



# Wellington Blueways Master Plan

## *I. Background*

Wellington's lakes and canals have been long viewed as just part of the stormwater infrastructure and a visual amenity, located in the rear yards of many Wellington residential properties. While historically, waterfront property has been viewed as premium property, Wellington's lakes and canals have begun to offer more than just premium views. An alternative recreational use has added value to these properties, making this "water" more than just the back bone of Wellington's storm water management system. These manmade lakes and canals have shown to hold a dual purpose that can serve both stormwater needs and recreational purpose by providing for boating, canoeing, kayaking and alternative surface water uses, such as fishing, thereby adding an additional recreational component to Wellington's lifestyle.

Lake Wellington and Lake Greenview Shores offer residents 160 acres of recreational water area. These two lakes are surrounded today by 982 residences that have direct access on to both lakes. In addition, there are 7 miles of canals that flow into and out of these lakes. These canals offer an additional 411 residents' access to these lake areas.

The recreational uses of these water ways by the use of today's electric powered boats, lightweight canoes, inflatable kayaks and paddle board type water craft has allowed more residents to take advantage of Wellington's waterways, not to mention the rowing activities that aid in exercise and sport. These recreational uses serve to expand Wellington's offerings of activities to its residents. In addition, Wellington has 6 number of park sites, which allow residents to launch canoes, kayaks and paddle boards from these locations. Wellington also provides a boat launch site on the west side of Forest Hill Blvd. This site requires a Wellington issued permit for launching and trailer parking, but this site is available to all Wellington residents to enjoy the water. An additional boat ramp is located within the community of Waterway Cove, offering its 812 residents a private area in which to access Lake Wellington.

## *II. Subject Area*

The lakes commonly known by the community as Lake Wellington and Lake Greenview Shores together the Village-owned canals, which flow into and out of these two lakes are identified as the C-4, C-5, C-6, C-7, C-13 C-13A, C-13B and the C-19. Please see attached maps.

### III. Goal and Purpose of the Blueways Master Plan

Creating connections between all lakes and canals for boating/recreation is key to providing enjoyment of the waterways. Much like Wellington's multi-modal pathways, which provide residents access to commercial areas, parks and civic sites. Waterways, when connected can provide similar opportunities. As an example, the existing box culverts under Forest Hill Blvd and Stratford Street link a portion of eastern Wellington to Lake Wellington. These existing structures allow 298 residence east of Forest Hill Blvd, to access Lake Wellington, Town Center, park site and even Wellington Plaza all by the use of small electric powered boats, canoes, kayaks or paddle boards. Additionally, connecting Lake Greenview Shores to Lake Wellington for electric powered boats is also key to expanding the water craft usage within both lakes.

The Town Center promenade with its boat docks offer residents an opportunity to not only enjoy the waterways, but to take advantage of the cultural and social activities offered within Town Center. As Wellington looks to offer more events and activities within Town Center and at our parks, the recreational opportunities for our residents will also expand.

### IV. Conclusion

- The Blueways plan will enable Wellington to identify and program improvements that will allow for our residents to utilize these specific waterways which have been behind their homes for decades.
- The plan will also aid in identifying dual usage of these water bodies that will aid in stormwater management while providing enjoyment for our public.
- The plan can also be viewed to enable 5- and 10-year planning increments, allowing for capital programming to occur that would serve more than a single purpose.
- The waterways plan will create a recreational asset that will pay benefits to the overall community and enhance the lifestyle of those residents who live on these waterways.

### V. Plan of Action

Strategies to achieving interconnectivity would begin with bridging Big Blue Trace over the C-15 Canal. By bridging Big Blue Trace would allow pontoon boat type vessels to traverse between both Lake Wellington and Lake Greenview Shores. This would result in further enhance usage of Town Center as well as Wellington's parks that front on these lakes. Expanding canoe, kayak or paddle board usage to resident beyond Greenview Shores Blvd. and Wellington Trace would require the installation of box culvert type structures. By providing these interconnections an additional 383 resident could take advantage of Wellington's water ways and lakes.

One advantage to this Blueways plan is that it enables Wellington to seek grant monies that could fund portions of the improvements necessary to maximize the use of this Wellington asset. The plan also seeks to identify improvements, that when compared against Wellington's drainage models, may also improve stormwater movement, which in turn would reduce potential flooding.

## VI. Actions

1. Construct a bridge on Big Blue Trace Blvd by 2028 to interconnect Lake Wellington and Lake Greenview Shores.
  - a. Design and construct a bridge on Big Blue Trace Blvd to accommodate electric powered boats and specifically pontoon type vessels.
    - i. The bridge should allow for 12-14 feet of clear height between control water elevation and the underside of the bridge with a minimum clear width of 10 feet.
    - ii. Accommodate multi-modal pathway on each side.
    - iii. Provide traffic calming to reduce speeding.
2. Construct 3 box culverts in key locations by 2030. By providing a clearance of 5 feet from control water elevation to underside of the culvert. This would allow for canoes, kayaks or paddle boards to access the lakes via the Villages canals, thus expanding the use of the water ways. The key locations are:
  - C-5 canal at Wellington Trace.
  - C-15 canal at Greenview Shores Blvd.
  - Future canal locations to be confirmed by drainage model.
3. Design and implement wayfinding signs at targeted locations
  - a. Locate major canal crossings for wayfinding purposes.
  - b. Locate place markers with distances and paddling times at launch locations.
4. Designate names for point of interests
  - a. Locate and designate names for boat ramps Wellington wide.
  - b. Locate and designate names for paddling crafts launch areas.