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MEMORANDUM

TO: Howey-in-the-Hills Planning Board
CC: J. Brock, Town Clerk
FROM: Thomas Harowski, AICP, Planning Consultant
SUBJECT: Recreation & Open Space Comprehensive Plan Element
DATE: April 16, 2024

As part of our ongoing effort to complete the periodic evaluation of the comprehensive plan (EAR), the accompanying update of the Recreation and Open Space Element has been prepared for review by the Planning Board. The draft updates were reviewed by the Town's Park and Recreation Advisory Board at their April 11, 2024, regular meeting. The Park and Recreation Board supported the proposed revisions. The changes proposed for consideration include the following items:

- There has been a general update of the data and analysis section of the element to bring the specific information on existing facilities and anticipated population impacts to a more current status.
- Table 4 (renumbered as Table 3) has been updated based on the current population projects to evaluate the impact of population increase on the adopted level of service for parks. While the Town's "reserve" of park capacity is reduced over time, there is still adequate capacity for the planning period. (Note: the Sara Maude Mason Park is not included in the Table 3 calculation.) This assessment does not include private recreation facilities that are part of many of the new subdivisions nor does it assume additions to the public park inventory.
- Some editorial revisions were made to the policies in the element.
- Policy 1.5.1 on open space is revised to reduce the percentage of wetlands that can count toward minimum open space requirements from 50% to 25%. This revision is consistent with changes in other plan elements.