

COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE
Inter-Office Communication

Date: April 21, 2023

To: Marcelia Nicholson, Chairwoman, Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors

From: Guy Smith, Executive Director, Milwaukee County Parks

Subject: From the Executive Director of Milwaukee County Parks, requesting authorization to grant a permanent easement to WE Energies to allow updated and new electrical service to the Urban Ecology Center building and service yard

File Type: Action Report

REQUEST

Authorization to grant a permanent easement to WE Energies to allow the Urban Ecology Center to separately meter and upgrade its utilities at the new building in Washington Park as well as provide new, separately metered service, to its service yard.

POLICY

§ 59.17(2)(b)3., Wis. Stats., states that the “county board may continue to exercise the authority under s. 59.52(6) with regard to land that is zoned as a park...”. In the law of property, authority over “land” includes authority over all rights appurtenant to the land.

Wisconsin State Statutes:	§ 59.17(2)(b)3.
Milwaukee County Code of General Ordinances:	
Specific Adopted Budget:	
Specific Adopted Budget Amendment:	
Specific Adopted Capital Project:	

BACKGROUND

Milwaukee County Parks (MCP) frequently coordinates with WE Energies for the purpose of utility services both to Parks facilities and across parkland. The service being requested is at the request of MCP to have Urban Ecology Center separate its utilities for its new building and service yard at Washington Park as follows:

- UEC Building: New electrical service is being provided for two reasons: 1) the existing service via the City/County distribution system is not large enough to serve the needs of the expanded facility and 2) the County requested the new service be supplied from the utility in lieu of the City/County system. The service will be metered independent of the

County's service in the park. WE Energies needs to route their supply lines to a new pad mounted transformer.

- UEC Service Yard: The service will power future UEC vehicle charging stations planned for the yard, along with power to serve a small storage building and the site lighting serving the UEC yard. No service exists currently to the area collaboratively identified for the UEC yard. The service will be metered independent of the County's service in the park. WE Energies needs to route their supply lines to a new pad mounted transformer.

New services are installed by WE Energies and their contractors, and permission for installation work is granted through the Parks Right-of-Entry permit process. Granting the permanent easement is necessary for the long-term operation of the utility on Park property and requires authorization from the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors and the County Executive.

No fees are charged as this is a mutually beneficial project for MCP and UEC.

Related File No's:	22-922 , 19-227 , 18-495
Associated File No's (Including Transfer Packets):	
Previous Action Date(s):	

ALIGNMENT TO STRATEGIC PLAN

3B: Enhance the County's fiscal health and sustainability

3C: Dismantle barriers to diverse and inclusive communities

County will not be responsible for any costs associated with UEC's electric service. Future issues of billing and payments are reduced by separation of utilities. UEC is an excellent partner providing access to the outdoors and environmental education for all communities.

FISCAL EFFECT

None

TERMS

- The easement is permanent.


VIRTUAL MEETING INVITES

Erica Goblet, Contracts Manager, Milwaukee County Parks

PREPARED BY:

Erica Goblet, Contracts Manager

APPROVED BY:

Guy Smith, Parks Executive Director 

ATTACHMENTS:

Resolution
Fiscal Note
Easement
Aerial Map

cc: David Crowley, County Executive
Mary Jo Meyers, Chief of Staff, County Executive's Office
Sheldon Wasserman, Supervisor District 3, PEEC Chair
Steven Shea, Supervisor District 8, PEEC Vice Chair
Felicia Martin, Supervisor District 7, PEEC Member
Juan Miguel Martinez, Supervisor District 12, PEEC Member
Steve Taylor, Supervisor District 17, PEEC Member
Kelly Bablitch, Chief of Staff, Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors
Janelle M. Jensen, Legislative Services Division Mgr, Office of the County Clerk
Aaron Hertzberg, Director, Department of Administrative Services
Joseph Lamers, Fiscal & Budget Director, DAS
Vince Masterson, Fiscal & Strategic Asset Coordinator, DAS
Pamela Bryant, Capital Finance Manager, Comptroller's Office
Justin Rodriguez, Capital Finance Analyst, Comptroller's Office
Kelsey Evans, Committee Coordinator, Office of the County Clerk
Ciara Miller, Research & Policy Analyst, Office of the Comptroller
Anthony Rux, Budget & Management Analyst, DAS-PSB