



DATE: August 25, 2025

MEMO TO: Sara Knizhnik, Chair
Operations Committee

FROM: John E. Nelson
Chief Operations Officer

REQUEST: Provide policy direction regarding public electric vehicle (EV) charging stations at District preserves.

STRATEGIC DIRECTION SUPPORTED: Public Access and Connections

FINANCIAL DATA: There is no financial impact at this time. If the District were to provide public EV charging stations, the Board would need to:

- a) identify a capital funding source to install the charging stations, and
- b) determine what level of fee subsidy and cost recovery to apply to fund the charging stations as an on-going service in accordance with the Fee Guidelines and as summarized in the attached Fee Matrix.

BACKGROUND: At the March 31, 2025 Operations Committee meeting, a commissioner requested during Miscellaneous Business that staff investigate providing EV Charging Stations for public usage at District preserves. The Committee discussed the issue briefly and the Committee Chair and District President directed staff to bring the topic to the Operations Committee for policy direction.

With over 60 preserves around the county and over 90 parking lots available at preserves, there is potential for the District to provide EV charging stations for the public.

Some potential benefits of providing public EV charging stations are:

- Encouragement of adoption of EVs by the public
- Increased visitation and visitor loyalty from EV owners

Some potential challenges to providing public EV charging stations are:

- Availability and capacity of electricity supply at preserve locations
- Cost of EV charger installation and maintenance
- Fee collection and/or monitoring of charger utilization
- Limited parking availability

Some considerations in evaluating the suitability of sites for public EV charging stations are:

- Hours of access to the charging stations (most preserves open 6:30am – Sunset)
- Frequency and duration of preserve use (how many visitors to a site, how long do they visit)
- Public visitor demand for EV charging stations

REVIEW BY OTHERS: Executive Director, Director of Finance, Director of Facilities, Director of Planning, Manager of Board Operations and Corporate Counsel.

Lake County Forest Preserves - Fee Guidelines Subsidy and Cost Recovery Summary

Core Programs/Facilities						Added Amenities/Services
LEVEL 1	LEVEL 2	LEVEL 3	LEVEL 4	LEVEL 5	LEVEL 6	
Provide general benefits to all Lake County residents through stewardship of healthy landscapes and quality of life. Encourage general use of District lands.	Provide benefits to Lake County residents, and direct benefits to limited groups of users by strengthening connections.	Provide benefits to Lake County residents. Provide services to partner organizations and underserved groups, by strengthening connections Advance public image and exhibit organizational excellence through events and outreach.	Provide benefits to Lake County residents, and substantial direct benefits to limited groups of users. Provides unique services to Resident interest groups. Advance public image and exhibit organizational excellence through events and outreach.	Provide benefits to Lake County residents, and direct benefits to private individuals or limited groups of users. Provides unique opportunities to Non-Residents as well at a fee. Full cost recovery will contribute to financial stability.	Provide benefits to District residents as well as Non-Residents, and direct benefits to private individuals or limited groups of users. Unique services provide opportunities for revenue generation and contributions to financial sustainability.	
100% Tax Subsidy	75% Tax Subsidy	50% Tax Subsidy	25% Tax Subsidy	0% Tax Subsidy	Net Revenue	
0% Cost Recovery	25% Cost Recovery	50% Cost Recovery	75% Cost Recovery	100% Cost Recovery	More than 100% Cost Recovery	
Examples: <u>Education and Information:</u> - Outdoor Exhibits (Information and Education) - Community Speakers Bureau (General District promotion and Priority Topics) - Drop-in or Roving Education and Interpretation at District Sites - News Media Photography, Film or Video Coverage - Websites and Other Electronic Communication Media - Public Reception (Walk-in and Telephone) - Museum Archives and Collections Management Services - Publications (Horizons and Other) - Museum Archives Library and Ryerson Woods Library Access (walk-in use during regular hours)	Examples: <u>Education and Information:</u> - Educational Field Trips to District Sites (Lake County schools) - Educational Programs in Schools (Lake County schools) - Teacher Training - District Special Events (Cultural or Educational Theme) - Museum General Exhibits Access	Examples: <u>Education and Information:</u> - Education Programs (Published Schedule) - Education Programs (Natural and cultural history-related programs available to youth, families and adults) - Museum Archive Services (Lake County residents, non-commercial) - Summer Day Camps (children's educational programs)	Examples: <u>Education and Information:</u> - Education Programs (Custom Request, Residents, District & Other In-county Sites)	Examples: <u>Education and Information:</u> - Education Programs (custom request, Non-Residents) - Educational Field Trips to District Sites (Non-Lake County schools) - District Special Events (Entertainment Theme: e.g., Independence Grove Concerts) - Native Plant Sale - Museum Archive Services (non residents, commercial) - Guided Walks & Programs (Commercial Tour Operators at District Sites, e.g., Stevenson)	Examples:	
<u>Permitting/General Access:</u> - Picnic Shelter (Under 25 people, non-reserved) - Open Play Fields (non-reserved) - Picnic Tables (Non-Reserved) - Trails (Hiking, Jogging, Walking, Biking and Cross-country Skiing) - Children's Play Equipment - Parking (Lake County Resident General Visitation) - Toilets - Drinking Water - Fishing Lakes - Wildlife Observation Areas - Winter Sports (Sledding, Ice Skating, Ice Fishing, Cross-country Skiing) - Canoe Launches (DPR) and Cartop Boat Launches (Long Lake, Sterling Lake) - Maintenance and Law Enforcement (General Visitation) - Ecological Services (Flood Control, Water Quality, Air Quality, Property Values, Tourism, Natural Resource, Wildlife Management)	<u>Business Development:</u> - Open Area Permits (Reserved) <u>Permitting/General Access:</u> - Picnic Shelter Permits (Reserved) - Horse Trail Use Permit (livery) - Horse Trail Use (Daily) - Horse Trail Use (Annual)	<u>Business Development:</u> <u>Permitting/General Access:</u> - Scout/Organized Youth Group Campground Permit	<u>Business Development:</u> <u>Permitting/General Access:</u> - Dog Exercise Area Permit	<u>Business Development:</u> - Vendor permitting - Indoor Facility Rental for Greenbelt Cultural Center, Dunn Museum, Ryerson Woods, Stevenson House (Non-profit or Government) - Indoor Facility Rental for Operations & Public Safety, General Offices (Government) - Non-profit Building Use Long-Term License - Bike Rental <u>Permitting/General Access:</u> - Cross-Country Meet Permits - Administrative Services (bid packages, photocopies, police reports, etc.) - Model Airplane Flying Field Permit	<u>Business Development/Golf:</u> - Boat and Trailer Storage - Boat Slip Rental - Golf Courses and Driving Ranges - Ryerson Woods, Stevenson House (Social or Corporate) - Indoor Facility Use Permit for Greenbelt Cultural Center, Dunn Museum, Ryerson Woods, Stevenson House (Social or Corporate) - Foodservice and Beverage Sales - Food, Beverage and Banquet Concessionaire - Gift Shop or Other Retail Sales - Boat Rental - Boat Launch Use (Fox River) - Equestrian Boarding Stable Concessionaire <u>Permitting/General Access:</u> - Special Use Permits - Commercial Photography, Film or Video Permit (Medium or Large Production) (Small Production) - Food Truck Annual Permit - Artwork Sales Commission	

*Fee Matrix Policy Direction approved by consensus of Operations Committee 4/5/2021; Finance Committee on 4/8/2021
Amended and formally approved by Finance Committee on 8/31/2023*