

MEMORANDUM

Date: Feb. 21, 2019

To: Board of Park Commissioners

From: Joelle Hammerstad, Sustainable Operations Manager
Jacob Orenberg, Capital Projects Coordinator, Seattle City Light

Subject: Public Electric Vehicle Fast Charging Stations in Seattle Parks

Requested Board Action

Seattle Parks and Recreation (SPR) and Seattle City Light (SCL) seek a recommendation from the Board of Park Commissioners to proceed with a project to install public electric vehicle (EV) charging stations at Gas Works Park and Magnuson Park. These charging stations will help support the Drive Clean Seattle mayoral initiative to install 20 publicly accessible EV fast chargers throughout Seattle. The charging stations will support SPR's Healthy Environment Action Agenda, including reducing the impact of climate change.

Project or Policy Description and Background

City Light proposes to install, own, maintain, and operate EV fast chargers at Gas Works Park and Magnuson Park. This will include two 50 kW direct-current fast chargers in an existing parking area at each park. SCL and SPR staff have worked together to select these two sites as the best SPR locations to host an EV fast charging station. This project will require the approval of the Superintendent of Parks and Recreation.

Magnuson Park – Current Condition



Gas Works Park – Current Condition



Public Involvement Process

- Magnuson Park
 - Project representatives from SCL and SPR attended standing meetings of the **Magnuson Park Advisory Committee** on Sept. 12, 2018 and on Jan. 9, 2019.
 - In cooperation with SPR, SCL hosted a **public open house** at The Brig at Magnuson Park on Jan. 9, 2019. The open house was lightly attended, but feedback was universally supportive.
 - SCL engaged the **Solid Ground** nonprofit organization, which operates transitional and affordable permanent housing at Sand Point in Magnuson Park. SCL and Solid Ground staff discussed possible locations in Magnuson Park and the impacts and opportunities for residents. Solid Ground staff are supportive of the charging station project.
- Gas Works Park
 - Project representatives attended a standing meeting of the **Wallingford Community Council** on Nov. 7, 2018 to inform attendees of the proposed project and solicit input.
 - Project representatives attended a standing meeting of the **Fremont Community Council** on Nov. 26, 2018 to inform attendees of the proposed project and solicit input.
 - In cooperation with SPR, SCL hosted a **public open house** at the John Stanford International School Jan. 17, 2019. The open house was lightly attended, but feedback was universally supportive.

The community groups listed above were identified as the most active and pertinent stakeholder groups for each of the parks. The stakeholder group meetings were well attended, with dozens of attendees at each of the community council meetings. The overall response to the projects at these meetings was positive, with most attendees expressing support.

The outreach process for the public open houses followed the SPR Public Involvement Plan, including materials being sent to homes within .25 mile of each park two weeks prior to the

event, a news release, notices posted on the nextdoor.com website, neighborhood blogs, and SPR and SCL's Twitter and Facebook accounts. Project signs were also posted at both locations.

Issues for Discussion

Citizen Concern/Opposition

In general, community support has been positive and supportive. Within that support, some questions have surfaced.

Question	Response
Is there adequate lighting to deter car prowling or break-ins?	City Light proposes to install additional lighting at the charging stations to address safety concerns.
How will non-EVs be kept from parking at the charging stations?	Parking infractions at EV chargers are covered by state law under RCW 46.08.185, which states that any vehicle parked at an electric vehicle charging station that is not connected to the charger is subject to a \$124 fine. Each charging station will have signage to inform drivers of time and use restrictions.
Won't this amenity take away from spaces in lots that are already in high demand?	The impact of these charging stations will be minimal. To install two charging stations will require converting three parking stalls. At Gas Works Park, which has more than 100 parking spaces, the public EV chargers will reduce parking for carbon-fuel powered vehicles by 3%. At Magnuson Park's W6 lot, there are more than 250 spaces, which will reduce the availability of parking spots for carbon-fuel powered vehicles by about 1%.
Should we put more charging stations elsewhere in the community?	SCL has conducted extensive research and feasibility analyses at more than 110 locations throughout the utility service area. They have determined that these proposed sites are very good locations for charging stations. Siting criteria include visibility and the availability of nearby electrical infrastructure. Chargers will be installed at many other locations throughout the city to meet the 20-charger goal.
Shouldn't the City be more focused on non-automobile projects, like more bike and bus routes?	Two-thirds of emissions within the City limits come from transportation. Washington State ranks third in the nation in terms of market share of electric vehicles. The majority of households in Seattle own at least one car; many own two. The United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change warned in October 2018 that humans have about 12 years to significantly reduce carbon use to avoid major disruptions caused by climate change. EV charging provides a clean energy alternative for those who prefer the convenience and ease of traveling in cars, creating a bridge between traditional transportation (individually owned carbon-fueled cars and trucks) and a sustainable future.

Support

Many members of the public who participated in these stakeholder and community outreach meetings were supportive of this project. Participants saw these projects as a positive step toward achieving environmental and climate change goals. EV owners and those interested in purchasing an EV in the future also viewed these chargers as a valuable amenity to have at the parks.

Staff recommend proceeding with this project.

Environmental Sustainability

This project will have a positive environmental impact by encouraging the adoption and use of electric vehicles, reducing the region's reliance on fossil fuel for transportation. This will reduce air pollution and greenhouse gas emission in the greater Seattle area.

Budget

There is no cost to SPR for this project beyond the existing staff time used to prepare for and coordinate this project. Ongoing SPR maintenance responsibilities for the site are not expected to differ from existing maintenance needs and costs. SCL will pay for the purchase, construction, installation, operations, and maintenance of the EV chargers, including electricity used. The total project is expected to cost roughly \$350,000, which will be paid for by City Light. The revenue collected by City Light from the use of the charging stations is expected to pay for the electricity, maintenance, and capital costs over the life of the equipment (10 years).

Schedule

Community outreach for the project has been completed. Project planning and design work is roughly 75% complete. Staff have briefed the ProView team twice and will brief the ProView Tech team when 90% design drawings are completed. If approved by the Park Superintendent, City Light is ready to place orders for equipment, secure a contractor, and obtain necessary permits.

Construction may proceed as soon as April 1, 2019, depending on the ability to secure permits and a contractor in a timely manner. The charging station will likely be operational 4 – 8 weeks later.

Additional Information

Jacob Orenberg
Capital Projects Coordinator, Sr.
Seattle City Light
Jacob.orenberg@seattle.gov
(206) 233-5164

Joelle Hammerstad
Sustainable Operations Manager
Seattle Parks and Recreation
Joelle.Hammerstad@seattle.gov
(206) 733-9704

<http://www.seattle.gov/light/electric-Vehicles/>

<https://twitter.com/SEACityLight/status/1085929983514685440>

<https://twitter.com/SEACityLight/status/1085340903680737280>

<http://fremontneighborhoodcouncil.org/fnc-will-discuss-electric-vehicle-charging-homelessness-mha-appeal-monday-night/>

<https://www.wallingfordcc.org/2018/11/03/monthly-meeting-wednesday-november-7/>

https://www.seattle.gov/Documents/Departments/ParksAndRecreation/Parks/Magnuson/MPAC/MPAC_minutes_9-12-18.pdf

Attachments

- ✓ Project timeline.

Public Electric Vehicle Charging Stations

Project Timeline

March 2016	●	Mayor Ed Murray announces Drive Clean Seattle Initiative at Climate Leadership Conference in Seattle.
August 2016	●	SCL approaches SPR with a proposal to partner in finding locations for public EV charging stations.
May 2017	●	SPR staff bring proposal to partner with SCL in supporting EV charging stations to Park Board. Board asks for more information.
August 2017	●	SPR staff bring updated proposal with more specific locations to Park Board.
Sept. 2017	●	Then Superintendent Jesus Aguirre directs SPR staff to work internally to determine sites.
August 2018	●	SPR and SCL agree on siting criteria, come up with new list of sites.
Sept./Oct. 2018	●	Schematic design work for charging site infrastructure.
November 2018	●	SPR ProView reviews initial design of charging locations.
November 2018 to January 2019	●	Public involvement and community outreach.
February 2019	●	SPR staff present locations, designs and public outreach results to Board of Park Commissioners.