

HomePlate Solar

Standalone LED Solar Lights for Ball Fields

Case Study: Sunrise, Arizona



Keeping the fields lit while outsmarting the copper wire thieves

When 600 feet of copper wiring was stolen for the second time out of the ball field lights at Duncan Park in Sunrise, Arizona, Tom Johnson knew they had to find another answer.

“We have leagues of all kinds that pay good money and count on us to have fields to play on,” Tom said. “And without lights, the games can’t go on.”

The challenge

As the Parks and Recreation Manager for the city of Sunrise, Tom supervises the city’s 51 ball fields and sees to it that all the fields are well groomed, well-lit, and ready for league play.

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The Customer:

The City of Sunrise, Arizona, Department of Parks and Recreation.

Challenges:

- Wanted to stop copper wire thieves who were ruining the lights at the city’s sports fields.
- Had to make sure that any new lights would work just as well in winter as in the summer.
- Needed to get the broken lights up and running before the city’s annual national soccer tournament.

Solution:

Standalone LED Solar Lights for Ball Fields from HomePlate Solar.

This includes an annual youth soccer tournament that attracts hundreds of teams from around the country.

“If the fields aren’t ready to go when all those kids fly into town, that really leaves us with a black eye,” City Councilwoman, Tricia Sampler said. “Not to mention, we’re on the hook for thousands of dollars in refunds.”

Unfortunately, wire theft had become an increasing problem throughout Sunrise as the price of copper skyrocketed.

“The first time this happened, we figured it was probably a one-off kind of thing. So we went ahead and replaced all the copper wiring and repaired the affected lights on the four Duncan Park fields, all for about \$45,000,” said Tom. “And we installed stronger locks on the light poles.”

“That lasted literally one day, before someone smashed through the bigger locks and made off with all the copper wiring *again!*” Tom said, dismayed.

The first option

A brainstorming session with the City Council and the entire Parks Department led to the idea of standalone solar lighting for the ball fields.

So in May, the City of Sunrise contracted with a reputable company to swap out the existing lights on the 4 playing fields at Duncan Park, and put in all-in-one solar powered ball field lights.

“And everything worked great,” Tom said. “The summer leagues went smoothly, the lights always worked when we needed them to. There was no wiring that people could get at. We had no problems.”

Disaster

But then winter came, and there wasn’t enough daylight to keep the batteries in the solar lights fully charged.

“For the Parks Department, it was a disaster. The lights on the fields were too dim, if the lights worked at all,” Tom said. “It wasn’t safe anymore, nor was it up to Little League Code. So we had to either suspend the games or send everyone to other parks to play.”

No matter what the company tried, there still wasn’t enough charge in the batteries to light the fields at night.

“And that was just not going to work,” Tricia said. “Our national tournament was only two months

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away, 362 teams had already paid their money. And we usually get about 16,000 visitors coming into town just for the games. The influx of money and prestige for the city is invaluable to us. “

Discovering the right answer

With time growing short, Tom started calling city parks around the country to see if they had any suggestions.

“So I’m on the phone with a colleague who works for the City of San Diego, and he starts telling me about HomePlate Solar,” Tom said. “And how their standalone solar powered LED ballpark lights had kept their fields lit all year long.”

“So you know my next call was to HomePlate Solar!”

The solution

Tom quickly learned that HomePlate Solar’s unique solution combined patented LED floodlights, with high performance solar panels, compact, large-capacity rechargeable batteries and an advanced Power Distribution System.

Which results in superior and dependable lighting performance, all year round.

And each light system could be mounted on HomePlate Solar’s own concrete and steel pools, or retrofitted onto existing poles.

Another plus was that HomePlate Solar’s LED light systems had built-in pulse induction lightning protection that would keep the sensitive electronics safe during Sunrise’s summer electrical storms.

The results

It didn’t take much time for Tom to run the numbers and convince the City Council that installing HomePlate Solar Ball Field Lights might cost more in the beginning, but would save money in the long run.

And there wouldn’t be any more copper wiring for thieves to steal.

Once HomePlate Solar got the go-ahead, it only took two days for them to retrofit their LED solar light modules onto Duncan Park’s existing 75-foot poles.

“I was amazed at how fast things happened once HomePlate Solar got the green light,” Tom emphasized. “It was really just plug and play. Within a few days our fields were ready for night games again.”

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Now, both kids and adults are playing ball all year round, with no decrease in light levels. Even during the winter months.

Extra innings

In fact, in the last year, Sunrise has retrofitted four other ball fields with HomePlate Solar's Standalone LED Solar Lights, with plans to do three more in the coming fiscal year.

"The City Council knew it would be cheaper to just start swapping out our conventional lights, before we were faced with \$200,000+ repair bills like other cities we know," Tricia said.

Tom stood in the middle of a ball field, surveying the new lights overhead. "HomePlate Solar really has a simple, elegant solution for ball field lighting," Tom said. "We couldn't be happier with how it all turned out."

"Although, I don't think the copper thieves would agree with me," said Tom, smiling.

For more information go to HomePlate Solar at
www.homeplatesolar.com

Or call 1-800-555-0199 to speak to a customer service representative.

Sample piece: HomePlate Solar is a fictitious company, but this illustrates the excellent results I can deliver for you.