

The John Lewis Rain Garden

Our climate is changing. Temperatures are rising, causing more extreme weather events, like flooding and heat waves. Cities such as London are particularly prone to its effects. Lack of green space can intensify temperatures, causing an 'urban heat island', while hard-surfaced areas are increasingly prone to surface water flooding.

The John Lewis Rain Garden is designed to manage localised surface water run-off and make better use of our vital water resources. Sustainable drainage measures like this Rain Garden help to reduce this risk of flooding by vegetating previously hard-surfaced areas.

THE ORIGINAL SITE



HOW IT WORKS

Rain gardens are designed to intercept the flow of water from rooftops, pavements, streets and roads. Rather than flowing down the street or into our drains, these mini gardens can either store rain water for use by plants or in some cases allow water to soak into the ground.

In the John Lewis Rain Garden drainage gaps within the existing kerbs allow water to flow into the rain garden to be absorbed by the plants or soak into the ground. The rain garden also receives rainwater run-off from the portico roof via a diverted drainpipe whilst rainwater falling on the site is absorbed within the planted area.

WHAT PLANTS HAVE BEEN CHOSEN?

The plants have been selected for their visual attractiveness, environmental tolerance and value to pollinators and include *Verbena bonariensis*, *Bergenia* 'Overture' and *Brunnera macrophylla* 'Jack Frost'. Over twenty species of plants have been used. Italian Alder trees were selected for their ability to withstand flooding and dry conditions and to replace the two trees that were in a poor state, one of which had been damaged in a storm.



Left: *Brunnera macrophylla* 'Jack Frost'

Far left: *Verbena bonariensis*

WORKING TOGETHER TO IMPROVE LONDON'S ENVIRONMENT

The John Lewis Rain Garden is an urban greening project delivered by the Victoria Business Improvement District (BID) for the benefit of people and wildlife. The project was planned with the John Lewis Partnership and reflects their environmental and sustainability values. It has also received support from Natural England and the Mayor of London via the regeneration agency, Cross River Partnership. The garden was designed by Nigel Dunnett, with The Landscape Agency and installed by Landform Consultants Ltd.

Find out more about this and other green spaces in the Victoria BID:

www.victoriabid.co.uk



John Lewis

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