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GENERAL BIODIVERSITY

Create pond habitat



Ponds are an oasis for wildlife and can provide important refuges and stepping stones for species through the urban environment. They support a multitude of freshwater plants and animals.

Suitability	Low to medium density housing. Potential for container ponds or mini ponds to be created where space is restricted.
Management type	Pond creation – any size pond is beneficial to site biodiversity.
Supplier information	<p>Lots of advice online for creating a wildlife pond:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Freshwater Habitats Trust’s online pond creation toolkit: https://freshwaterhabitats.org.uk/projects/million-ponds/pond-creation-toolkit. • The Wildlife Trust provides instructions for building a garden pond: http://www.wildlifetrusts.org/actions/how-build-pond and also for creating a ‘mini’ pond – any size will still provide benefits to local wildlife and to residents: http://www.wildlifetrusts.org/actions/how-create-mini-pond.
Community engagement?	Yes – good opportunity to involve volunteer residents in helping to dig a new pond or create a mini-pond using a suitable container.
Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ponds support a multitude of freshwater plants and aquatic/semi-aquatic animals. They also provide drinking, feeding and bathing opportunities for a range of terrestrial creatures. • In urban areas they can be an oasis for wildlife and can provide important refuges and stepping stones for species through the urban environment. • Most of the plants and animals that use ponds are highly mobile. If a wildlife-friendly pond is created, it will soon be colonised by a variety of species.
Costs/Disbenefit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Financial cost: Low-medium (depends on size of pond and quality of liner – butyl rubber recommended for durability). Staff and volunteer time/expenses. • H&S concerns where H&S issues prevent areas of open water, or where space is limited, small container-size ponds provide many biodiversity benefits. Larger ponds can be created within fenced areas or a submerged grid installed.
Level of ongoing maintenance	Medium.



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		Notes
How achieved	<p>Possibly involving volunteer residents to create the pond (if relatively small) and to encourage a sense of ownership by residents, which is key for successful long-term maintenance.</p> <p>If creating a container pond then re-purpose an old tub, sink, plant pot or other water-tight container.</p>	
Timing of activity	Any time.	
Long-term management	<p>As your pond and the plants establish over time, it will need rotational clearance of a proportion of the vegetation and, as it infills with sediment and dead vegetation, some periodic dredging. For a well vegetated, small sunken container-type pond this may happen quite quickly but it is an easy enough task to carry out to maintain it with open water.</p> <p>Bare pond edges are particularly susceptible to colonisation by invasive non-native plant species.</p> <p>Please see http://www.rspb.org.uk/birds-and-wildlife/advice/gardening-for-wildlife/water-for-wildlife/looking-after-your-pond for more information on looking after your pond.</p>	
Monitoring success	<p>General recording (see page 6).</p> <p>If the pond is large enough to pond dip, the Freshwater Trust run 'The Big Pond Dip' survey:</p> <p>https://freshwaterhabitats.org.uk/get-involved-2/big-pond-dip.</p>	