

# Sand Creek Park – Aurora, Colorado



PATHWAYS & PARKS



**Location:** Sand Creek Park, Aurora, Colorado

**Client:** City of Aurora

**Client website:** <https://www.auroragov.org>

**Landscape architect:** [Wenk Landscape Architecture & Planning](#)

**Products used:** 7 [EverGen M Series](#) park and parking lot lights

**Overview:** Aurora, Colorado, directly east of Denver, is home to about 359,000 people who value their outdoor space: over 100 parks and 6,000-plus acres of open space make up the city. The City's Parks, Recreation and Open Space department installed seven EverGen lights in Sand Creek Park, part of the [Sand Creek Regional Greenway](#).

In 1996, Wenk Landscape Architecture & Planning did the original master plan for the greenway; in 2014, when the light rail line went through that part of town, the City took the opportunity to review the master plan. "Through that public process, we found out how much the community really loved the natural characteristics of the park," says Nicole Horst, Principal for Wenk. "That became the new vision for the planning process." The project aimed to capitalize on the landscape and encourage park users to engage with it.





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**Requirements:** The first phase of the project included Discovery Park, which required lighting for safety and security.

“A standard lighting solution was too costly given the location of Sand Creek Park,” says Ed Shalkey, Project Manager for the City of Aurora’s Parks, Recreation and Open Space Department. The park is on the far side of a light rail line and trenching under the tracks was not permitted. The second-closest power supply was far away, making it cost prohibitive. A solution that would avoid the need for trenching was required.

**Our Solution:** The City installed EverGen solar lighting systems in Discovery Playground and the adjacent parking lot.

“We’re always looking for ways to include more sustainable and environmentally friendly amenities in our parks,” says Shalkey, who selected Sol based on a recommendation. “Our general contractor suggested we check out Sol because he had recently installed Sol’s lights elsewhere. I went and looked at the light and said, that’s just what we need.”

In fact, the Aurora Public Works Department is keeping an eye on the Sand Creek project, with the possibility of future projects in mind, says Shalkey.

Horst notes the trend toward solar lighting is evident in Colorado. “We’ve seen a lot of clients more interested in solar because of the opportunity to show efforts towards being greener and having projects that can generate their own power,” she says. “I think over time, we’ll see more people using [solar lighting].”

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– Ed Shalkey, Project Manager, City of Aurora Parks, Recreation and Open Space Department

