

TOWNSHIP OF SCOTCH PLAINS

ORDINANCE NO. 2023-4

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF SCOTCH PLAINS AMENDING CHAPTER 23 ENTITLED “ZONING” AND ESTABLISHING A NEW ZONING SECTION FOR THE REGULATION OF THE INSTALLATION OF ELECTRIC VEHICLE SUPPLY/SERVICE EQUIPMENT (EVSE) AND MAKE READY PARKING SPACES

WHEREAS, on July 9, 2021 Governor Murphy signed into law P.L. 2021, c.171 (N.J.S.A. 40:55D-66.18 et seq.), which requires that Electric Vehicle Supply/Service Equipment (EVSE) and Make-Ready parking spaces be designated as a permitted accessory use in all zoning or use districts and establishes associated installation and parking requirements related to EVSE in municipalities; and

WHEREAS, the law and adoption of this ordinance supports the State of New Jersey’s and Scotch Plains’ goals to reduce air pollutants and greenhouse gas emissions from the transportation sector as outlined and supported by various programs related to NJ’s 2019 Energy Master Plan, Global Warming Response Act (P.L.2007, c.112 (C.26:2C-37 et al.)), and EV Law (P.L. 2019, c. 362); and

WHEREAS, supporting the transition to electric vehicles contributes to the Township of Scotch Plains’ commitment to sustainability and is in the best interest of public welfare; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to P.L. 2021, c.171, the Model Statewide Municipal Electric Vehicle (EV) Ordinance published by the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs (DCA) on September 1, 2021 automatically supersedes all previously existing municipal EV ordinances; and

WHEREAS, the Township of Scotch Plains is therefore amending its zoning and land use ordinances to comply with P.L. 2021, c.171 and to establish standards and regulations for the safe and efficient installation of EVSE and Make-Ready parking spaces at appropriate locations; and

WHEREAS, adoption of this ordinance will support the Township’s Master Plan adopted in concurrence with P.L. 1975 c. 291, s. 1 eff. Aug. 1, 1976, and is consistent with the Master Plan’s goals.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED, by the Township Council of the Township of Scotch Plains, County of Union, State of New Jersey as follows:

SECTION 1. Chapter 23, Zoning, of the Township Code is hereby amended to establish new section “Electric Vehicle Supply/Service Equipment”, to read as follows:

Section 1.A. Purpose

Purpose

A. The purpose of this ordinance is to promote and encourage the use of electric vehicles by requiring the safe and efficient installation of EVSE and Make-Ready parking spaces through municipal parking regulations and other standards. EVSE and Make-Ready parking spaces will support the State's transition to an electric transportation sector, reducing automobile air pollution, greenhouse gas emissions, and stormwater runoff contaminants. The goals are to:

1. Provide adequate and convenient EVSE and Make-Ready parking spaces to serve the needs of the traveling public.
2. Provide opportunities for residents to have safe and efficient personal EVSE located at or near their place of residence.
3. Provide the opportunity for non-residential uses to supply EVSE to their customers and employees.
4. Create standard criteria to encourage and promote safe, efficient, and cost-effective electric vehicle charging opportunities in all zones and settings for convenience of service to those that use electric vehicles.

Section 1.B. Definitions

CERTIFICATE OF OCCUPANCY: A certificate issued by the Zoning Officer or the construction official upon completion of construction, alterations, or change in use of a building. The certificate shall acknowledge compliance with all requirements of this chapter or such adjustments thereto granted by the approving authority and that the building was constructed in accordance with the plans and specifications filed with the construction official and meets all other applicable Township regulations.

CHARGING LEVEL: The amount of voltage provided to charge an electric vehicle varies depending on the type of EVSE as follows:

1. Level 1 operates on a fifteen (15) to twenty (20) amp breaker on a one hundred twenty (120) volt AC circuit.
2. Level 2 operates on a forty (40) to one hundred (100) amp breaker on a two hundred eight (208) or two hundred forty (240) volt AC circuit.
3. Direct-current fast charger (DCFC) operates on a sixty (60) amp or higher breaker on a four hundred eighty (480) volt or higher three phase circuit with special grounding equipment. DCFC stations can also be referred to as rapid charging stations that are typically characterized by industrial grade electrical outlets that allow for faster recharging of electric vehicles.

ELECTRIC VEHICLE: Any vehicle that is licensed and registered for operation on public and private highways, roads, and streets; and operates either partially or exclusively using an electric motor powered by an externally charged on-board battery.

ELECTRIC VEHICLE SUPPLY/SERVICE EQUIPMENT OR (EVSE): The equipment, including the cables, cords, conductors, connectors, couplers, enclosures, attachment plugs, power outlets, power electronics, transformer, switchgear, switches and controls, network interfaces, point of sale equipment, and associated apparatus designed and used for the purpose of transferring energy from the electric supply system to a plug-in electric vehicle. "EVSE" may deliver either alternating current or, consistent with fast charging equipment standards, direct current electricity. "EVSE" is synonymous with "electric vehicle charging station."

MAKE-READY PARKING SPACE: means the pre-wiring of electrical infrastructure at a parking space, or set of parking spaces, to facilitate easy and cost-efficient future installation of Electric Vehicle Supply Equipment or Electric Vehicle Service Equipment, including, but not limited to, Level Two EVSE and direct current fast chargers. Make Ready includes expenses related to service panels, junction boxes, conduit, wiring, and other components necessary to make a particular location able to accommodate Electric Vehicle Supply Equipment or Electric Vehicle Service Equipment on a "plug and play" basis. "Make-Ready" is synonymous with the term "charger ready," as used in P.L.2019, c.362 (C.48:25-1 et al.).

PRIVATE EVSE: EVSE that has restricted access to specific users (e.g., single and two-family homes, executive parking fleet parking with no access to the general public).

PUBLICLY-ACCESSIBLE EVSE: EVSE that is publicly available (e.g., park & ride, public parking lots and garages, on-street parking, shopping center parking, office parking lots, non-reserved parking in multi-family parking lots, etc.). Certain publicly-accessible EVSE are subject to municipal Title 39 enforcement, while other publicly-accessible EVSE are subject to discretionary enforcement by the owner or designee.

Section 1.C. Approvals and Permits

1. An application for development submitted solely for the installation of EVSE or Make-Ready parking spaces shall be considered a permitted accessory use and permitted accessory structure in all zoning or use districts and shall not require a variance pursuant to C.40:55D-70.
2. All EVSE and Make-Ready Parking Spaces installed pursuant to Section 1.D. below in development applications that are subject to site plan approval are considered a permitted accessory use as described in 1. above.
3. All EVSE and Make-Ready parking spaces shall be subject to applicable local and/or Department of Community Affairs permit and inspection requirements.

4. The Zoning Officer shall enforce all signage and installation requirements described in this ordinance. Failure to meet the requirements in this ordinance shall be subject to the same enforcement and penalty provisions as other violations of the Township of Scotch Plains' land use regulations.
5. An application for development for the installation of EVSE or Make-Ready spaces at an existing gasoline service station, an existing retail establishment, or any other existing building shall not be subject to site plan or other land use board review, shall not require variance relief pursuant to C.40:55D-1 et seq. or any other law, rule, or regulation, and shall be approved through the issuance of a zoning permit by the administrative officer, provided the application meets the following requirements:
 - a) The proposed installation does not violate bulk requirements applicable to the property or the conditions of the original final approval of the site plan or subsequent approvals for the existing gasoline service station, retail establishment, or other existing building;
 - b) All other conditions of prior approvals for the gasoline service station, the existing retail establishment, or any other existing building continue to be met; and
 - c) The proposed installation complies with the construction codes adopted in or promulgated pursuant to the "State Uniform Construction Code Act," P.L.1975, c.217 (C.52:27D-119 et seq.), any safety standards concerning the installation, and any State rule or regulation concerning electric vehicle charging stations.
6. An application pursuant to Section 5. above shall be deemed complete if:
 - a) The application, including the permit fee and all necessary documentation, is determined to be complete,
 - b) A notice of incompleteness is not provided within 20 days after the filing of the application, or
 - c) A one-time written correction notice is not issued by the Zoning Officer within 20 days after filing of the application detailing all deficiencies in the application and identifying any additional information explicitly necessary to complete a review of the permit application.
7. EVSE and Make-Ready parking spaces installed at a gasoline service station, an existing retail establishment, or any other existing building shall be subject to applicable local and/or Department of Community Affairs inspection requirements.
8. A permitting application solely for the installation of electric vehicle supply equipment permitted as an accessory use shall not be subject to review based on parking requirements.

1.D. Requirements for New Installation of EVSE and Make-Ready Parking Spaces

1. As a condition of preliminary site plan approval, for each application involving a multiple dwelling with five or more units of dwelling space, which shall include a multiple dwelling that is held under a condominium or cooperative form of ownership, a mutual housing corporation, or a mixed-use development, the developer or owner, as applicable, shall:
 - a) Prepare as Make-Ready parking spaces at least 15 percent of the required off-street parking spaces, and install EVSE in at least one-third of the 15 percent of Make-Ready parking spaces;
 - b) Within three years following the date of the issuance of the certificate of occupancy, install EVSE in an additional one-third of the original 15 percent of Make-Ready parking spaces; and
 - c) Within six years following the date of the issuance of the certificate of occupancy, install EVSE in the final one-third of the original 15 percent of Make-Ready parking spaces.
 - d) Throughout the installation of EVSE in the Make-Ready parking spaces, at least five percent of the electric vehicle supply equipment shall be accessible for people with disabilities.
 - e) Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to restrict the ability to install electric vehicle supply equipment or Make-Ready parking spaces at a faster or more expansive rate than as required above.

2. As a condition of preliminary site plan approval, each application involving a parking lot or garage not covered in 1. above shall:
 - a) Install at least one Make-Ready parking space if there will be 50 or fewer off-street parking spaces.
 - b) Install at least two Make-Ready parking spaces if there will be 51 to 75 off-street parking spaces.
 - c) Install at least three Make-Ready parking spaces if there will be 76 to 100 off-street parking spaces.
 - d) Install at least four Make-Ready parking spaces, at least one of which shall be accessible for people with disabilities, if there will be 101 to 150 off-street parking spaces.
 - e) Install at least four percent of the total parking spaces as Make-Ready parking spaces, at least five percent of which shall be accessible for people with disabilities, if there will be more than 150 off-street parking spaces.
 - f) In lieu of installing Make-Ready parking spaces, a parking lot or garage may install EVSE to satisfy the requirements of this subsection.
 - g) Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to restrict the ability to install electric vehicle supply equipment or Make-Ready parking spaces at a faster or more expansive rate than as required above.

- h) Notwithstanding the provisions of this Section, a retailer that provides 25 or fewer off-street parking spaces or the developer or owner of a single-family home shall not be required to provide or install any electric vehicle supply equipment or Make-Ready parking spaces.

Section 1.E. Minimum Parking Requirements

1. All parking spaces with EVSE and Make-Ready equipment shall be included in the calculation of minimum required parking spaces, pursuant to all zoning districts.
2. A parking space prepared with EVSE or Make-Ready equipment shall count as at least two parking spaces for the purpose of complying with a minimum parking space requirement. This shall result in a reduction of no more than 10 percent of the total required parking.
3. All parking space calculations for EVSE and Make-Ready equipment shall be rounded up to the next full parking space.
4. Additional installation of EVSE and Make-Ready parking spaces above what is required in Section 1.D. above may be encouraged, but shall not be required in development projects.

Section 1.F. Reasonable Standards for All New EVSE and Make-Ready Parking Spaces

- A. Location and layout of EVSE and Make-Ready parking spaces is expected to vary based on the design and use of the primary parking area. It is expected flexibility will be required to provide the most convenient and functional service to users. Standards and criteria should be considered guidelines and flexibility should be allowed when alternatives can better achieve objectives for provision of this service.
- B. Installation:
 1. Installation of EVSE and Make-Ready parking spaces shall meet the electrical subcode of the Uniform Construction Code, N.J.A.C. 5:23-3.16.
 2. Each EVSE or Make-Ready parking space that is not accessible for people with disabilities shall be not less than 9 feet wide or 18 feet in length. Exceptions may be made for existing parking spaces or parking spaces that were part of an application that received prior site plan approval.
 3. To the extent practical, the location of accessible parking spaces for people with disabilities with EVSE and Make Ready equipment shall comply with the general accessibility requirements of the Uniform Construction Code, N.J.A.C. 5:23, and other applicable accessibility standards.
 4. Each EVSE or Make-Ready parking space that is accessible for people with disabilities shall comply with the sizing of accessible parking space requirements in the Uniform Construction Code, N.J.A.C. 5:23, and other applicable accessibility standards.

C. EVSE Parking:

- a. Publicly-accessible EVSE shall be reserved for parking and charging electric vehicles only. Electric vehicles shall be connected to the EVSE. The use of time limits is optional and shall be determined by the owner of the EVSE and/or property the EVSE is located on.
- b. Electric vehicles may be parked in any parking space designated for parking, subject to the restrictions that would apply to any other vehicle that would park in that space.
- c. Public Parking. Pursuant to NJSA 40:48-2, publicly-accessible EVSE parking spaces shall be monitored by the Township's Police Department traffic enforcement and enforced in the same manner as any other parking. It shall be a violation of this Section to park a non-electric vehicle in such a space, or to park an electric vehicle in such a space when it is not connected to the EVSE. Any non-electric vehicle parked or standing in a EVSE parking space or any electric vehicle parked and not connected to the EVSE shall be subject to fine and/or impoundment of the offending vehicle as described in the general penalty provisions of Scotch Plains Township Code or Chapter 7 – subsection 7-3. Signage indicating the penalties for violations shall comply with Section 5. below. Any vehicle parked in such a space shall make the appropriate payment for the space and observe the time limit for the underlying parking area, if applicable.
- d. Private Parking. The use of EVSE shall be monitored by the property owner or designee.

D. Safety

1. Each publicly-accessible EVSE shall be located at a parking space that is designated for electric vehicles only and identified by green painted pavement and/or curb markings, a green painted charging pictograph symbol, and appropriate signage pursuant to Section E. below.
2. Where EVSE is installed, adequate site lighting and landscaping shall be provided in accordance with the Township of Scotch Plains' ordinances and regulations.
3. Publicly-accessible EVSEs shall be maintained in all respects, including the functioning of the equipment. A 24-hour on-call contact shall be provided on the equipment for reporting problems with the equipment or access to it. To allow for maintenance and notification, the Township of Scotch Plains shall require the owners/designee of publicly-accessible EVSE to provide information on the EVSE's geographic location, date of installation, equipment type and model, and owner contact information.
4. The following requirements are subject to Township construction permit approval:
 - a. Adequate EVSE protection such as concrete-filled steel bollards shall be used for publicly-accessible EVSE. Non-mountable curbing may be used in lieu of bollards if the EVSE is setback a minimum of 24 inches from the face of the curb. Any stand-alone EVSE bollards should be 4

feet high with concrete footings placed to protect the EVSE from accidental impact and to prevent damage from equipment used for snow removal.

- b. EVSE outlets and connector devices shall be no less than 36 inches and no higher than 48 inches from the ground or pavement surface where mounted, and shall contain a cord management system as described in e. below. Equipment mounted on pedestals, lighting posts, bollards, or other devices shall be designated and located as to not impede pedestrian travel, create trip hazards on sidewalks, or impede snow removal.
- c. Each EVSE shall incorporate a cord management system or method to minimize the potential for cable entanglement, user injury, or connector damage. Cords shall be retractable or have a place to hang the connector and cord a safe and sufficient distance above the ground or pavement surface. Any cords connecting the charger to a vehicle shall be configured so that they do not cross a driveway, sidewalk, or passenger unloading area.
- d. Where EVSE is provided within a pedestrian circulation area, such as a sidewalk or other accessible route to a building entrance, the EVSE shall be located so as not to interfere with accessibility requirements of the Uniform Construction Code, N.J.A.C. 5:23, and other applicable accessibility standards.

E. Signs

- 1. Publicly-accessible EVSE shall have posted regulatory signs, as identified in this section, allowing only charging electric vehicles to park in such spaces. For purposes of this section, "charging" means that an electric vehicle is parked at an EVSE and is connected to the EVSE. If time limits or vehicle removal provisions are to be enforced, regulatory signs including parking restrictions shall be installed immediately adjacent to, and visible from the EVSE. For private EVSE, installation of signs and sign text is at the discretion of the owner.
- 2. All regulatory signs shall comply with visibility, legibility, size, shape, color, and reflectivity requirements contained within the Federal Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices as published by the Federal Highway Administration.
- 3. Wayfinding or directional signs, if necessary, shall be permitted at appropriate decision points to effectively guide motorists to the EVSE parking space(s). Wayfinding or directional signage shall be placed in a manner that shall not interfere with any parking space, drive lane, or exit and shall comply with b. above.

4. In addition to the signage described above, the following information shall be available on the EVSE or posted at or adjacent to all publicly-accessible EVSE parking spaces:
 - a) Hour of operations and/or time limits if time limits or tow-away provisions are to be enforced by the municipality or owner/designee;
 - b) Usage fees and parking fees, if applicable; and
 - c) Contact information (telephone number) for reporting when the equipment is not operating or other problems.

F. Payment Per Deficient EVSE or Make Ready Space

1. To comply with the statewide Electric Vehicle Supply/Service Equipment (EVSE) and Make-Ready Parking Spaces law per P.L. 2021, c 171 and this ordinance, subject to the determination by the Township approving authority that there is sufficient available capacity by means of the ability of a parking space in an adjoining or other municipal parking lots, the Applicant if approved, shall be responsible to pay a onetime payment as determined by a cost estimate provided by the Township Engineer per deficient EVSE or Make-Ready Parking Spaces. The intent of this payment is to provide for EVSE and Make-Ready Parking Spaces to be supplied in any municipal parking lot only after it has been determined by the Township Council or Land Use Board, whichever may be applicable, that the Applicant has insufficient area to install the required number of EVSE or Make-Ready Parking Spaces on the subject property. If the applicant provides the required number of EVSE or Make-Ready parking spaces per state regulation on the subject property, then no payment is required under this section. This rate shall be calculated, and a separate bill shall be provided by the Tax Collector of the Township of Scotch Plains. This calculation and payment to the Township of Scotch Plains does not entitle the payee to reserved spaces in any municipal lot.

6. Usage Fees

- a. For publicly-accessible municipal EVSE: In addition to any parking fees, if applicable, the fee to use parking spaces within the municipality identified as public EVSE spaces shall be as follows for each hour that the electric vehicle is connected to the EVSE.

Time	Hourly Rate
1st Hour	\$3
2nd Hour	\$6
3rd Hour	\$9
4th Hour	\$12

- b. This fee may be amended by ordinance adopted by the governing body.
- c. Private EVSE: Nothing in this ordinance shall be deemed to preclude a private owner/designee of an EVSE from collecting a fee for the use of the EVSE, in accordance with applicable State and Federal regulations. Fees shall be available on the EVSE or posted at or adjacent to the EVSE parking space.

Section 2. If any section, paragraph, clause, or provision of this ordinance shall be adjudged invalid, such adjudication shall apply only to the section, paragraph, clause or provision so adjudged and the remainder of the ordinance shall be deemed valid and effective.

Section 3. All ordinances or parts of ordinances inconsistent with or in conflict with this ordinance are hereby repealed to the extent of such inconsistency.

Section 4. This ordinance shall take effect after final passage and publication as provided by law.

INTRODUCED the 7th day of March 2023.

ADOPTED the 21st day of March 2023.

FINAL PUBLICATION the 30th day of March 2023

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Certified copy of an ordinance adopted at a
regular meeting of the Township Council
of the Township of Scotch Plains, Union County,
New Jersey, on

21 MARCH 2023

Bozena Lacina

Bozena Lacina, RMC
Municipal Clerk

[SEAL]