

Parks & Recreation



What is the Parks & Recreation Element?

The quality of Wellington’s parks and recreation facilities and programs has been a defining characteristic of the Village. The Parks & Recreation Element is Wellington’s plan for continuing to provide a high quality, premier system of parks, open space, recreational facilities, and programs and to meet existing and future demands and recreation trends.

Open space, parks, and recreation are interconnected to other elements of the Comprehensive Plan. Beyond the provision of leisure and recreational activities, quality parks and recreation programs foster economic benefits by promoting tourism and revitalizing communities by creating safer, more desirable neighborhoods. Community open spaces expand cultural ties through celebration by providing a unique sense of place for the community. All of which promotes civic pride and engagement. Parks and open space support sustainability efforts through the protection and preservation of natural resources. Recreational opportunities promote healthier lifestyles and improve the mental and physical wellbeing of the residents and visitors.

To ensure that a priority for a high quality of life remains for current and future generations, it is necessary that the parks, recreation, and open spaces system continually address the growing population and demographic changes, as well as changes in recreational trends and interests.

PARKS & RECREATION GOALS

GOAL PR 1	EXCELLENT PARKS AND RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES Provide exemplary parks, recreational facilities, programs that enhance quality of life, provide recreational opportunities, enrich interaction with others, and promote physical and mental wellbeing.
GOAL PR 2	PARK ACCESS AND SAFETY Increase accessibility to parks, open spaces, recreational facilities, and continually improve public safety at all locations.
GOAL PR 3	PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS Promote public-private partnerships to acquire, maintain, and enhance parks, open spaces, and recreational facilities and programs.



**GOAL PR 1
EXCELLENT PARKS AND RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES**

Provide premier parks, recreational facilities, programs that enhance quality of life, provide recreational opportunities, enrich interaction with others, and promote physical and mental wellbeing.

[Revised Goal 1.0]

**Objective PR 1.1
Parks & Facilities – Recommended Standards**

Provide and maintain a variety of parks, open spaces, and recreation facilities that serve Wellington’s current and future population based on the recommended standards in Table PR 1-1.

[Revised Objectives 1.1 and 1.2]

**Policy PR 1.1.1
Recreational Land – Recommended Standards**

Provide a superior amount of recreational land to serve the population; at least 10 acres or recreational land per 1,000 residents is Wellington’s target. Recreational land may comprise land for active or passive recreational use.

[Revised Policy 1.2.2]

**Policy PR 1.1.2
Recreational Lands and Facilities Deficiencies**

Address any deficiencies of recreational lands and facilities within five years of the identified deficiency.

[Revised Policy 1.2.3]

**Policy PR 1.1.3
Future Park Needs**

Ensure that parks and recreation lands and facilities are provided to meet the future needs based on the recommended standards and the projected populations.

[Revised Policy 1.2.4]

**Policy PR 1.1.4
Acquisition and Development of Parks and Recreation**

Pursue acquisition and development of parks and recreational sites to achieve and maintain the recommended standards.

[Revised Policy 1.2.5]



Table PR 1-1 Recommended Standards for Parks and Recreation Facilities														
Facility	Recommended Standard (Facility/Population)	Inventory of Facilities (2020)	2020			2025			2030			2035		
			Est. Perm. Pop.	Rec.	Diff.	Est. Perm. Pop.	Rec.	Diff.	Est. Perm. Pop.	Rec.	Diff.	Est. Perm. Pop.	Rec.	Diff.
Baseball/Softball Fields	1/3,500	25	67,303	19	6	72,862	20	5	78,881	22	3	85,397	24	1
Basketball Courts, Indoor	1/7,000	8		9	-1		10	-2		11	-3		12	-4
Basketball Courts , Outdoor	1/4,000	23		16	7		18	5		19	4		21	2
Bocce Courts	1/30,000	0		2	-2		2	-2		2	-2		2	-2
Civic/Programming Space	1 square feet/3 persons	49,853		22,434	27,419		24,000	25,853		26,000	23,853		28,333	21,520
Equestrian Trails	1 mile/5,000	58.4 miles		13.4	45		14.4	44		15	43.4		17	41.4
Multi-Purpose Fields	1/3,000	25		22	3		24	1		26	-1		28	-3
Land Area	10 acres/1,000	1281		670	611		720	561		780	501		850	431
Play Areas	1/3,000	23		22	1		24	-1		26	-3		28	-5
Recreational Trails	1 mile/5,000	23		13	10		14	9		15	8		17	6
Roller Hockey Rinks	1/20,000	2		3	-1		3	-1		3	-1		4	-2
Swimming Pools	1/30,000	3		2	1		2	1		2	1		2	1
Tennis Courts	1/4,000	27		16	11		18	9		19	8		21	6
Volleyball Courts	1/6,000	7		11	-4		12	-5		13	-5		14	-7
Notes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Est. Perm. Pop. means Estimated Permanent Population • Rec. means Recommended Facilities • Diff means Difference between facilities needed to meet Recommended Standard 														

[Revised Table 1.2.1.1]



**Policy PR 1.1.5
Preservation of Native Vegetation**

Develop park, recreational, and open space areas to maximize preservation of existing native vegetation and natural features of the sites and incorporate facilities that are compatible with such natural areas. Preservation is accomplished by the development of the following (minimum):

1. A vegetation assessment and evaluation including habitat quality, biological diversity, listed species, and wildlife corridors.
2. A management plan that at a minimum includes detailed site description, perpetual protection of the native vegetation, eradication and continued removal of invasive non-native plant species, removal of litter and debris, control of erosion, and maintenance of hydrological requirements.

[Revised Policy 1.2.7]

**Policy PR 1.1.6
Prioritizing Park Acquisition**

Prioritize acquisition of recreation and open spaces lands containing natural resources suitable for preservation and appropriate for a resource-oriented facility, such as areas containing undisturbed native vegetative communities or functional wetlands.

[Revised Policy 1.2.9]

**Policy PR 1.1.7
Open Space and Recreation Requirements**

Enforce open space and recreation requirements for development, such as:

1. Amount of open space and recreation land and facilities required on a per unit basis.
2. Types of land eligible to be counted toward open space and recreation calculations.
3. Types of facilities eligible to be counted to offset open space and recreation requirements.
4. Options for cash in lieu of land dedication.
5. Design alternatives that will allow the clustering of development to avoid negative impacts to environmentally sensitive lands and to encourage the preservation of open space.

[Revised Policy 1.5.1]

**Policy PR 1.1.8
Open Space Area Uses**

Limit uses in open space areas to rest areas, picnic areas, and nature trails, and equestrian trails. All amenities shall be compatible with the environmental resources existing on site.

[Revised Policy 1.5.2]



**Policy PR 1.1.9
Maintenance/Monitoring of Areas**

Continue to provide maintenance, control, and monitoring of resource-based or open space areas, including:

1. A vegetation assessment and evaluation including habitat quality, biological diversity, listed species and wildlife corridors.
2. A management plan that at a minimum includes detailed site description, perpetual protection of the native vegetation, eradication and continued removal of invasive non-native plant species, removal of litter and debris, control of erosion, maintenance of hydrological requirements, land use limitations.

[Revised Policy 1.5.4]

**Objective PR 1.2
Parks and Recreation Master Plan**

In accordance with the adopted Parks and Recreation Master Plan, provide and maintain diverse parks, high quality recreation facilities, and programming that is tailored to the needs of the community.

[New]

**Policy PR 1.2.1
Variety of Recreation Facilities and Services**

Continue to provide a variety of recreational facilities and services that contribute to the health and wellbeing of all residents.

[New]

**Policy PR 1.2.2
Identify Recreation Needs**

Develop and execute a platform for residents to identify recreational needs and interests to provide guidance for programming facilities and services.

[New]

**Policy PR 1.2.3
Trends in Recreation**

Review trends in park and recreation facility use and adapt plans and investments to respond to changing community needs.

[New]

**Policy PR 1.2.4
Recreation Evaluation – Age-oriented Facilities and Programming**

Regularly evaluate the community's recreational needs and interests to support park facilities, programs and activities for a variety of age ranges.

[New]



**GOAL PR 2
PARK ACCESS AND SAFETY**

Increase accessibility to parks, open spaces, recreational facilities, and continually improve public safety at all locations.

[New]

**Objective PR 2.1
Park Safety**

Address the safety, comfort, and access of park patrons through appropriate physical designs and infrastructure improvements.

[New]

**Policy PR 2.1.1
Security Technology**

Evaluate the need for, and feasibility of, security cameras and surveillance technology in public open spaces.

[New]

**Policy PR 2.1.2
Shelters for Inclement Weather**

Provide permanent canopies, pavilions, or other open-air structures to be used as shelters from inclement weather within all parks.

[New]

**Objective PR 2.2
Park Access**

Ensure recreation sites are accessible to the public, including but not limited to sites having adequate parking and handicapped facilities, and access from bikeways, pedestrian paths, and multi-purpose paths.

[Revised Objective 1.4]

**Policy PR 2.2.1
Park Accessibility**

Design parks and recreation sites with proper and adequate parking and accessibility, with special consideration given to the elderly and handicapped populations.

[Revised Policy 1.4.1]

**Policy PR 2.2.2
Park Access**

Park, recreation, and open space areas shall be linked and accessed by an adopted pedestrian, bicycle, multi-purpose, and equestrian trail system.

[Revised Policy 1.4.1]



**GOAL PR 3
PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS**

Promote public-private partnerships to acquire, maintain, and enhance parks, open spaces, and recreational facilities and programs.

[Revised Objective 1.3]

**Objective PR 3.1
Public Partnerships**

Coordinate with public entities to expand the park, open space, and recreation opportunities for all residents.

[Revised Objective 1.3]

**Policy PR 3.1.1
Joint Park Planning**

Pursue joint park planning with the Palm Beach County School Board and adjacent jurisdictions, including the Palm Beach County Parks & Recreation Department.

[Revised Policy 1.3.3]

**Policy PR 3.1.2
School Facility Joint Use**

Work with the School Board to maximize joint use of recreational facilities.

[Revised Policy 1.3.4]

**Policy PR 3.1.3
Agreements for Trails**

Pursue agreements with the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD), the Lake Worth Drainage District, and the federal government for use of canal banks, levees, and the Water Conservation Area for trails and passive recreational purposes.

[Revised Policy 1.3.6]

**Policy PR 3.1.4
SFWMD Coordination**

Coordinate with SFWMD and the Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge (LNWR) to maintain a point of access to the Refuge for Wellington along its Western Boundary for passive recreational purposes.

[Revised Policy 1.3.7]

**Policy PR 3.1.5
FRDAP Grant Funding**

Consistently pursue grant funding opportunities offered by the Florida Recreation Development Assistance Program (FRDAP) and other potential sources.

[Revised Policy 1.3.2]



**Objective PR 3.2
Private Sector Participation**

Incorporate private resources to support current and future recreational demands.

[Revised Objective 1.3]

**Policy PR 3.2.1
Parks Impact Fee**

Continue to require the parks impact fee and companion residential parks land dedication requirement for new residential development to assist with the provision of adequate park and recreation land and facilities.

[New]

**Policy PR 3.2.2
Community Partners**

Partner with other community organizations, including religious and social organizations, to provide leisure programs and activities for the community as a whole.

[New]

**Policy PR 3.2.3
Arts and Cultural Activities**

Continue to facilitate and encourage the accommodation of programs offered by the Parks and Recreation Department to fulfill the community's need for arts and cultural activities with the assistance of private and quasi-public groups.

[New]

**Policy PR 3.2.4
Sponsorships**

Seek sponsorship opportunities by private and community organizations to offset the costs of parks and recreation activities and programs.

[New]