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## **Sand Creek Park Now Open to the Public Unique Park Opens East of Fitzsimmons Campus**

The newly renovated Sand Creek Park, located at 2700 N. Peoria St., near the R Line Fitzsimmons Station, is now open to the public.

The park features three ponds, hundreds of native trees and shrubs and a brand new Discovery Playground that is inspired by the surrounding natural riparian and prairie landscapes. An elevated overlook and human sized “birds nest” are unique features that set this park apart from others. An eastern pavilion area consisting of an open air structure with shade and picnic tables able to accommodate approximately 20 people has also been added. Internal paths and a portion of the Sand Creek Regional Greenway trail and Colorado Front Range Trail wind through the park.

The Discovery Playground, designed to give children of all ages a place to connect with nature in a fun and interesting way, provides a much needed outdoor recreation space and is expected to attract families from area neighborhoods, the larger metro area and the nearby medical campus and hospitals. Connecting with nature has proven beneficial to child development, learning, health and healing.

The Discovery Playground also includes structured play equipment and natural features to climb, run, slide and sit upon. All materials are a combination of metals, stone and wood and are aesthetically designed to fit into the surrounding open space.

In addition to easy access from the Fitzsimmons Station, two parking lots with accessible parking are available along Fitzsimmons Parkway. The park is also walkable from many neighborhoods because of its location along the Sand Creek Regional Greenway, an extensive and interconnecting trail system.

The extensive development project took nearly seven months and cost approximately \$890,000. The project was made possible by funding from Adams County Open Space and from the Colorado Lottery. The initial master plan for the park was completed in 1996 and amended in 2013 to accommodate the light rail. Many elements of the plans have been accomplished, with additional elements remaining as future funding becomes available.

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