First named "Millioki," which means "gathering place by the waters," by the Algonquian Indians, Milwaukee, Wisconsin is located on the western shore of Lake Michigan. The Milwaukee River flows through the city into Lake Michigan.

**Milwaukee's Neighborhoods**

Along three miles of the Milwaukee River, the Milwaukee River Walk, with its mix of high-end residential, commercial, and recreational uses, has become a prominent downtown area. The downtown is also home to the Bradley Center; the Midwest Airlines Convention Center; the Milwaukee Public Museum, with its IMAX theater and planetarium; the Harley Davidson Museum; and several live performance theaters. Located on the lakefront, the Milwaukee Art Museum, the 75-acre Henry W. Maier Festival Park, and Pier Wisconsin—home to Discovery World museum and aquarium—are other downtown attractions. Housing in the downtown area caters to singles, young couples without children, and empty nesters and consists primarily of renter-occupied apartments, although a large number of recently developed housing units are owner-occupied condominiums.

Adjacent to and sometimes considered part of downtown Milwaukee, the Historic Third Ward neighborhood comprises approximately twenty blocks of former warehouse and industrial buildings, which have been transformed into condominium units, commercial space, and artists' lofts. Many buildings feature Victorian Gothic, Sullivanesque, Art Deco, or neoclassical designs. The Italian Community Center and the Broadway Theatre Center are also located in the Historic Third Ward. Also contiguous to the downtown, the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee area includes a mix of domestic architecture ranging from bungalows to Victorian homes, condominiums, and apartment complexes.

On the West Side of Milwaukee, Story Hill, the oldest neighborhood in the area, has one of the highest concentrations of brick, stone, and stucco homes in the city. The Northwest Side has the greatest number of single-family homes in Milwaukee; the Sherman Park section of this area is known for brick and Lannon-stone homes situated on wide streets. Bungalows are also common in this neighborhood. The far Northwest Side, located where the city abuts the village of Menomonee Falls, features the city's newer single-family subdivisions. Bay View, located on the South Side's eastern edge along the shores of Lake Michigan, was started as a company town and remained an independent suburb for several decades before it was annexed by Milwaukee. Bay View has a mix of bungalows and lakefront homes.

**Parks and Recreation**

Milwaukee is home to two major sports teams: baseball’s National League Milwaukee Brewers, which plays at Miller Park, and basketball’s NBA Milwaukee Bucks, which plays at the Bradley Center. The Milwaukee Admirals Hockey Club, members of the American Hockey League, also plays at the Bradley Center.

The Milwaukee Zoological Gardens are home to more than 1,800 mammals, birds, fish, amphibians, and reptiles, with more than 350 species represented.

The 312-acre Lincoln Park borders the Milwaukee River, and the 138-acre Lake Park and the 103-acre Veterans Park border Lake Michigan. Various other parks are scattered throughout Milwaukee.

**Education**

Over 87,000 students attend Milwaukee’s 207 schools. Milwaukee operates community schools, which accept children only from the neighborhoods they serve; neighborhood schools that accept children from the neighborhood first, but will take students from its region; neighborhood specialty schools, which enroll students first from the neighborhood, then from the entire city; and citywide specialty schools, which accept children from all over the city and offer special programs or areas of study. In addition to elementary schools (K–6th grade), middle schools (6th–8th grade), and high schools (9th–12th grade), Milwaukee has some schools that are K–8th grade and some that are K–12th grade. The city also has some year-round schools, which have the same number of school days as traditional academic-year schools but have longer breaks. Finally, 43 charter schools provide a variety of educational focuses.

Milwaukee offers many opportunities for higher education and vocational training. Both the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and Marquette University offer diverse undergraduate and graduate degree programs, including nursing. Alverno College is a private women’s liberal arts college offering undergraduate and graduate programs. Also granting undergraduate degrees are the Milwaukee School of Engineering, Milwaukee Institute of Art & Design, and DeVry University Milwaukee. Finally, associate's degrees are available from Milwaukee Area Technical College, Sanford-Brown College–Milwaukee.

The Medical College of Wisconsin is a private freestanding medical school associated with Froedtert Hospital.

**Health Care**

Milwaukee’s nine acute care hospitals, including a Veterans Affairs facility, have over 3,400 licensed acute care beds. There are also 67 rehabilitation beds for persons with physical disabilities.

**Milwaukee City Stats**

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Skyline photo courtesy of Milwaukee D.C.D.