



Riverwalk Shepherd Crook Lights

The City of Naperville and the Naperville Park District have coordinated efforts to salvage shepherd crook lights that are in good condition for use on the Riverwalk for years to come. As of July 2025, the Park District is in possession of 95 extra shepherd crook fixtures. 20 are expected for use in the South Extension and 9 are expected for use at the 430 S Washington project, which leaves 66 as extra units to be used as replacements as needed. These stored fixtures are powder-coated (currently \$440 per fixture) prior to being installed so they look brand new.

The current shepherd crook fixtures on the Riverwalk use high-pressure sodium bulbs, with the exception of the lower walk by Water Street and half of Fredenhagen Park which were installed with metal halide bulbs. As a trial, four shepherd crook fixtures on the Riverwalk were converted to LED several years ago and they have been monitored by the Park District. A typical high-pressure sodium or metal halide bulb averages a lifespan of 3 years, but the LED bulbs that were installed have lasted over 5 years. To convert the shepherd crook fixtures to LED, staff needs to disconnect the ballast and install an LED bulb that has a transformer built in. Currently, the LED bulbs we have trialed cost \$77.23 each and it takes approximately 1 staff hour to remove the ballast and install the new LED bulb per fixture. There are 300 shepherd crook lights on the Riverwalk currently, not including the future new additions. A complete conversion to LED for existing shepherd crook lights would cost approximately \$23,000 for the LED bulbs and approximately 300 labor hours. This could be done as one large project or it could be phased over several years.

The Park District has already converted smaller Riverwalk light fixtures to LED as they've needed to be replaced. These include bollard lights near the paddleboat quarry, the covered bridge lights, and spotlights near the Dandelion Fountain and Veterans Plaza areas. For all LED selections, we are selecting a "warm white" color that isn't far from the look of the high-pressure sodium bulbs. Pictures of both bulbs side-by-side are included.

The Park District recommends upgrading the shepherd crook lights to warm white LED bulbs in a phased approach as time and budget allows, starting with sections 7 and 8 to match the new sections that are scheduled for installation in the next year or two.



