

COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE
Inter-Office Communication

Date: August 15, 2025

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

From: Guy Smith, Executive Director for Milwaukee County Parks

Subject: Authorization to enter into an Easement with ATC at Jackson Park

File Type: Action Report

REQUEST

From the Executive Director of Milwaukee County Parks, requesting authorization to grant an easement to American Transmission Company (ATC) at Jackson Park to provide electric service relocation.

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” include authority over all rights appurtenant to the land.

Wisconsin State Statutes:	
Milwaukee County Code of General Ordinances:	
Specific Adopted Budget:	
Specific Adopted Budget Amendment:	
Specific Adopted Capital Project:	

BACKGROUND

ATC currently operates high-voltage powerlines running from a substation on Lincoln Ave to South 43rd Street. These existing underground electrical cables, originally installed in 1955, are the oldest within ATC’s service area and have reached the end of their operational life. Replacement of this infrastructure is critical to maintaining electrical reliability across the Milwaukee metropolitan area.

To ensure continued service and avoid disruption during the replacement process, ATC proposes installing new powerlines on Milwaukee County parkland within Jackson Park. This approach will allow the current lines to remain active during the construction period.

ATC evaluated alternative routes for the project. However, due to the presence of other utilities in the Right of Way and insufficient space to stage construction materials, no other viable alternatives were identified.

The installation of the new underground electrical circuits and associated vaults is scheduled to be completed before the initiation of planned improvements by the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District (MMSD) within Jackson Park.

This permanent easement is approximately 41,102 square feet or .94 acres. The fee associated with this permanent easement is \$1.60 per square foot, bringing the total fee to \$65,763.20.

The Parks Director recommends that Milwaukee County Parks, in coordination with the Department of Administrative Services, Corporation Counsel, Risk Management, County Clerk, Register of Deeds, and the County Executive, be granted the authority to prepare, review, approve, execute, and record all necessary documents to formalize the attached electric easement agreement with ATC.

Related File No's:	
Associated File No's (Including Transfer Packets):	
Previous Action Date(s):	

ALIGNMENT TO STRATEGIC PLAN

Describe how the item aligns to the objectives in the [strategic plan](#):

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

FISCAL EFFECT

The easement will increase revenue in the Parks Operating Budget. The easement will not increase expenditures, require contingency funds, use grant funding, or funding allocated for a different year. Staff time will be required for review of Right of Entry application, but this review time will be compensated by the application fee.

Easement Fee will be \$65,763.20 (41,102 SF x \$1.60)

TERMS

- The Easement is permanent.
- Easement fee is \$1.60 per square foot
- The Easement size is 41,102 ft²

VIRTUAL MEETING INVITES

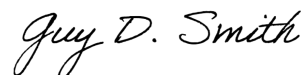
Kevin Lynch, American Transmission Company klynch@atcllc.com

PREPARED BY:

Robert Senglaub, Contracts Manager, Milwaukee County Parks

APPROVED BY:

Guy Smith, Executive Director Milwaukee County Parks



ATTACHMENTS:

Resolution
Fiscal Note
Draft Easement
Aerial Map
Legal Description
PowerPoint

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
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
Allyson R. Smith, Committee Coordinator, Office of the County Clerk
Anthony Rux, Budget & Management Analyst, DAS-PSB
Sandy Saltzstein, Research and Policy Analyst