

Essential flood resources for homeowners



Check the long-term flood risk in your area.

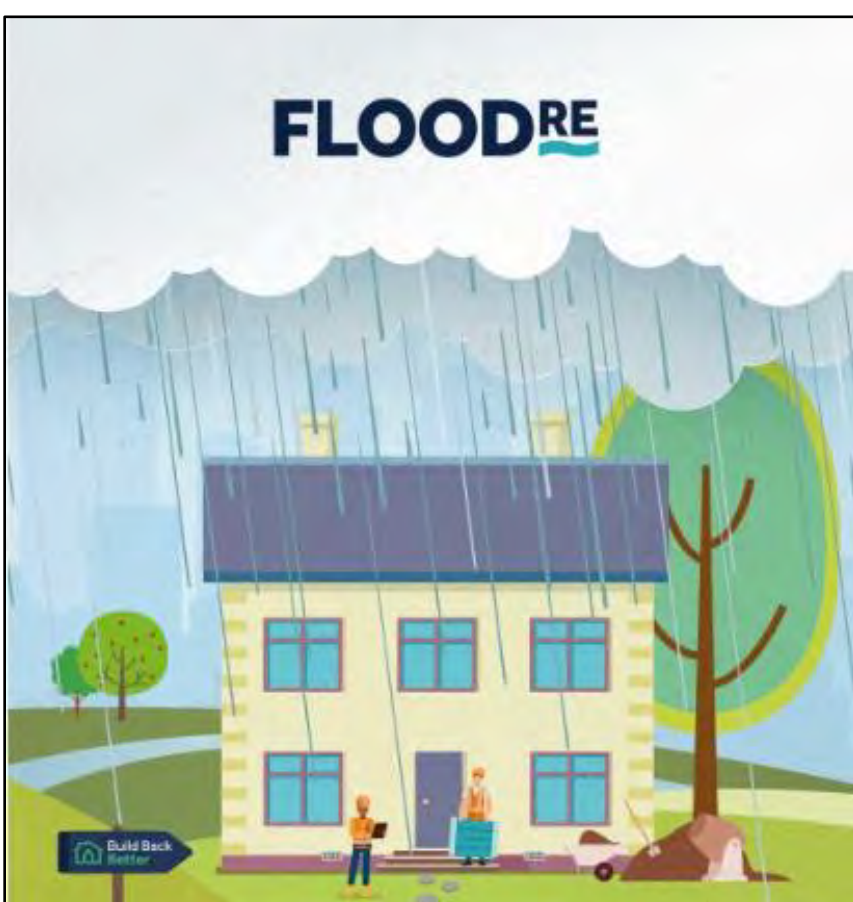
A tool on the Gov.UK website lets you find out the long-term flood risk for any area in England using a postcode. It details how climate change might increase the chance of flooding in your area; the possible causes and sources of flooding and how to manage flood risk.

www.gov.uk/check-long-term-flood-risk



Practical advice for homeowners

"Flood Mary" is Mary Long-Dhonau OBE, a leading UK expert and campaigner for property flood resilience. After experiencing severe flooding in her own home in 2000, she has dedicated her time to helping people prepare for, and recover from, flooding, with extensive free advice, guides, and support to homeowners, communities, and local authorities. www.floodmary.com



Insurance for flood-risk homes

Flood Re is a joint initiative between the Government and insurers to make flood insurance for homeowners affordable. Visit the Flood Re website to find insurance cover for your property,, understand your level of flood risk and get lots of practical ideas to prepare for and help prevent flooding.

www.floodre.co.uk



Be Flood Ready

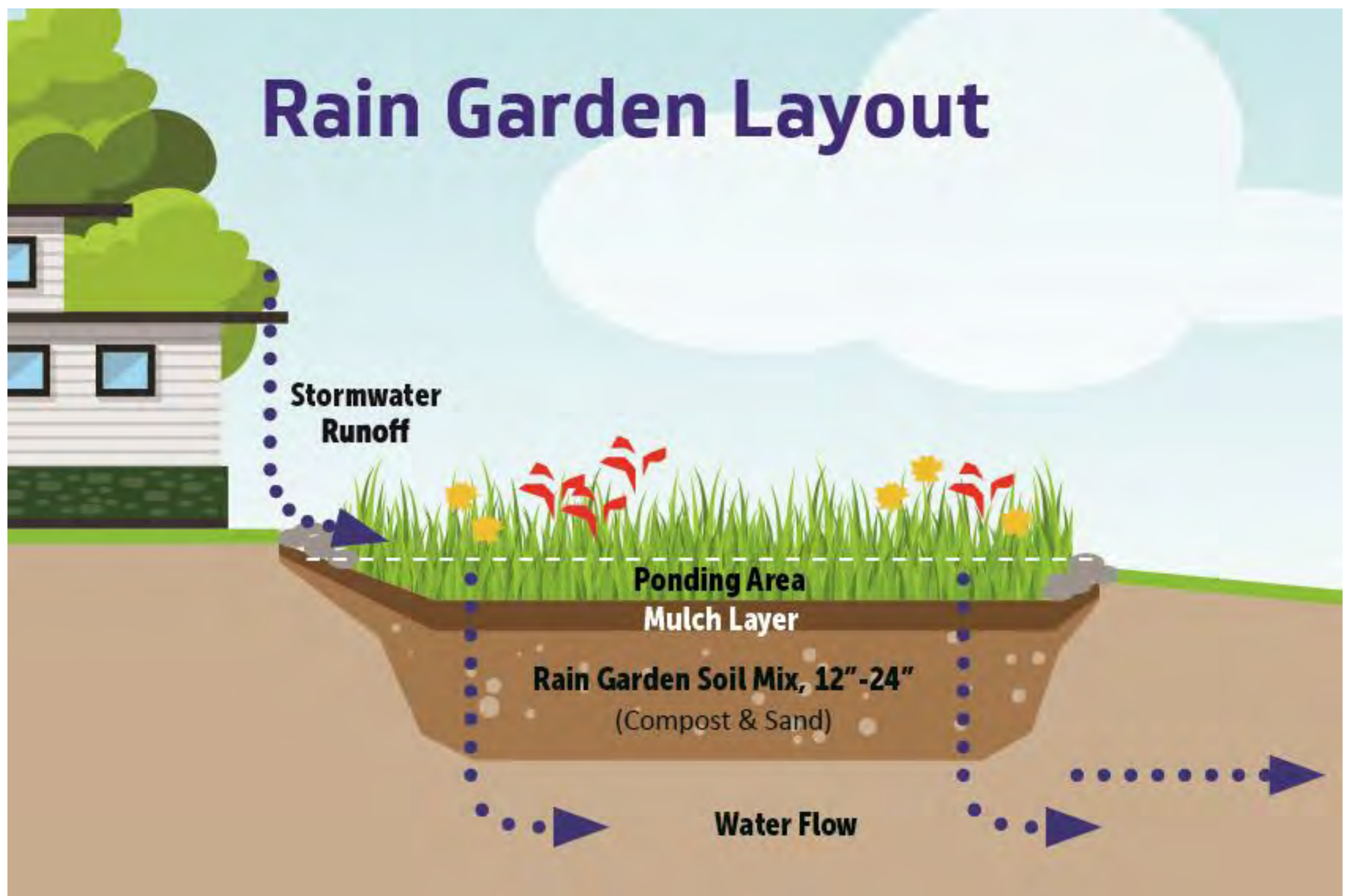
Be Flood Ready provides guidance and information on Property Flood Resilience (PFR) for homes, businesses and communities. Its website has a wealth of useful tools, such as template for creating your own household flood plan and sources of support before, during and after a flood. East Sussex County Council is a partner in the 'Be Flood Ready' scheme. www.befloodready.uk/east-sussex



Guide: Making your Home Flood Ready

Produced by Flood Mary, this is the up-to-date and definitive directory for making a home flood-resilient, detailing products and services that can help. It's packed full of useful information to help you better protect your home, plan ahead, and recover more quickly if flooding does happen. **Copies available in Lewes Climate Hub and to download at www.floodmary.com**

What's a rain garden?



A rain garden is a planted depression designed to absorb and filter rainwater run-off from hard surfaces, mimicking natural processes to help manage stormwater and prevent flooding.

By diverting downpipes or other run-off into these gardens, they reduce the burden on drainage systems and can be designed to be a low-maintenance, wildlife-friendly feature.

How a rain garden works

Collection: A shallow depression, often planted with native, water-tolerant plants, is created to collect run-off from roofs, driveways, or other hard surfaces.

Filtration: As water sits in the garden, the soil and plants naturally filter pollutants and sediments.

Infiltration: The water slowly soaks into the ground, helping to recharge groundwater and reduce the amount of water flowing into drains.

Storage: In cases of extreme rainfall, excess water can be designed to overflow to another part of the garden or a separate drainage system, such as a soakaway.



Creating a rain planter

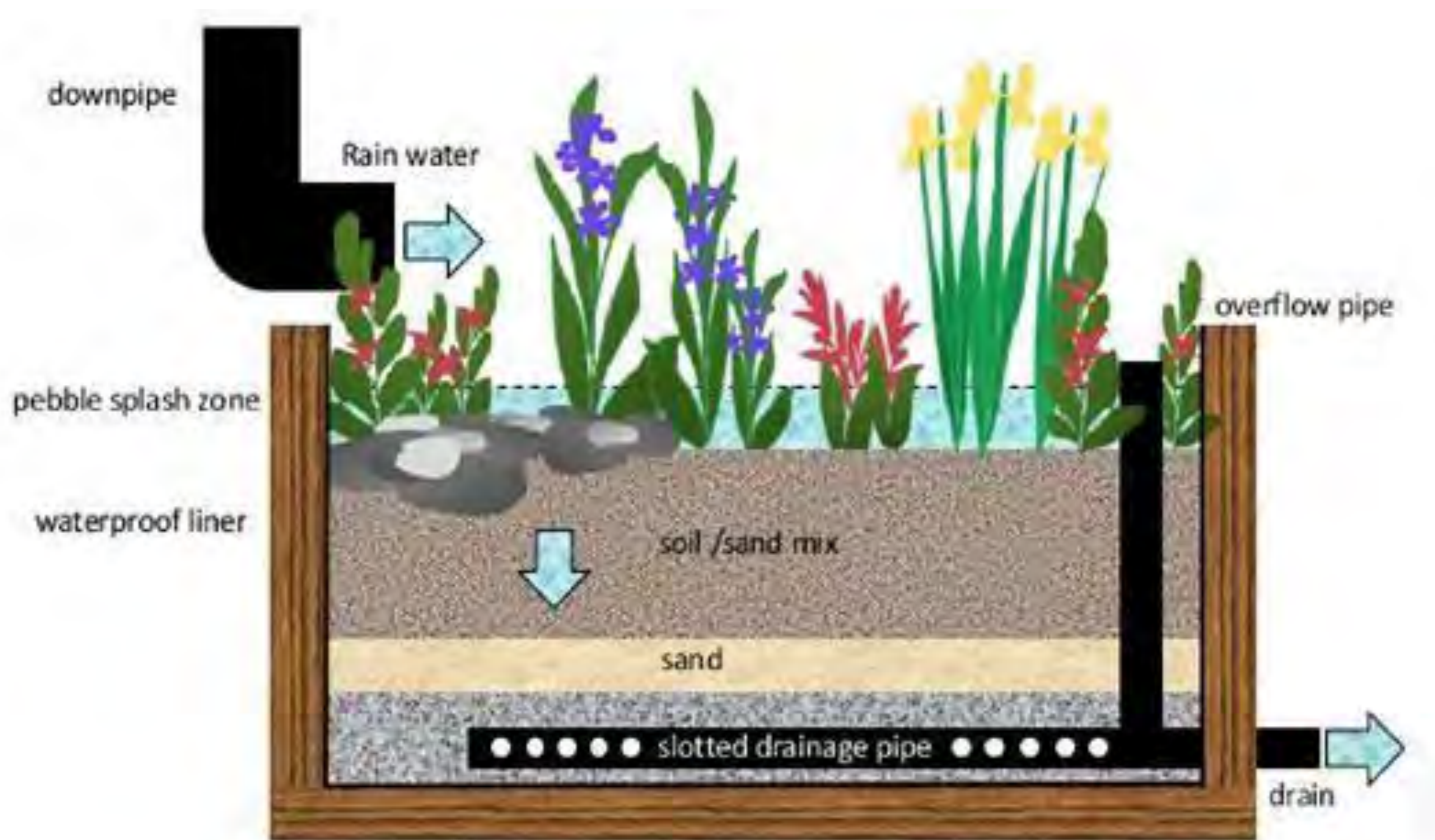


Image: The Aquifer Partnership

If you don't have room for a full rain garden, you can still help to store and slow rainwater with a rain planter. This is a specially designed waterproof container that collects, filters, and manages rainwater runoff from a downpipe.

Layers of soil and gravel are used to filter pollutants, store water for plants, and allow excess water to drain slowly into the sewer system or back into the ground. This can help to prevent drains becoming overwhelmed during heavy rainfall, which can lead to surface flooding.

There other benefits. The soil and plants help to filter out pollutants, protecting groundwater systems and local watercourses. Plants can use the stored rainwater, which can reduce the need for additional watering. Plus a rain planter provides a valuable habitat for wildlife, such as bees and birds

How a rain planter works:

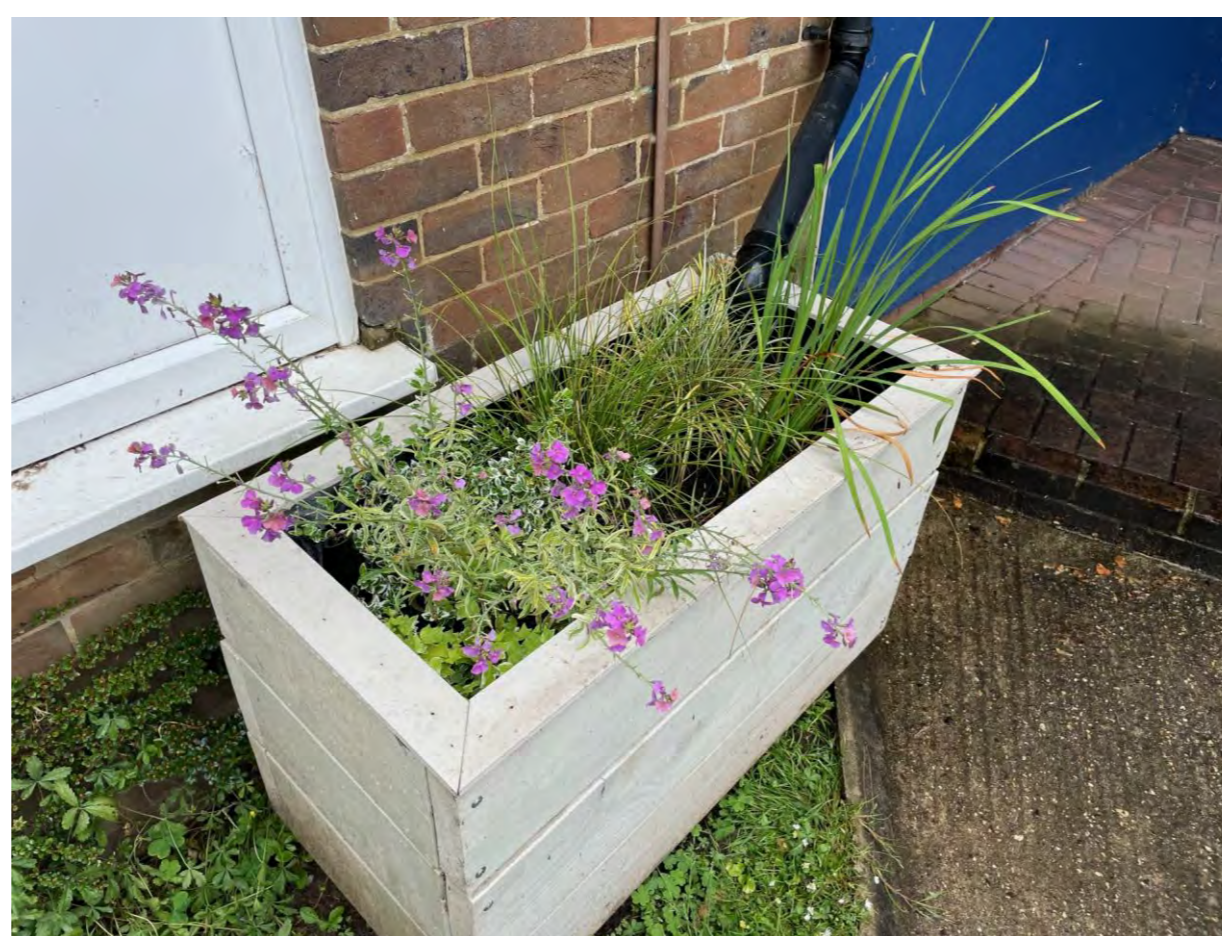
Collection: A downpipe is directed into the planter to feed it with rainwater from a roof.

Filtration: The water passes through layers of soil, sand, and compost, which filter out pollutants.

Storage: The water is stored in a reservoir at the bottom of the planter for the plants to use.

Drainage: Excess water is either sent to the regular drainage system or a ground-based rain garden through a slotted pipe at the base.

Photos: Ouse & Adur Rivers Trust



Where to put rain gardens and planters in Lewes?

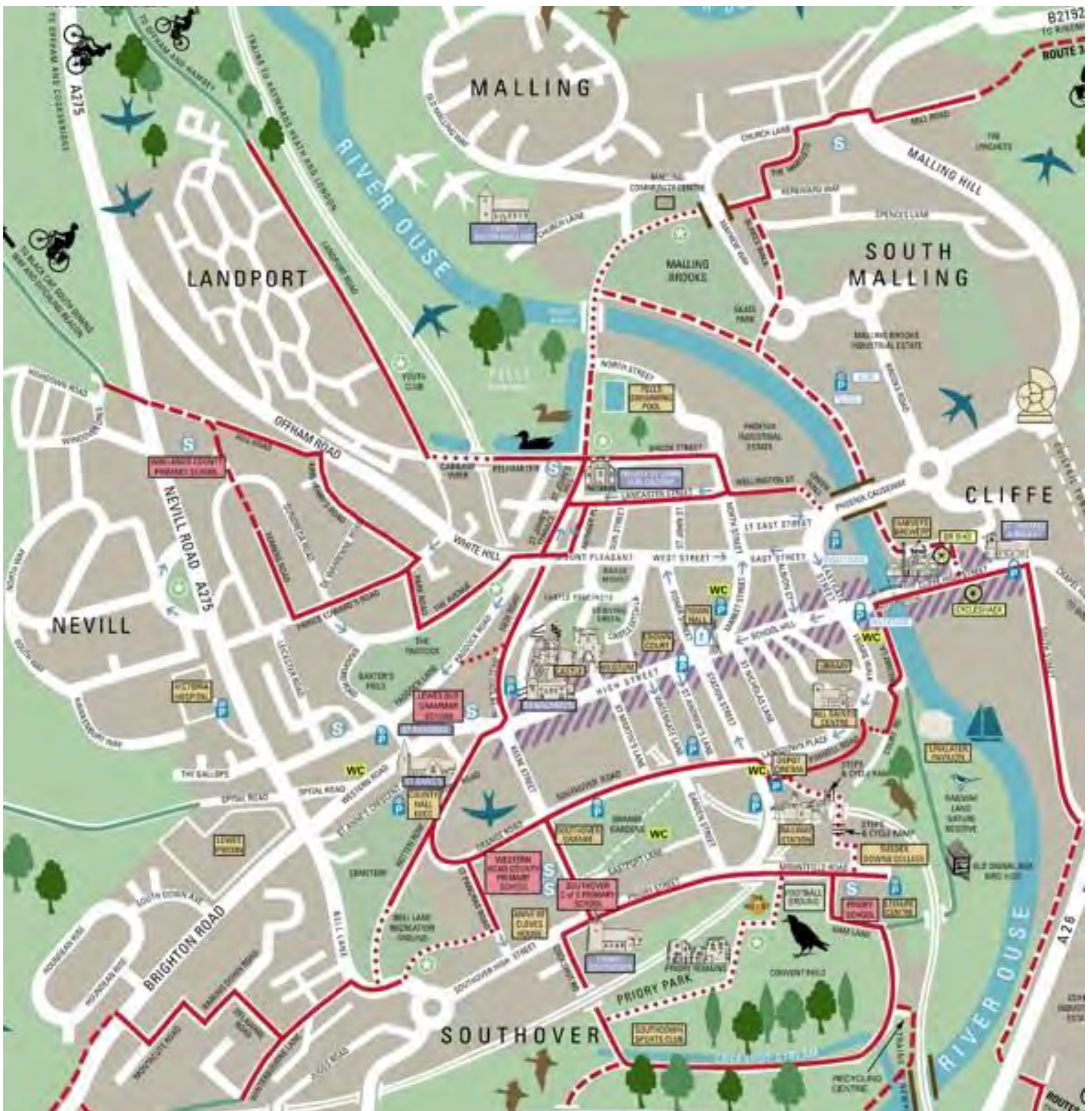


Rain gardens and rain planters can be a great way to reduce the risk of localized surface flooding during periods of intense rainfall, helping to slow and store water run-off from roofs and other hard surfaces.

Can you suggest places in Lewes that could be good sites for a rain garden/planter? Such as:

- Places that pool water during intense rainfall?
- Steep streets that become 'rivers' when it rains?
- Places where downpipes empty directly onto pavements and gutters?

Photo: Littlehampton Civic Society



Map reproduced courtesy of Andy Gammon & Cycle Lewes

Ideas to 'slow the flow'

Clever use of water butts, planters and outdoor space can help manage the impacts of more intense rainfall. If everyone helps to catch a bit of water in a storm it can relieve some of the pressure on our sewers and drainage systems which are already under stress.



Thames Water - Passive SUDs planter



Original Organics - Garden Planter Water Butt



Wendy Allen Designs – Rain Planters and Downpipes



Wendy Allen Designs – Rain Planters and Downpipes



Water Butts Direct - Rainwater Terrace Water Butt Planter



Meristem Design



University College London – Living Laboratory Programme

Installing a water butt

Water butts lower the risks of local flooding and will reduce water bills by conserving the water you already have. They're great for watering the garden, refilling the pond - or even washing the car!

Rainwater is better for plants than chemically treated household water, plus you'll be helping to conserve vital water stocks.

Step 1 - Find a solid, flat surface near a gutter downpipe. Use a spirit level to check. You will need a stand or some bricks to sit your water butt on so that it's elevated to allow a watering can to fit underneath the tap.

Step 2 - Cut the downpipe and place the water butt directly beneath it. Follow the instructions on the diverter kit. Mark the height of the water butt on the downpipe. You will want to cut the pipe around 3cm from this point using a hacksaw. Attach the rainwater diverter fitting to the cut section of the downpipe.

Option two - in another location: Cut a notch out of the downpipe and use a diverter to carry the water from the pipe to the water butt - allowing you to place the butt where you wish.

Step 3 - Place the lid on top. This ensures no small animals can fall in and will keep insects out. Now wait for the rain to come!

