

# Ripple Effect and Run River Run

## Artists: Deborah Kennedy and Diana Pumpelly Bates

April 2004

Coyote Creek: River Oaks/ Mill River Place & Coyote Creek Trail/Levee Road / San Jose, CA 95134/ Council District 4

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### ABOUT THE PROJECT

Deborah Kennedy and Diana Pumpelly Bates developed a project to increase visibility of the public access to the River Oaks/Coyote Creek recreation area. By creating a gate, concrete landing pad and ramp to the top of the levee, community members relying on wheels--people in wheelchairs, mothers with strollers and bicyclists--are now able to safely access the levee area. Increasing use of the ramp also protects the levee from potentially damaging erosion.

*Ripple Effect* by Deborah Kennedy is a blue concrete platform shaped with naturalistic curves and embedded with rare quartz boulders designed to suggest a pond. Two bronze inlays represent the ripples formed by throwing a rock into a pond.



Above: View of *Ripple Effect* and *Run River Run*

*Run River Run* by Diana Pumpelly Bates is a gate fabricated from stainless steel water jet cut panels that reference Coyote Creek and its by-pass channel at Montague Expressway. The asymmetrical flowing lines and shapes created by the surface finish references the fork where Coyote Creek overflows into the by-pass channel. The abundance of water, potentially on the cusp of flooding, is meant to inspire in viewers a reverential respect for the unknown power of this life-sustaining resource.

### ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Deborah Kennedy has exhibited in numerous solo and group shows in California and Germany. She was awarded a 3-year California Arts Council grant to work with at-risk youth on graffiti murals and has completed several public art commissions including *EcoTech* on the light rail line in San Jose. In 1997, she received an Artist's Fellowship for Installation Arts from the Arts Council of Santa Clara County. More about her work may be found at [www.deborahkennedyart.com](http://www.deborahkennedyart.com).

Diana Pumpelly Bates is a San Jose-based sculptor working in bronze, iron, and steel. Her work has been included in exhibitions at The Oakland Museum, Triton Museum, Santa Clara, Oliver Art Center at California College of Arts, the National Civil Rights Museum, Memphis, Tennessee; and John Jay College, New York. She has completed several public art commissions throughout the U.S.

#### **ABOUT THE PUBLIC ART PROGRAM**

The City of San José Public Art Program seeks to build community identity by initiating artworks and exhibitions that enhance the civic landscape. Through active community engagement, public art strives to reflect the City's diversity, historic richness, and envision its present and future.

The Public Art Program is part of the City's Office of Cultural Affairs, a division of the Office of Economic Development. The Public Art Program was established by a 1984 municipal ordinance that provides public art through funding from City capital improvement projects and eligible private development.

For further information and photos, please contact the San José Public Art Program.

