
THE VILLAGE OF THORNTON
COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS

ORDINANCE
NUMBER 2026-011

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE VILLAGE OF THORNTON, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS,
AMENDING TITLE 11 OF THE THORNTON MUNICIPAL CODE TO ESTABLISH
CERTAIN ZONING REGULATIONS RELATED TO ELECTRIC VEHICLE
CHARGING STATIONS**

MAXINE REYNOLDS, Village President
NIKKI KITAKIS, Village Clerk

ROSEMARY CUNNINGHAM
GINA GLASER
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PHILLIP MIDDLEBROOKS
DEBRA PISARZEWSKI
MARTIN PRATSCHER
Trustees

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WHEREAS, the Village of Thornton, Cook County, Illinois (the “*Village*”) is a home rule municipality pursuant to Section 6(a), Article VII of the 1970 Constitution of the State of Illinois, and as such may exercise any power and perform any function pertaining to its government and affairs (the “*Home Rule Powers*”); and

WHEREAS, the Village President and the Board of Trustees of the Village of Thornton (the “*Corporate Authorities*”) have exercised the power conferred on them pursuant to the Village’s Home Rule Powers by adopting Chapter 11 of the Thornton Municipal Code, entitled the Thornton Zoning Ordinance (the “*Zoning Code*”); and

WHEREAS, Section 11-10-6 of the Thornton Municipal Code authorizes the Corporate Authorities, following review and recommendation by the Planning and Development Commission, to amend the Thornton Zoning Ordinance; and

WHEREAS, the Village of Thornton (the “*Petitioner*”) submitted a petition seeking approval of a text amendment to Title 11 of the Thornton Municipal Code to establish zoning regulations governing electric vehicle charging stations within the Village (the “*Proposed Text Amendment*”); and

WHEREAS, the Proposed Text Amendment establishes definitions for electric vehicles and electric vehicle charging stations, permits electric vehicle charging stations as accessory uses in parking lots and parking structures where the principal use is permitted, requires electric vehicle charging stations operating as a primary use to obtain Special Use approval pursuant to Chapter

11-9 of the Thornton Municipal Code, and establishes operational standards governing installation, circulation, signage, maintenance, accessibility, and compliance with applicable building, electrical, and safety codes; and

WHEREAS, the Planning and Development Commission of the Village of Thornton (the “*Plan Commission*”) conducted a duly noticed public hearing on March 11, 2026, at which time all interested persons were given an opportunity to be heard; and

WHEREAS, at the conclusion of the public hearing, the Plan Commission voted to recommend approval of the Proposed Text Amendment and forwarded its findings of fact and recommendation to the Corporate Authorities; and

WHEREAS, the Corporate Authorities have duly considered the Plan Commission’s recommendation and findings of fact along with the petition and all other relevant materials and have determined that the Proposed Text Amendment is consistent with the purposes of the Thornton Zoning Code; and

WHEREAS, the Corporate Authorities deem it advisable and in the best interest of the health, safety, and welfare of the residents of the Village to approve the Proposed Text Amendment.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Village President and Board of Trustees of the Village of Thornton, Cook County, Illinois, by and through its Home Rule Powers as follows:

Section 1. That the above recitals and legislative findings are found to be true and correct and are hereby incorporated herein and made a part hereof, as if fully set forth in their entirety.

Section 2. The Corporate Authorities hereby adopt the findings of fact of the Plan Commission dated March 11, 2026, as the findings of the Village President and Board of Trustees.

All documents, plans, and exhibits submitted as part of the public hearing record are incorporated herein by reference.

Section 3. In addition to the findings set forth in Section 2 above, the Corporate Authorities further find that the Proposed Text Amendment:

- A. Is consistent with the purposes and intent of the Thornton Zoning Code as set forth in Section 11-1-2;
- B. Promotes the public health, safety, morals, comfort, and general welfare of the residents of the Village;
- C. Protects the character and stability of neighborhoods and land uses within the Village;
- D. Provides clarity and consistency in the interpretation, administration, and enforcement of the Thornton Zoning Code; and
- E. Advances the orderly development and land use planning objectives of the Village.

Section 4. Section 11-1-3 (“*Definitions*”) of Chapter 11-1 (“*Title, Purpose and Definitions*”) of Title 11 (“*Zoning*”) of the Thornton Municipal Code is hereby amended by adding the following definitions in proper alphabetical order, to read as follows:

A. In the construction of this Title, the rules and definitions contained in this section shall be observed and applied, except when the context clearly indicates otherwise.

F. Defined Terms

ELECTRIC VEHICLE: A vehicle that operates, either partially or exclusively, on electrical energy from a charging station or other electrical energy source that is stored in the vehicle’s battery for propulsion purposes.

ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING STATION: Equipment designed and used for the transfer of electric energy by conductive or inductive means to a battery or other energy storage device located onboard an electric vehicle.

ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING STATION – ACCESSORY: An electric vehicle charging station located on the same lot as a permitted principal use and intended primarily to serve vehicles associated with the principal use of the property.

ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING STATION – PRIMARY: An electric vehicle charging station facility operated as the principal use of a property where the primary purpose of the site is the charging of electric vehicles.

Section 5. Section 11-9-2 (“*Permitted Special Uses*”) of Chapter 11-9 (“*Special Uses*”) of Title 11 (“*Zoning*”) of the Thornton Municipal Code is hereby amended by adding the underlined language to the table therein in proper alphabetical order, to read as follows:

Use	District Allowed In
Adult Use ***	I District
<u>Electric Vehicle Charging Station – Primary</u>	<u>Any I or B Districts</u>

Section 6. Chapter 11-2 (“*General Provisions*”) of Title 11 (“*Zoning*”) of the Thornton Municipal Code is hereby amended by adding new Section 11-2-11 (“*Electric Vehicle Charging Station Regulations*”), which shall read as follows:

§11-2-10 Day Care Regulations

- A. *Applicability.* The provisions of this section shall apply to all electric vehicle charging stations installed or operated within the Village.
- B. *Permits and Inspections.* Installation of electric vehicle charging stations shall be subject to applicable building and electrical permit and inspection requirements.
- C. *Accessory Charging Stations.* Electric vehicle charging stations may be installed as an accessory use in parking lots or parking structures where the principal use is permitted.
- D. *Location and Circulation.* Electric vehicle charging stations and associated equipment shall be located and designed so as not to obstruct required parking areas, drive aisles, pedestrian circulation, or the public right-of-way.
- E. *Signage.* Electric vehicle charging spaces shall be clearly identified with appropriate signage indicating that the space is reserved for electric vehicle charging.

- F. *Equipment Maintenance.* Electric vehicle charging station equipment shall be maintained in good working condition. Charging stations that are no longer operational or in use shall be repaired or removed.
- G. *Accessibility.* Electric vehicle charging stations shall comply with all applicable accessibility requirements under the Americans with Disabilities Act.
- H. *Compliance with State Law.* Electric vehicle charging stations shall comply with all applicable provisions of the Electric Vehicle Charging Act (765 ILCS 1085/1 et seq.), as amended, and any other applicable state laws or regulations governing electric vehicle charging infrastructure.

Section 7. If any section, paragraph, clause or provision of this Ordinance shall be held invalid, the invalidity thereof shall not affect any other provision of this Ordinance.

Section 8. All ordinances, resolutions, motions or orders in conflict with this Ordinance are hereby repealed to the extent of such conflict.

Section 9. This Ordinance shall be in full force and effect upon its passage, approval and publication as provided by law.

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ADOPTED by the Village President and Board of Trustees of the Village of Thornton,
Cook County, Illinois this 6th day of April 2026, pursuant to a roll call vote, as follows:

	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
CUNNINGHAM				
GLASER				
KAYE				
MIDDLEBROOKS				
PISARZEWSKI				
PRATSCHER				
VILLAGE PRESIDENT REYNOLDS				
TOTAL				

APPROVED by the Village President of the Village of Thornton, Cook County, Illinois
on this 6th day of April 2026.

MAXINE REYNOLDS
VILLAGE PRESIDENT

ATTEST:

NIKKI KITAKIS
VILLAGE CLERK