

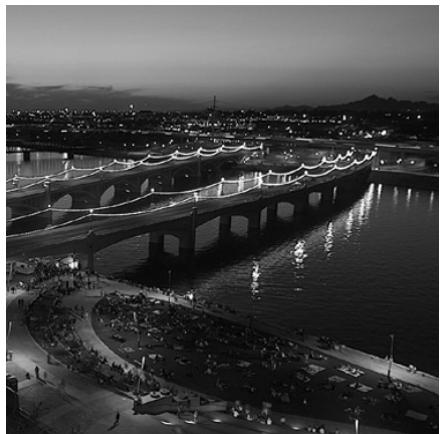
TEMPE BEACH PARK

NORTHWEST CORNER MILL AVENUE + RIO SALADO PARKWAY

The area near the river crossing known as Tempe Beach had been used for recreation by residents since the turn of the 20th century. 27 acres were purchased by the City for a park in 1924. An Olympic-sized pool, along with a stadium, bath house and other elements built of cobblestones quarried from the riverbed, were constructed in 1936 as part of a local make-work project organized by Garfield Goodwin and others, patterned after the federal WPA.

New Modern-style structures replaced the original bathhouse and pool in 1965. These structures were demolished and new restrooms, landscape, water playground and amphitheater constructed as part of the park rehabilitation and Rio Salado/Town Lake improvements in the late 1990's. (Tempe Beach Stadium and the Ash Avenue Bridge Abutment are located within the park and described elsewhere in this guide.)

The rehabilitated park, completed in 2000, now serves as the gateway to the Town Lake and Rio Salado area and hosts gatherings of up to 200,000 for Independence Day, New Year's Eve and many other occasions. With its picnic areas, Splash Playground, ball field, amphitheater, restrooms and welcoming arch, Tempe Beach Park has become "the place" for countless concerts, races, festivals and other events. Future enhancements may include a special events plaza and meeting facility between the Mill Avenue Bridges.





"The renovation of Tempe Beach Park has created the single most desirable community resource in the Valley. The park is a living canvas of diversity activity, celebration, and community - a vital tool in the success of the Rio Salado."

Mark Richwine

Parks & Recreation Director

public role: The Park is City-owned; rehabilitation funded through City's Capital Improvement Program

developer: City of Tempe (Steve Nielsen, Project Manager)

architect: Stantec Engineers/Landscape Architects with Roberts/Jones Architects

other design team: Master Plan by Abell & Associates, Tempe; Splash Playground by Moore-Swick Partnership, Tempe

builder: Valley Crest

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