

## *Milwaukie Vision Statement*

**In the year 2015**, Milwaukie is known as a friendly, full-service city where people want to live and visit. A legacy of established neighborhoods and a street grid system define Milwaukie as part of the region's inner core. The City has successfully transitioned to an urban character. This is a safe community where cultural and business diversity flourishes.

**Milwaukie's Expanded City Center** extends from the upland geography near 37th Avenue to the shoreline of the Willamette River. A larger-scale complex of housing units and medical facilities, linked by pedestrian networks, anchors this eastern edge. Typical commercial design for Milwaukie's Expanded City Center emphasizes retail on the first floor and office and/or residential on second or third floors. Parking is underground or in structures, which accommodates the pedestrian-oriented atmosphere.

**With the return of public rail transit to Milwaukie**, the Expanded City Center has taken on a bold look, with mixed office, commercial, and residential activity. People enjoy spending time in Milwaukie, strolling along the revitalized riverfront and taking advantage of a variety of options. Cultural events attract people from the region. The many public spaces are well used. Commercial activity mixes with residential use for people who now call city center "home." Transit options and commercial places keep the Expanded City Center alive after five o'clock. People feel secure and are surrounded with the positive energy that public places can provide.

**Milwaukie's stable neighborhoods offer diversity in housing.** These neighborhoods are linked through safe and attractive pedestrian and bicycle access. Because of the security and peace of its living areas, residents feel encouraged to be involved in neighborhood activities. Neighborhood associations participate with local governments in prioritizing services and needs. New housing areas are well-designed and blend into existing neighborhoods. Schools form a nucleus for neighborhood interest. Small commercial centers form a focus for public interaction in each of the neighborhoods. People watch out for one another.

**With a diverse range of economic options**, including home-based employment, people of many social and cultural backgrounds find Milwaukie a good place to work. New technologies continue to evolve in Milwaukie, especially in industrial areas. New business opportunities are expanded throughout the revitalized City.

**Aggressive pursuit of transportation** plan objectives have overcome barriers for vehicular travel and have created stronger east-west street connectors. Existing grid patterns carry many modes of transport. With new trails, sidewalks, bike lanes, and streets in place, Milwaukie is known as a community that is pedestrian-oriented with a city center that uses the human scale in its development designs. Good bus transit offers the option of getting to jobs in the City's commercial or industrial areas. Transportation facilities allow for freight movement on Highway 224 without adversely affecting the rest of the City. The small station for the regional high-speed rail line is integrated with the City's second light rail station at the eastern end of the Expanded City Center.

**People recognize that they are entering Milwaukie** by the tree-lined corridors. A network of pathways, parks, wetlands, and open spaces allow interaction between individual sections of the city and its neighborhoods. Johnson Creek is restored to a pristine urban stream, and its streambanks offer people and wildlife a natural refuge. An enhanced Kellogg Lake and the riverfront serve as a focal point for the City's park network.

**A renaissance of urban design** is resulting in a rebuilt physical environment that is timeless and serves economic needs. Milwaukie's residents carry a sense of pride of place, best symbolized by how the City has designed and taken care of its rebuilt city center, neighborhoods, and its open space areas.