

# VILLAGE OF THORNTON

## TEXT AMENDMENT APPLICATION – ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING

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**Applicant:** Village of Thornton

**Code Sections:** Title 11 – Zoning  
Chapter 11-10 – Amendments

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### I. DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED AMENDMENT:

The Village proposes a text amendment to Title 11 of the Thornton Village Code to establish definitions, use classifications, and regulations governing electric vehicle charging stations within the Village.

The amendment introduces definitions for electric vehicles, electric vehicle charging stations, and associated charging levels. The amendment further clarifies how electric vehicle charging stations may be permitted within zoning districts and establishes operational standards governing installation and use.

Under the amendment:

1. Electric vehicle charging stations may be installed as accessory uses in parking lots and parking structures in zoning districts where the principal use is permitted.
2. Electric vehicle charging stations operating as a primary use will be subject to zoning standards governing site design, access, and operational requirements.
3. Electric vehicle charging stations will be subject to applicable building, electrical, and safety code requirements.

The amendment establishes standards addressing circulation, signage, equipment maintenance, accessibility, and other operational requirements in order to ensure compatibility with surrounding land uses.

The amendment is intended to provide a clear regulatory framework allowing the development of electric vehicle charging infrastructure while maintaining orderly land use and protecting public safety.

### II. PURPOSE OF AMENDMENT:

Electric vehicle use continues to expand, resulting in increased demand for charging infrastructure within residential, commercial, and industrial areas. The Thornton Zoning Code currently does not contain regulations specifically addressing electric vehicle charging stations.

This amendment establishes clear zoning definitions and operational standards for electric vehicle charging infrastructure within the Village. The amendment ensures that such facilities are installed and operated in a manner consistent with public safety, site circulation, and surrounding land uses.

Providing clear regulations for electric vehicle charging stations will allow the Village to accommodate evolving transportation technologies while maintaining orderly development patterns.

### **III. CONSISTENCY WITH THE THORNTON ZONING CODE:**

This amendment is proposed pursuant to Chapter 11-10 (Amendments) of the Thornton Zoning Code. The amendment is consistent with the purposes of the Thornton Zoning Code set forth in §11-1-2, including promoting the public health, safety, and general welfare of Village residents and ensuring that land uses are appropriately regulated.

By establishing definitions, use classifications, and operational standards for electric vehicle charging stations, the amendment provides clarity within the zoning code and ensures that such facilities operate in a manner compatible with surrounding development.

The amendment supports modernization of transportation infrastructure while maintaining compliance with applicable zoning and safety standards.

Submitted on behalf of the Village of Thornton.

## EXHIBIT A

### PROPOSED TEXT AMENDMENT – ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING STATIONS

#### I. DEFINITIONS

Amend § 11-1-3 (“*Definitions*”) of Title 11 (“*Zoning*”) of the Thornton Village Code by adding the following language to read as follows:

##### § 11-1-3 Definitions

**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.

#### II. USE REGULATIONS

Amend the Use Regulations of Title 11 (“*Zoning*”) by adding the following uses:

All Zoning Districts – Accessory Uses: Electric Vehicle Charging Station – Accessory, subject to the standards set forth in § 11-2-11 of this Title.

Commercial and Industrial Districts – Special Uses: Electric Vehicle Charging Station – Primary, subject to the provisions of Chapter 11-9 (Special Uses) and the standards set forth in § 11-2-11 of this Title.

#### III. ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING STATION REGULATIONS

Add new § 11-2-11 (“*Electric Vehicle Charging Station Regulations*”) to Title 11 (“*Zoning*”) to read as follows:

##### § 11-2-11 Electric Vehicle Charging Station 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.

