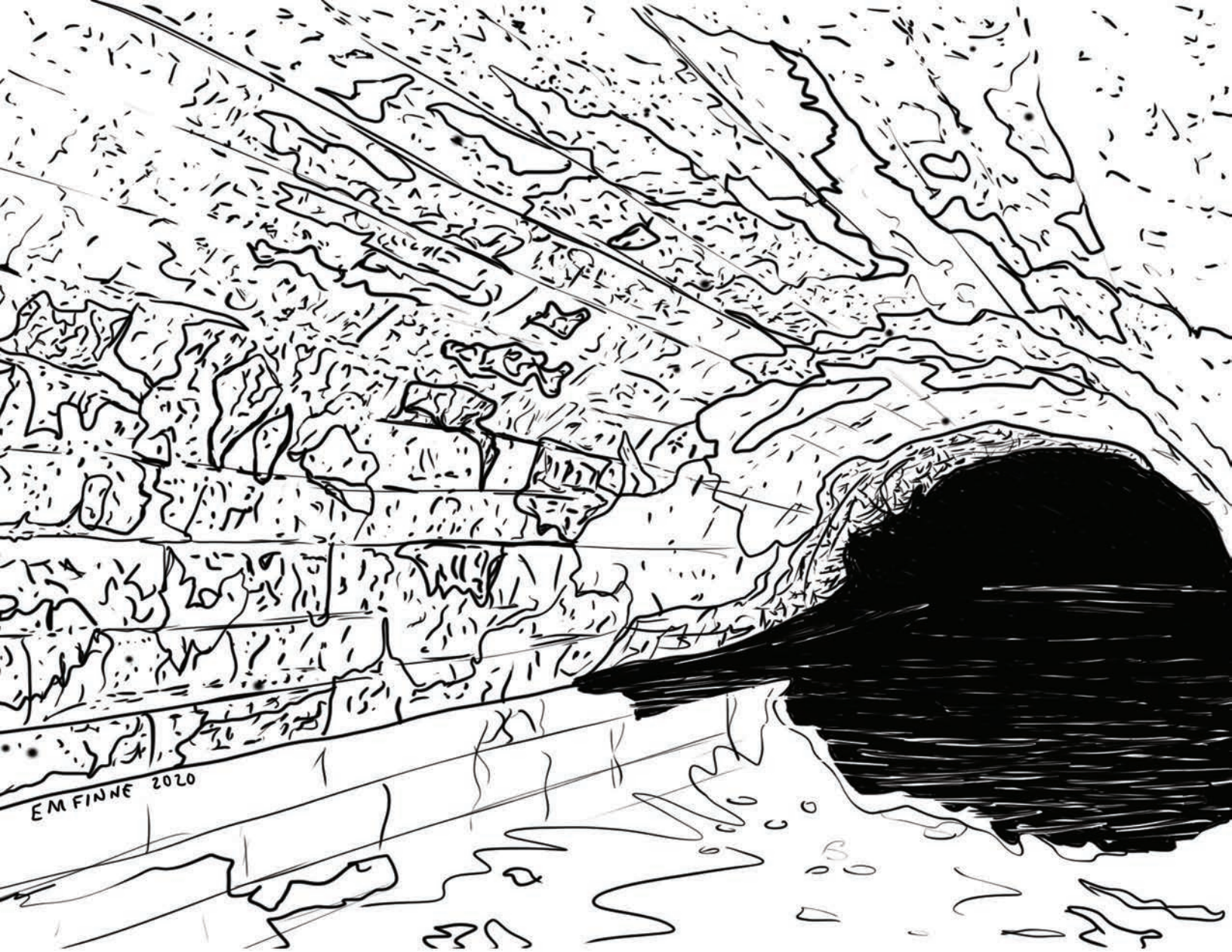
View from the Van White Memorial Bridge to where the creek begins to go underground.

Van White was the first African American elected to the Minneapolis City Council. He served from 1980 to 1989. The Van White Memorial Bridge was built to create more access to different parts of the city from North Minneapolis.



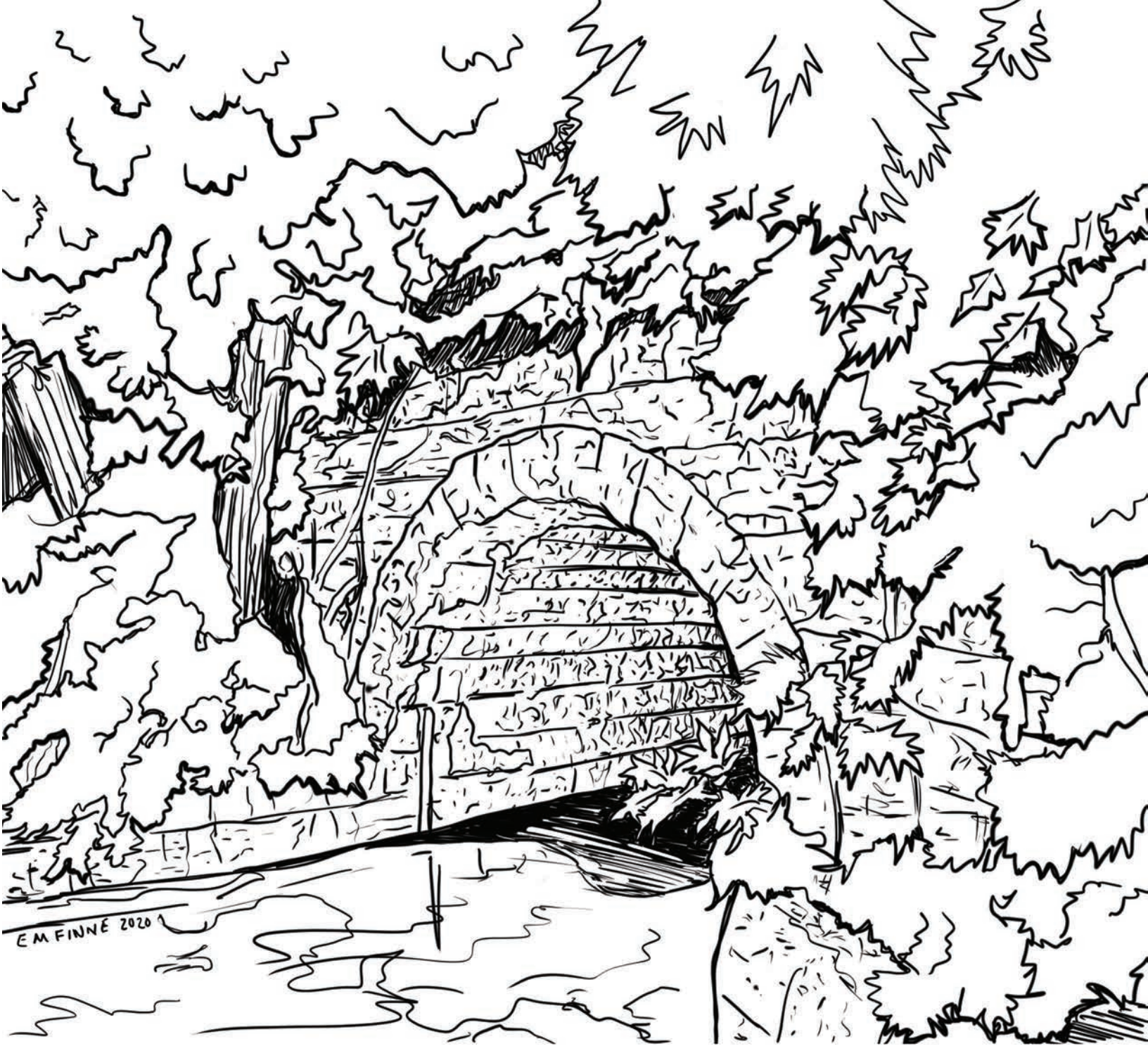
This is the Second Street tunnel. It was constructed by MnDOT in the sandstone. It is up to 80 feet below 2nd street.

This tunnel was part of the flood control system through downtown Minneapolis. They needed to repair some of the tunnel because it was deteriorating.

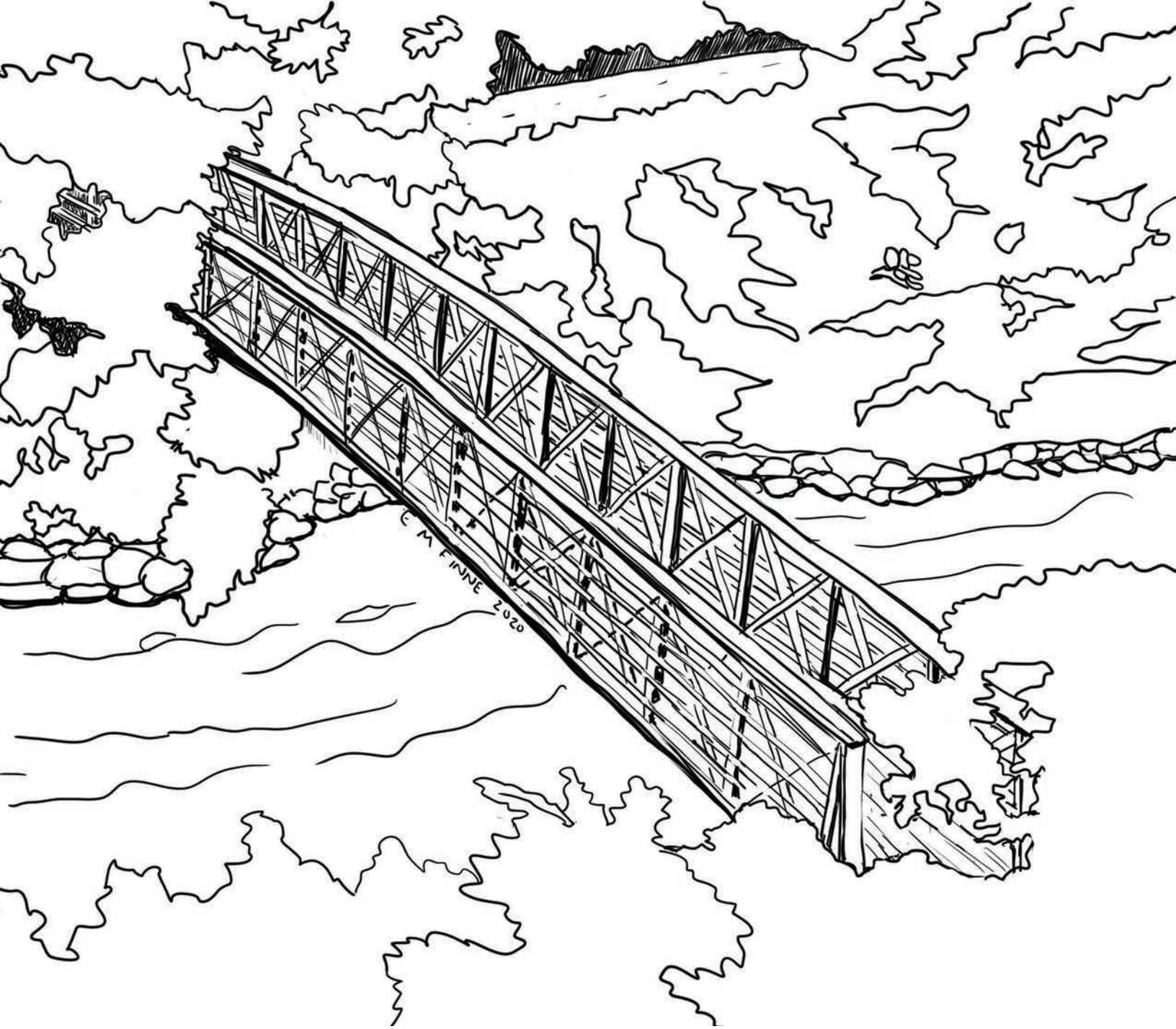


Underground image of Bassett Creek
You can help to keep our creeks and rivers clean!

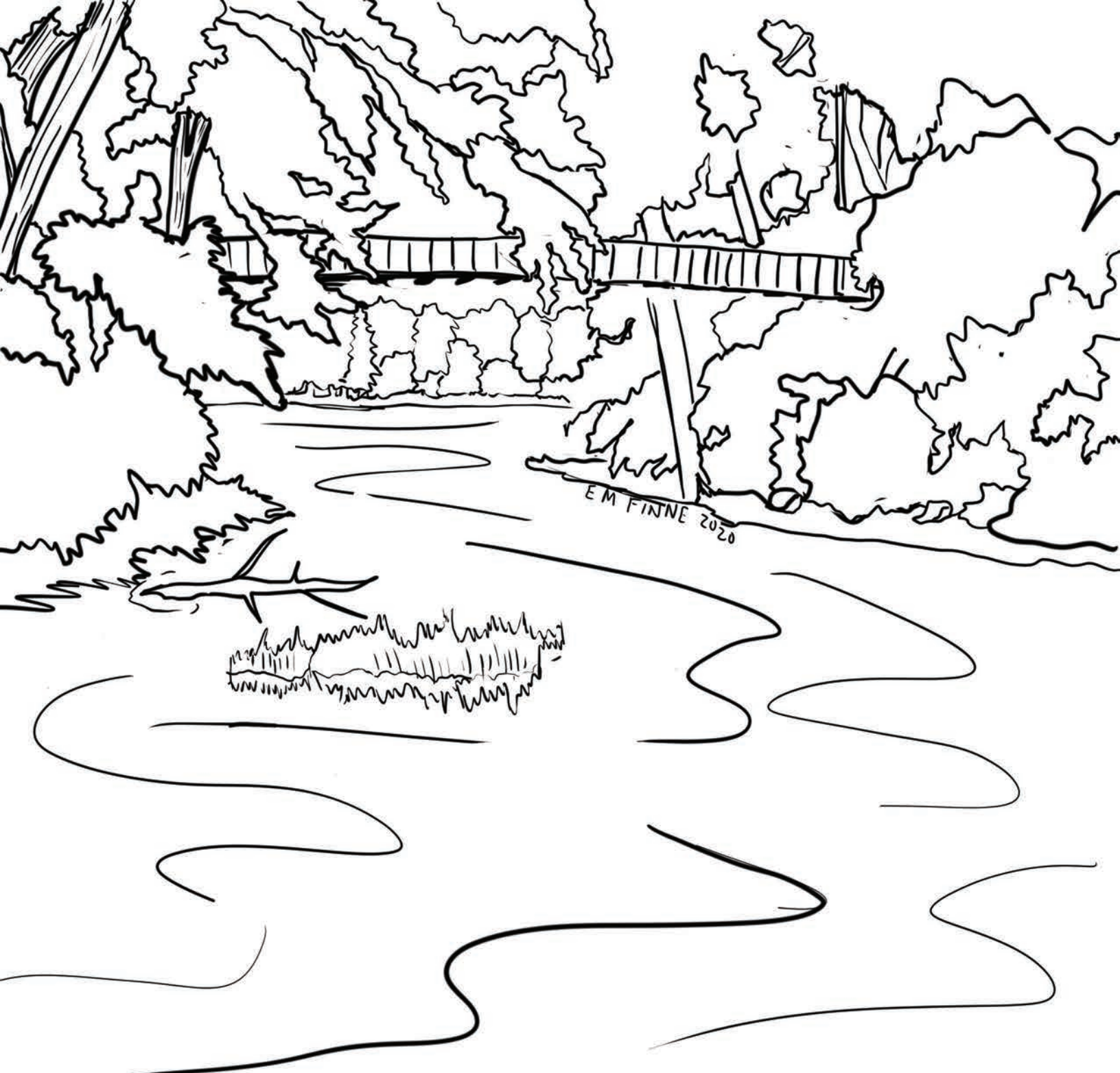
Keep streets and sidewalks clean.
Officially adopt a drain near you through
adopt-a-drain.org.
Install a rain garden to help manage run off.
Plant native plants in your yard.



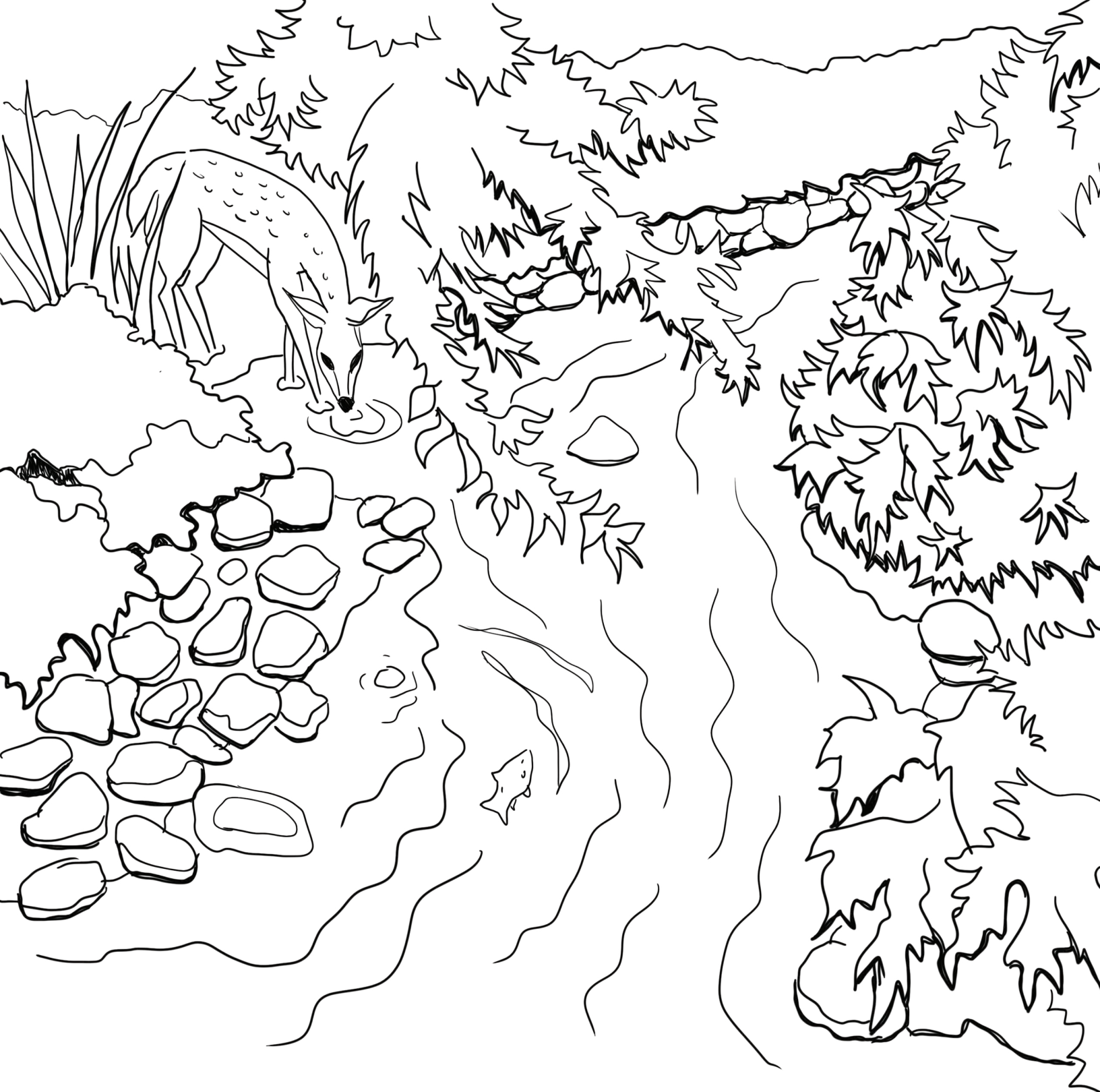
The old tunnel exit to the Mississippi. The water from Haha Wakpadan moves slowly here. This tunnel was built in the 1890's.



Construction started in the 1890's to hide the creek under Downtown Minneapolis. Before, bridges arched over the creek. Later, buildings were constructed over the old tunnel. The foundations reduced the tunnel area and the creek would flood upstream.



View out to the Mississippi



The wildlife in and around the creek need the creek to survive. Please help out our many birds, fish, turtles, deer, raccoons, rabbits, foxes, coyotes and turkeys to survive.

Thanks to the Art for Water Artist Grant Opportunity.
Freshwater's Master Water Steward Program,
Mississippi Watershed Management Organization ,
Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission,
and
my family for their patience.

Erika Finne is an artist and teacher in the Twin Cities Metro Area. She was born in Minneapolis and currently resides in Crystal with her partner, step-daughter, and their numerous fur babies.