

3. How has the rainwater harvesting system helped benefit the environment without adversely impacting it? (For example, reducing erosion or the threat of flooding.)

4. Describe the specifications of your system (i.e. collection area size, storage capacity, etc.) in no more than 250 words.

5. Describe the originality, innovation, and/or uniqueness of your rainwater harvesting system using no more than 500 words.

Please submit this application, along with digital photos (a minimum of 5 and a maximum of 10; minimum 300 dpi) to: **RainWater-Harvesting@twdb.texas.gov**.

Additional Page to Accompany Prairielands GCD 2022 Texas Rain Catcher Award Application

How has the rainwater harvesting system saved you money?

While the rainwater harvesting program at Prairielands GCD is focused more on education and demonstration, with the practical use of our on-site systems, one way the system has saved money was evident during the severe drought period in the end of 2021 and the beginning of 2022. While there was little to no precipitation, the District's rainwater cistern on the front of the building was nearly full of the rainwater that had been collected within the previous six to eight months. This allowed the District not to have to rely on public water supply to irrigate landscaping as needed, and to have a full 2,300 gallons available in the cistern at the start of spring. The second cistern was installed in March 2022 and was immediately able to begin capturing the precious rainfall as it occurred. The drip irrigation approach allows for the most efficient application of the water, also saving us money by not having to use more water due to overspray or evaporation. By irrigating the landscaping at the office with high-quality rainwater in the most efficient way possible, the District has had little to no need to replace any of the initial landscaping that was installed in the summer of 2020, saving money on replacement plants and landscaping services. The system is still new, and long-term savings will be more substantial and quantifiable when more time has passed, and financial trends can be analyzed.