Our Blue Spaces- Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SuDS)

Our Blue Spaces Project

The Bristol Avon Rivers Trust's (BART) 'Our Blue Spaces' project aimed to reconnect communities with local blue spaces like rivers and ponds. It offered opportunities for learning about freshwater environments, skill-building, mental health improvement, and socialising.

Focused in the Somer Valley Rediscovered project area around Midsomer Norton and Radstock, 'Our Blue Spaces' promoted the environmental, wellbeing and economic benefits that the Cam and Wellow Brooks provide.

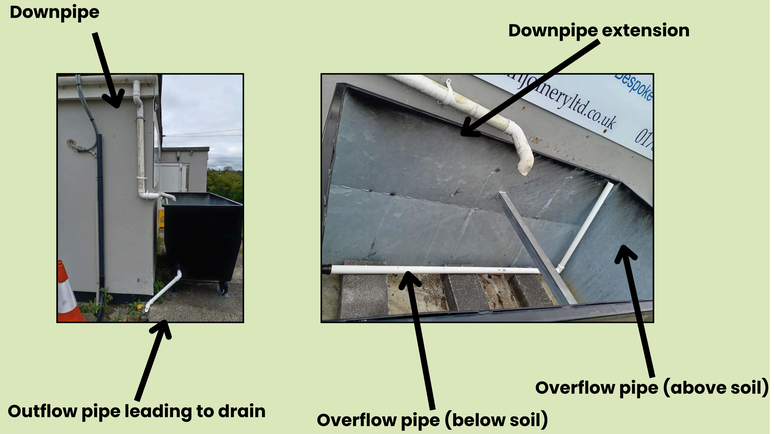
BART also hosted a Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SuDS) event in Radstock, featuring a coal truck planter installation at Radstock Town Football Club.

What are SuDS?

Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS), such as this rain planter, are designed to slow the flow of rain water.

Instead of quickly draining water into rivers or sewage systems, SuDS aim to mimic natural drainage processes, allowing water to be absorbed into the ground, filtered and use for purposes like watering gardens.

SuDS help prevent flooding, improve water quality and support overall sustainability in managing water in urban and rural environments.



Rain planters redirect rain from the roof, which usually goes straight to the drain. They slow down the rainwater, giving water to hardy plants.

Slowing down rainwater contributes to flood resilience and helps prevent drains becoming overwhelmed which can lead to sewage overflow into the environment.

The rain planters filter rainwater, improving its quality, and the plants provide a home for small creatures. Plus, the planters are a beautiful addition to their surroundings.

SuDS at home

You can help to slow the flow at home using SuDS, and can even save you money on your water bill!

- The first and easiest step is to set up a water butt. On average, a roof gathers enough water every year to fill 300 water butts!

- Rain planters catch water, usually from the roof, slow it down and filter it before releasing it slowly down the drain or into the ground. You can connect your gutter to the planter via a downpipe.

- Garden ponds can help slow the flow of water by acting as natural buffers, while also providing diverse habitats that support a wide range of plant and animal species

- A green roof is a great way of slowing the flow, and can help to create habitats for wildlife too! You could put a green roof on a shed or outbuilding.

- Rain gardens help to manage storm water runoff by absorbing and filtering rain water, reducing erosion and preventing flooding.

Bristol Avon Rivers Trust

Bristol Avon Rivers Trust (BART) is a charity which delivers education, land and river management advice and practical river restoration work throughout the Bristol Avon catchment.

BART aims to conserve and enhance the status of our waterbodies for current and future generations.

Thank you to Bath and North East Somerset Council, and the Bristol Avon Catchment Partnership for funding this project.

Check our our website for more information using the QR code below:

BART
Bristol Avon Rivers Trust

Bristol Avon Catchment Partnership

Bath & North East Somerset Council
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