

## How to get involved

By installing several Raingardens in a small area we can begin to make a distinct improvement to water quality and flood risk. 10,000 will make a huge difference.

Whether you are a chief executive of a company, an employee or a household resident you can create a Raingarden\*. At the same time, you can enhance your surroundings and provide colourful and pleasant areas to relax and enjoy.

Look at the building you live or work and see what opportunities there are. An easy opportunity is

often the roof down-pipe which can be connected straight into a Raingarden.

Other choices include pocket parks between buildings or in existing open spaces. These areas along with roads, footpaths and car parks amongst others, will require more comprehensive arrangements and may involve the local authority who could be willing to assist in the process.

Please see our website for more information on creating a Raingarden.

\*Always obtain the correct permissions when building one.

## Contact us

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The Forum is a group of organisations, businesses and individuals interested in promoting and encouraging the building of Green Infrastructure. This leaflet was prepared by Buglife for SGIF.

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# 10,000 Raingardens for Scotland



Raingardens are vegetated features which hold rain or surface water, slowly releasing it, helping to reduce the likelihood or severity of flooding.

[www.sgif.org.uk](http://www.sgif.org.uk)

# 10,000 Raingardens for Scotland

Scotland has a fantastic environment and we should all be proud of it. However many towns and cities need a little help to improve river and water quality. Also, with our climate changing, the risk of flooding is increasing. By introducing pockets of valuable, colourful and attractive vegetation we aim to reduce the risk of flooding and improve water quality of our rivers.



A rain garden is an area of plants designed to receive rainfall. These pockets of vegetation can be in different shapes, sizes and forms. For example, small areas of flowers, trees and bushes in a car park or at the roadside, or a planter box next to a roof down-pipe to receive rainfall that lands on the roof.

## Benefits of Raingardens

- ◆ Help to reduce flooding by holding rain water and slowly releasing it.
- ◆ Raingardens are easy to look after and pleasant to look at.
- ◆ Provide cleaner air for you, your family and your friends to breathe.
- ◆ They help to reduce pollution by catching contaminants collected by rainwater and surface run off, before it enters rivers.
- ◆ They can provide new homes and food for wildlife that already live in towns, gardens and parks.

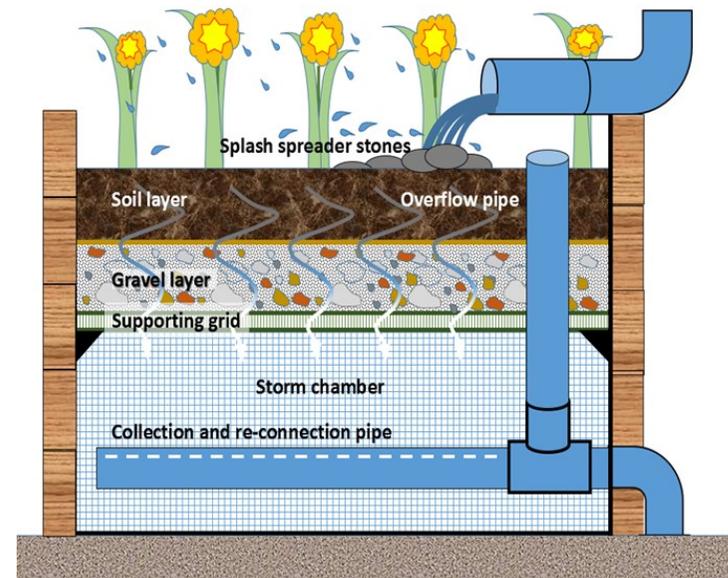
### Why do we need them?

Pollutants, for example deposits and emissions from vehicles or industrial estate runoff, amongst many other sources, are flushed into the drainage system and often go straight into the river, causing pollution.

Town centres or housing estates can generate significantly more pollution. This is **diffuse pollution**, it is a recognised problem.

### How do they work?

A Raingarden receives polluted runoff and filters it naturally through the plants and layers of soils and gravels it contains. Water then passes into a small storm chamber which temporarily holds back water, reducing the prospect of flooding. Cleaner water is then slowly passed back into the drainage system reducing pollution and flooding.



Example of a Raingarden attached the down pipe of a building