

**COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE
INTER-OFFICE COMMUNICATION**

Date: June 18, 2025

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

From: Guy Smith, Executive Director for Milwaukee County Parks

Subject: City of Milwaukee EV Charging Stations in Milwaukee County Parks

File Type: Informational Report

This informational report provides preliminary plans for a collaborative effort between the City of Milwaukee (City) and Milwaukee County to install six electric vehicle charging banks on County Property, both Parkland and Zoo.

POLICY

2023 Senate Bill 791 streamlines the construction of Electric Vehicle Supply Equipment infrastructure by allowing equipment providers to charge by the kilowatt hour of electricity (previously reserved only for registered public utilities). The bill also requires level 1 or 2 chargers owned, operated, leased, or managed by a local government to be publicly available with no admission fee to the site where the charging equipment is located.

File No. 21-389 commits Milwaukee County operations to become carbon neutral by 2050 and requests the Sustainability Director to develop and administer a strategic plan to achieve carbon neutrality in Milwaukee County facilities and operations by 2050.

File No. 24-652 requests that the Department of Administrative Services – Office of Sustainability and Office of Strategy, Budget and Performance – Project Management Office to collaborate with the City of Milwaukee and other applicable entities to apply for, and accept if awarded, grants to help effectuate climate action goals.

File No. 25-262 requests approval of the Climate Action 2050 Plan, a strategic plan to achieve carbon neutrality in Milwaukee County facilities and operations by 2050.

City of Milwaukee File No. 210486 includes an amendment to permit Electric Vehicle Supply Equipment in any legally established parking space.

BACKGROUND

The City of Milwaukee has received a grant from the Charging and Fueling Infrastructure (CFI) Discretionary Grant Program and is currently working on completing due diligence and site analysis for locations that are appropriate for Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging Station installations. As required by state law, these level 1 and level 2

chargers will be located in fee-free, publicly accessible locations. The City of Milwaukee's Preliminary EV Readiness Plan (Attachment 2) specifies 53 charging sites within the City limits. The City of Milwaukee and Milwaukee County Office of Sustainability have identified 6 priority sites at County Parks and Zoo locations within the City of Milwaukee. Milwaukee County's 2024 Vehicle Electrification Guidebook (Attachment 3) was used to inform site selection decisions.

OVERVIEW

As a part of this project, the following have been identified as Milwaukee County candidate sites. Attachment 1 (City of Milwaukee Conceptual Layouts for Charging Stations) provides visual renderings of the proposed locations at each candidate site.

- **Lincoln Park** – 51301 W Hampton Ave, Milwaukee, WI 53209
- **Mitchell Park Domes Horticulture Conservatory** – 524 S Layton Blvd. Milwaukee, WI 53215
- **Veterans Park** – 1010 N Lincoln Dr. Milwaukee, WI 53202
- **Wilson Park Recreation Center** – 4001 S. 20th St. Milwaukee, WI 53221
- **Washington Park** (near Urban Ecology Center) – 1859 N 40th St. Milwaukee, WI 53208
- **Zoofari Center** – 9715 W Bluemound Rd. Milwaukee, WI 53213

Installations will include conversion of 4 existing parking stalls into dedicated charging locations, including 2 charging banks each with 2 charge ports. Project implementation will also include necessary infrastructure and utility connection construction work. One of the four spaces at each of these sites will be Americans with Disabilities (ADA) compliant.

The City plans to carry out the project through a contract with a vendor that will be responsible for initial construction as well as five years of operation and related maintenance, paid for by grant funding. The City will issue a Request for Proposals (RFP) to select a private network provider to finance, install, and maintain the stations as a Public-Private Partnership (P3) for a structured five-year term.

For the duration of the five-year term, the P3 partner is required to meet all current federal CFI and National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (NEVI) EV charging standards, including quarterly reporting, monthly maintenance logs, and networked data reporting. At the end of five years, federal standards are no longer binding, unless stipulated by future federal or local guidelines. At that time, ongoing maintenance agreements will be renegotiated and mutually agreed upon. Agreements may be terminated for cause, including failure to meet performance metrics, non-compliance with federal reporting requirements, as well as maintenance failures.

This project is designed to minimize or eliminate fiscal obligations for the City of Milwaukee and Milwaukee County related directly to the EV chargers. The P3 partner will accept the financial risk on the project, provide 20% matching costs, and maintenance costs in exchange for user fees from EV owners paying to charge. Milwaukee County Parks and Zoo would be expected to keep EV parking spots clear of snow in winter months and maintain a point of contact if issues arrive for their respective

sites.

NEXT STEPS

As a part of the process of siting and installing the chargers, the City will identify a P3 third party service provider for the charging units. A designated Milwaukee County staff person will serve on the RFP selection committee, hosted by the City.

As planning for design and construction continues, applicable County staff will stay engaged with the City and their consultants to ensure project alignment. Once the equipment is installed and operational, the P3 provider will maintain and operate the chargers as well as hold responsibility for the electrical utility accounts for a period of five years as part of the contract. At the end of the five-year period, it will be the decision of Parks and Zoo leadership whether to continue operating electric vehicle chargers on their property and whether to renew/replace the chargers.

During the five-year term, P3 partners are expected to recoup all funds they invest into equipment procurement, infrastructure development and operations and maintenance. As part of the RFP, one criterion on which the selection committee will score proposers is revenue sharing with the site hosts, including Milwaukee County Parks. Proposers who provide the greatest share of revenue sharing will receive higher scores. Additional lease and revenue generation details will be developed in negotiations with the P3 Partner and will include County staff.

At this time it is not anticipated that easements will be required for these installations or related utilities.

Parks intends to return to the Board with a request for approval of a multi-year contract with the City and vendor for designated sites with final design plans. Such a contract will have defined terms and compensation expectations, if any.

ALIGNMENT TO STRATEGIC PLAN

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

2C: Apply a racial equity lens to all decisions.

3C: Dismantle barriers to diverse and inclusive communities.

Because this is a grant funded opportunity, the charging sites make Parks sites more attractive destinations for EV drivers, increasing the amount of time visitors using the EV charging sites spend at the location as they wait for their vehicle to charge. It also lowers the barrier of access to charging infrastructure for residents who may wish to consider purchasing an EV.

Broad access, visibility, and accessibility to these chargers has been a major consideration in selecting parks sites. The City seeks to ensure that EV chargers are installed in underserved areas of Milwaukee where private investment in electric vehicle supply equipment (EVSE) infrastructure is less likely to occur in the near-term. Sites on park land have been chosen for visibility to residents of diverse backgrounds, proximity to Parks amenities as well as private attractions, and requirements of the City's grant have included selecting some sites in Justice40

neighborhoods within the City. Selection efforts have also ensured the vehicle charging sites do not occupy prime parking spaces at these locations, reducing the likelihood that the spaces will be used by non-EVs or cause other parking problems for Parks visitors.

In addition to the county's strategic plan, this initiative provides momentum supporting the County's Climate Action 2050 plan. It is also a direct action the Parks department can take as part of its emissions reduction implementation strategy. The presence of EVSE in fee-free areas encourages visitors to drive to Parks locations using zero emissions vehicles.

FISCAL EFFECT

None

VIRTUAL MEETING INVITES

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PREPARED BY:

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APPROVED BY:



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ATTACHMENTS:

1. City of Milwaukee Conceptual Layouts for Charging Stations
2. MKE Preliminary EV Readiness Plan
3. Milwaukee County Vehicle Electrification Guidebook

CC: David Crowley, County Executive
Mary Jo Meyers, Chief of Staff, County Executive's Office
Sheldon Wasserman, Committee on Parks & Culture Chairperson
Steve Taylor, Committee on Parks & Culture Vice Chairperson
Priscilla Coggs-Jones, Committee on Parks & Culture Member
Jack Eckblad, Committee on Parks & Culture Member
Felesia Martin, Committee on Parks & Culture Member
Juan Miguel Martinez, Committee on Parks & Culture Member
Anne O'Connor, Committee on Parks & Culture Member
Kelly Bablitch, Chief of Staff, Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors
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