



Phase II Veterans Memorial in Tempe Beach Park

Project Cost - \$600,000

Summary

Phase I of the \$1.2 million Veterans Memorial was completed in 2012. Phase II is to raise the remaining \$600,000 and will launch in December 2015 with a special ceremony at the Memorial by the Mayor of Tempe, Mark Mitchell. Phase II includes finalizing the grounds and improvements as well as prepare for **The Veterans Parade** that will consist of 80 silhouette panels of steel representing veterans of each service throughout history. Made of laser cut steel, they outline marching officers, enlisted men and women in full-dress and battle fatigues. **The Memorial Walk**, the historic bridge access road from Rio Salado Parkway will be paved with memorial pavers in honor of or in memory of a veteran. Currently the completed **Overlook & Visitors Plaza** was the abutment of the former Ash Avenue Bridge that was originally one of only two bridges that crossed the Salt River. The structure is a historic artifact and is listed on the Tempe Historic Property Register. A major rehabilitation was completed in the 1990s, allowing the park to serve as a site for special events, including the end celebration of the annual Tempe Veterans Day Parade.

Bridging Generations of Service - This Veterans Memorial is located in one the Valley's most popular parks, Tempe Beach Park on Tempe Town Lake. The Memorial is a daily reminder to park visitors, hikers, cyclists and runners who pass the Memorial each day of our freedoms and the incredible sacrifices of our American military families over decades of wars.

This incredibly beautiful historic restored site is a community project to preserve history and provide a physical and visual veterans memorial for families and veterans who visit Tempe Beach Park. Tempe Beach Park is a focal destination for over \$2.7 visitors annually. The project has completed phase I which included has restored the abatement site and created a beautiful concrete memorial structure for ceremonies and activities around veterans and Veterans Day parade. Currently funds are being raised to complete Phase II.

The Ash Avenue Bridge abutment is part of Tempe Beach Park, located within the Rio Salado Project Area, overlooking Tempe Town Lake. The park has been in constant use since at least the 1920s. A swimming pool and bath house were constructed, along with a baseball stadium (with stone bleachers built on the east facing slope of the south bridge approach, as part of a public works project in the 1930's.

A major rehabilitation was completed in the 1990s, allowing the park to serve as a site for special events, including the end celebration of the annual Tempe Veterans Day Parade. The City of Tempe is committed to the preservation and rehabilitation of the abutment and its integration into the fabric and activity of the park. Concept plans have been developed which illustrate a restored structure supporting an observation platform. The ultimate success of the campaign will require the generous contributions of corporations and individuals who recognize the long-term dividends of investing in our Valley's sustainability, and believe in the vision of creating a regional destination that is unmatched in resources. By supporting the *Water Was Just the Beginning Capital Campaign*, you will be shaping the future of the Rio Salado and Papago Park. Please join the Rio Salado Foundation in this vital endeavor.

For more information call 480-473-0245

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