

A WASTEWATCHER COMIC:

A Tale of Two Raindrops

OR...

"WHAT RAINS IN ANN ARBOR
CAN STAY IN ANN ARBOR"

HIGH ABOVE THE ANN ARBOR MUNICIPAL CENTER, A SCATTERING OF RAIN DROPS JUMPS FROM A PASSING STORM CLOUD, RACING EACH OTHER TO THE GROUND BELOW!

HEY, OLD-TIMER!
I'M NEW AROUND HERE;
HAVE YOU RAINED ON
THIS PIECE OF GROUND
BEFORE?

I SURE HAVE...
SIGH

GOSH! WHY
DO YOU LOOK
SO WORRIED?

WELL, I'VE FALLEN ON
THIS SPOT MANY TIMES
OVER THE YEARS...

THE FIRST TIME WAS WAY
BACK IN 1819, AND IT WAS
A GREAT RIDE THEN!

"THIS NECK OF THE WOODS WAS ALL GREEN AND GROWING BACK THEN - A PLACE WHERE RAINDROPS COULD FILTER DOWN SLOWLY INTO THE SOIL AND RELAX FOR A WHILE. IT WAS SO CIVILIZED!"

(IN A PRE-CIVILIZATION SENSE, THAT IS.)"

THAT SOUNDS GREAT!

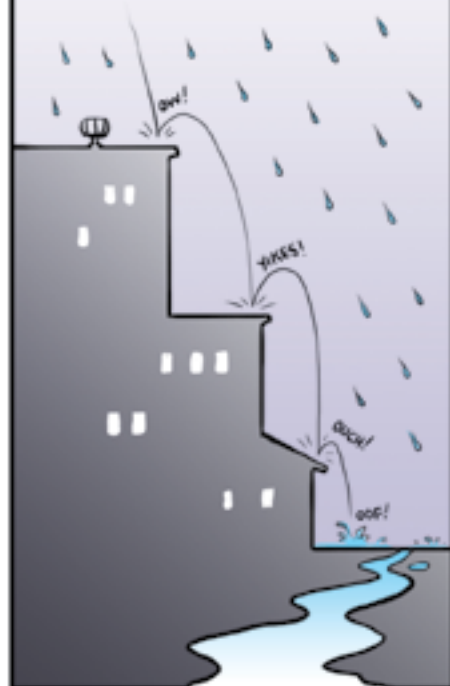
IT WAS! BUT THAT WAS A LONG TIME AGO, AND A LOT OF THINGS HAVE CHANGED SINCE THEN.

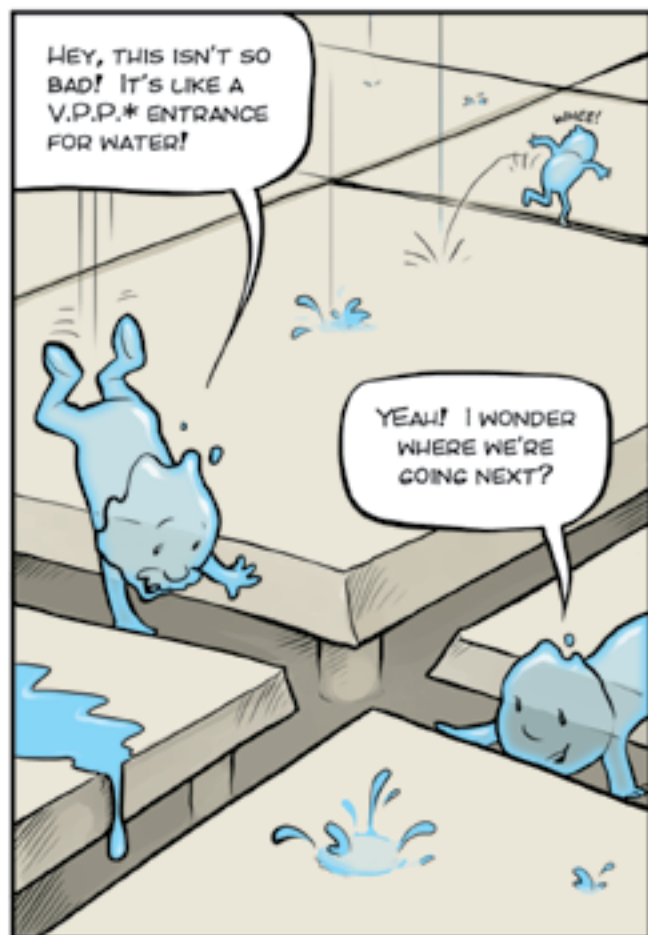
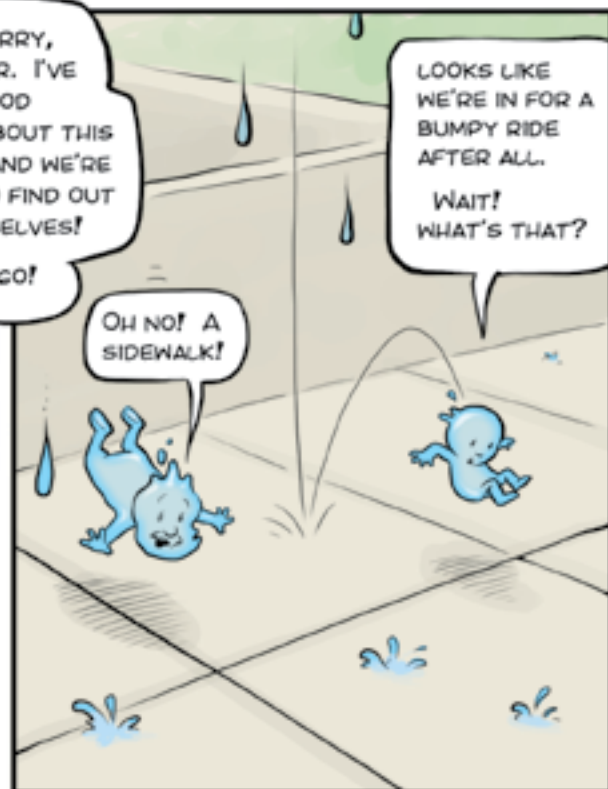
THE LAST TIME I RAINED DOWN IN ANN ARBOR WAS AS PART OF THE FLOOD OF 1968... AND WHAT A RUCKUS THAT WAS!

"FIRST, YOU COULDN'T EVEN REACH THE GROUND WITHOUT GETTING BOUNCED AROUND ON A HOT DIRTY ROOF, SIDEWALK, OR PARKING LOT FIRST..."

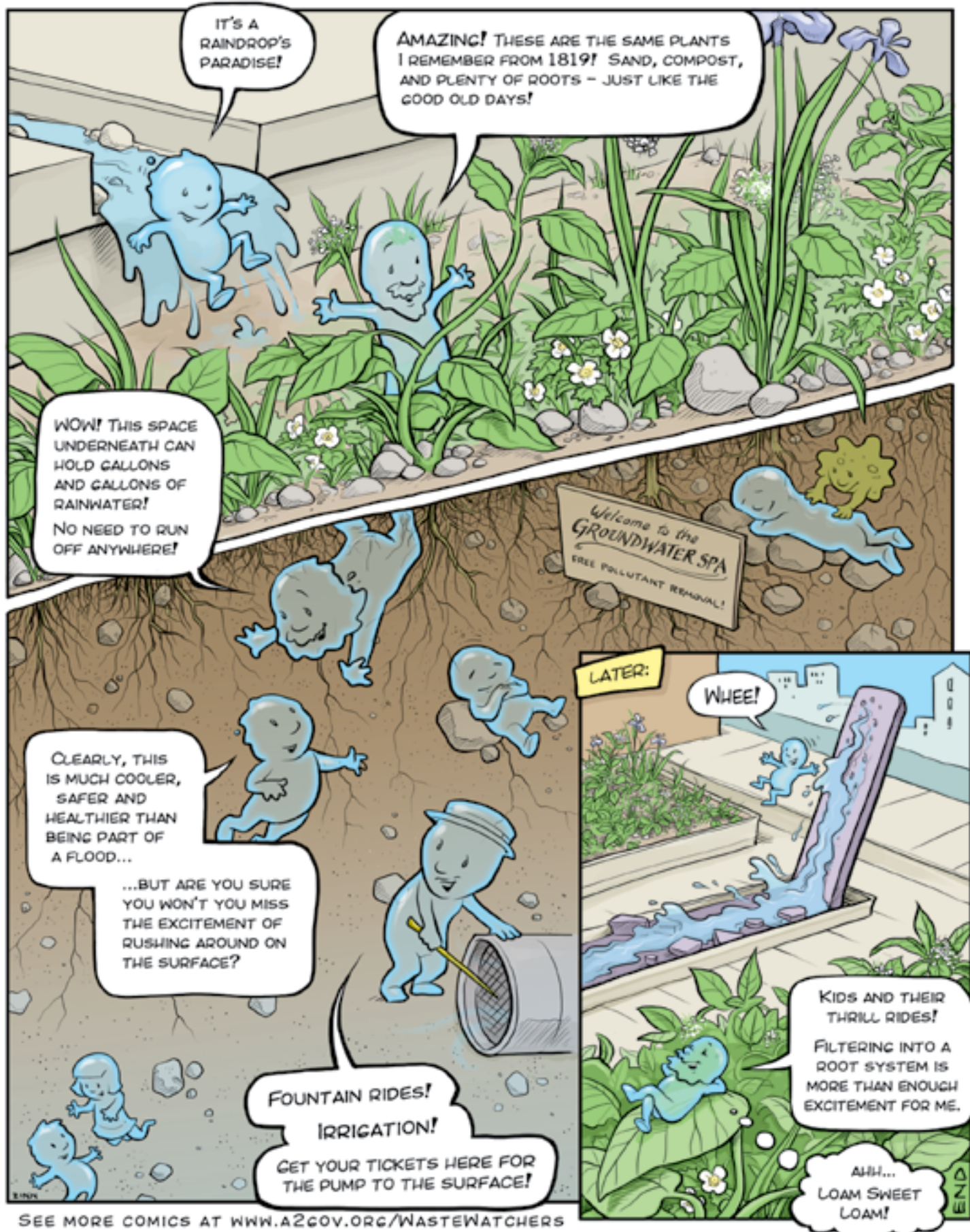
"WHEN WE GOT TO THE STREET, WE WERE CROWDED THROUGH GUTTERS AND DRAINS... AND EVEN FLOODED INTO PEOPLE'S BASEMENTS, WHERE WE WERE NOT EXACTLY WELCOME VISITORS."

"WHEN WE FINALLY REACHED A RIVER, WE WERE SO RUSHED AND CROWDED THAT WE JUST KEPT GOING, TAKING MOST OF THE RIVERBED (PLUS OIL SLICKS AND FERTILIZER) WITH US! IT WAS AWFUL!"





*VERY PERVIOUS PAVEMENT



IT'S A
RAINDROP'S
PARADISE!

AMAZING! THESE ARE THE SAME PLANTS
I REMEMBER FROM 1819! SAND, COMPOST,
AND PLENTY OF ROOTS - JUST LIKE THE
GOOD OLD DAYS!

WOW! THIS SPACE
UNDERNEATH CAN
HOLD GALLONS
AND GALLONS OF
RAINWATER!
NO NEED TO RUN
OFF ANYWHERE!

Welcome to the
GROUNDWATER SPA
FREE POLLUTANT REMOVAL!

CLEARLY, THIS
IS MUCH COOLER,
SAFER AND
HEALTHIER THAN
BEING PART OF
A FLOOD...

...BUT ARE YOU SURE
YOU WON'T MISS
THE EXCITEMENT OF
RUSHING AROUND ON
THE SURFACE?

FOUNTAIN RIDES!
IRRIGATION!
GET YOUR TICKETS HERE FOR
THE PUMP TO THE SURFACE!

LATER:

WHEE!

KIDS AND THEIR
THRILL RIDES!
FILTERING INTO A
ROOT SYSTEM IS
MORE THAN ENOUGH
EXCITEMENT FOR ME.

AHH...
LOAM SWEET
LOAM!