

# RIO SALADO HABITAT RESTORATION AREA

**Trail Features:**

- parking
- informational kiosk
- restrooms
- pedestrian access
- biking
- dogs allowed on leash
- hiking
- horseback riding
- habitat headquarters
- scenic overlook w/ shade structure
- access trail
- accessible area
- equestrian staging area
- water
- tunnel
- reservoir
- wetland
- Nina Mason Pulliam Rio Salado Audubon Nature Center
- gateway
- pedestrian bridge
- soft surface (dirt) trails
- hard surface (paved) trails

Scale: 0 to 0.5 Kilometers / 0.5 Miles



## Overview

The goal of the Phoenix Rio Salado Habitat Restoration Area is to restore the native wetland and riparian (riverbank) habitats that were historically associated with the Salt River, which once was a perennial fed river through what is now Phoenix.

The site, just 1 1/2 miles south of downtown Phoenix, totals 595 acres and extends five miles from 28th Street on the eastern upstream end to 19th Avenue on the western or downstream end. The once deteriorated dumping site is now transformed into a lush corridor for visitors to enjoy while providing an opportunity for wildlife and native vegetation to flourish.

While visiting Rio Salado, please remember that the area is a habitat restoration project; remain on designated trails, do not enter the ponds or river channel, remove rocks or flowers, disturb wildlife, throw rocks into ponds, and keep dogs on leashes on the hard surface (asphalt trails).

Trail Name	Trail Color	Mi.	Surface Type	Difficulty	Hiking	Biking	Dogs on Leash	Horseback Riding	Accessible
North Overbank	Black	3.7	Paved	Easy	•	•	•	•	•
South Overbank	Black	3.9	Paved	Easy	•	•	•	•	•
North Terrace	Brown	3.9	Dirt	Easy	•	•	•		
South Terrace	Brown	3.2	Dirt	Easy	•	•	•		

## Hiking Safety Information

Tell someone where you will be hiking and when you expect to return. Know the name of the park/and or trail you will be hiking on. Having a trail map is recommended.

Know where you are going and know what kind of terrain you will be hiking on. It is important to remember that the Phoenix mountain preserves are open, undeveloped desert areas. Hikers can encounter rock terrain, rattlesnakes and other potential hazards native to the Sonoran Desert.

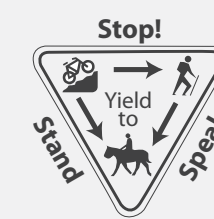
Bring plenty of water (one quart for short hikes-more for longer hikes). Wear appropriate footwear, preferably hiking boots. Wear light-colored, comfortable clothing. Bring a hat, sunblock, basic first aid supplies, and cell phone.

## Did you know?

Over 250 species of birds have been identified since 2005  
Rio Salado is Spanish for Salt River  
Over 76,000 trees and shrubs were planted in the restoration  
138,572 cubic yards of waste was excavated in the project boundaries  
1,185 tons of tires were removed from the river

The Natural Resources Division is dedicated to preserving, protecting and sustaining cultural and natural resources and providing quality educational and recreational opportunities.

For additional information on: trails, environmental centers, desert parks and preserves, and programs we provide each year, please visit:  
[phoenix.gov/parks/hikemain.html](http://phoenix.gov/parks/hikemain.html)



## Important Numbers

Emergency 911  
Crimestop 602.262.6151  
Rio Salado Park Ranger Office 602.262.6863  
Nina Mason Pulliam Rio Salado 602.468.6470  
Audubon Nature Center 602.468.6470

## Leave No Trace

Outdoor Ethics For Frontcountry

### 1. Know Before You Go

Be prepared! Remember food, water, and clothes to protect you from the cold, heat and rain.  
Use maps to plan where you're going. Check them along the way so you'll stay on course and won't get lost.  
Remember to bring a leash for your pet and plastic bags to pick up your pet's waste.  
Learn about the areas you plan to visit.  
Carry a cell phone for emergencies.  
Let someone know where you're going.

### 2. Stick To Trails

Walk and ride on designated trails to protect trailside plants.  
Do not step on flowers or small trees.  
Once damaged, they may not grow back.  
Respect private property by staying on designated trails.

### 3. Trash Your Trash and Pick Up Pet's Waste

Pack it in, Pack it out. Put litter – peels and cores – in garbage bags and carry it home.

Use bathrooms or outhouses when available.  
Use a plastic bag to pack out your pet's waste to a garbage can.  
Keep water clean. Do not put soap, food, human or pet waste in lakes or streams.

### 4. Leave It as You Find It

Leave plants, rocks and historical items as you find them so others can enjoy them.  
Treat living and dead plants with respect.  
Carving, hacking or peeling plants may kill them.

### 5. Be Careful With Fire

Smoke only in an enclosed vehicle.  
Fires limited to designated areas.

### 6. Keep Wildlife Wild

Observe wildlife from a distance and never approach, feed or follow them.  
Human food is unhealthy for all wildlife and feeding them starts bad habits.  
Protect wildlife and your food by securely storing your meals and trash.

### 7. Share The Trails and Manage Your Pet

Be considerate when passing others on the trail.  
Keep your pet on a maximum six-foot leash to protect it, other visitors and wildlife.  
Listen to nature. Avoid making loud noises or yelling. You will see more wildlife if you are quiet.  
Be sure the fun you have outdoors does not bother anyone else. Remember, other visitors are there to enjoy the outdoors too.



For more information on Leave No Trace please visit [www.LNT.org](http://www.LNT.org) or call 1.800.332.4100