**Grand Canalscape Project Construction Now Underway**

*Canal redevelopment project is part of a larger regional trail and crossing initiative to enhance recreation and transportation.*

City crews and contractors today initiated construction on the first phase of the Grand Canalscape project – a project which will ultimately result in a nearly 12-mile continuous trail system along the Grand Canal from Interstate 17 to the Phoenix/Tempe border.

Over the next year, paved pathways, landscaping, lighting and artistic elements will be constructed along the Grand Canal. Phase one includes the uptown Phoenix area between 15th Avenue and 16th Street and the Gateway area near Sky Harbor Airport between 36th and 40th streets.

This phase of the project is funded by the city of Phoenix and the Salt River Project’s municipal aesthetics program.

Canal improvements to the uptown Phoenix area include a multi-use path along the north bank, lighting, landscaping, public art features and neighborhood links to local streets. To improve trail crossing safety at busy streets, new traffic signals and crosswalks will be installed at Seventh Street and Seventh and Central avenues and pedestrian controlled traffic lights will be installed at 12th Street and 15th Avenue.

The Gateway area canal improvements, near Sky Harbor Airport, include a neighborhood path primarily along the south bank with neighborhood links to the local streets and public art and landscaping elements along the pathway.

While construction is underway, various sections of the canal trail will remain temporarily closed. Signage will be placed onsite to inform the public about these closures. The public is advised to obey all work zone signage.

As work progresses, periodic updates will be posted on the project website, at [grandcanalscape.com](http://www.grandcanalscape.com/)

Phase two, to be funded in part with federal grant funds, is currently under design review and will fill-in the remaining project areas. Phase two construction is expected to begin in spring of 2018.

For more information, call the project hotline at 623-825-3444, email grandcanalscape@gciaz.com, or visit the project website at [grandcanalscape.com](http://www.grandcanalscape.com/).

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