
CACTI RELOCATION

Rescued cacti are redistributed in several ways: some plants go to Pima Prickly Park, some are temporarily housed for upcoming club sales, and some are purchased by crew members while at the rescue.

Pima Prickly Park is a seven-acre Pima County park maintained by volunteers.

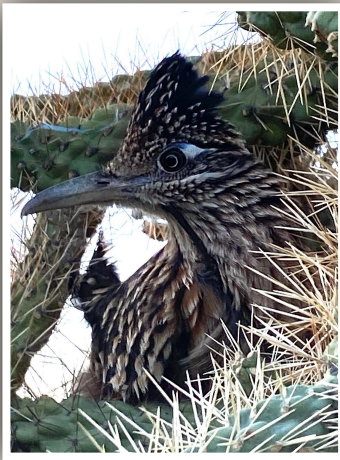


Photo credit: Crystal Cannon

Rescued plants may also be held for public sales the club manages. By selling our rescued cactus at reasonable costs to the public, we not only save these native plants, but encourage homeowners to use low-water plants in their landscapes.

EDUCATION

Education about our native plants is a major part of our rescue efforts. Brochures are available at our sales and on our website (TucsonCactus.org) to assist the community with caring for our Sonoran Desert plants.

SUMMARY

The TCSS Cactus Rescue Program saves cacti and other succulents from development in the greater Tucson area. Often many viable native plants are cleared away with other desert vegetation during construction projects. Since 1999 we have managed hundreds of rescues saving over 136,000 native plants which have been relocated throughout Arizona.

TucsonCactus.org
(520) 256-2447

Native Plant Rescues:
Site@TucsonCactus.org

Urban Rescues:
UrbanRescue@TucsonCactus.org

Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society
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TUCSON CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY

CACTUS RESCUE PROGRAM



The Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society (TCSS) Cactus Rescue Program provides landowners with an alternative to the destruction of native cacti and succulents in accordance with Arizona Native Plant Protection Law and local Ordinances (NPPO).

Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization.

INTRODUCTION

In 1999 four TCSS members took the initiative to start a program to rescue desirable native cacti before they were destroyed by new development, new utilities, or road projects. This Cactus Rescue initiative is now helping meet the increasing demand for native plants in Southern Arizona.



Photo credit: Julie Shulick

Developers are required by law to save many of the native cacti for future replanting in their developments. However, there are often thousands of smaller native plants such as saguaros, barrels, and ocotillo, that are not economical to relocate and can end up being destroyed, if not rescued.

NATIVE PLANT RESCUES

Developers contact TCSS before breaking ground. Once a developer agrees to make use of our rescue program, we coordinate the rescue.

Knowledgeable cactus rescue crew members will complete a walking survey of the site to identify the types and quantity of plants available for removal. Rescues are scheduled as soon as possible so as not to conflict with the development timeline.



Photo credit: Julie Shulick

With the help of the developer, an Arizona Department of Agriculture Protected Native Plants Removal application is submitted to the Arizona Department of Agriculture to legally authorize the removal of the native plants. TCSS purchases the required permits along with plant tags for each native plant to be removed and transported.

URBAN RESCUES

Urban rescues are for homeowners who have cacti and succulents they would like removed from their property. Plants are assessed by the Urban Rescue team to determine viability, significance, and effort needed before being removed at no cost to the homeowner. The plants become the property of TCSS and are relocated at their discretion.

RESCUE PROCESS

There are experts on hand at each rescue to guide the volunteers in all aspects of salvaging native plants. Only active club members may participate in the cactus rescues due to liability requirements. All rescues are managed legally and in a safe manner. Each native plant receives one native tag before it can be removed.



Photo credit: Tom Starrs