

STAFF REPORT

Equestrian Element

Ordinance No: 2021-01

Applicant: Village of Wellington

Request: Repeal the Equestrian Preservation Element and replace with the Equestrian Element, as a part of the overall update to the Wellington Comprehensive Plan.

Project Manager:

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Boards, Committees, and Council:

	Date	Vote
Other	n/a	-----
EPC	1/6	Denial 4-1
PZAB	2/10	
Council (1 st)	TBD	
Council (2 nd)	TBD	

Wellington Vision

A Great Hometown: Great Neighborhoods, Great Schools, and Great Parks.

Wellington Mission

To provide high-quality services that create economic, environmental, and social sustainability for residents.

Wellington Goals

- Economic Development
- Neighborhood Renaissance
- Protecting Our Investment
- Respecting the Environment
- Responsive Government

Background

The State of Florida requires municipalities to review and update, where appropriate, their Comprehensive Plan at least every seven years to reflect changes in Growth Management Laws, changing conditions within the community, updates to policies that may no longer be accurate or effective, as well as based on where the community thinks the Plan is working or not working. Wellington has been updating its Plan in this manner regularly since its initial adoption in 1999, but has not performed a complete update of the Plan; that is, until now.

Each element within the Wellington Comprehensive Plan ("Plan") is being updated, creating a document that is simple yet direct and easy to use with clear separation between this document and Wellington's Land Development Regulations. The Plan forms the blueprint for Wellington's future with a focus on the next 10 to 20 years, comprised of 10 "elements" or chapters.

1. Land Use & Community Design
2. Mobility
3. Housing & Neighborhoods
4. Public Facilities
5. Conservation, Sustainability, & Resiliency
6. Parks & Recreation
7. Community Partnerships
8. Capital Improvements
9. Education
10. Equestrian

The Plan is designed to guide development and redevelopment, multimodal transportation, public facilities and infrastructure, community partnerships, parks and recreation, and capital improvements. The Plan includes several optional elements, such as the Equestrian and Education Elements, focused on community priorities generally unique to Wellington. Each element is comprised of goals, objectives, and policies to address statutory requirements as well as community priorities.

The update of the Plan will be presented to the Planning, Zoning and Adjustment Board over the course of several months with one or more elements on each Board agenda. The Council will then consider each element in a similar fashion prior to being transmitted to the Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO). Once the Plan (all elements) has been approved at first reading by Council, transmitted to DEO, and ready for adoption, the full Plan will be presented to Council for adoption.

Element Update Summary

The proposed Equestrian Element is an update of the existing element. The proposed element is comprised of three goals: (1) Preserve the Equestrian Lifestyle, (2) Maintain a Multi-Modal Transportation Network in the EPA, and (3) Support Wellington's Competition Industry. These are the same themes provided in the current element. The proposed element also introduces new objectives and policies regarding infrastructure impacts, environmental impacts, golf carts and low-speed vehicles, and equestrian competition. In general, the Equestrian Element continues to focus on the importance of the equestrian lifestyle to Wellington being a Great Hometown.

Statutory Compliance

The Equestrian Element is an optional element.*

Recommendations

The Planning and Zoning Division recommends approval of Ordinance No. 2021-01 to repeal the Equestrian Preservation Element and replace with the proposed Equestrian Element.

The Equestrian Preserve Committee (EPC) reviewed the element at its meetings in October, November, December, and voted to deny (4-1) the proposed changes at the January meeting. The proposed element with additional changes was presented to the EPC in February and the committee did not make a motion on the item. The minutes (Exhibit D) from the October through February meetings are provided for reference to present the EPC's discussion and comments regarding the proposed element.

List of Exhibits

Exhibit A:	Current Equestrian Preservation Element
Exhibit B:	Proposed Equestrian Element
Exhibit C:	Memo to Equestrian Preserve Committee Re: Equestrian Element – Responses to Comments from the EPC's November 4, 2020 Meeting
Exhibit D:	Equestrian Preserve Committee Meeting Minutes – 5 Meetings October, November, and December 2020 January and February 2021

**Note – Statutory Compliance Checklist is not required for this item.*