

Kenmore Wins Statewide Excellence Award

Press Release
07/09/2018

Kenmore, WA – The City of Kenmore was one of only five cities in the State of Washington to win an Association of Washington Cities (AWC) Municipal Excellence Award presented on June 27th, 2018 at the annual AWC conference in Yakima, WA. Mayor David Baker and Nancy Ousley, Assistant City Manager, accepted the award on the city's behalf at the conference.

AWC's Municipal Excellence Awards recognize innovative city projects that significantly improve the quality of life for their communities. The competition is open each year to any Washington city or town.

Kenmore earned the Municipal Excellence Economic Development Award for their Kenmore + Local Business: Connecting and Growing project. AWC highlighted Kenmore's creation of a business alliance and incubator, demonstrating their community as a place of opportunity, cultivating existing businesses, and inviting new ones.

Kenmore adopted their first Economic Development Strategy in 2009, with goals to promote Kenmore, support old and attract new business, provide a walkable downtown, and connect the community to the waterfront. The strategy proved to be a successful roadmap for significant development and smart economic growth. Private sector investment in a walkable, vibrant Downtown Kenmore is approaching \$100M since 2014. In addition and over the last decade, the City has leveraged over \$80M in federal, state, and local dollars to improve safety and beautify the streetscape on SR-522 between 61st and 83rd Avenues NE. In 2016, voters approved a \$19.5 million "Walkways and Waterways" bond measure – the city's first – to invest in five significant sidewalk, park and waterfront access projects, one of which is already completed.

The Kenmore City Council will be adopting an updated Economic Development Strategy later this month, setting the stage for the next 5 – 10 years.

"Kenmore is well positioned for continued responsible, quality investment in our downtown, and along the waterfront," stated Mayor Baker. "This entire community works together to propel Kenmore forward. It's something to see".