

New Hillwood Amenity Announcement: Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging Stations

Updated: January 8, 2025

We are pleased to announce that the electric vehicle (EV) charging stations are now active and online! A single charging station with two chargers is now located in the first and second parking spaces of the visitor center parking deck, nearest to the greenhouse. To accommodate potential future demand, lines were buried to facilitate the installation of additional chargers, if needed. These chargers are Combined Charging System (CCS) chargers, which are compatible with a wide range of EVs globally, not just Tesla vehicles.

Charging Station Access, Speed and Cost:

- To use the charging station, users will need to download the ChargePoint app, available on [iOS](#) or [Android](#), if they do not already have it.
- On ChargePoint, users can select the station which will unlock the plug to use for their vehicle.
- These are Level 2 chargers, not the Level 3 DC Fast chargers. Our station charges at a rate of 6.6kw which will charge about 10% capacity on an average EV per hour.
- Charging will cost \$0.35 per KW, which typically comes to \$2.31 per hour. This price helps cover the energy rates that Hillwood pays Pepco as well as the platform fee.
- Volunteers and staff will receive a discounted rate for charging.

Visitor Usage and Availability:

- The stations are set to charge from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The stations will not appear as available outside of those hours for visitors.
- Visitors will get a notice when their vehicle is fully charged. Due to the charging station's speed, we will not implement additional costs for parking in the space without charging at this time.
- This amenity is designed primarily for visitors, so please adhere to the designated times for Hillwood personnel use detailed below.

Volunteer & Staff Usage and Availability:

- Staff and volunteers can use these chargers all day on Mondays and from Tuesday through Sunday until 9:50 a.m. and again at 5 p.m., unless there is an evening event.
- By 10 a.m., staff or volunteers will need to move their vehicles to their assigned parking spaces to ensure availability for visitors.
- Volunteers and staff will receive a special access code to use on the ChargePoint app to access the station after hours. This code will link an account to Hillwood and also enable usage at a discounted rate.
- We ask that staff and volunteers be considerate of other EV users and move their cars once they reach an 80% charge to ensure fair access for all.

Parking Management:

- We are not losing any parking spaces. These designated EV parking spaces will be available on a first-come, first-served basis. When not at capacity, other vehicles may park there.
- On particularly hot or cold days, our infrastructure will handle the additional load effectively, as the chargers were installed near the central plant with high amp capacity to ensure stable distribution.

Future Considerations:

- At this time, we do not plan to expand charging stations to the staff parking area due to the significant electrical infrastructure required. However, we are using this initial installation as a pilot to assess usage and will explore additional options based on demand.

Thank you for your cooperation and support as we introduce this new amenity. We are excited to see how it benefits our community and enhances the visitor experience.