

## Crosscut Canal Multi-Use Path

In March 2003, the City of Tempe completed construction of the Crosscut Canal Multi-Use Path, providing new opportunities for bicyclists, joggers and pedestrians to enjoy the amenities and recreational opportunities of Papago Park and the Papago Salado area. The 1.25 mile path, which is accessible to people in wheelchairs, runs along the west bank of the Crosscut Canal in north Tempe between Canal Park and McDowell Road.

Planning for the path began in 1998 as part of a neighborhood planning process with the North Tempe Neighborhood Association. Path amenities include lighting, landscaping and a public art element designed by Arizona artist Barbara Grygutis. The art element, called Centerline, features a six-inch wide granite line, which runs unbroken down the center of the path except where it reaches eight areas of scenic importance. At these points, the centerline breaks up into abstract patterns reflecting scenic elements such as Hunt's Tomb, where the pattern reflects the triangular shape of the tomb.

The project was designed in response to public request to keep the path area along the canal in its natural state. The area features large native trees and views of Papago Park and the surrounding mountains. The budget for the project was \$1.3 million, which included design, art elements and construction. This project received a 2003 City of Tempe Beautification Award and is a finalist for the Valley Forward Environmental Excellence Award.

