Welcome!

We appreciate your interest in rainwater harvesting and welcome you to the demonstration site. This project shows numerous rainwater harvesting methods you can use at your home or business. Projects range from "Quick Fixes" through the "Weekend Warrior" and "True Convert" levels to encourage everyone to try out a rainwater harvesting method, regardless of budget or time constraints. Additional online and print resource references are available on our web site for those who want to learn more about this sustainable, green practice, at *www.rainharvesthelp.org*

To learn more on-site, please choose from our do-it-yourself brochures and be sure to take the self-guided-tour highlighting the best ways for you to start rainwater harvesting. Thank you for coming to The Nature Conservancy. Enjoy!

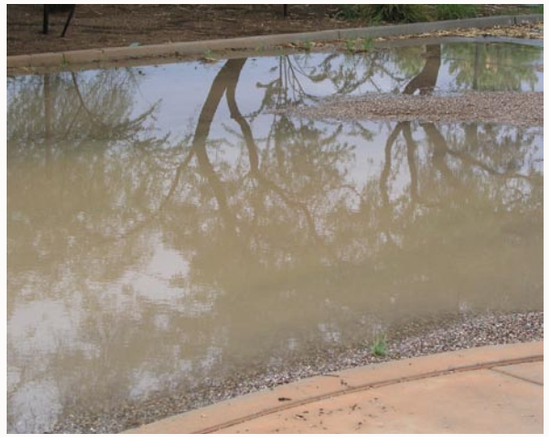
The Nature Conservancy Mission Statement

The mission of The Nature Conservancy is to preserve the plants, animals and natural communities that represent the diversity of life on Earth by protecting the lands and waters they need to survive. For more information or to join The Nature Conservancy, please visit *www.nature.org*.

What Is the Rainwater Harvesting Project?

In keeping with our conservation mission, The Nature Conservancy has cooperated with numerous university and business partners, other not-for-profit organizations, and with support from local and federal government agencies, to develop a public rainwater harvesting demonstration site showcasing a variety of techniques that home and business owners can utilize in our desert environment. We support this project which promotes sustainability and conservation using time-honored and technologically enhanced methods for harvesting the rain.

Before & After Photographs



The parking lot floods during heavy rainfall (above). A cistern will be installed on campus to intercept rainfall before it reaches the parking lot or street, irrigating the landscape as shown in this artist rendering (below).

Cherry Ave. basins before and after curb cuts. Street runoff irrigates native trees, providing shade for pedestrians and habitat.

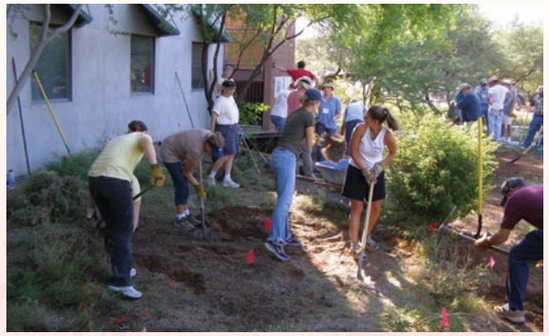
What Is Rainwater Harvesting?

Rainwater harvesting is an ancient technique that is enjoying new popularity due to increased interest in finding low-cost, local solutions for conserving water. Rainwater harvesting captures precipitation and uses it as close as possible to where it falls. Harvesting techniques are globally applicable and especially suited to semi-arid and arid regions such as the desert Southwest. It's an ideal way to redirect storm water from a surface and put it to beneficial use, such as watering to support your landscape. Homeowners, businesses, and even entire cities are recognizing the economic, social, and aesthetic benefits associated with harvesting rainwater.

Why Harvest the Rain?

Where does our water come from? Precipitation in the form of rain and snow is the primary source of fresh water. Using rainwater supplements water that would otherwise be withdrawn from the aquifer, depleting our groundwater supply, or from distant sources such as the Colorado River. Rainwater is also free, so capturing the rain reduces your utility bills.

Many people in developing nations without reliable water access harvest rainwater for drinking. With proper treatment, you can do this, too. But most people use rainwater for landscape watering needs, which is often 30-50% of residential water use. Rainwater used for irrigation has very low salinity and naturally-occurring nutrients, which can benefit your plants.



The Nature Conservancy

Protecting nature. Preserving life.™

Sitemap and Guide

Rainwater Harvesting

SAHRA

www.rainharvesthelp.org
www.nature.org/arizona
www.sahra.arizona.edu

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

The Nature Conservancy
Protecting nature. Preserving life.™

SAHRA
www.sahra.arizona.edu

Watershed Management Group