



HOW TO... PICK YOUR PATCH

So, you want to be a Backyard Nature Guardian, but you haven't got a patch of nature to protect yet? Not sure where to start? This simple guide will help you pick your perfect patch so you can start saving the planet in no time!



Ask a grown-up to help you find out who owns the space, so you can ask them for permission to protect it.

WHAT YOU'RE LOOKING FOR

Your patch should be four things:

- **Nearby** – somewhere you can go every day without a grown-up.
- **Unloved** – in need of a bit of care and attention.
- **Available** – it should belong to you or your school, or be a bit of public space that the owners are happy for you to look after.
- **Manageable** – it's much easier to protect a corner of a garden first, before taking on a whole public park!

WARNING!

Becoming a Backyard Nature Guardian may change your life forever.

Do not go any further if you are afraid of trying new things, making a difference and being amazed....

YOUR PATCH COULD INCLUDE...

- **A balcony or windowsill** – perfect for attracting interesting bugs and birds (and you can keep an eye on it from your living room)!
- **A garden** – yours or a communal one, just choose an unloved bit and everyone will be happy to see it thrive.
- **School grounds** – you could protect this type of patch with the help of your classmates or school eco-club.
- **A little green(ish) space** – like the soil around the bottom of a tree on your road, a flowerbed that is no longer blooming, a roadside verge or a corner of a car park.
- **A big green space** – if you live near a big park, river or wood, you could choose a patch there to nurture. If it's a big space, ask your friends to get involved too!





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WHAT NEXT?

Once you've picked your patch, it's time to get to work protecting it! But, before you dig into our free resources and decide what to do, make sure you:

1. Clean up your patch by picking up any litter and removing anything else that shouldn't be there.
2. Make a list of what's there, like plants, water sources or trees.
3. Make a plan! This could be as simple as deciding what to do first.



Sharing what you've been up to with the wider world will help inspire other people to take action. Take a photo of your patch, then share it on social media using #BackyardNature and it'll appear on our photo wall.

Don't forget to tell family and friends about what you're doing to get them involved too – you could even hold a mini opening ceremony and invite them along!

We trust you will be sensible... that you'll tell your grown-ups where you are going; that you won't do anything that you don't want to do; and you won't do anything to harm others, the nature around you or the amazing creatures you come across.

If you need to take a grown-up with you to your patch, make sure you give them a job to do to keep them busy, or tell them to bring a book, their knitting or something else to do while you're off saving the planet!

TOP TIPS

Check out the Backyard Nature website for free resources, missions and giveaways.

Ask a local garden centre if they have any plants or planting advice they can give you.

Ask a grown-up to help you collect and dispose of rubbish.

SEMBLE



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