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CASE STUDY

Water Reclamation Facility | Parker, CO

Roof Hatches Provide Easy Access for Colorado Water Reclamation Facility

In 1980, the small community of Parker, Colorado had no inkling of the need for a new water reclamation facility. Over the last four decades, however, the town has grown substantially. Parker grew from less than 300 residents to 60,313 in 2021.

As the community continued to expand, the challenge of keeping up with infrastructure improvements remained a concern. The most recent was the overhaul of the North Water Reclamation Facility (NWRF). Garney Construction completed a three-year, \$57 million project that expanded the facility from 2 million gallons per day (MGD) to 3.8 MGD.

Faced with an increasing population and limited natural water supply, the community recognized the urgency of addressing its water infrastructure.

Many water facility projects demand extended timelines, and the Parker facility expansion project was initially introduced in a 2014 master plan. In 2016, preliminary studies and evaluations were initiated, followed by the expansion of the facility's design in 2017. Construction started in 2019.

The project encompassed the construction of a new headworks facility, the addition of primary clarification, expansion of advanced water treatment (AWT) equalization, treatment, pumping capacity, replacement of chlorine and ultraviolet disinfection, conversion of existing aerobic digesters to autothermal thermophilic aerobic digestion (ATAD), dewatering facility capacity upgrades, and the establishment of new plant power and distribution. The immense scope of the project was made more challenging by the requirement to maintain plant operations throughout construction.

Garney installed 10 roof hatches manufactured by BILCO in the reclamation facility to provide workers with access to equipment for maintenance and replacement purposes.

"We've been using BILCO hatches in existing buildings throughout the District," said Stephanie Sansom, Senior Project Manager for the Parker Water & Sanitation District. "We haven't had problems with the bulk of the hatches in the past. So why change something if it's already working? It makes it easier on operations and maintenance when we've got the same equipment throughout the district."

BILCO hatches are commonly used in projects associated with wastewater management. The hatches feature corrosion resistance and easy one-hand operation. Dalco Industries, the Colorado-based representative for BILCO, provided the doors for Garney.



"We've found the BILCO hatches work well," Sansom said. "The corrosion resistance is great, and we haven't had any issues with them on this or in previous projects. As much as we can we like to remain working with the same manufacturer."

While Parker has grown substantially over the last 40 years, it's just scratching the surface of the community's future population. The era of using horses as transportation in the once-small Colorado town is now a distant memory.

"We are about 60 percent built out, and we anticipate that build out being done by 2040," Sansom said. "That's not actually that far away in the grand scheme of things. We know because of that growth, we're always looking ahead to that next big project to make sure we're delivering adequate water and wastewater services."



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