

## Future Character

We know about present-day Mountlake Terrace, but when it comes to the future, we can only speculate, based on available information. Features and characteristics that seem likely to be part of the city's future include the following:

- All items in the “current character” list
- More development in town center
- Citizen-friendly civic center
- Enhanced recreation facilities
- Pleasant, convenient walking opportunities

## Community Values

In any modern-day community, different people have different ideas about values, i.e., what they think is important, for themselves or their family. The concept of *community* values goes beyond this; it refers to what is important for the community as a whole. In Mountlake Terrace, while a scientific poll has not been taken, observations suggest that most residents in Mountlake Terrace would agree on the importance of certain values at the broad community level, related to city planning.

These community-level values include **safety**, or the knowledge that the community is relatively safe from crime, accidents, natural hazards, and other threats. They include **walkability**, the ability for people to easily walk to places, such as the school, park, library, maybe the swimming pool or a restaurant. Recreational walking, jogging, and bicycling are associated with this value too. Another value seems to be a “**sense of community**,” the idea that people who live or work in the same general locale feel some connection with each other, are committed to maintaining or improving the community, and recognize their shared future. A sense of community typically grows from citizens seeing and talking with each other, solving common problems, and enjoying their common resources, public spaces, and neighborly activities.

Community values, related to city planning, include other qualities too. For example, Mountlake Terrace citizens generally value the area's **natural environment**, including the lake, open space, wetlands, and trees. They also seem to place a high value on **neighborhood character**, especially whether their neighborhood is reasonably maintained, quiet, and comfortable. **Recreation** is highly valued too, as indicated by the community's support for public parks and recreation programs. Support for schools and a library system attest to **education** being a community value. In general, the community seems to be interested in having **attractive buildings and landscaping**, whether they are existing or new. Most people feel strongly about basic issues, such as a healthy **economy**, efficient **transportation**, and desirable **housing**.

In the years ahead, this Comprehensive Plan will guide development decisions so they reflect community values and other needs.