

## F. Urban Design Impacts

The Draft Plan takes much of the policy direction already established for the Olde Town Subarea (See **Appendix D, Downtown Committee Report of Recommendations from the Issaquah Comprehensive Plan**) and combines it with the other Comprehensive Plan Element considerations. The Urban Design emphasizes the planning area assets: natural green edges that surround Olde Town; clear gateways that provide entry; strong historic residential character of the neighborhood; historic structures and sites; healthy CBD activity area with specific new development/redevelopment areas; and established pedestrian-oriented population.

Pedestrian scale development will support continued access by pedestrians and will encourage visitors to walk through Olde Town rather than rely on cars to go from place to place (as needed elsewhere in the City). The building improvements, lively colors in accents and extensive street furniture can highlight an emphasis on Old Town's high energy character. Additionally, emphasizing this neighborhood as an essential part of the "Trailhead City" will encourage bike riders to stop-over in the CBD. A signage system to direct and orient visitors will improve visitor use of the commercial area. Multiple gateway entrances to Olde Town will establish a clear identity for this neighborhood. Development on Front Street, Sunset, and 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue NW will emphasize "Main Street, USA" but even more so will create a multi-block crossroad area as the neighborhood's commercial core. The changes envision not only appearance changes but also accommodation of new commercial service uses – such as a bank, drugstore and/or liquor store in the CBD.

The expansion of the Central Green at City Hall / Community Center complex, will firmly place Olde Town as the governmental center of the city. The new Library, Senior Center and Historic Depot will serve the cultural and historic needs of the community well in close proximity to the CBD commercial center and City governmental center.

The changes identified by the Urban Design Concept will enhance the livability of Olde Town, without necessarily favoring major changes in how Olde Town functions. A listing of action items is provided to address each particular design focus. These listed items continue to reinforce the vision and land use direction with more details on physical and functional improvements to improve urban design within Olde Town.

### **Urban Design Mitigating Measures**

1. Utilize design standards to assure that urban design and new development reflect the chosen emphasis for Olde Town.
2. Implement the visual focus of improvements, through organizations such as the Arts Commission, Main Street™, Historical Society, and the Chamber of Commerce, if appropriate.