



A Guide to Tempe Town Lake





TEMPE TOWN LAKE

on the rio salado



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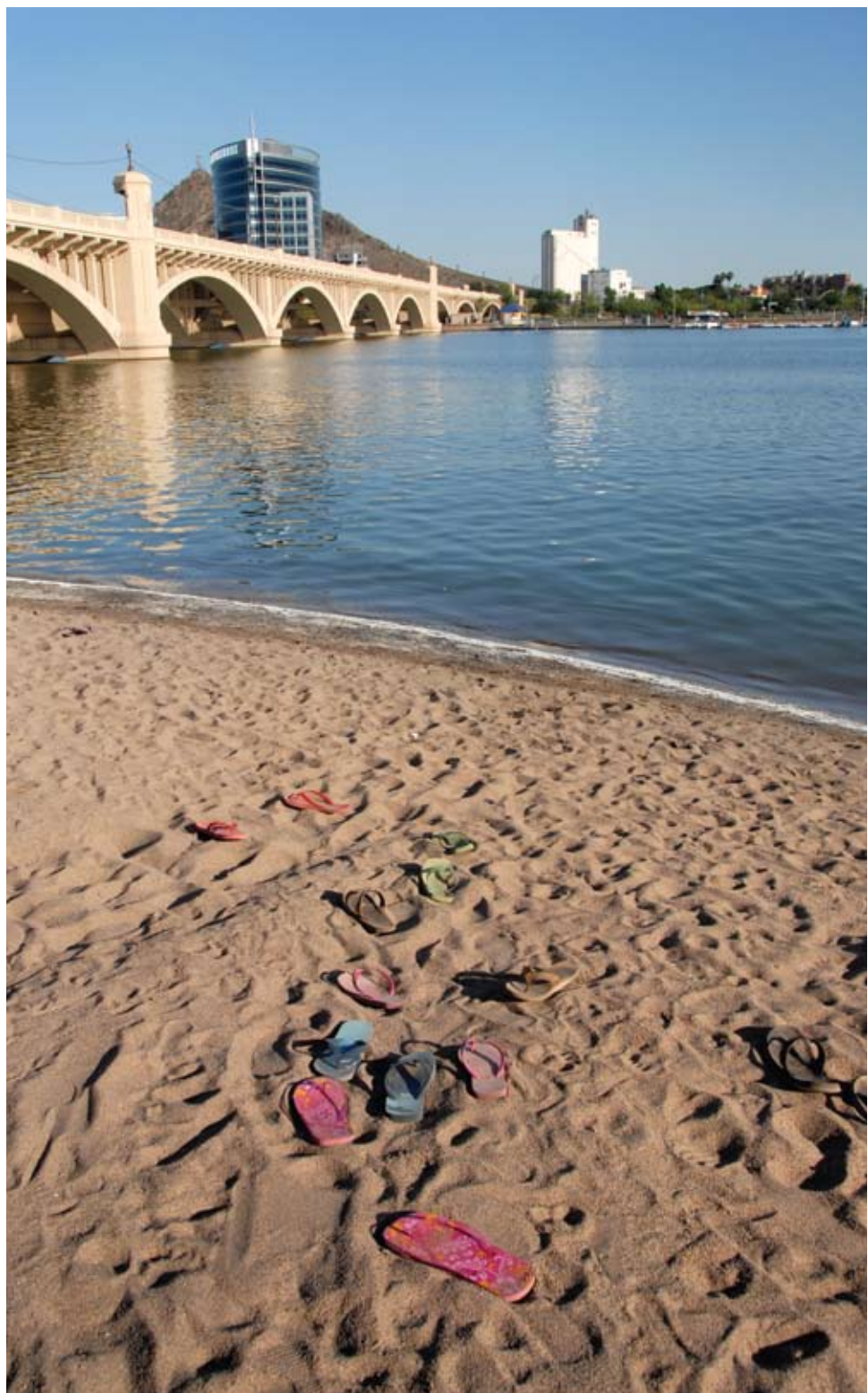
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Town Lake Operations Center
620 North Mill Avenue
Tempe, Arizona

(480) 350-8625 • www.tempe.gov/lake



Introduction

Tempe Town Lake ... It's Happening Now. And Tomorrow.



Sift through layers of earth at Tempe Town Lake and generations of history come to the surface.

Tempe Town Lake is part of the historic Salt River. This area once offered food and water for the Hohokam. Years later, this area became the safest crossing point for travelers in covered wagons. Construction of several dams in the mid 1900's took water from the Salt River and completely changed the terrain. The obstructed river became a wasteland for dumping and sand and gravel mining.

The latest transformation began in 1966, under the direction of Arizona State University Dean of Architecture, James Elmore. He created the vision of the Rio Salado Project, a dream of turning miles of littered riverbed into an oasis of pleasure, of new homes and shopping, of landscaped parks and an urban lake.

Maricopa County voters in 1987 denied the regional effort to go forward with a version of that dream, but Tempe voters urged the City to move ahead. The Tempe City Council stepped up to the challenge and began work on Tempe Rio Salado.

After years of financial commitment, planning and building, on November 7, 1999, Tempe Town Lake on the Rio Salado opened to the general public. Town Lake is contained within the Salt River channel with a unique series of inflatable dams, a water pump system and slurry walls.

Tempe, working with many public and private partners, reclaimed more than 600 acres of Tempe's land for development and recreation when it created Town Lake. Now, it is one of Arizona's most popular destinations for special events, casual recreation, and upscale development.

Once again, the river is a community gathering place. More than 2 million visitors come to Town Lake each year, to jog along the lake's pathways, to participate in one of many rowing and paddling programs, to visit Splash Playground, or to enjoy one of the outdoor special events.

Already one of Arizona's busiest outdoor attractions, Town Lake continues to grow. The Hayden Ferry Lakeside project opened their second office tower in 2007, and has won numerous awards for their buildings. Additional commercial and residential buildings are expected to open during the next two years. The Tempe Center for the Arts opened in 2007 on Town Lake. The light rail system will be operating on the new bridge across the lake in 2008.

We hope this guide of Tempe Town Lake will answer your questions about the unique features of this regional destination. If you need more details, please call the Town Lake Operations Center at 480-350-8625 or visit our website at www.tempe.gov/lake.

Project Facts

General Information

- Opened November 7, 1999.
- 220 surface acres – 2 miles long, 800 to 1200 feet wide.
- Average depth 12.5 feet, ranging from 6 to 19 feet.

About Water:

- Capacity is about 3,000 acre-feet or 977 million gallons.
- Water from seepage recovery wells and water exchanges keep the lake full.
- Water quality is maintained by frequent monitoring, using additives to maintain aquatic balance as needed.
- The lake does not lose water to seepage thanks to a recovery system that pumps water back into the lake.
- In the future Town Lake will receive reverse osmosis quality reclaimed water to maintain lake and supply irrigation for adjacent park land.

Flood Control:

- Town Lake is designed for the impact of a 100-year flood event or greater.
- Gabion mattresses—wire and rock pads line the Salt River on both sides of Town Lake—buttress the impact of fast-moving water and maintain integrity of the river channel.
- Town Lake is designed to allow a flow capacity of 250,000 cubic feet per second (cfs).
- The highest recorded flows for this area occurred before the Salt River dam system was created.
- The highest recorded Salt River flow was 200,000 cfs in 1905.
- In the event of a 100-year flood event, the eight inflatable dams are lowered. The dams are designed to keep water in the river channel.
- A 100-year flood event has a 1 percent chance of occurring in any year.
- The emergency warning system on Town Lake uses flashing lights and sirens to alert the public of weather changes.

Inflatable Dams:

- Maker: Bridgestone Industrial Products
- Each dam is made of four rubber bladders.
- Each rubber bladder is 240 feet long, 16 feet tall on the west end of Town Lake and 5 feet tall on the east end.
- Each rubber bladder weighs more than 40 tons.
- The bladders take approximately 45 minutes each to inflate or deflate.



Park Rules

Park Rangers

The Park Ranger Program began in 1999 to maintain safety in Tempe and to ensure that park rules are followed. Park Rangers assigned to Tempe Town Lake patrol the lake and surrounding areas, providing coverage 24 hours per day/7 days a week by using boats, ATVs, bicycles and motorized trucks. Ranger responsibilities extend from Tempe Town Lake within Tempe Beach Park, Papago Park South and Moeur Park South. A request to dispatch a Ranger for assistance can be made by calling 480-350-8311.



Park Hours

Town Lake park areas are open daily between 5 a.m. and midnight unless otherwise posted. Tempe Town Lake is open to public boating from 5 a.m. to 10 p.m. (permit required). Extension of park hours must be approved by management.

Prohibited Activities

- Alcohol consumption (except beer with a permit)
- Dangerous acts
- Archery, firearms or other projectile producing devices
- Entry into flood control zones
- Glass containers
- Golfing
- Horseback riding
- Motor vehicles (except by permit)
- Swimming, wading, diving and bathing, except during designated special events
- Urban camping
- Skateboard riding except in designated areas
- Amplified music or sound (except by permit)

Environmental Safety

For public health and safety, to maintain water quality and for aviation considerations, please do not feed the ducks, pigeons and other wildlife. Town Lake does not permit kite flying or helium filled balloons.

Splash Playground

Operating hours for Splash Playground at Tempe Beach Park is 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily during its operating season—April through September. Maintenance, weather, or special event activities may require early closures. For additional information on scheduling, please call 480-350-8625.

Rules for Splash Playground at Tempe Beach Park

- Watch your children at all times. Park attendants do not supervise children.

- Children must be accompanied by an adult or responsible person who is at least 13 years old.
- Please encourage your children to take turns using some of the unique water features.
- No cloth diapers – please use disposable swim diapers.
- No glass allowed.
- No pets allowed.
- No food or beverages allowed within the playground itself.
- No jumping on, climbing on or hanging from water features.
- No running or rough play. Areas may be slippery when wet.
- No skateboards, in-line skates, roller skates, bicycles or vehicles in the facility.
- No foul language.
- The park attendant can deny use of Splash Playground to any person(s) violating park rules.
- The attendant may shut down Splash Playground without notice for maintenance purposes. Please comply with attendant’s directions to keep our playground clean and safe.
- The City of Tempe is not responsible for lost or stolen articles.

Picnic Tables Reservations

- Tempe Beach Park Picnic tables labeled 1 through 6 maybe reserved. Tables that are not reserved and tables under the large blue shade structure may be used on a “first come, first served” basis by anyone.
- Tables can also be reserved on the north bank of the lake at the Marina and Playa del Norte Picnic Point.
- Reservations may be made by phone at least two weeks in advance with a major credit card. Reservation requests under two weeks of requested date are required to be made in person at the Town Lake Operations Center. Tempe residents need to show two forms of ID showing their Tempe address.
- Reservations will not be taken after Thursday for the upcoming weekend.
- Tables, chairs, grills and pop-up shades may be brought into the park. Pop-up shades may not be staked into the ground.
- The large Corporate Picnic Area may be reserved for large functions and will accommodate 50 to 1,500 people.
- For information about picnic table and Corporate Picnic Area reservations call (480)350-8625.
- Vehicles in the park are prohibited without a special vehicle pass.

Volleyball Court Reservations

Volleyball courts at Town Lake can be reserved for leagues, special events, and individual play. The four courts are located on the north bank of Town Lake, east of Mill Avenue bridges. For more information call 480-350-8625.



Path Guidelines for Bicyclists

- No motorized vehicles are allowed on the paths.
- Follow state and local bicycle laws.
- Town Lake's paths are used by walkers, joggers, and those on in-line skates. Please be aware of those around you and the speed at which they travel.
- Be courteous to all other path users. Everyone is allowed to use these paths.
- For more information, or to obtain a copy of the Tempe Bikeways map visit www.tempe.gov/bikeprogram or call City of Tempe Transportation Planning, 480-350-2775.
- Occasionally, paths are temporarily closed for construction, renovation, or events. Visit www.tempe.gov/tim for closures and reroutes.
- Check www.tempe.gov/calendar for events such as runs, walks, or triathlons, which could increase the number of users on the lake's paths.

Designated Trails

Dirt trails are located in the LoPiano Bosque Habitat and Papago Park in designated/ marked areas only. These trails are available for pedestrians, bicyclists, and horseback riding. The trails pass through desert habitat and unimproved areas. During inclement weather, the trails may be unusable.



Unauthorized vehicles are prohibited in these areas.

Permits

Required Park Permits

Town Lake Park permits are required for the following activities and may be restricted to certain locations:

- Amplified music
- Commercial photography
- Beer consumption (issued to Tempe residents only)
- Hosting a special event
- Boat permit (see boating section)
- Reserved park areas

Amplified Music

Contact the Town Lake Special Events Coordinator at 480-858-2199 for details.

Commercial Photography

While there is currently no fee for small photo shoots, on some occasions, it is necessary to assign police or paramedics to a commercial video or photo shoot. Insurance is required for photo shoots unless the photographer is a member of the media. Please call the City of Tempe at 480-350-5200 and ask for Special Events Permits. Media should call 480-350-8625.

Small Group Beer Permits

The Operations Center will issue a beer permit to Tempe Residents with a picnic table reservation.

Large Group Beer Permit

A beer permit will be valid on the requested permit date. A permit to consume beer may only be issued if the individual or group of persons also reserves a picnic area or other portion of the park. Beer shall not be consumed in any other portion of a public park or recreational area at such times as City-organized recreational activities are being conducted. A liquor license for some events will be required.

Special Event Permits

A permit is required for events or planned gatherings of 50 or more persons at Town Lake. The special events permit shall be obtained by calling the Special Events Coordinator at (480) 858-2199. Special events must be approved by the City of Tempe Event Task Force. Insurance, security, paramedics, liquor control devices, fencing, and other items may be required for an event to be scheduled.

Parking

Parking

Parking areas line the 5 miles of Town Lake shoreline. The map below shows areas where lots exist. Construction on many of Town Lake's new facilities is currently underway and may affect parking. Please check the website for a current listing of which lots are open.

South Bank

Some lots at Town Lake are free, others require payment. The closest free lot to Tempe Beach Park is at Rio Salado Parkway, just north of the Ash Avenue intersection.

Parking is available in downtown Tempe, a short walk from Tempe Town Lake. Please visit www.downtowntempe.com for a map of downtown lots.

Paid Parking

Hayden Ferry Lakeside has 2800 covered parking. This building is located at 80 E. Rio Salado Parkway, (NE corner of Mill Avenue and Rio Salado Parkway). The U.S. Airways parking structure at Third Street, west of Mill Avenue may charge a fee for parking, and is also available for public parking.

North Bank

Parking is available on the north side of the lake at the Town Lake Operations Center or along Lake View Drive. Lake View Drive is accessed off Curry Rd. on the east side of Mill Avenue or off Washington Street on the west side of Mill Avenue. The Marquee Theater charges to use this lot on concert nights. The Town Lake Marina also offers parking at no cost which provides access to the lake's pathways as well as its park area.



Lake Rules



Tempe Town Lake is open daily for public boating between 5 a.m. and 10 p.m. All boats must display a current Town Lake permit and have Town Lake approved lighting when on the lake after dark or at dusk and dawn. Please see the website for lighting regulations.

Public boating may be restricted or suspended for emergencies, special events, maintenance and repairs. Sections of the lake may be zoned for certain types of boating activities on specific days and hours. Every effort will be made to notify the public of lake closures no less than 24 hours in advance in non-emergency situations.

Water Activities Prohibited

The following activities are prohibited:

- Swimming and wading, unless in conjunction with a special event permit.
- Voluntarily entering the water from a boat or shoreline, unless connected to a special event or class.
- Wind surfing.
- Jumping or diving from Town Lake bridges or any other structures on or around the lake.
- Pet swimming.



Emergency Warning System *(lightning, wind and evacuation)*

Lights and sirens have been mounted on poles at three locations around Tempe Town Lake providing critical information about weather condition on the lake and park area. These poles are located on the north and south side of the lake at the downstream dam, upstream dam, and Town Lake Marina.

A **WHITE** light will start flashing anytime the **WIND** monitored at that location reaches 15 mile per hour. The frequency of the flashes will increase as the velocity of the wind increases.

A **YELLOW** light will flash when **LIGHTNING** is detected within 10 miles of the butte on the south side of Town Lake.

***The City requests that you get off the water when the white or yellow lights are flashing. Staying on the water at this time puts you and your class/group in danger.*

A **RED light** and **SIREN** means that you must **EVACUATE** Town Lake and secure your boat as quickly as possible.

Weather forecast information will be posted at the Town Lake Operations Center. Weather information can be accessed at www.tempe.gov/wx/.

Mast Height Limits for Sailboats

Mast height limits on Tempe Town Lake are 30 feet or lower due to bridge height and power line restrictions. The clearance under the bridges from the normal water level in Town Lake is provided below.

Individuals that have boats with masts, please use caution when accessing Town Lake Marina. Height barrier bars depicting height restriction of 15' 5", and signs, have been installed at the Marina to designate areas that are restricted to boats with masts

up. In order to ensure the safety of your boat and yourself, masts must be placed down at all times when you enter or leave the Marina.



Boat Permits

All boats must have a Town Lake boat permit to operate on Tempe Town Lake. The following types of public boats are permitted on Town Lake:

- Manually-propelled boats.
- Wind-driven boats with a maximum mast height of 30 feet from the water surface.
- Electric motorized boats

Tempe Town Lake Bridge Clearances

All dimensions are approximate and measured from full water elevation level to the underside of the bridge.

Rural Road Bridge

Northly End	Middle	Southerly End
22 feet	23 feet	18 feet

Railroad Bridge/Light Rail Bridge

Northly End	Middle	Southerly End
13 feet	13 feet	13 feet

Mill Avenue Bridge (east)

Northly End	Middle	Southerly End
21 feet*	21.5 feet*	22 feet*
14 feet **	14.5 feet*	16 feet**

Red Mountain Freeway Bridge

Northly End	Middle	Southerly End
24.5 feet	24 feet	23 feet
14 feet **	14.5 feet*	16 feet**

Mill Avenue Bridge (west)

Northly End	Middle	Southerly End
21 feet*	21 feet*	21 feet*
2 feet **	2 feet*	2 feet**

* Measured at the high point of the arches

** Measured at the low point of the arches

Types of Boats Prohibited

The following types of boats are prohibited on Tempe Town Lake:

- Boats requiring full body contact with the water.
- Boats equipped with gas motors.
- Inflatable boats less than six feet in length.
- Inflatable boats not constructed of durable reinforced fabric.
- Inflatable boats that have less than two separate buoyancy chambers. Boats must be able to float with only one chamber should the air in one chamber be lost.
- Inner tubes, inflatable mattresses, rafts, tube boats and float tubes.
- Paddleboards.

Questions regarding boats call 480-350-8625.

Required Boats Registration/Permit

All boats require a Tempe Town Lake boat permit, which are available at the Town Lake Operations Center. Call 480-350-8625 for additional information. Town Lake boat permits must be affixed to the boat and visible.

Electric motorized boats must be registered with the State of Arizona and have valid Arizona number and current annual decal displayed on boats in order to be issued a Town Lake boat permit. You must present a valid State of Arizona State registration, a non-Arizona resident-owned boat currently numbered/registered in another state may be operated in Arizona for a period of 90 days. State registration is available at the Arizona Game and Fish Department, by calling 602-942-3000 or visit www.azgfd.com. Non-motorized boats do not require Arizona registration.

Boat Permit Categories

Category 1:

Tempe resident-owned boats
Cost: \$5 annually per boat

To receive this permit, the boat owner must present a valid Arizona State Driver License with a Tempe address and another proof of Tempe residence such as a current Tempe utility bill or rent stub.

Category 2:

Tempe-based non-profit organization boats.
Cost: \$15 annually per boat

To receive this permit, the group must present documentation of current non-profit status. This permit is available only to boats owned by the organization and does not apply to individuals who are members of the organization for personally-owned boats.

Category 3:

Other non-profit organization boats
Cost: \$15 annually per boat

To receive this permit, the group must present documentation of current non-profit status. This permit is available only to boats owned by the organization and does not apply to individuals who are members of the organization for personally-owned boats.

Category 4:

Educational/training/inter-collegiate athletic use
Cost: \$15 annually per boat and

Educational programming is subject to lake user fees

Category 5:

Non-Tempe resident-owned boats and all other boats
Cost: \$30 annually per boat.

Category 6:

Concessionaire boats: – Issued only to City-contracted boat concessionaire
Cost: \$15 annually per boat.

Category 7:

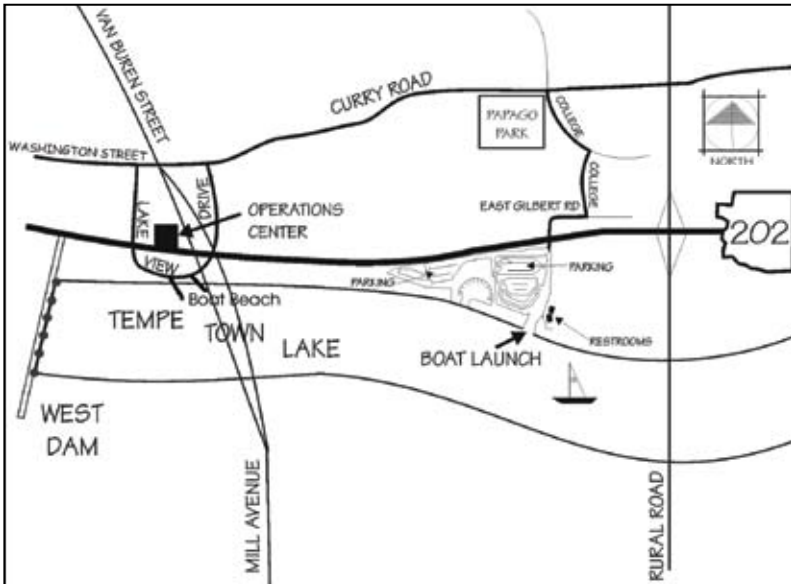
Daily Use Permit:
Cost: \$5 per day per boat.

Boat permit fees are subject to change. Each boat owner assumes responsibility for each person using the permitted boat.

Boating

Boat Launching

All public boats must be launched at a designated boat launch facility as shown in the map below.



Boat speed

All public boats shall maintain a wakeless speed while on Tempe Town Lake, generally under 5 miles per hour. Authorized coaching launches and other authorized boats may exceed wakeless speed in the course of performing safety on Town Lake. Speed and direction of travel shall be controlled to avoid a collision.

Navigational Rules

Public boating navigational rules specific to the Tempe Town Lake include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Lake traffic should be counter clockwise. Boats leaving the shoreline shall yield right of way to boats approaching the shoreline.
- Public boats should give way to commercial boats, public safety boats and emergency boats.
- Powered boats (electric motor) shall give way to manually powered boats and sailboats unless being overtaken.
- Sailboats shall give way to manually powered boats unless being overtaken.
- All operators shall maintain a proper lookout and proceed at a safe speed when underway.
- Boats underway shall stay at least 50 feet from drifting or anchored boats. If approaching or coming alongside another boat, the operator shall use caution and approach at a safe, controlled speed.
- Power driven boats and sailboats are required to have a red/green navigation light on the bow and a white all around light on the stern. Boats under oar are required to have a red bow light and a white all around light on the stern.

Boat Tie-Ups:

Public boat tie-ups are located along the shoreline of the lake. Note that some tie-ups are reserved for special uses.

Private boats are not allowed to tie up to the Rio Lago Cruise docks at Tempe Beach Park.

Accident: Duty of Operator

The operator of any boat involved in an accident that results in injury or property damage should immediately stop, exchange name and address of the boat's owner to the injured party and render reasonable assistance. You must call 480-350-8311 to report a non-emergency accident with Tempe police.

In Case of Emergency

Identify your location by using the numbers shown on signs at each boat landing. Call 9-1-1 for emergencies. The non-emergency number for Police/Rangers is 480-350-8311. Call this number if you see someone in need of assistance or if you witness acts of vandalism or crime.

Water Sport Activities and Special Events

A Special Event Permit is required for those wishing to conduct a water sport activity or special event on Tempe Town Lake. Water Sport Activity and Special Event application

forms are available at www.tempe.gov/events or by calling 480-858-2199 or 480-350-8625.

Boating Classes

A permit for programmed use of Tempe Town Lake is required for those wishing to conduct a water sport activity or special event on Tempe Town Lake. Permit applications may be obtained at the Town Lake Operations Center by calling 480-350-8625.

All water sport instruction classes must be pre-approved and pay a lake user fee specified by their permit. Classes must comply with the personal flotation device requirements required by law, unless the City approves a safety plan. The Town Lake Operations Center has a schedule of activities that have been approved and will coordinate proposed activities to minimize conflicts.

Special events during park hours, including classes, may be held on the lake before sunrise or after sunset with City approval. Only boats operating on Town Lake before sunrise or after sunset must display appropriate navigation lighting. A permit will specify the time and date of the event and expire as soon as the event or class is over. A new permit is needed for future events or classes. The permit only allows the specific activities included in the special event or classes.





Life Jacket Loaner for Kids

While at Town Lake you can borrow a child-size life jacket for FREE at Rio Salado Operations Center, 620 N. Mill Ave. Call (480) 350-8625 for more information.

Town Lake Marina

The 12-acre Town Lake Marina is located on the north side of Tempe Town Lake and south of the Loop 202 at College Avenue.

For information on space availability or storage rates please contact Rio Salado Operation Center at 480-350-8625. All boats stored at the Marina facility must be in compliance with Town lake public boating regulations and must display current annual Tempe Town Lake permits. The Rio Salado Operations Manager retains the option for reserving spaces for future use.



Fishing

The Arizona Game and Fish Department and the City of Tempe have developed a public fishing program for Tempe Town Lake, which includes trout stocking in the winter.

The most recent fishing survey for Tempe Town Lake can be found at the Town Lake website www.tempe.gov/lake/Fishing/fishing.htm.

Fishing is permitted with a valid Arizona State Fishing License. The following state fishing licenses are valid:

Class A ~ General Fish

Class B ~ Non-resident 4 month

Class C ~ Non-resident Five-day

Class D ~ One-day

Class F ~ Combination Hunting and Fishing (also includes youth Class F)

Class I ~ Family Fishing

Pioneer and 100 percent disabled veteran

*The Class U License (Urban Fishing License) is **NOT** valid at Tempe Town Lake.*

A fishing license is required for everyone age 14 years and older. Fishing licenses can be purchased at any Game and Fish office, at more than 300 license dealers and sporting goods stores statewide. Youth ages 13 years and younger do not need fishing licenses and are not required to be accompanied by a licensed adult. For further details on general fishing rules and regulations, please refer to the current Arizona Fishing Regulations found at all license dealers or go to www.azgfd.com.

Catch Limits

Daily bag and possession limits for fish apply at Tempe Town Lake as follows:

Largemouth Bass

*4 per day and in possession
(13 inch minimum)*

Catfish

4 per day and in possession

Trout

*4 per day and in possession
(2 per day for unlicensed juveniles)*

Roundtail Chub

*1 per day and in possession
(13 inch minimum)*

Sunfish

10 per day and in possession

All other species

No limit

Other rules:

- Fishing is permitted from boats and the shoreline except at posted "No Fishing" zones.
- Fishing is prohibited from bridges and docks.
- Fish trapping is prohibited.
- Fish cleaning is prohibited. There are no facilities at the lake to clean fish. Please pick up your fish line and trash to help protect the environment.
- Fishing is prohibited from shore or docks used by rental boat facilities.





Average Monthly Sunrise & Sunset Times and Average Temperatures

January

Sunrise: 7:30 a.m. Sunset: 5:45 p.m.
Min. Temp. 38.5° Max. Temp 67.5°

July

Sunrise: 5:30 a.m. Sunset: 7:40 p.m.
Min. Temp. 75.2° Max. Temp 105.4°

February

Sunrise: 7:15 a.m. Sunset: 5:15 p.m.
Min. Temp. 40.7° Max. Temp 71.8°

August

Sunrise: 5:50 a.m. Sunset: 7:15 p.m.
Min. Temp. 74.1° Max. Temp 103.6°

March

Sunrise: 6:40 a.m. Sunset: 6:35 p.m.
Min. Temp. 44.9° Max. Temp 77.1°

September

Sunrise: 6:10 a.m. Sunset: 6:30 p.m.
Min. Temp. 67.4° Max. Temp 99.7°

April

Sunrise: 6 a.m. Sunset: 7 p.m.
Min. Temp. 50.2° Max. Temp 85.6°

October

Sunrise: 6:10 a.m. Sunset: 6:30 p.m.
Min. Temp. 55.7° Max. Temp 89.4°

May

Sunrise: 5:30 a.m. Sunset: 7:20 p.m.
Min. Temp. 58.1° Max. Temp 94.0°

November

Sunrise: 7 a.m. Sunset: 5:25 p.m.
Min. Temp. 44.0° Max. Temp 76.0°

June

Sunrise: 5:15 a.m. Sunset: 7:40 p.m.
Min. Temp. 66.1° Max. Temp 103.2°

December

Sunrise: 7:25 a.m. Sunset: 5:20 p.m.
Min. Temp. 38.1° Max. Temp 67.9°





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