State: Florida
Community Name: City of Coconut Creek
Population Size: 58803
Percentage of Residents Above Age 60: 17
Community Structure: City
Other:
Community Type: Suburban (mostly residential)

Elected Official Signing the Letter of Commitment
Name: Rebecca A Tooley
Title: Mayor
Office Mailing Address: 4800 West Copans Road, Coconut Creek FL 33063
Community Contact Name: Janet Hull
Email: 
Position: Parks & Recreation Superintendent
Telephone: 
Role: Parks and Recreation Superintendent, Janet Hull worked with the City’s Senior Recreation Programmer to assess the AARP’s Network of Age Friendly Communities and how the program would benefit our senior community. She coordinated the efforts to inform staff and other departments about the Network. She was instrumental in the development of the City’s Proclamation to be a part of the AARP’s Network of Age Friendly Community’s and will continue to work towards the AARP’s Eight Domains of Livability. She will be overseeing quarterly analysis on how the Network will impact our senior residents. Analysis will consist of survey, informational meetings and focus groups. This analysis will help us identify gaps on livability and allow us to improve on them.

Older Adult Involvement: City leaders are committed to ensure that the community is developed to be livable and inclusive to all age groups. Older adults specifically will be provided the opportunity to be involved with the efforts for Coconut Creek to become more age-friendly through our Senior Center, Fitness Centers and community meetings. The Senior Center will conduct informational meetings, focus groups and surveys to obtain feedback from the senior community. These processes will be facilitated by our Senior Recreation Programmers and conducted throughout the year in order to continually assess needs and fill any gaps in services. In addition, this process will give seniors the opportunity to provide feedback, ask questions and be a part of the vision for the future. Topics may include but are not...
limited to programs to be implemented, topics they are interested in for speaker engagements and field trip destinations they prefer. The Fitness Centers provide suggestion boxes and staff are always available to take member feedback. Community meetings will be held twice per year for seniors and all residents in general. These meetings will assess not only our Parks and Recreation amenities but issues regarding transportation, housing, sustainable development and city wide senior services. Seniors will have the opportunity to volunteer in the Senior Center and to assist with the organization of the focus groups and meetings. This will increase engagement and provide a venue for seniors to have a hands on experience in the assessment of current and future senior issues. The objective of these meetings, focus groups and surveys is to effectively serve the city’s senior population and ensure that needs are being met.

Increasing Collaboration and Coordination:

Becoming Age Friendly is a priority for the City of Coconut Creek. We will work with the senior community to obtain valuable feedback on our progress of improving our senior livability. The AARP’s Eight Domains of Livability will be the focus of our analysis with our seniors. Outdoor spaces, transportation, social participation, respect and social inclusion, work and civic engagement and communication and information crossover interdepartmentally through Parks and Recreation, Sustainable Development, Transportation, Community Relations and Information Technology. Quarterly analysis targeted to senior will be conducted through surveys, informational meeting and focus groups will provide the City information on meeting the needs of our senior residents. These efforts will improve collaboration interdepartmentally within the city. The analysis information will be shared with the departments and will be collaboratively analyzed as a team. Recommendations from the interdepartmental team will be implemented immediately when possible or be put into a phased action plan. Housing and community health service pertains mostly to the City’s Sustainable Development, Building and Community Relations departments. These departments will collaborate to provide our senior community with affordable housing information, resources on making home modifications and services that assist seniors with aging in place. These departments will also provide the community with information on health services and issues effecting seniors. Resource will include those offered by the city and county as well as private and non-profit organizations in the area. The ongoing efforts and analysis to become more age-friendly will increase interdepartmental interaction and ultimately improve the quality of life of our senior population.

AARP Team Member Contact Info:

Most Instructive Area of Work:

The City of Coconut Creek has a wonderful Senior Center located in our Community Center. Pre-COVID, this was a vibrant hub for our seniors to gather, learn and engage socially. It provided a full range of programming from cognitive, to arts, to fitness. Seniors looked forward to traveling on field trips. The field trips were a highlight as they provided a means for travel without driving and provided social
interaction while exploring a new destination. Since COVID there has been a limit on the number who can come to the Senior Center. Even with the challenges, our innovative staff have implemented Zoom programs and take home activities. The Senior Center is awaiting to resume normal activities and programs.

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