



## Grateful to advocates who protect Saguaro

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

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As one of America's greatest urban national parks, Saguaro is an incredible natural resource and public treasure.

The guest opinions published Aug. 27 reflect the challenges the National Park Service faces to balance preservation and protection of this remarkable place with visitor opportunities to enjoy its trails and experience and learn about the Sonoran Desert.

The National Parks Conservation Association applauds park management for its open, collaborative approach to meeting this challenge.

Advocates seeking to protect Saguaro can support U.S. Reps. Raúl Grijalva and Gabrielle Giffords, Tucson Democrats, who introduced HR 764 to expand the park's boundaries, protect critical wildlife habitats and fund a study of other areas suitable for protection.

Park advocates also can volunteer Sept. 29 to help staff remove invasive buffelgrass.

This pernicious African invasive is endangering native plants and habitats and increasing fire danger. It is a significant threat to the fragile Sonoran Desert ecosystem.

This volunteer opportunity will commemorate National Public Lands Day and is supported by the National Park Service, Friends of Saguaro and by our Conservation Association, as well as local merchants who will provide food and refreshment.

More information is available at [www.npca.org/southwest](http://www.npca.org/southwest).

Saguaro is a wonderful resource, and we are all grateful for the strong advocates in our community who help to protect this park.

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