



Royal Horticultural Society  
Sharing the best in Gardening

**Greening Grey Britain**

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**Community Outreach Manager**

# Safeguard & Advance the Science, Art and Practice of Horticulture.....



.....for the benefit of future generations and the environment

- Driven by science
- 50 staff working in Science and Advice teams
  - Taxonomy
  - Biosecurity
- Partnerships with Reading and Sheffield Universities

# The Practice of Horticulture?



- 20 million gardeners
- 450,000 members....
- Ageing interest group
- Skills shortage
- Education & careers
- Outreach & communities

# Bloom & IYN



- 200,000 volunteers
- Manage 118,000 acres of green space
- Transform neighbourhoods
- Strengthen communities
- Tackle tough issues

# Taking horticultural science beyond the walls at Wisley



**Greening Grey Britain is a call to action!**

# Our Scientific Focus – what we grow & how we manage.....

- Moderating urban temperatures
- Reducing flooding
- Supporting biodiversity
- Human health & wellbeing
- Reducing pollution



# The Current Campaign

- MORI polls show three times as many front gardens are paved over compared to 10 years ago
- Our aim is to increase green space by 10%
- We need to galvanize individuals & communities into action
- Making it simple, accessible, actionable



# Actions?

- Private home owners - reverse the trend of paving over front gardens
- Local authorities:
  - Link to our report on line and use our advice for plants / parking in front gardens
  - Improve policing the paving over front gardens and drop curb applications /checks
- Raising issue of flooding and front gardens and collective impact paved gardens have
- Call for pledges to demonstrate action
- Support community transformation

