

M02.1 Provide Connection to Nature

Professional Narrative

WELL Building Standard™ version 2 (WELL v2™)

WHAT IS THIS DOCUMENT:

This document is intended to serve as a guide on how to create a project professional narrative to support occupant well-being by incorporating the natural environment throughout the project and integrating design that celebrates the project's unique identity.

This document is meant to demonstrate an acceptable degree of detail for:

- precertification documentation submission
- documentation submission

For precertification documentation submission:

To achieve WELL Precertification, project teams may submit intent-stage or implementation-stage documents for pursued features, or any combination of the two. An intent-stage document is typically a draft document that has not yet been implemented in the actual project, while implementation-stage documents describe final and implemented strategies. Intent and implementation-stage documents should be similar in terms of level of detail. For final WELL Certification documentation approval, all documents are required to be implementation-stage. To learn more about intent-stage vs. implementation-stage documentation, review the [precertification guide](#) in our knowledge base.

Intent-stage language is indicated in this sample document with **green text and in parentheses**. For an intent-stage professional narrative the document should consist of specific strategies that the team intends to implement. However, this document cannot simply state that the feature requirements will be implemented; the documentation should include adequate detail such that a WELL Reviewer will be able to confirm the document complies with all of the WELL feature part requirements.








For documentation submission:

The Feature cannot be demonstrated solely through a confirmation that the requirements have been or will be implemented. The level of detail is up to the discretion of the project team, but the documents must include specific details demonstrating that the actual requirements have been enacted in the project boundary.

This document and similar tools are intended to assist projects in their pursuit of WELL v2 but use of this document and/ or similar tools are in no way a guarantee of achievement of any rating, certification or other designation, and no representation or warranty is made regarding the likelihood of achieving any rating, certification or other designation, and IWBI shall have no liability resulting from the use or content of this document or similar tools or resources or from any action taken or inaction occurring in reliance on this document or similar tools or resources.

Note: The below document is based on the Q1-Q2 2024 addenda of the WELL Building Standard™ version 2 (WELL v2™). Project teams are required to implement the feature requirements from the addenda version assigned to their project or any more recent addenda version.

HOW TO USE THIS DOCUMENT:

- ☐  Read the [below feature requirements](#) (or the feature requirements from the [addenda version assigned to your project](#), as relevant) and determine how your project addresses each requirement.
 - a. If your project is a WELL Core project, read through and ensure that your project follows the “WELL Core Guidance.”
 - b. Make sure to apply the feature requirements appropriate to your project’s space types. For example, if your project has both dwelling units and other space types, ensure your project is applying the requirements under “For Dwelling Units” to the dwelling unit spaces and applying the requirements under “For All Spaces except Dwelling Units” to the other space types. Check out the [WELL v2™ digital standard](#) for the exact language on your project’s space types.
- ☐  Refer to the [below example document](#) to get an idea of how to set up your documentation.
- ☐  Collaborate with your stakeholders to gather the [relevant documentation](#) that demonstrates the project’s compliance with the feature. Some examples of relevant documentation include:
 - a. a letter from a hired professional outlining services provided
 - b. the project’s floor plans
 - c. a modeling report
- ☐  Create a technical document using existing documentation where relevant, annotating it to clarify where feature requirements are met. Some examples of annotating include:
 - a. highlight the sections relevant to WELL requirements
 - b. circle or add boxes around particular data
 - c. add notes to confirm WELL requirements
 - d. add labels to draw attention to particular sections
 - e. provide an explanation of the connection to WELL requirements using a different colored font
 - f. check out the [WELL Documentation Annotation Guide](#) for more
- ☐  Name the document so that it is easily identifiable. Some examples for naming include:
 - a. name the document using the WELL feature code
 - b. name the document using the WELL feature name
 - c. name the document using the WELL document type
- ☐  Review the document you’ve created and ensure that all the necessary WELL requirements are fully and clearly addressed.
 - a. Note: the level of detail is up to the discretion of the project team, but the document must include specific details demonstrating that the actual requirements have been enacted in the project boundary. Features cannot be demonstrated solely through a written confirmation that the WELL requirements have been or will be implemented.
- ☐  Upload the document to the scorecard in the WELL digital platform, after you’ve confirmed that the document fully and clearly addresses all the necessary WELL requirements.

FEATURE PART REQUIREMENTS

For All Spaces Except Dwelling Units

The project integrates the following throughout the space, including common circulation routes, shared seating areas and rooms (e.g., conference rooms, common spaces) and workstations (as applicable):

- a. Natural materials, patterns, shapes, colors, images or sounds.*
- b. At least one of the following:*
 - 1. Plants (e.g., potted plants, plant walls).*
 - 2. Water (e.g., fountain, pond, fish tank).*
 - 3. Nature views.*

WELL Core Guidance:

Meet these requirements in non-leased spaces.

The below sample documentation is intended to provide guidance in creating a professional narrative. It is not a template. You may note included components that are not required to demonstrate compliance with this Feature.

Example document for Feature 2 Part 1

The following example is for a new construction 2-story office building.

[Company] Professional Narrative – Provide Connection to Nature

Location: [project address]

The design team [NAME OF PROFESSIONALS] integrated (intent-stage: will integrate) natural elements throughout the entire office space, focusing on the spaces with most traffic and usage. Please see details below for where each of the WELL M02.1 elements can be found (intent-stage: will be found) throughout the space. The team has made sure that there are views of natural elements throughout the space.

1. Items that were included (intent-stage: will be included) to meet the requirements for: natural materials, patterns, shapes, colors, images or sounds:
 - **Natural materials:**
 1. Ex: Exposed stone floors are located (intent-stage: will be located) in portions of the front lobby and in the main break-room area.
 2. Ex: Exposed wood is located (intent-stage: will be located) along the corridor connecting the primary conference rooms on the second floor as well as on the north wall of the large conference rooms on both floors one and two.
 3. Ex: A central staircase that is lined [intent-stage: will be lined] by wooden handrails that resemble birch tree branches.
 4. Ex: The lobby has (intent-stage: will have) marble walls and floors.
 5. Ex: Floors in the conference rooms and breakroom are (intent-stage: will be) made from cork. Cork is also (intent-stage: will also be) featured in panels along the main hallways.
 - **Natural patterns:**
 1. Ex: Groups of hexagonal acoustical tiles are (intent-stage: will be) installed in all conference rooms in a honeycomb pattern.
 2. Ex: Carpet is (intent-stage: will be) located in all open offices and has [(intent-stage: will have) nature inspired designs that mimic water rushing over rocks.
 3. Ex: Translucent films (window frosting) have been (intent-stage: will be) placed along the bottoms of glass office fronts that have (intent-stage: will have) the silhouette of natural meadows with knee-high grass, wildflowers and bees.
 4. Ex: Each multi-user bathroom has (intent-stage: will have) wallpaper with a repetitive palm leaf design. Single-user bathrooms have (intent-stage: will have) wallpaper with a repetitive floral design.
 - **Natural colors:**
 1. Ex: The design scheme in the reception area and main conference room includes (intent-stage: will include) a sky-inspired color palette of pale blues, greys, whites and golds (representing the sun).
 2. Ex: (intent-stage: There will be) Wallpaper in the bathrooms with natural elements such as green palm leaves and wildflowers (similar to local wildflowers) add natural colors.
 3. Ex: Corridors have [intent-stage: will have] wooden floors and wooden panels along the walls that provide natural browns.
 4. Ex: Furniture and the kitchenette counter in the breakroom are [(intent-stage: will be) forest green to invoke the feeling of a forest. Other décor in the space has (intent-stage: will have) exposed natural wood grain to also contribute to the forest theme.
 - **Natural images:**
 1. Ex: Framed photography from a local artist of local flowers and plants has been installed (intent-stage: will be installed) in the main lobby, elevator lobby, reception area, bathroom entries and in conference rooms.

1. Ex: Screens in the lobbies, conference rooms and break rooms rotate **[(intent-stage: will rotate)]** nature scenes when they are not being used for office meetings and announcements.
2. Ex: Floor to ceiling wall paper with photographic images of nature scenes will be installed at the end of each corridor. Images are taken by employee nature photography enthusiasts.
3. Ex: The employee break room will have a rotating installation of a local photographer's depictions of local parks. Each month photographs of a new park will be featured.
4. Ex: In regularly occupied rooms with no windows, faux sky panels featuring "realistic sunny sky" imagery will be installed.
5. Ex: In the bike storage room, a mural depicting local wildlife was commissioned for the north wall.

- **Natural sounds:**

1. Ex: Employees are given **(intent-stage: will be given)** access to an app on their phone with guided meditation practices and nature sounds. They can connect **(intent-stage: will be able to connect)** their headphones and listen in any area of the project.
2. Ex: An indoor wall water fountain was installed **(intent-stage: will be installed)** along the main hall (adjacent to the open office space) on both the first and second floors to provide a gentle water flowing sound throughout the day.
3. Ex: In the break room eating area, nature soundscapes (birds chirping, whales, ocean waves) are played **[(intent-stage: will be played)]** throughout the day.

2. Per WELL "at least one of the following" (plants / water / nature views) must be included within the project. This project chose **[(intent-stage: is choosing)]** to include:

- **Plants:**

1. Ex: [PROJECT] has contracted **(intent-stage: will contract)** with a local biophilia expert [COMPANY NAME] who has designed **(intent-stage: will design)** a floor to ceiling plant wall in the reception area as well as planters throughout the open office area and in conference rooms. Plants can be viewed **(intent-stage: will be able to be viewed)** from any vantage point within each of the project's regularly occupied areas. [BIOPHILIA COMPANY NAME] will maintain the plants on a weekly basis.
2. Ex: Each employee has been given **(intent-stage: will be given)** a budget to purchase a plant for their desk and directions on how to best care for office plants.
3. Ex: Plant walls in a variety of sizes have been installed **[(intent-stage: will be installed)]** in the main lobby and along the most used corridors within the project space. They have **(intent-stage: will have)** a built-in watering system as well as grow lights to ensure their health overtime.

- **Water:**

1. Ex: A 75-inch wide wall mounted fountain has been installed **(intent-stage: will be installed)** in the main lobby. Circulated water is filtered **(intent-stage: will be filtered)** and chlorinated to prevent bacterial growth.
2. Ex: Each breakroom and the wellness room have **(intent-stage: will have)** a small table-sized water fountain that produces a soothing water falling sound. Fountains are maintained **(intent-stage: will be maintained)** per manufacturer's requirements to ensure that there is no bacteria build-up.
3. Ex: A piece of art was commissioned from a local artist specializing in moving water that includes a series of transparent open aqueducts ending in a waterfall that falls into a grate in the floor. It is located **(intent-stage: will be located)** in the main lobby. The piece is powered mainly by solar from the rooftop installation and water is not recirculated to prevent risk of legionella or mildew. The artist cleans **(intent-stage: will clean)** the piece bi-monthly on a weekend (outside of operating hours) to prevent any mineral or algae build-up.

- **Nature views:**

1. Ex: The entire office has floor to ceiling windows. The office is situated on the 8th and 9th floors of the base building with unblocked views of the local park and lake.
2. Ex: Screens in conference rooms and the reception area play **(intent-stage: will play)** loops of nature scenes from the local nature channel. They include **(intent-stage: will include)** views of the lake, local birdlife and gardens.
3. Ex: Faux windows from [NAME OF MANUFACTURER AND LINK TO WEBSITE] have been installed **(intent-stage: will be installed)** along the main corridor that look like windows to the outside on a sunny summer day.
4. Ex: Framed photographs of local flora have been installed **(intent-stage: will be installed)** throughout the office, including in conference rooms and along main corridors.
5. Ex: After a thorough structural assessment, it was decided to add windows along the south wall of the building to increase the nature views available to occupants working on that side of the building.

The following example is for an existing hospitality project undergoing minor renovations.

[Project] Professional Narrative – Provide Connection to Nature

Location: [project address]

The [NAME OF PROJECT] has been a first in class hotel since [DATE]. We pride ourselves on an excellent, relaxing, rejuvenating and top-notch health and well-being experience for our guests. A WELL gap analysis indicated that the hotel already had many elements in place that provide connection to nature before the project decided to pursue WELL certification. A few more elements have been added as part of minor renovations to elevate the project's already strong natural elements. Please see a summary of natural elements included in the project below:

MAIN LOBBY

- **Natural materials:** Table tops and portions of the floor are exposed stone.
- **Natural patterns:** The chandeliers shining through the trees create natural shadow designs on the ceilings.
- **Natural colors:** The stone and plants within the space provide natural colors. Natural images: there are floor to ceiling windows along the north and south sides of the lobby as well as skylights lining the ceiling to provide natural views and images. Also, the biophilia within the space provides natural images.
- **Natural sounds:** The fountain provides natural sounds.



At least one of the three is required to meet WELL requirements. The main lobby contains all three:

Plants: As you can see from the photo, the space is full of plants for occupants to enjoy. The trees in planters were added as part of the renovation.

Water: There is a central fountain in the lobby installed when the project was originally built. The sound of the fountain can be enjoyed throughout the entire lobby.

Nature views: There are windows to the outside through the lobby and skylights above.

GUEST ROOMS

- **Natural materials:** Headboards, side table drawers, overhead lighting fixtures and floors are exposed wood that have a natural wood grain.
- **Natural patterns:** Guest rooms have been renovated with wall paper that includes different types of natural patterns such as the branches in the room depicted above. Designs that are used in other rooms include flowers and water ripples.
- **Natural colors:** The browns of the wood and greens of the plants provide natural colors.
- **Natural images:** Each room contains windows overlooking the beautiful artisanal landscaped grounds.
- **Natural sounds:** Occupants have access to the TV where there is a set of recommended stations that will play natural white noise sounds such as: rain, a stream, whale sounds, and birds.



At least one of the three is required to meet WELL requirements. The guest rooms contain two:

Plants: As you can see from the photo, each room has a hanging plant.

Water: NA

Nature views: There are windows to the outside grounds. The project is located on a 20-acre artisanal landscaped site with grounds, including two flower gardens, a trail and a small pond available for guests to explore and enjoy.

BACK OF HOUSE – EMPLOYEE AREAS

- **Natural materials:** Clocks around the space back of house spaces and tabletops in the break room are made of natural grain wood.
- **Natural patterns:** There are patterns in the natural grain of the tables, clocks and exposed wood floors in the break room.
- **Natural colors:** The browns of the woods and greens of the plants provide natural colors.
- **Natural images:** There are framed natural images in the break room and office of birds and flowers.
- **Natural sounds:** Employees are all provided an app free of charge that provides them with guided meditations and nature sounds such as streams, birds, ocean, and rain.



At least one of the three is required to meet WELL requirements. The back of house employee areas contain two:

Plants: There are small glass terrariums on all staff desks and small potted plants spread throughout the break room.

Water: NA

Nature views: There are windows to the outside grounds in both the break room and the office. The project is located on a 20 acre artisanal landscaped site with grounds, including two flower gardens, a trail and a small pond.



CORRIDORS

There are two main types of corridors: corridors to hotel rooms and corridors in back of house areas. Each contains different types of natural elements.

- **Natural materials:** Floors in all corridor areas are natural wood.
- **Natural patterns:** Natural patterns are included in the natural grain of the wood flooring, and also pieces of biophilic framed art are located at each end of the corridor (see image above).
- **Natural colors:** The browns of the woods and greens of the plants, as well as the colors from the nature inspired framed art of animals and plants.
- **Natural images:** There are framed art pieces of animals and plants hung throughout the corridors, both in the guest areas and back of house areas.
- **Natural sounds:** At the ends of each corridor, windows to the outside let in bird sounds from birds that live on artisanal landscaped grounds. When the weather is temperate, the windows are left open to increase the connection with nature.



At least one of the three is required to meet WELL requirements. The corridors contain two:

Plants: There are a number of small plants on shelves located at the end of guest bedroom corridors as well as throughout the back of house corridors.

Water: NA

Nature views: On one end of each corridor there is a view out to the grounds and on the other end there is a wall of framed nature views (example depicted above). The framed nature view images are hung throughout the corridors in the back of house areas.



TIPS FOR MULTIPLE LOCATIONS

- Organizations participating in WELL at scale, should indicate which locations are pursuing this feature, and then submit the specific details for the locations selected for an audit.