

Mark West Creek Rainwater Harvesting Rancho Mark West

LandPaths recently installed two 5,000 gallon tanks to store rainwater for Rancho Mark West. This property is home to towering stands of old-growth redwoods, a productive stretch of salmon-bearing Mark West Creek, and LandPath's field-based education programs and organic community gardens. Rancho Mark West and the organic community garden currently receive over 2,000 visitors annually.

The storage tanks are filled with rainwater collected off the roof of the "fire truck barn." The stored water offsets dry season pumping from a streamside well and be used to irrigate LandPaths' Owl Camp Garden. The system was designed in coordination with the Russian River Coho Partnership and Fisher Town Design and utilizes the economical "Wonder Gutter" system to convey the roofwater into the tanks. It was made possible by Jackson Family Wines' funding for the Flow for Fish Rebate Program.

The first two tanks are the initial phase of a planned 44,000 gallon rainwater catchment system, and contribute to LandPaths' long-term public access plan for the property. LandPaths envisions that the garden will serve as a place of learning and inspiration for the public where people can gain skills and information on seed-saving, sustainable agriculture, the importance of pollinators, water conservation, and healthy soil and water harvesting techniques.

More information about Rancho Mark West:

- <http://landpaths.org/get-to-know-our-places/rancho-mark-west.aspx>
- <http://www.pressdemocrat.com/news/4666875-181/public-open-space-outside-santa>

