What is a Rain Garden?

You may have noticed a number of rain gardens appearing around Carlow Town Decarbonising Zone in recent years.
At first glance, they look like beautiful flower beds, adding colour and interest to our streets and public spaces. However, they are much more than that.

A rain garden is a shallow planted area that collects rainwater from nearby roads, footpaths and other hard surfaces. Instead of flowing directly into drains, rainwater is directed into the garden where it is temporarily stored. The plants, soil and roots act as a natural filter, trapping dirt and pollutants before the water slowly soaks into the ground.Rain gardens are becoming increasingly important as climate change is bringing more frequent and intense rainfall events. These changing weather patterns can place pressure on drainage systems and increase the risk of localised flooding. As heavy rainfall events become more common, flooding can create traffic congestion, road closures and difficulties for pedestrians and cyclists.





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Rain gardens help by slowing down and absorbing rainwater before it reaches the drainage system, reducing the amount of surface water on streets and helping to keep roads and footpaths safer and more accessible during wet weather.

Carlow County Council has delivered several rain garden projects throughout Carlow Town Decarbonising Zone as part of its commitment to climate action and sustainable drainage. These projects demonstrate how working with nature can help communities adapt to the impacts of climate change while creating attractive and functional public spaces.

The planting used in the rain gardens has been carefully selected to support biodiversity and follows the principles of the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan.
A variety of flowering plants provide food and habitat for bees, butterflies and other important pollinating insects throughout the year, helping to create healthier and more diverse urban environments.





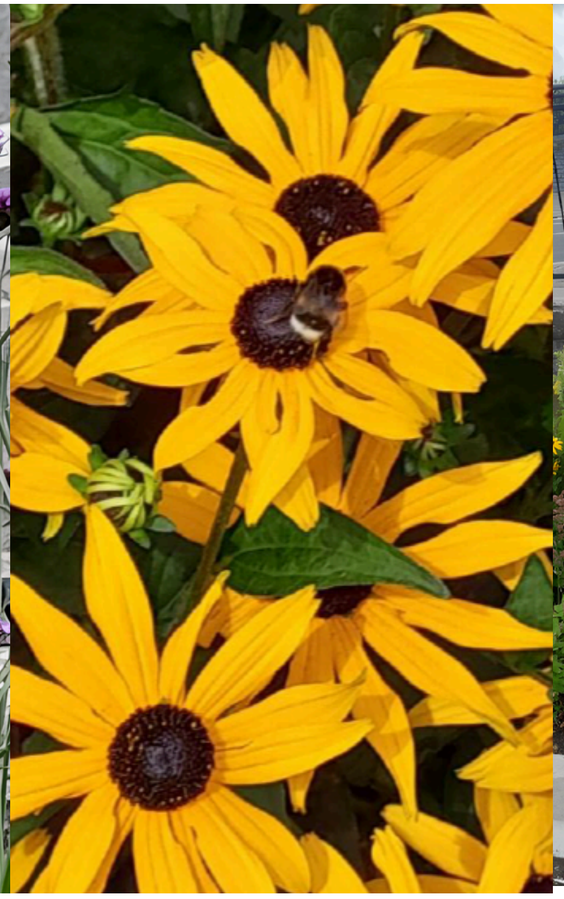
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By combining practical flood management with environmental benefits, rain gardens are a simple but effective way of making our towns more resilient to the challenges of a changing climate. While they may look like colourful flower beds, they are also hard at work managing rainwater, improving water quality, supporting wildlife and creating greener, healthier places for everyone to enjoy.






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