

Results of 2020 Saguaro Census on Plot 75J, Tucson Mountains

Master Naturalists, February 18th, 2020



The Pima County chapter of the Arizona Master Naturalists promotes Community Partner projects to its many volunteers and offers training in citizen science, stewardship, and education. The 2020 Saguaro Census has utilized individual volunteers from the program, and on Feb. 18th we had a dedicated large group of Master Naturalists do a Census with us. We enjoyed plot 75J on a beautiful day, navigating around numerous spiny pencil cholla and Christmas cholla while collecting data on some beautiful saguaros of all sizes. Thanks to all who participated!

Plot 75J is one of the “historic” plots established by Warren Steenbergh and Charles Lowe in 1975 to provide greater representation for saguaro research in the park’s Tucson Mountain District. Like nearly every other plot in the park, the number of saguaros increased tremendously between 1975 and the next time it was surveyed, in 2000 (see graph on next page), and the number peaked at over 260 saguaros in 2010. In 2020 we documented a slight decrease, but there are still nearly 150 more saguaros today than four decades ago.

Plot #75J

