

## **WOODCREEK RAINWATER COLLECTION INFORMATION**

This is an outline of research and goals conducted by Councilmember Hines in assistance to Mayor Rasco on the topic of rainwater collection for the City of Woodcreek.

### **Research and Relevant Information:**

- 1) Existing code greatly needs updating. Rainwater collection credits link to the LCRA formulas which require city owned wastewater systems.
- 2) No impervious credit exists (even though referenced in Woodcreek code) beyond the exempt status for the barrels.
- 3) The State has directed cities to incentivize rainwater collection
- 4) There is a sales tax credit available on the purchase of barrels
- 5) Hays County has provided a new property tax exemption program
- 6) For an impervious credit system to accomplish desired goals, a rainwater collection system must collect a minimum of 5000 gallons and have no less than two catchment barrels with one remaining empty (or ready to receive) much of the year.
- 7) Programs involving smaller sized barrels (ex. 500 or less) can be great tools for educational events and promoting other programs. They do however create negative consequences for actual water use reduction (pilot program in San Antonio)

### **Identified Goals:**

1. One-time City of Woodcreek credit for barrels (x amount per 1000 gallons)
2. An annual barrel give-away in combination with educational event
3. Educational materials about the sales tax credit
4. Educational materials about the Hays County tax incentive program
5. Ordinance update to include a formula to give impervious coverage credit back for systems that meet necessary requirements
6. Requirements for new construction (Valley-wide effort and partnering with Aqua)
7. Additional city exemption on property tax
8. Get Aqua to honor the LCRA formula for wastewater credit on customer bill