

The Port of Kennewick: A Long-Term Vision for Future Prosperity

The Port of Kennewick makes targeted investments in a wide variety of projects all across the Port's 485 square mile district. All of our projects are linked together by our focus on creating a solid economic foundation in the Quad-Cities leading to long-term economic prosperity. We see the Quad-Cities growing and emerging as a regional hub of commercial activity that supports well-paying jobs and a superior quality of life for local residents. Our goal is to translate that vision into reality.

The Quad-Cities is the fastest growing area in Washington State, and unlike other areas across the northwest and nation, our economy is strong and diversified with three active port districts. While private sector companies are naturally committed to seeking short-term profits, the Port has the ability to make investments now that gradually develop over time to emerge as drivers of economic growth. We are planting the seeds today that will blossom into job creation and economic growth tomorrow.

Creating Lasting Value for Taxpayers

Laying the foundation for long-term prosperity requires vision and patience. ***The Port seeks opportunity where others see only failure and decay.*** Case in point: the Port's acquisition of the Willows Trailer Park and other parcels along Kennewick's Columbia Drive. This major urban renewal effort, slated to take place over 15 years, has already seen the removal of dilapidated buildings that previously housed crime and transient activity. The Port's effort along Columbia drive is now spurring a new wave of private sector interest in the area. **Over time a blighted area will be transformed into a vibrant multi-use environment** with open spaces, shops, restaurants, and other attractive commercial venues.

A Once in a Generation Opportunity

The underutilized Vista Field airport sits on 112 acres of prime real estate in the heart of the Quad-Cities. In April **Port commissioners unanimously voted to close the airport**, embarking on a visionary redevelopment over the next two decades. This redevelopment will create an interconnected landscape of new public parkland, plazas, and water features similar to Bricktown, Oklahoma; Indianapolis, Indiana; or San Antonio, Texas. The Port's goal is to create a water-oriented, regional "town center" surrounded by retail, entertainment, housing, public amenities, and flex-industrial buildings. Instead of supporting a major tax increase which would have been necessary to upgrade the airport, **the Port has settled on a vision that will transform the area, create thousands of new jobs, and trigger hundreds of millions in new investments.**

Making the Quad-Cities a Magnet for Visitors

The Quad-Cities are in the heart of Washington wine country. As part of Columbia Drive redevelopment, the **Port is considering creating an attractive urban wine village.** The Port's vision for this area includes a walk-able waterfront area where residents and visitors could stroll between tasting rooms, restaurants and boutique shops; enjoying outdoor concerts, art installations, and watchable wildlife.