

**THOMAS & MARIA'S LUSH MID-TOWN
XERISCAPE & RESCUED PLANTS
April 2nd - Near Campbell & Grant**

Our 1/3 acre midtown yard is designed for comfortable use in a xeriscape setting. Swales, basins, and rocky mounds were established early in the yard restoration to maximize water



collection and enable native and desert adaptable trees and shrubs. Rescued cacti, agave and other succulents dominate the setting. You will find over 100 barrel cacti (mostly *Ferocactus wislizeni*), over 30 saguaros, numerous hedgehogs, prickly pear, more *Mammillaria grahamii* than anyone would want to count and a nice scattering of queens (*Peniocereus greggii v. transmontanus*). The barrels, hedgehogs and mamms have all successfully seeded and new young plants are frequently popping up in the yard.



In addition to the basins for water harvesting, gutters funnel rain water from our roof into three collection tanks that hold a combined 1250 gallons.

A 1.5 inch monsoon rain will overflow those containers. The stored winter rains will sustain most our watering needs into May. Mature trees provide significant cover for most of the



seating areas in the yard. A small ramada provides an additional seating area and it houses some of our shade preference plants.

As you walk through the yard you will spot numerous found objects collected on desert hikes while conducting wildlife and plant surveys. And one thing to note: ALL the larger rocks in the yard have been personally collected and added to the yard. The property value may not have increased but the yard sure weights a lot more.



We've been at home in this yard for over 15 years. In 2012 we were hosts for a TCSS yard tour, in 2009 we received the Tucson Botanical Garden's Xeriscape award, in 2010 we were married here.

Like all gardens this is still a work in progress but then I look around and think, "damn, there's no more room in the yard"! Come on by, give the yard a look and maybe find a spot for us to plant new things.

Backyard not handicap accessible

