



A rain garden is a type of sustainable drainage system. It is made by creating a shallow depression with absorbent, yet free draining soil. Choose plants that can withstand occasional temporary flooding. Or you can use window boxes and containers, watered with downpipes.

Suitability	Low, medium and high density housing.
Management type	Sustainable Drainage System. Rain gardens are shallow planted basins that allow water to drain naturally into the soil (or planted container fed by rainwater from a downpipe).
Supplier information	Useful information for creating rain gardens can be found in the UK Rain Garden Guide, download for free at: https://raingardens.info .
Community engagement?	Can involve volunteer residents in helping to plant up containers or rain gardens that have been dug into existing beds/paved/lawn areas.
Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flood attenuation and improved water quality. • Increase in plant and invertebrate diversity with positive knock-on effects to overall biodiversity. • Reduced maintenance costs where rain gardens replace areas of frequently mown lawn.
Costs/Disbenefit	Financial cost: Low to medium (depending on type of feature installed) – staff and volunteer time and expenses.
Level of ongoing maintenance	Low.



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SUSTAINABILITY

Create rain gardens

		Notes
How achieved	<p>Various features can be installed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Planters, window boxes or containers that can be fed using rainwater from downpipes.• A rain garden, made by creating a shallow depression with absorbent, yet free draining soil and planted with suitable plant species that can withstand occasional temporary flooding. <p>See the 'UK Rain Garden Guide' for specific guidance: https://raingardens.info/wp-content/uploads/2012/07/UKRainGarden-Guide.pdf.</p>	
Timing of activity	<p>Any time.</p>	
Long-term management	<p>Minimal – occasional weeding as part of general site management and annual trimming of vegetation.</p>	