

Designing Rain Gardens: A Practical Guide

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Chair

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1. **Rain is a precious resource that we should use to our advantage.** There is potential to carry rain water into our city's infrastructure from green roofs to swales, rain gardens and permeable surfaces. Green infrastructure offers an opportunity to transform our streets and helps bring nature into the city's hard paved surfaces.
2. **Design rain gardens that delight, surprise and encourage play.** Planting on either side of a footpath can create a sense of walking through a field and logs can suddenly become a playground or a place to sit and eat. A well-designed garden not only makes a space feel more welcoming, but can also strengthen desire lines or frame views.
3. **Choose the right planting and soil to ensure your garden is lush throughout the year.** You can find valuable guidance on plant selection and soil types online to help your rain succeed during the first months of establishment. Our Designing Rain Gardens sourcebook, available on our website, offers practical tips to calculate the size and location of your rain garden.
4. **Rain gardens are cost effective in the long run.** You need to make an investment at the start of a project, but in the long run rain gardens could be cheaper to uphold than paved roads and need minimal maintenance.
5. **Access to rich and diverse green spaces goes beyond amenity.** Green corridors encourage walking and cycling and can shift people's attitude towards active travel. It is also extremely important to the health and happiness of all Londoners.

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