WALAILAK UNIVERSITY

SDG REPORT 2025-2026



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SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES



1. FREE PUBLIC ACCESS TO MUSEUMS AND CULTURAL HERITAGE FOR ALL
2. RECORDING AND PRESERVING INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE
3. PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE COMMUTING ACROSS THE CAMPUS
4. FREE PUBLIC ACCESS TO GREEN SPACES, OPEN SPACES, AND CULTURALLY SIGNIFICANT PLACES

11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

SDG 11 : SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

FREE PUBLIC ACCESS TO MUSEUMS AND CULTURAL HERITAGE FOR ALL





Museums and cultural heritage sites play an important role in providing opportunities for lifelong learning, cultural education, and public access to knowledge. However, financial barriers and limited access to educational and cultural facilities can prevent some members of the public from participating in museum activities and experiencing cultural and natural heritage. These barriers may particularly affect local communities, and people who have limited financial resources. Recognizing and diagnosing these barriers is important for developing inclusive approaches that ensure equitable access to cultural and educational resources.

WU is committed to promoting lifelong learning, public education, and the preservation of cultural and natural heritage by making its museums and learning spaces freely accessible to the public. In 2025, WU officially opened the Sirin Museum and Tumpang Museum on a full scale, welcoming visitors from within and beyond Nakhon Si Thammarat Province.

Sirin Museum

The Maha Chakri Sirindhorn Natural History Museum (Sirin Museum) serves as an important public learning center for environmental education, biodiversity conservation, natural resource conservation, and cultural heritage preservation.



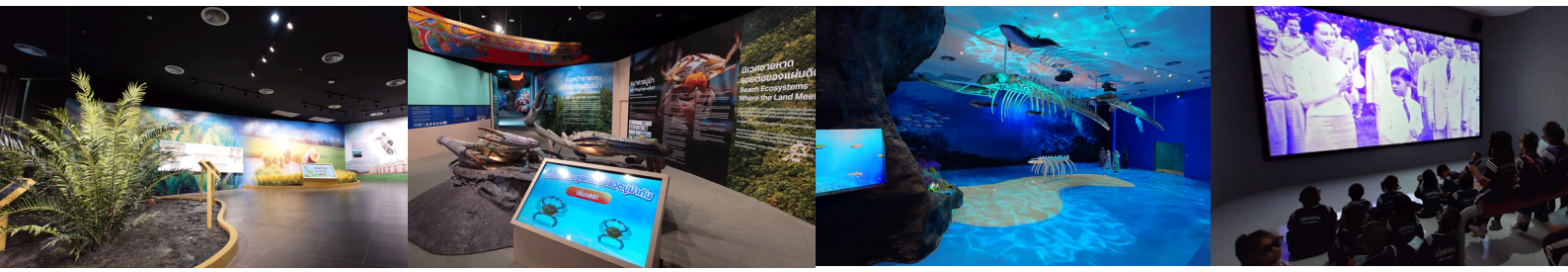
The museum provides an educational environment where visitors can learn about Southern Thailand's natural resources, ecosystems, biodiversity, and cultural heritage.

The Sirin Museum consists of eight permanent exhibition chambers covering different dimensions of Southern Thailand's natural and cultural heritage:

- ***The Kroek Krai (Glorious) Princess Conservationist Chamber*** presents the royal biography of Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn.
- ***Remembrance of the Resourced Assets Chamber*** introduces the natural and cultural resources of Southern Thailand.
- ***Khao Luang's Abundant Resources Chamber*** showcases the biodiversity of the Khao Luang mountain range.
- ***Chamber of Limitless Potential*** presents research projects inspired by royal initiatives.



- ***The Local Resources of Pak Phanang River Basin Chamber*** features research on the environmental, and cultural resources of the Pak Phanang River Basin.
- ***Coastline of Plenty Chamber*** explores the coastal ecosystems of the Gulf of Thailand through multimedia exhibitions and authentic specimens.
- ***The Gulf of Thailand Chamber*** features a marine aquarium to illustrate Thailand's rich marine biodiversity.
- ***The RSPG Chamber*** concludes the visitor journey by emphasizing natural resource conservation, biodiversity protection, and sustainable resource use.



Throughout 2025, the Sirin Museum welcomed almost 20,000 visitors, demonstrating its role as an increasingly important public learning destination. WU also organized free educational and community activities, including Children's Day activities, the Soft Opening Ceremony, and other outreach programmes.

Tumpang Museum

The Tumpang Museum was established to preserve, interpret, and promote the cultural heritage of Southern Thailand while providing free access to knowledge, cultural resources, and educational experiences for the wider public.



The square-shaped brick structure draws inspiration from the ancient Tumpang Archaeological Site, while the roof incorporates the traditional Southern Pran Yha architectural style. Its exterior walls resemble the historic city walls of Nakhon Si Thammarat, symbolizing cultural continuity, resilience, identity, and the preservation of regional heritage.



The museum houses exhibitions covering Southern history, archaeology, traditional lifestyles, performing arts, cultural practices, and historical artefacts. The Tumpang Museum transforms scholarly knowledge into engaging and accessible learning experiences. Visitors can explore the history and cultural development of Southern Thailand while gaining a greater understanding of the communities, traditions, and historical connections that have shaped the region.







WU also provides free public access to the nearby Tumpang Archaeological Site, an important historical resource that demonstrates cultural connections among ancient communities and illustrates the economic, artistic, and religious exchanges that influenced Southern Thailand over many centuries.



To further strengthen public engagement and improve visitor learning experiences, WU launched a Museum Guide Training Program that prepared university students to serve as museum guides for Thai and international visitors. The programme provides students with knowledge of museum collections, local history, communication skills, interpretation techniques, and visitor engagement. At the same time, students gain practical experience in public education, communication, leadership, cultural interpretation, and community engagement through real-world service.

Through these efforts, WU demonstrates its commitment to making museums, exhibitions, cultural heritage, scientific knowledge, and educational resources accessible to all. This commitment directly supports providing free public access to museums, exhibition spaces, archaeological sites, cultural artefacts, and educational resources while promoting lifelong learning, cultural heritage conservation, and inclusive participation in community life.

RECORDING AND PRESERVING INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE

Intangible cultural heritage, including local traditions, folklore, languages, traditional knowledge, performing arts, food practices, and religious customs, represents an important part of the identity and collective memory of communities. WU diagnoses and assesses risks to intangible cultural heritage, including the loss of traditional knowledge, oral languages, cultural practices, and community traditions. Based on these identified needs, WU undertakes activities to record, document, preserve, promote, and transmit intangible cultural heritage at local, regional, national, and community levels, helping ensure that valuable cultural knowledge remains accessible to future generations.

Preserving Local and Regional Traditions, Performing Arts, and Traditional Knowledge



At the local and regional level, WU supports the preservation of traditional customs and cultural practices through activities. WU organized a traditional local food training activity on the preparation of Kanom Tom, helping preserve traditional culinary knowledge and providing opportunities for cultural knowledge to be learned and transmitted through practical participation. WU further contributes to the preservation of southern Thai performing arts and local knowledge through creative research conducted by the WU Nora Training Center. The performance “Ram Bucha Thuat Tumpang” was presented at the Tumpang Ancient Monument. The performance adapted traditional Nora conventions and incorporated southern Thai identity through dance movements, lyrics, costumes, and local musical instruments.



WU also contributes to the preservation of important regional cultural traditions through its participation in the International Makha Bucha Hae Pha Khuen That Festival in Nakhon Si Thammarat. The festival helps promote the historical Srivijaya Route and strengthen cultural connections and cooperation within the ASEAN Community.

Safeguarding and Transmitting Thailand’s National Cultural Traditions



At the national level, WU organized “Walailak Songkran” in 2025, including the traditional pouring of water to seek blessings from older people. WU also organized the 2025 Candle Casting Ceremony at the Dharma Plaza of WU to maintain Buddhist traditions, with the candles subsequently offered to five temples surrounding WU. In addition, WU organized activities to

preserve the Loy Krathong Festival, providing opportunities for participants to maintain traditional practices associated with gratitude toward the water and cultural beliefs. Together, these activities contribute to the preservation of Thai cultural heritage, traditional knowledge and cultural awareness.



Preserving the Language, Knowledge, and Cultural Identity of Displaced People



Particular attention is also given to the documentation and preservation of the cultural heritage of displaced and indigenous communities. WU researchers conducted fieldwork in Pa Bon and Kong Ra districts of Phatthalung Province as part of the project to study and collect knowledge of the Mani ethnic group in Southern Thailand for dissemination through the Mani Ethnic Museum at WU. A major focus of the research is the Mani language, an oral language without its own established writing system. The research records not only the language itself but also knowledge embedded within conversations, including the Mani people's way of life, beliefs, relationship with nature, environmental knowledge, cultural memory, and oral traditions.

By recording conversations and collecting cultural knowledge directly from community members, WU contributes to preserving an important part of the Mani people's intangible cultural heritage before it is lost or significantly altered over time.

Through these initiatives, WU demonstrates a sustained commitment to recording and preserving intangible cultural heritage through cultural activities, creative research, field-based documentation, oral history, language recording, traditional food training, performing arts, museums, and community engagement. These efforts help safeguard local folklore, traditions, languages, traditional knowledge, religious customs, indigenous heritage, and cultural practices, while creating opportunities for students, staff, communities, and the wider public to participate in cultural preservation.



PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE COMMUTING ACROSS THE CAMPUS



Sustainable commuting on university campuses can be affected by dependence on private vehicles, limited public transportation, inadequate pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure, long travel distances, traffic congestion, and insufficient integration between different modes of transportation. A diagnostic assessment of commuting patterns, transportation needs, and mobility conditions can help identify barriers to sustainable travel and guide appropriate improvements to campus transportation infrastructure and services. Sustainable commuting is therefore important for reducing reliance on private vehicles, promoting walking and cycling, improving access to low-carbon transportation options, and supporting a safer, healthier, and more environmentally sustainable campus.

WU established a dedicated organization, the Division of Landscaping and Building, which is responsible for building, renovating, monitoring, and maintaining pedestrian and bicycle routes and related facilities throughout the campus. In particular, WU has developed





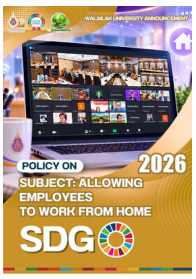
56 pedestrian routes connecting buildings across the campus, enabling students, staff, visitors, and other campus users to travel between facilities more conveniently and safely.

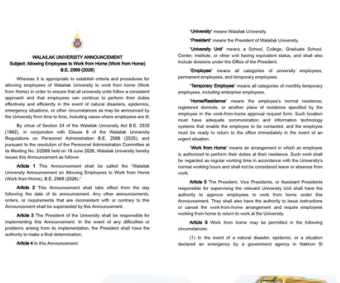




To further improve public access and sustainable mobility, WU provides 9 electric shuttle buses serving different areas of the campus for students, staff, and visitors. The electric shuttle bus service provides an accessible and low-emission transportation option for traveling across the campus. WU also operates 12 vans for staff carpooling, supporting shared transportation and reducing the number of individual vehicle trips. In addition, the university has 8 electric cars used for university missions, contributing to the transition toward electric mobility, low-carbon transportation, and reduced greenhouse gas emissions.

WU has issued its *Policy on Working from Home, B.E. 2569 (2026)*. which provides another approach to reducing unnecessary commuting. The policy can help reduce travel demand, traffic, fuel consumption, and transportation-related environmental impacts while supporting more flexible working practices.





Through these initiatives, WU has promoted sustainable commuting across the campus by strengthening pedestrian and bicycle connectivity, expanding accessible campus transportation, promoting shared mobility, supporting electric transportation, and encouraging low-carbon travel options. These measures have contributed to a safer, more connected, efficient, and sustainable campus transportation environment, enabling students, staff, visitors, and other campus users to travel more conveniently while reducing reliance on private vehicles. The integration of sustainable commuting, electric transportation, pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure, shared mobility, and remote working has helped reduce traffic congestion, transportation-related carbon emissions, fuel consumption, and environmental impacts associated with daily travel.

PROVIDING FREE PUBLIC ACCESS TO GREEN SPACES, OPEN SPACES, AND CULTURALLY SIGNIFICANT PLACES

Public access to green spaces, open spaces, cultural landscapes, monuments, and heritage sites is important for creating inclusive and sustainable communities. However, limited access to recreational and culturally significant places and insufficient public spaces can prevent people from enjoying natural environments, engaging in cultural activities, and connecting with their communities. These challenges may particularly affect local people's ability to access recreational and cultural facilities. WU recognizes the importance of conducting diagnostic analyses to identify barriers to public access, assess community needs, and understand opportunities to improve the accessibility and inclusiveness of recreational, green, and culturally significant spaces.

Free Public Access to Green Spaces

WU provides several green spaces and landscaped areas that are accessible to the general public. Among the university's major public green spaces are Walailak Park, the French Style Garden, and the WU Botanic Park.

Walailak Park is the largest university park in Thailand, covering approximately 100.79 acres. Located near the university's main entrance, the park was designed to provide convenient public access and is open free of charge. The park includes cycling and jogging tracks, open spaces for yoga and group activities, pavilions, seating areas, landscaped gardens, and recreational facilities, allowing visitors to exercise, relax, and enjoy the natural environment. In 2025, more than 30,000 people visited Walailak Park, demonstrating its role as an accessible public green space.







The French Style Garden, located at the entrance of WU Hospital, is another public green space available free of charge. Designed according to the Formal Garden concept of French landscape architecture, the garden emphasizes geometric patterns, symmetry, proportion, order, structured walkways, ornamental plant beds, trees, grasses, white stones, and outdoor art installations. In 2025, more than 25,000 visitors accessed the garden, highlighting its value as an aesthetic and learning green space.

The WU Botanic Park further expands public access to green and open spaces. The park includes landscaped areas, a reservoir, recreational facilities, and spaces designed for community activities. Near the entrance, a scenic tunnel known as "Embrace the Warmth of Sunrise, Bid Farewell to the Gentle Sunset" provides visitors with a distinctive landscape feature for relaxation and photography.





Public Access to Open Spaces and Community Activities

WU also uses its open spaces to provide opportunities for public participation, recreation, cultural exchange, social interaction, and community engagement.

One example is the "WU Happy Fun Run," which brought together university administrators, faculty members, staff, alumni, students, and members of the public. More than 3,000 participants joined the activity, transforming the university's green environment.







WU also opened its Botanic Park to the wider public for the "The Infinity of Love: Marriage Registration – Rak Loy Fah" activity in collaboration with the Tha Sala District Office in 2025. The activity provided 14 couples with an opportunity to register their marriages in a memorable outdoor setting and reflected WU's support for gender equality.

The International Food Festival 2025, held at WU Botanic Park, provided a platform for public participation and cultural exchange, strengthening relationships between Thai and international students. The event attracted more than 266 Thai and international students and also welcomed members of the general public to participate in its activities.



Public Access to Culturally Significant Monuments and Heritage Spaces

In addition to green and recreational spaces, WU provides access to monuments, cultural landscapes, and places that promote cultural heritage, local identity, and knowledge preservation.



The Golden Manorah Monument serves as a culturally significant landmark that contributes to the conservation and promotion of local cultural heritage. The monument provides a visible representation of cultural identity within the university landscape and allows visitors to engage with cultural heritage as part of the campus environment.



The WU 33 Glory Roll is another distinctive landmark developed through the work of the WU engineering research team. The installation is illuminated at night, creating a prominent visual landmark and contributing to the university's cultural and architectural landscape.



The Thai Elephant Sculpture represents the elephant as an important symbol of Thailand and contributes to cultural awareness, national heritage appreciation, and conservation awareness.



WU also provides access to the Maniq Museum, which contributes to the documentation and preservation of the cultural identity of the Maniq indigenous people of Southern Thailand. The museum includes models representing Maniq people and serves as a learning resource for understanding indigenous culture, traditional knowledge, cultural identity, and heritage preservation.

WU's commitment to public access has strengthened the use of its green spaces, open spaces, cultural facilities, and heritage resources by the wider public. The University's parks and gardens provide accessible spaces for recreation, physical activity, relaxation, social interaction, environmental learning, and community engagement, while its open spaces support public events, cultural activities, and inclusive community participation. Those activities such as the WU Happy Fun Run, marriage registration at the WU Botanic Park, and the International Food Festival have further expanded opportunities for the public to access and enjoy university spaces.