

Results of 2020 Saguaro Census on Plot 17, Rincon Mountains

Rincon Mountain Hiking Group, January 11th, 2020



We tackled plot 17 with an energetic hiking club from Voyagers RV Park on January 11th, and had great success in finishing a full half of this plot. The plot was challenging due to a lot of spiny plants, but interesting for its large, multi-armed saguaros. The plot was finished by a group of individual volunteers a few weeks later, so it was very much a team effort. We really enjoyed working with this hiking club, and give a big shout out to the organizer of this event, Emely Shepard.

This plot has seen increases in the number of saguaros since the first survey in 1990, particularly between 1990 and 2000 where more than 100 young saguaros joined the population. Since then, the numbers have declined slightly, which we attribute to a slowdown in survival of young saguaros – we only found a few very young ones – and the death of some of the larger ones. This pattern is generally true in the areas in the flatter areas of the Rincon Mountains. Nevertheless, this plot has a lot of younger saguaros that will be beginning to reproduce in the coming years.

Saguaro Plot #17

