

## **Campus RainWorks Challenge Video Transcript for University of Arizona Design Team**

Chip Magee, Lead Anchor: And now, back to the story of stormwater management on the campus of the University of Arizona.

Michaela Machado, Storm Tracker: Thank you, Chip. Now, as was mentioned before, this site is in a very opportunistic location, being surrounded by various colleges—the College of Art, Photography, Music, dormitories, fraternities, streetcar line, and even the student union. And we really look to this site context to tell us our user needs and our design functions. Our site analysis tells us that we can harvest 2 million gallons of water and HVAC condensate annually, just from these surrounding buildings, which means that our new design requires absolutely no potable water for irrigation purposes. Similar efforts are currently being made here at the Sonoran Family Underwood Garden, which is completely irrigated by harvested water. And our design is very much an extension of this. So, to the design—We've design this site in what would be a representation of a storm. So, the eye of the storm here in the middle, sort of spins out to create various spaces, such as outdoor classrooms and refreshment stands. The outer rings of stabilized, decomposed granite and plantings allow for clear way finding and organic flow and interesting separation of spaces. The turf ring, although quite a surprise in the desert, really allows for comfortable recreation in this nearly year-round beautiful weather that Tuscon has. The microbasins here in the middle are designed to create habitat and hold stormwater (more on these in just a second). Outdoor classrooms here and here with art walls designated for student showcasing, refreshment stands, and also situated among the site are peak-a-boo windows, which look into the underground water cistern system in hopes that people can see water harvesting, learn more about it and be motivated to do the same. And now, back to my storm tracking partner, Rayka, who is on site now with more details, Rayka?

Rayka, Storm Tracker: Thanks, Michaela. There are many details of the site, such as this outdoor classroom and art wall behind me that characterize it, but first and foremost are the basins, which are an extension of the Sonoran Underwood Family Garden. And this is how they work. These basins were designed to trap and hold stormwater. So, when it rains, the runoff flows into the basins. They slowly fill up, and the excess water is filtered down into the next basin. The water is slowed as much as possible to allow for maximum percolation. Lastly, is our eye of the storm, the central focus of the design; a truly unique detail. This area was designed to be an integrated space, where one can enjoy a storm. Its material is of 100% post-consumer HDPE, which is a high-density thermal plastic made from petroleum. A durable, clear plastic, which allows for uninhibited views below and above for a whole new storm experience.

Chip Magee, Lead Anchor: But we must know, why storm trackers?

Rayka, Storm Tracker: Why storm trackers? Well, because it's our desert storms that inspired us. We love the storms. We want to harvest its water and celebrate them. They are a true resource.

Michaela Machado, Storm Tracker: Yeah, and it's our storms that feed out design and bring life into our desert. And now our design brings life into our campus.