Take the The Nature Conservancy Rainwater Harvesting Tour

Use this map to take a self-directed tour of rainwater harvesting features at The Nature Conservancy’s Tucson campus. See passive and active harvesting approaches, including berms and basins, cisterns and curb cuts.

The 12 inches of precipitation that falls in a typical year in Tucson produces huge amounts of runoff from roofs and paved areas that can be captured, directed and stored for landscape irrigation and other uses. The Nature Conservancy harvests rainwater from three buildings and Cherry Avenue.

The tour starts at the large 19-foot tall cistern at the northwest corner of The Nature Conservancy campus. Follow the path to see sites and signs that demonstrate several water harvesting approaches. For more information, go to www.rainharvesthelp.org.

Sponsors

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Residential-scale cisterns: one prefabricated and one constructed on-site

Large commercial-scale cistern buried under multiple-use structure (planned)

Oleander and bermuda grass removed; native vegetation

Sunken planting basin collects water from adjacent pathway. Mesquite trees planted in the basin provide shade

Downspouts divert water to bermed areas and basins (planned)

Curb cuts allow street runoff to flow to planted basins

Security barrier of natural vegetation harvests water from adjacent pathway

Rain chain directs water from downspout into planter

Bermed areas passively store water for xeriscape and direct it away from parking lot

P=arking lot’s permeable paving has been compromised by silt; cistern reduces flooding problems

Planning exhibit on water harvesting in other parts of the world

Commercial-scale cistern collects rainwater from NW side of building. Information on wall