

Natural Resources Commission

FLAG POLICY

Approved – 15 February, 2024

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to establish guidelines for the display of flags on property owned by the Town of Wellesley and under the control of the NRC.

APPLICABILITY

This policy applies to all flagpoles that are, and from time to time may be, in use on real property belonging to the Town of Wellesley and under the control of the NRC. Such flags and flagpoles include, without limitation, those located at:

Church Park
Hills Library (Ware Park)
Hunnewell Track & Field
Hunnewell / Reidy Field
Hunnewell / Lee Field
Morses Pond
Town Hall / Vets. Memorial
Memorial Grove
Ouellet Park
Kelly Field
Warren Park

This policy does not apply to flagpoles on Town property under the control of other public bodies, including, but not limited to, the School Committee and the Select Board.

POLICY

Expression of official sentiment, not a public forum: Town flagpoles are not intended as a forum for free expression by the public. Rather, the decisions of the NRC concerning which flags to fly, and when, and from which flagpoles are intended as an expression of official Town sentiment.

Flags allowed to be flown: The NRC authorize the following flags to be flown on Town-owned flagpoles or in Town parkland at designated locations as an expression of the Town's government speech:

- The official flag of the United States of America
- The official flag of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts
- The official flag of the Town of Wellesley
- The official flags of the various branches of military services of the United States of America

- The official MIA-POW flag
- The official Purple Heart flag.

No other flags shall be allowed to be flown on Town-owned flagpoles or in Town parkland at designated locations as those flag poles and this policy are not intended to establish or serve to create a forum for private expression.

APPROVED BY THE NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION ON

2/15/2024