Greener Grangetown — Cardiff's Council–Utility Retrofit Diverting Street Runoff from the Combined Sewer into 100+ Rain Gardens

PES & Nature-Based Solutions · Good practice · United Kingdom

Quality score: 33/100

Evidence strength: Cautionary / limited

Summary

A £2m retrofit by Cardiff Council, Welsh Water and Natural Resources Wales put 100+ rain gardens and 120+ trees into 12 terraced streets, diverting about 40,000 m³ of rainwater a year from the combined sewer. A university survey found no gain in residents' self-reported health.

Key dimensions

Dimension	Score
Carbon — sequestration / storage, evidenced	0/3
Biodiversity — conservation / improvement, evidenced	1/3
Water & soil — retention, infiltration, erosion control	2/3
Fire resilience — risk reduction, evidenced	0/3
Governance, certification & transferability	2/3

Evaluated by C-NAPSE

Data sources

C-NAPSE web research — accessed 2026-11-15

City of Cardiff Council, with D■r Cymru Welsh Water and Natural Resources Wales — accessed 2026-11-15

Arup — Greener Grangetown project — accessed 2026-11-15

Nature-based Solutions Initiative (Oxford) — case study — accessed 2026-11-15

susdrain — Greener Grangetown case study (PDF) — accessed 2026-11-15

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