



Department of City Development
News Release

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City Receives Award For Menomonee Valley Redevelopment

The International Economic Development Council (IEDC) recognized the City of Milwaukee and its Redevelopment Authority with an Excellence in Economic Development Award for its achievement in redeveloping Wisconsin's largest eyesore: the Menomonee Valley. IEDC recognized the world's best economic development programs and partnerships with 25 awards presented at its annual conference this month.

The IEDC provides leadership and excellence in economic development for communities, members and international partners.

"Economic development efforts have long been a keystone in the quest to bolster the economy and improve quality of life in every locality across the country," said Robin Roberts Krieger, IEDC chair. "As the nation continues to tackle longstanding challenges in the midst of an inhospitable financial climate, these efforts have taken on an even greater significance. With the award, we laud trendsetting organizations like the Redevelopment Authority of the City of Milwaukee for leading the charge."

"The City of Milwaukee is honored to be recognized for more than a decade of work to turn our greatest blight into our greatest asset to create jobs," said Mayor Tom Barrett. "The real reward is the 2,000 plus jobs we've been able to leverage through this project."

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For over 100 years, Milwaukee Road Shops built railcars and locomotives on a 133-acre property in the Menomonee River Valley. At its peak, the company was one of the largest employers in Wisconsin; however, after it closed in 1985, the property became the most visible brownfield in the State. The site's central location, access to multiple modes of transportation, proximity to customers and suppliers, and easy access to more workers than anywhere else in Wisconsin, made it a prime target for redevelopment. Furthermore, the redevelopment of such a large site provided an opportunity to respond to the economic and environmental problems by promoting a sustainable approach to development. The City of Milwaukee believed the site held the opportunity to maximize the site's economic returns, restore an ecological system and fulfill the needs of a broad range of stakeholders. The City of Milwaukee and the Redevelopment Authority acquired the site, remediated environmental pollution and prepared the site to become the Menomonee Valley Industrial Center. Today, the Menomonee Valley is home to several new businesses, buildings of green design, a stormwater park, community park and more. There are just 20 acres left for businesses to grow in the Valley Industrial Center.

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