



FARMERS
BRANCH

Rainwater Harvesting



Background

- Code Enforcement requested direction from Council regarding rain barrels at the August 2, 2022 meeting
- Council requested the Sustainability Committee discuss rain barrels and provide recommendations to Sustainability and Code Enforcement staff
- Potential concerns of stagnant water and mosquitos will need to be addressed



Slides Presented to Council 8/2/22

Rain Barrels

According to the current outside storage regulations in Chapter 56:

All outside storage is prohibited unless objects are specifically listed as exempt from the law.

Rain Barrels are not listed as an exempted item and are therefor prohibited in public view.

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Discussion: Rain Barrels

Should rain barrels be exempt under the law and therefor allowed to be in public view? If so, what regulations should be in place?

Examples:

- Define “rain barrel”
- Establish an acceptable number of barrels
- Create placement, safety and installation requirements
- Regulate the size, style and/or other aspects of barrels



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Examples: Rain Barrels



A rain barrel is a barrel placed so as to catch water.
Merriam-Webster Dictionary

Next Steps

- Committee to discuss initial thoughts on rain barrels
 - Acceptable barrel types
 - Number and/or total capacity
 - FYI: 1 inch rainfall on a 2,000 ft² roof equals approximately 1,000 gallons of water
 - Placement and installation requirements
- Staff to research codes relating to rainwater harvesting of neighboring cities
 - Many cities host discounted rain barrel sales
 - Texas local government code encourages municipalities to promote rainwater harvesting
- Staff to compile feedback and create recommended language



Questions