

Rio Salado Rest Stop Public Art Project Fact Sheet



City of Tempe
Cultural Services
3340 South Rural Road
Tempe, AZ 85282
480-350-5287
480-350-5161 FAX
www.tempe.gov/arts



Photo: Rebecca Ross

Title: Rio Salado Rest Stop

Location: North bank of Tempe Town Lake, between Mill Avenue and Rural Road

Artist: Laurie Lundquist

Completion: 1997

Medium: Steel, recycled plastic and imprinted concrete

Description: This rest stop is 60 feet wide x 16 feet deep. Railing panels filled with woven steel mesh are found along the rest stop. The images of cattail leaves and silhouettes of indigenous birds in flight are welded and cut into these mesh panels. These silhouettes along with the cattail leaf forms help to tie the steel railing and seating areas to the surrounding habitat and enhance the environmental and aesthetic value of the Rio Salado/ Town Lake. Originally the artwork was called Cattail Rails, but it has been changed because the wash where the cattails were growing has been transformed into the marina.

Funding: This project was funded through Tempe's Municipal Arts Fund with additional funding from the Arizona Heritage Fund.

Artist biography: Laurie Lundquist is a nationally known artist who resides in Tempe. She has been active in the local community since receiving a Masters of Fine Arts in Sculpture from Arizona State University. Since then, she has been prolific with the creation of many important local public art projects. She has exhibited both nationally and internationally and has received numerous awards and grants for her work including multiple Valley Forward Design Excellence awards, NEA initiative grants, and a Tempe Beautification Award.

Artist statement: The silhouette of a Cooper's hawk in flight prompts visitors to look for the wildlife visible from this seating area. As a member of the Moore/Swick design team, I participated fully in the layout and design detailing of the two mile long path. Images of the native and endangered species that once inhabited the area are integrated into the design.