

RAINFALL GARDENS

Rainfall gardens are a type of sustainable drainage system (Suds for short) which involves moving water through an area which would slow its flow, reducing the likelihood of floods in areas where they exist. Unlike similar concepts such as bog gardens, raingardens are not wet all year round. The way it can be applied will differ from region to region, though the main function will be the same.



The primary benefit of this strategy is the reduction and prevention of flood damage in an area, as rain gardens can potentially absorb 30% more water than a conventional lawn. It can potentially absorb up to 80% of sediments and 90% of nutrient and pollutants such as oil or heavy metals in runoff from rainfall events too. This strategy also provides advantages associated with greenspace, such as mental health benefits, habitats for animals and carbon sequestration.

Before installing this strategy, communities should consult with experts about their raingarden as if it is not completed properly or positioned in the wrong area it can lead to damage to the local area (e.g. flooding). Other people living in the local area need to be consulted about these types of plans too, in addition to a community's local authority if the garden is being constructed on a site not owned by the group. Designing a rain garden requires up to date weather data is needed for planning as it enables the garden to better deal with future weather events. It is also recommended to utilise several smaller gardens rather than a single larger one (though this may vary from site to site). Planning permission from your local authority may be needed in order to complete this project.



Links

<https://www.rhs.org.uk/garden-features/rain-gardens>

<https://www.sdcc.ie/en/services/environment/environmental-health/water-services/sustainable-drainage-systems/sdcc-householders-guide-to-sustainable-drainage-suds-.pd>

<https://groundwater.org/rain-gardens/>

<https://www.dublincity.ie/sites/default/files/2021-04/a-how-to-guide-to-rainwater-planters-english.pdf>

<https://sciendo.com/article/10.2478/oszn-2018-0001>

<https://www.aoifemunn.ie/>