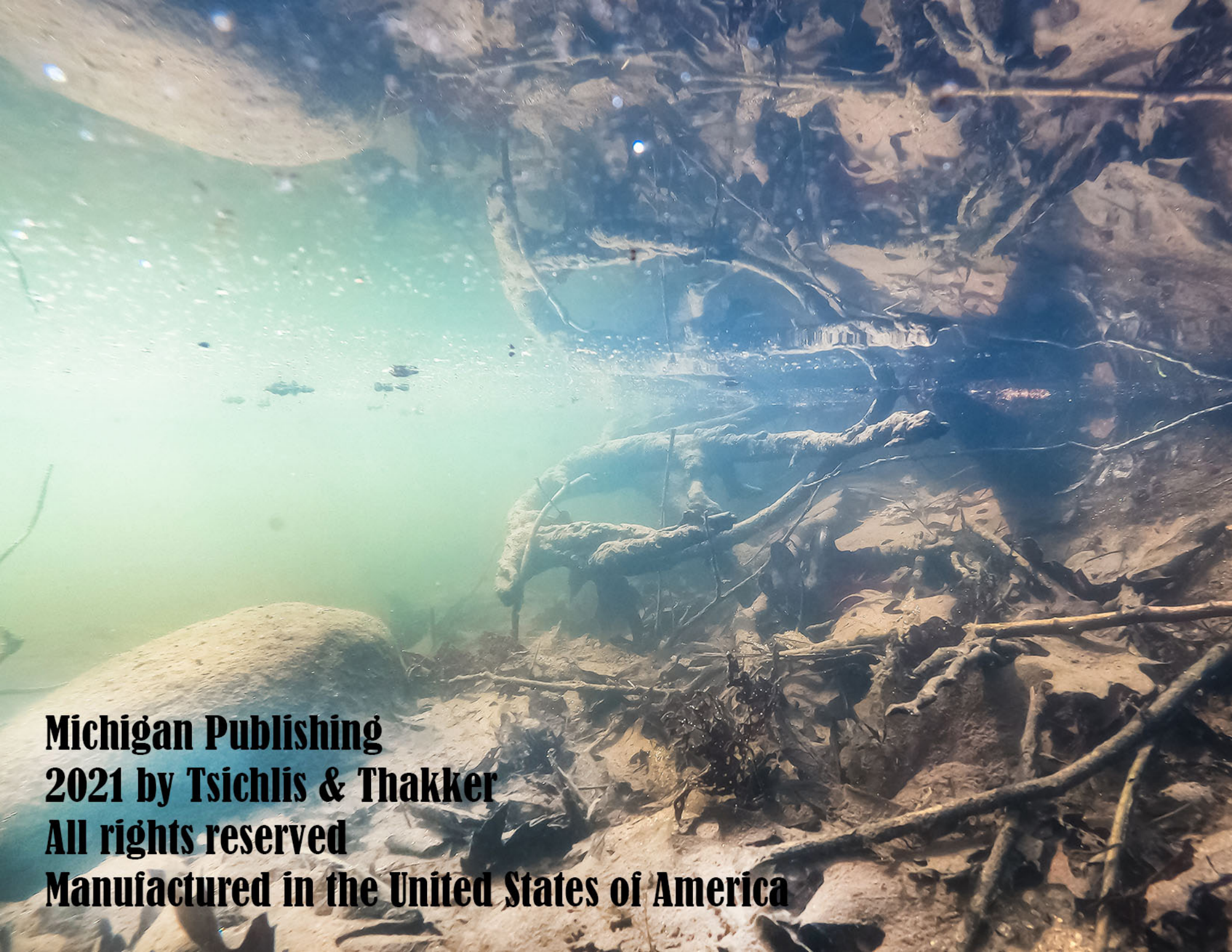


The Rain Garden



Anjali Thakker
Nick Tsichlis



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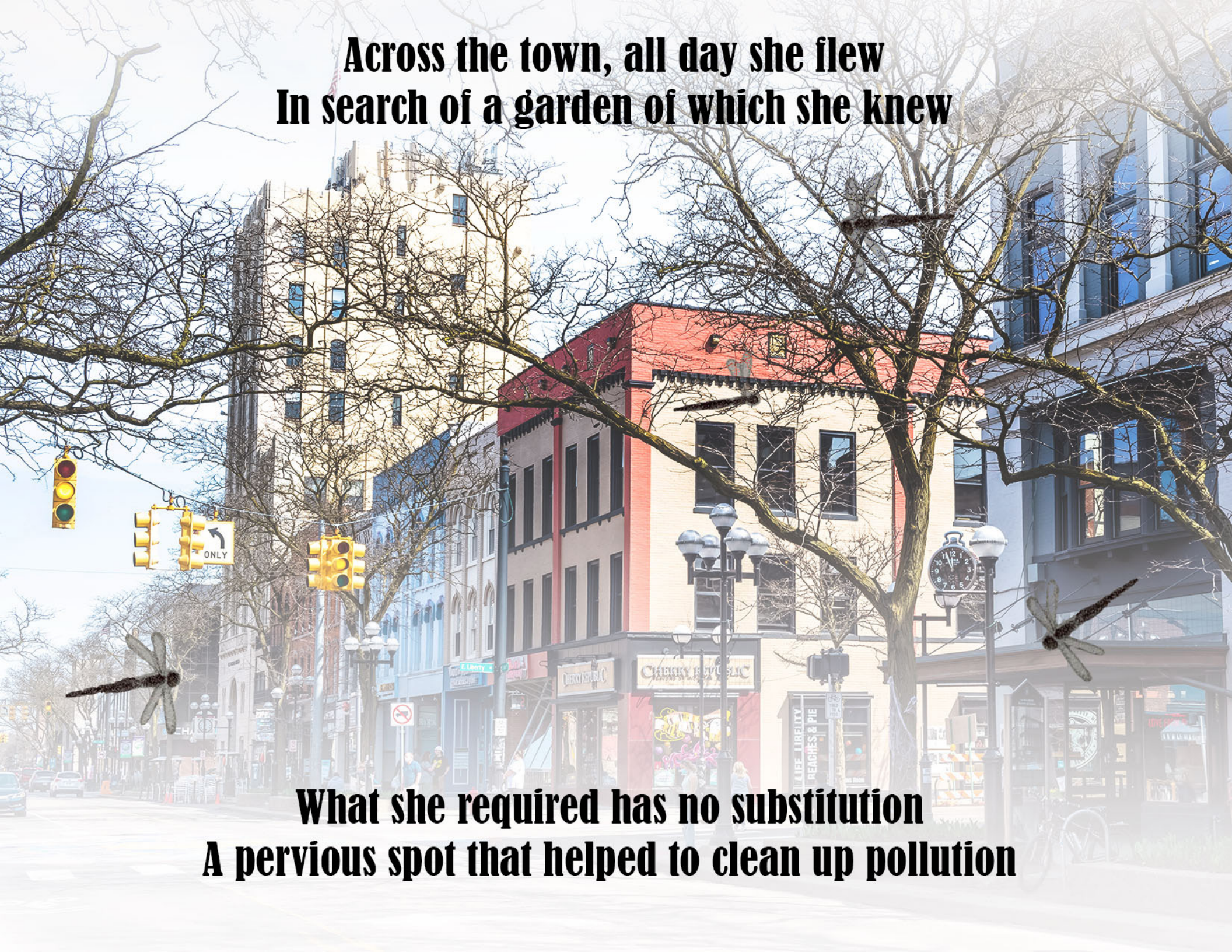
**Not long ago, from sunrise to sundown
A Hine's Emerald Dragonfly soared around town**



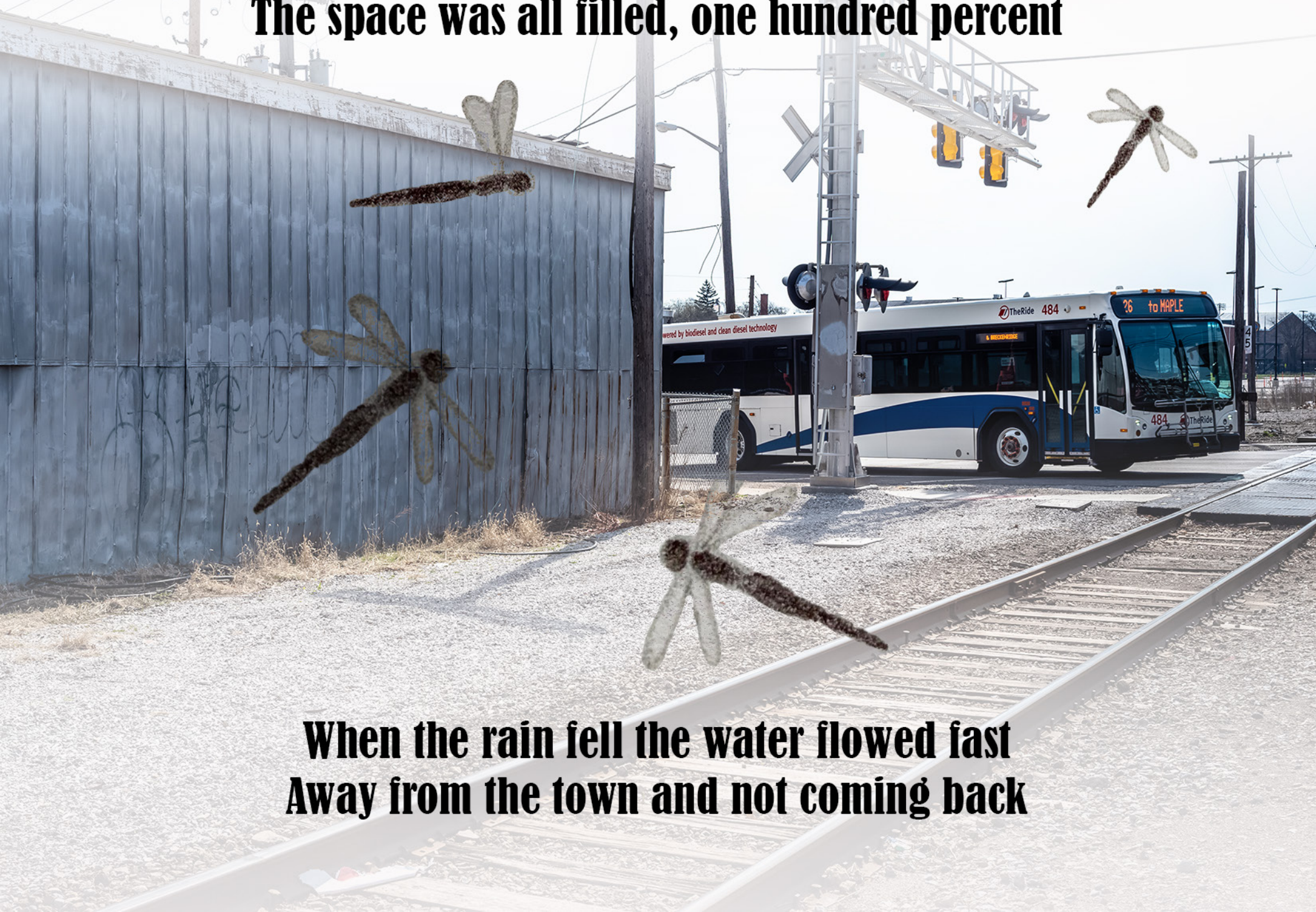
**With yellow stripes, and eyes a brilliant green
A wondrous sight that had to be seen**

**Across the town, all day she flew
In search of a garden of which she knew**

**What she required has no substitution
A pervious spot that helped to clean up pollution**



**The city was dirty, the ground all cement
The space was all filled, one hundred percent**



**When the rain fell the water flowed fast
Away from the town and not coming back**



**All of a sudden, in an ocean of bricks
Appeared her garden with plants, rocks and sticks**

**The ground was so soft, the rain sank right in
Filling a low spot, enough for a swim**

**This time of spring it was full as a sink
And many animals used it to drink**

**Rather than leaving through pipes below town
This water was filtered through soil in the ground**



**So when it filled a nearby pond over time
It would be clean, clear, and free of road grime**



**The dragonfly zoomed from the rain garden
with speed and great purpose
To lay her eggs quickly below the ponds surface**

**With rocks, leaf packs, mud and other places to hide
The water was different from the world outside**



**But perhaps most important and hidden from sight
It helped to protect young dragonflies not ready for flight**



**Months passed as the larva swam and ate
They grew bigger and stronger and just couldn't wait**



**As the days shortened they were ready at last
They climbed from the water and onto tall grass**



**A few mornings later when all good and dry
They shed their tight shells and flew to the sky**



**They searched for shade and something to eat
But they had needs the city could not meet**



**When summer arrived and the city was dry as a bone
It was the rain garden that gave them a home**

A scenic landscape featuring a body of water in the foreground, surrounded by tall, golden-brown grasses. In the background, there is a line of trees with some autumn-colored foliage. Three dragonflies are flying in the sky above the water. The sky is blue with some light clouds.

**When they grow old and the cycle repeats
They'll go to the garden and not the hot streets**

**Without the clean water that they require
There would be less dragonflies left to admire**

About the Authors



Nick Tsihchlis is a graduate student at the University of Michigan School for Environment and Sustainability. He is a professional landscaper and organic vegetable farmer who is interested in a range of issues related to the rehabilitation and preservation of landscapes. Additionally, Nick is a landscape photographer who is passionate about using art to convey the importance of the natural systems. He hopes to use his art in the future to facilitate connections between people and the landscape they occupy, and to help shift public opinion to encourage sustainable outcomes in communities.



Additional Resources

Want to build your own rain garden?

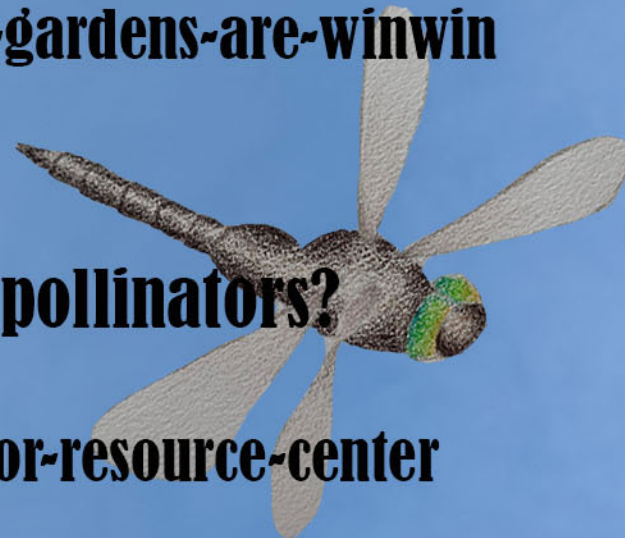
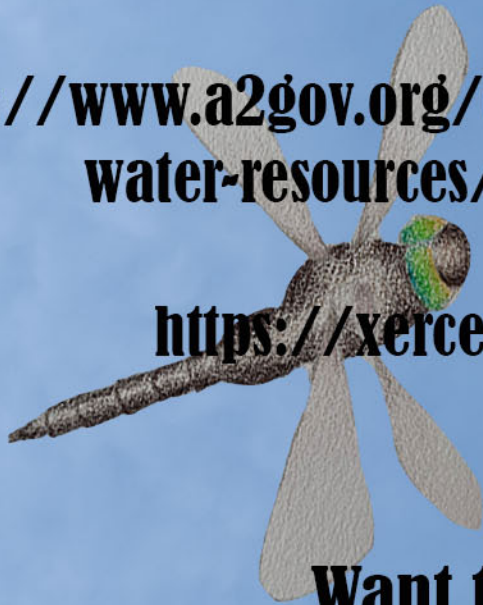
Check out these resources to help plan your next rain garden project:

<https://www.a2gov.org/departments/systems-planning/planning-areas/water-resources/stormwater/Pages/Rain-gardens-.aspx>

<https://xerces.org/blog/rain-gardens-are-winwin>

Want to learn about pollinators?

<https://xerces.org/pollinator-resource-center>



An underwater photograph showing a wooden stick and some dried leaves in the foreground. The water is clear and blue, with a sandy bottom visible in the distance. The text is overlaid on the image.

Written and Illustrated by Anjali Thakker and Nick Tsihchlis

This book was the capstone project for the course “Culture, Nature, and Landscape” taught by Dr. Sara Adlerstein at the School for Environment and Sustainability, University of Michigan, 2021.

The charge for the students was to create a picture book for children that conveyed information about urban gardens in a way that was simple and engaging. The goal was to empower children to be part of the solution.