

# TEMPE COMMUNITY PROFILE

## Where is Tempe, Arizona?



**Date of Incorporation - November 26, 1894**

**Date Charter Adopted - October 19, 1964**

**Form of Government - Council - Manager**

### A Brief History of Tempe

Following the establishment of Fort McDowell on the eastern edge of central Arizona's Salt River Valley in 1865, enterprising farmers moved into the area. They dug out the irrigation canals left by the prehistoric Hohokam people and built new ones to carry Salt River water to their fields. Valley farms soon supplied food to Arizona's military posts and mining towns.

The first settlers to move to the Tempe area, south of the Salt River and east of Phoenix, were Hispanic families from southern Arizona. They helped construct the first two irrigation canals, the Kirkland-McKinney Ditch and the San Francisco Canal, and started small farms to the east and west of a large butte (Tempe Butte). In 1872, some of these Mexican settlers founded a town called San Pablo east of Tempe Butte.

Another settlement, known as Hayden's Ferry, developed west of Tempe Butte. Charles Trumbull Hayden, owner of a mercantile and freighting business in Tucson, homesteaded this location in 1870. Within a few years, he had built a store and flourmill, warehouses and blacksmith shops, and a ferry. This community became the trade center for the south side of the Salt River Valley.

Both settlements grew quickly and soon formed one community. The town was named Tempe in 1879. "Lord" Darrell Duppa, an Englishman who helped establish Phoenix, is credited with suggesting the name. The sight of the butte and the wide river, and the nearby expanse of green fields, reminded him of the Vale of Tempe in ancient Greece.



As more farmers came to settle in the Valley and started raising alfalfa and grains for feeding livestock, the Tempe Irrigating Canal Company provided all of necessary water. With a network of canals that extended several miles south of the river, irrigation water was carried to more than 20,000 acres of prime farmland. Crops of wheat, barley, and oats ensured a steady business for the Hayden Mill. The milled flour was hauled to forts and other settlements throughout the territory. By the 1890s, some farmers started growing new cash crops such as dates and citrus fruits.

In 1885, the Arizona legislature selected Tempe as the site for the Territorial Normal School, which trained teachers for Arizona's schools. Soon, other changes in Tempe promoted the development of the small farming community. The Maricopa and Phoenix Railroad, built in 1887, crossed the Salt River at Tempe, linking the town to the nation's growing transportation system. The Tempe Land and Improvement Company was formed to sell lots in the booming town. Tempe became one of the most important business and shipping centers for the surrounding agricultural area.

The completion of Roosevelt Dam in 1911 guaranteed enough water to meet the growing needs of Valley farmers. On his way to dedicate the dam, former President Theodore Roosevelt applauded the accomplishments of the people of central Arizona and predicted that their towns would grow to become prosperous cities. Less than a year later, Arizona became the 48th state, and the Salt River Valley was well on its way to becoming the new population center of the Southwest.

Tempe was a small agricultural community through most of its history. After World War II, Tempe began growing at a rapid rate as veterans and others moved to the city. The last of the local farms quickly disappeared. Through annexation, the city reached its current boundaries by 1974. Tempe had grown into a modern city. The town's small teachers college had also grown, and in 1958, the institution became Arizona State University.

Tempe's commercial center along Mill Avenue declined during these years. Prompted by Tempe's centennial in 1971, Mill Avenue was revitalized into an entertainment and shopping district that attracts people from throughout the Valley. Currently, Tempe is the eighth largest city of the State, with a strong modern economy based on commerce, tourism, and electronics manufacturing.

### Government and Organization

The City operates under a council-manager form of government. The Mayor is elected for four years and six council members are elected at large on a non-partisan ballot for staggered four-year terms. The City Council appoints the City Manager who has full responsibility for carrying out Council policies and administering City operations. The City Manager appoints City department heads as specified in the City's Charter.

#### Job Growth

- Workforce age 16+: 91,300 Tempe residents
- Tempe Management/Executive positions: 36%



#### Quality of Life

##### Special Events

More than 150 special events throughout the City annually. Tempe Music Festival brings a weekend of world-renowned acts to Tempe Town Lake.

##### Spring and Fall Festival of the Arts

*juried outdoor art shows with more than 300 artists and 300,000 art lovers*

##### Insight Bowl and Block Party

*150,000 people come for football and New Year's Eve revelry*

Industry	# of Tempe Residents Employed
Professional, Scientific, and Information Services	11,000
Construction	6,254
Manufacturing	7,536
Retail Trade	11,100
Transportation, Warehousing, Utilities and Wholesale	6,600
Finance and Insurance, and Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	9,000
Education and Health Care	19,665
Arts, Tourism and Hospitality	17,750
Public Administration	15,750
Business Owners	4,129

### **New Times 10K**

*state's largest 10K with 12,000 running along Tempe Town Lake and Mill Avenue*

### **Fourth of July**

*largest celebration in the state; fireworks over Tempe Town Lake draw 100,000 plus*

### **Sports**

#### **Tempe Diablo Stadium**

Spring Training Baseball home for Anaheim Angels Sun Devil Football and other Arizona State University sports. Minutes away from Phoenix Suns Basketball, Diamondbacks Baseball, Phoenix Coyotes Hockey and Cardinals Football, Ironman Arizona, PF Chang Rock-N-Roll Marathon and many other pro-am sporting events



### **Parks and Golf Courses**

50 parks and sports complexes in 40 square miles, 1,550 acres of park and open space.

Papago Park is one of the nation's largest natural parks. Town Lake offers five miles of water recreation and park land in Tempe's downtown.

Four golf courses, including ASU Karsten, a Pete Dye championship course

Two municipal golf courses

Rounds of Play:

Ken McDonald 69,996

Rolling Hills 56,513

### **Entertainment and Culture**

#### **Tempe Center for the Arts**

*concerts, plays, gallery shows and special events  
Edna Vihel Cultural Center for community art classes  
Tempe Improv for nationally known comedians*

#### **Tempe Historical Museum, Arizona Historical Museum, Pederson House Museum**

*offer examples of life in Tempe and around the state*

#### **Nelson Fine Arts Center, Ceramics Research Center, Mars Space Flight Facility and Center for Meteorite Studies**

*are among the 30 galleries and museums at ASU*

#### **Marquee Theatre**

*for popular concerts and new music*

#### **ASU Gammage**

*offers Broadway shows and famous speakers*



### **Shopping**

#### **Tempe Marketplace**

*175 shops and restaurants with free live music on Weekends*

#### **Mill Avenue District**

*historic Mill Avenue offers authentic urban experiences with shops **and** restaurants*

#### **Arizona Mills Mall**

*indoor outlet mall with 175 stores and restaurants, including IMAX and Gameworks*

#### **Emerald Center Shops and IKEA**

*home furnishings-based retail corridor*

### **Transportation Network**

#### **Freeways**

Six freeways connect Tempe including Loop 202, Loop 101, Interstate 10, I-143, I-153 and US 60. More than 1.1 million cars use Tempe's freeways daily according to the Maricopa Association of Governments.

### Bus Service

Lines run every day, with 15-minute, peak-period service

Most routes run until 1 a.m. Monday through Saturday, and until 10 p.m. Sunday bus service connects with routes in Mesa, Chandler, Scottsdale and Phoenix

Free Orbit system uses mini buses to serve residential areas and connect them to shopping centers, major bus routes, schools and businesses



### Light Rail

20-mile line connects Tempe to downtown Phoenix and west Mesa. Light rail bridge over Town Lake displays a colorful LCD light show when trains cross. Nine Tempe stops include ASU, business districts, Mill Avenue District, Tempe Town Lake, Apache Boulevard and Papago Park Center.

Bus service connects to light rail stations and creates a seamless valley-wide transit system.

### Bicycling

Named a Bicycle Friendly Community by the League of American Bicyclists. More than 150 miles of bike paths in Tempe.



### Education

#### Primary and Secondary Education

- 7 public high schools
- 4 public middle schools
- 18 public elementary schools

Tempe schools have among the state's best test scores. Private school opportunities exist with Tempe Preparatory Academy and a variety of parochial and charter schools.

#### Arizona State University

Tempe is home to the main campus of Arizona State University. There are approximately 53,000 students and 10,336 employees. Bachelors, Masters and Ph.D. programs available.

Areas of specialty include:

*Barrett Honors College, College of Design, College of Education, Ira A. Fulton School of Engineering, College of Law, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, College of Nursing, College of Public Programs, Division of Undergraduate Academic Services (DUAS), Herberger College of Fine Arts, and the W.P. Carey School of Business.*

#### Demographics of Tempe

Population 170,000

With Bachelor's Degree or higher 38.4%

With Master's Degree 17%

Median Age 28.1

Median Income (age 25+) \$60,800

Average Home Value \$270,000