1. Why collect rainwater?
   - With an average rainfall of 32” an average-sized roof can save over 20k gallons annually
   - Potentially halves potable water costs
   - Immunity from city water rationing
   - Healthier, more productive plants
   - Addresses stormwater problems at the same time
   - Makes a rainy day really satisfying!

2. Common misperceptions
   - “But it’s not raining..?” (especially during drought)
   - “Doesn’t it go ‘bad’?”
   - “I already have a rain barrel.”
   - “The drought won’t last forever.”
   - “I’m going to drill a well instead.”

3. Anatomy of a rainwater harvesting system: follow the drop
   - The roof: sizing the system
   - Gutters and leaf screens
   - First flush? Or roof washer?
   - Conveyance: underground, under eaves or overhead
   - Tank, doesn’t have to be metal
   - Tank pad
   - Pump, pressurized versus gravity-fed
   - Municipal backup option

4. Incentive, investment and return
   - City of Austin offers a generous rebate, up to 50% up to $5k
   - Rainwater equipment exempt from sales and property taxes
   - Generally $3-5 per gallon (before rebate)
   - At current water rates, slow return

5. How this applies to irrigation
   - Water so carefully collected shouldn’t be subsequently wasted: drip!
   - Can be connected to existing irrigation systems with modifications
   - Can also be used for fountains, ponds, pools, etc.
   - Movement toward allowing potable use in city
   - Theory of highest, best use, towards greywater

6. Working with City of Austin Regulations
   - Permitting
     + Over 5k gallons of storage requires building permit
     + Heritage tree protection often an issue in city (tree permit)
     + Also involves electrical and plumbing permits
   - Backflow prevention: RPZs and expansion tanks
   - Annual CSI inspection required

7. Questions?