



NEWSLETTER

The official publication of the City of Sammamish

2025 YEAR IN REVIEW

**SAMMAMISH WELCOMES
POLICE K9**

BE STORM READY

December 2025

Photo credit: Leon Perquin

Sammamish City Council



Karen Howe
Mayor



Amy Lam
Deputy Mayor



Roisin O'Farrell
Councilmember



Kali Clark
Councilmember



Kent Treen
Councilmember



Pamela Stuart
Councilmember



Sid Gupta
Councilmember

Council Meetings

Regular council meetings are held on the first Tuesday and third Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m., with a study session on the second Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. For more information, go to sammamish.us/citycouncil.

To contact the Sammamish City Council, email
citycouncil@sammamish.us.

Coffee with Council

Join us for a cup of coffee and conversation. Coffee with Council happens the first Saturday of every month with rotating councilmember attendance. Meet them at 9:30 a.m. at Metropolitan Market in Sammamish. The councilmembers may be in the outdoor seating area depending on the weather conditions. Otherwise, you will find them in the upstairs seating area near the café. We hope to see you there!

coffee w/council



First Saturday of Every Month

9:30 a.m.

Metropolitan Market

On Mezzanine Level (upstairs from the Cafe)

Sammamish 101:

Permit team ensures development is safe, legal

Do you know how your local government works? We've shared a lot of information about the role and responsibilities of various positions in local government. Now, we want to highlight some of the departments and divisions within the city and the work that they do.

Our permitting team plays a crucial role in ensuring that development, construction, and land use activities comply with local codes, zoning laws, and safety standards. They operate our permit center, which is run under the Department of Community Development. Our permitting team ensures development is safe, legal, and aligned with the City's long-term plans—balancing growth with community standards and safety.

We have 2.5 positions dedicated to this division. One of these positions splits their time with Code Enforcement. While most permit activity is done online, the permit center is open for in-person questions and payments on the following days and times:

In person hours:

Monday 9 a.m. - noon

Wednesday 1 p.m. - 4 p.m.

Friday 9 a.m. - noon

To learn more about permits and the work this group does visit our website:

www.sammamish.us/government/community-development/permit-center/



Prepare for heavy rains

The “wet season” in Western Washington began Oct. 1 and runs through April 30. During heavy rains, the City of Sammamish Maintenance and Operations staff are ready to respond to flooding problems that threaten public health, safety or property.

How You Can Help

- 1.** Keep storm drains clear of leaves and debris by using a broom or rake. Drains near street corners and low areas of streets and parking lots usually need special attention. Remember to be safe; do not wade into flooded areas.
- 2.** Make a difference and help protect our waters! Join the City’s Adopt a Storm Drain program: <https://wa.adopt-a-drain.org/> Place fallen leaves and other yard waste in your yard waste container or compost them in your garden. Never rake or blow leaves from your property into the street.
- 3.** Inspect and maintain your drainage system, including roof gutters and downspouts. Check to make sure debris is not blocking your drainage system and water can flow freely. Keep yard debris and leaf piles away from drainage ditches and streams so that rising water does not carry the material downstream and block stormwater pipes.
- 4.** If you’re in an area with a high potential for flooding, keep sandbags on hand and put valuables in a high, dry location. The City does not provide sandbags. King County offers distribution locations, and they can be found here: <https://kingcounty.gov/en/dept/dnrp/nature-recreation/environment-ecology-conservation/flood-services/how-to-prepare-flooding/sandbag-distribution-use>

Report a non-emergency stormwater problem.
<https://seeclickfix.com/sammamish-wa>

In an emergency, call 911.

Winter is coming - be storm ready

With colder months approaching, we want to remind everyone that winter weather is just around the corner. When snow and ice arrive, please stay home whenever possible so our crews can safely and efficiently treat and clear the roads.

To ensure the safest and most effective use of resources, the City has established four Priority Routes, which focus on roads that serve the greatest number of residents and provide essential access for transit, police, fire, and medical responders. **Please take a moment to review the Priority Route Map on our website before the next storm hits:**
www.sammamish.us/government/public-works/snow-and-ice-response/

Smaller neighborhood streets and cul-de-sacs will not be plowed because the City has to focus on major arterials for emergency response. Therefore, it’s important for households to be ready to remain indoors for a few days if needed. The City cannot take plow requests. Make sure you’re prepared by stocking up on food, water, and necessary supplies ahead of time. It’s also a good idea to have extra blankets, flashlights, and firewood on hand in case of power outages.

To learn more about how to be prepared for weather emergencies, visit: www.sammamish.us/our-community/emergency-management/winter/

Additional contacts

- **If the power goes out, please contact Puget Sound Energy: www.pse.com/en/outage/outage-resources**
- **If you have questions related to garbage, recycling or compost collection, please contact Republic Services: www.republicservices.com/municipality/sammamish-wa**

Update emergency preparedness kits for winter

Winter storms can strike quickly, bringing power outages, icy roads, and potential isolation. Preparing an emergency go bag ensures your family stays safe and comfortable during severe weather events. These bags should be updated seasonally as different seasons bring different hazards.



Emergency Kit Updates

- ☐ Three days' worth of non-perishable food (check those expiration dates)
- ☐ Three days' supply of water (one gallon per person per day)
- ☐ Warm layers (hats, gloves, socks, scarves)
- ☐ Waterproof jackets and sturdy boots
- ☐ Thermal blankets or sleeping bags
- ☐ Hand and foot warmers
- ☐ Pet food and supplies (if applicable)

Remember, throughout the year to review and refresh supplies, check expiration dates on food, water, and medications, and update clothing and items for the season.

Join a commission, board and help shape the City

The City of Sammamish is accepting applications for vacancies on volunteer boards and commissions. Help shape your community's future by joining one of the following:

Arts Commission (Positions 3 & 4), Human Services Commission (Position 7), Parks & Recreation Commission (Positions 4 & 5), Planning Commission (Positions 6 & 7), and Sustainability Commission (Position 4).

Apply here: <https://sammamishwa.civicweb.net/Portal/BoardApplication/?notices=True>

All terms end Jan. 31, 2030. Apply online by 5 p.m. Friday, Jan. 9, 2026. Late applications will not be accepted.

Finalist interviews and appointments will occur Tuesday, Jan. 13, 2026. Questions?
Contact Amber Anderson, at 425-295-0527 or aanderson@sammamish.us



CITY OF SAMMAMISH

Year

in review



1 Arts Strategic Plan

The City adopted its first Arts Strategic Plan this spring. The document is a community-driven roadmap to guide arts and culture investments. The Arts Commission will begin implementing the Plan's near-term priorities, including developing a two-year arts work plan, applying new project selection criteria, and building partnerships to expand arts access across Sammamish.

To learn more visit: www.sammamish.us/government/commissions/arts/arts-strategic-plan/



2 Restarted CERT Program

The City restarted its Community Emergency Response Team trainings, with a new class starting in September. This group completed their training in November. CERT-trained residents can safely help themselves, their families, and their neighborhoods during major emergencies. If disaster overwhelms local response capability, CERT-trained residents can provide critical support in their immediate area until help arrives. A new class will start next year, stay tuned for more info.

To learn about CERT visit: www.sammamish.us/our-community/emergency-management/cert/



3 Fourth on the Plateau

The City's biggest event of the year sparkled with fireworks overhead. Thousands of people flocked to Sammamish to enjoy a variety of food trucks, kids activities, and live music before the big fireworks show at 10 p.m.



4 New streetsweeper

The City added a new high-efficiency street sweeper to the fleet thanks to the Washington State Department of Ecology through its Stormwater Financial Assistance Program. This investment reflects Sammamish's ongoing commitment to environmental protection and responsible infrastructure management because it runs on alternative diesel, which has less GHG emissions.



6 Recycling Numbers

The City hosted five drive-through recycling events this year in partnership with the City of Issaquah, giving residents a convenient way to recycle hard-to-dispose-of items like tires, scrap metal, and batteries. Together, we collected 4,960 carloads totaling 420,594 pounds—about 210 tons—of material diverted from the waste stream. That's roughly the weight of 50 fully loaded school buses.

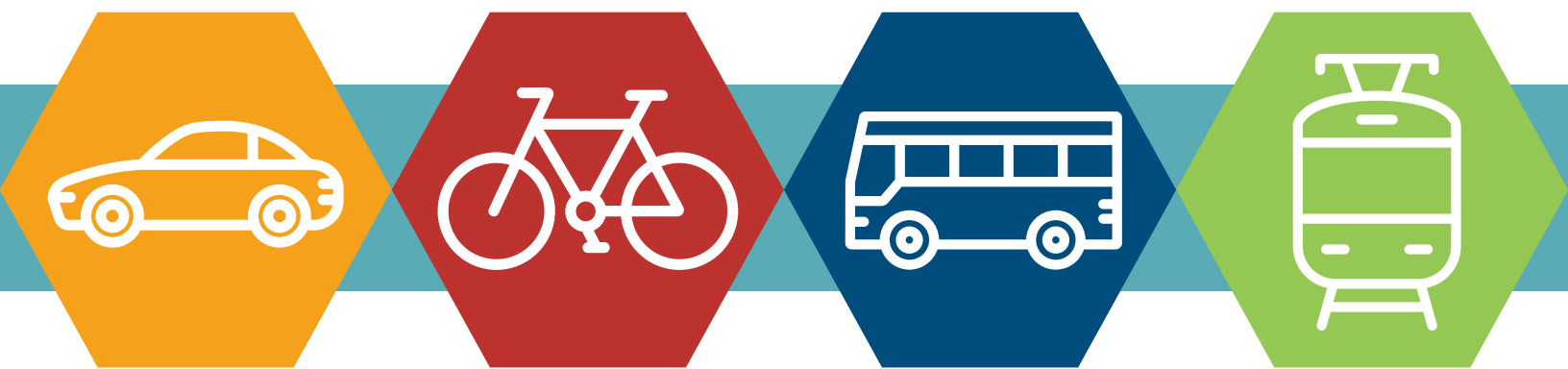
Thank you to our partners: City of Issaquah, Eastside Catholic School, WA State Department of Ecology, King County Solid Waste Division, King County Hazardous Waste Management Program, PaintCare, and E-Cycle Washington.



5 Surpassing heat pump targets

So far this year, Sammamish has exceeded our target for the percentages of single-family residential HVAC permits filed (alteration or addition) as heat pumps. In 2025, the Eastside Climate Partnership target was 65%. As of November, Sammamish was at 68% HVAC permits issued being heat pumps. People can receive rebates through Energy Smart Eastside.

To learn more about these rebates visit:
www.energysmarteastside.org/



How Sammamish Moves: The basics of transportation planning

Transportation planning involves long-range plans and a framework for making projects happen.

The guiding document is the Sammamish Transportation Master Plan (TMP) which provides transportation goals, policies, and implementation strategies over a 20-year period. The City also develops mode-specific plans that complement the TMP such as the Bicycle and Pedestrian Mobility Plan and the Transit Plan.

The City's Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) is the framework for how projects are evaluated and considered for programming over a six-year period. The projects that are considered align with City goals and policies and are typically identified in long range plans through maintenance analysis and through community feedback. In 2025, the TIP will be incorporated into the Capital Improvement Plan which is the City's comprehensive mechanism for planning projects that add or restore City infrastructure.

Furthermore, **each new development project is evaluated for impacts to safety and multimodal travel, including vehicular traffic.** Developers are responsible for building the new infrastructure associated with their development, as well as mitigating any impacts.

Since its incorporation from King County in 1999, Sammamish has grown from a population of less than 30,000 to a population of over 65,000. Some of Sammamish's transportation challenges include a relatively unconnected street system, limited transit service, and a topography that makes active modes of transportation difficult for many users. These conditions existed prior to the City's incorporation.

Through long-range planning, thoughtful prioritizing and budgeting, and ongoing analysis of development impacts, Sammamish is able to shape a transportation system that is accessible, connected, and equitably accessible to various modes of travel, including walking, biking, public transit, and driving.

Learn more about how the City keeps a growing community moving by going to sammamish.us/TransportationPlanning



City Hall displays local art

The City of Sammamish showcases a rotating art exhibit in City Hall, curated by the Sammamish Arts Commission. This program highlights local artists, giving them an opportunity to share their work with the community in a highly visible public space. Exhibits include two-dimensional artwork in a variety of media—painting, photography, fiber art, and more—and are refreshed up to four times a year to feature new voices and perspectives.

The program is supported by the recently adopted Arts Strategic Plan, which includes a goal to provide opportunities for artists across skill levels, ages, and cultural backgrounds to showcase their art. Guided by the Arts Commission's mission to "integrate art and culture to create a sense of place, civic identity, and unique character," the rotating exhibit celebrates Sammamish's creativity, connects residents to local artists, and brings vibrancy to City Hall.

Louis Thompson Road Tightline Project nears completion

Construction on the Louis Thompson Road Tightline Project is nearly complete. The final pavement overlay will take place in spring 2026, as November weather did not allow the several consecutive dry days needed to achieve a high-quality surface. Once paving is complete, crews will install final striping and complete roadway markings.

The new sidewalk connection down to the East Lake Sammamish Trail ramp is now open, creating a safe pedestrian link that was planned during the original trail construction. The traffic signal at the intersection has also been upgraded with new hardware, video detection, and accessible ramps with an improved pedestrian call system.

A new storm drainage system now provides detention and water-quality treatment, helping protect Zackuse Creek, Lake Sammamish, and the Kokanee salmon habitat. In total, the project includes ten new retaining walls, which made it possible to widen the roadway for a bike lane and improved shoulders—a significant investment in multimodal safety and infrastructure longevity.



Winter Waste Awareness

The winter months bring more time spent with family, friends, and loved ones. This time of year also results in increased waste production from gifts, food, and celebrations. As you spend time with friends and family this holiday season, the City of Sammamish is here to help you learn what to recycle and what to trash.

Reminder: Not all plastic is recyclable!

Clean, dry plastic labeled with #1 and #2 can be more easily recycled and turned into new products. Other items belong in the trash.

- ✓ #1 plastic: polyethylene terephthalate
- ✓ #2 plastic: high-density polyethylene
- ✗ #3 plastic: polyvinyl chloride
- ✗ #4 plastic: low-density polyethylene
- ✗ #5 plastic: polypropylene
- ✗ #6 plastic: polystyrene
- ✗ #7 plastic: other

Tips to keep top of mind:

- Choose reuseable materials for decor and packaging.
- Prioritize purchasing supplies that are recyclable.
- Consider shopping local to cut down on packing waste and transportation costs.
- Recycle and compost what you can. We're here to help!



Guidelines for Recycling



Do

- Rinse and dry all food and drink containers.
- Keep lids on bottles or toss them in the trash; they're too small to recycle on their own.
- When in doubt, find out!
- Examples you CAN recycle: clean paper containers, bottles, aluminum cans, and plastic food containers*



Don't

- Recycle glitter, bows, laminate, or ribbons, these belong in the garbage.
- Plastic bags, wrappers, and packaging also belong in the garbage.
- Examples NOT to recycle: used napkins and dirty food containers (compost!), plastic utensils, and straws, bubble wrap, packing peanuts, foam packaging and batteries.

When you put items that are not recyclable in your bin, it makes all materials harder to process properly. Many items, especially plastic bags, can jam recycling machinery or end up mixed in with other recyclables as a contaminant. A good general rule is anything that's thin, stretchy, and plastic should not be placed in your recycle bin.

Check your materials online at www.republicservices.com/municipality/sammamish-wa or <https://info.kingcounty.gov/Services/recycling-garbage/Solid-Waste/what-do-i-do-with/>

Meet Sammamish's Newest Officer: K9 Falco

The Sammamish Police Department has welcomed a new four-legged team member — K9 Falco, a two-year-old German Shepherd trained as a patrol generalist. Falco is skilled in searching, tracking, and suspect apprehension, bringing an added layer of safety and capability to our growing community.

Falco's partner and handler is Deputy Lee Wunderlich, a seasoned member of the King County Sheriff's Office. Falco is Deputy Wunderlich's second police dog.



Before hitting the streets, the pair completed 400 hours of initial training and received certification from the Washington Criminal Justice Training Commission. They also underwent 80 additional hours of Tactical Readiness Training, designed to strengthen teamwork and tactical coordination in real-world scenarios. To maintain their skills, they continue with monthly training and biannual recertifications.

As Sammamish continues to grow, so do the needs of its police department. While the city has long benefitted from shared K9 resources through KCSO, having a dedicated K9 team will enhance local response times and provide more effective tools to support community safety.

Funding for K9 Falco, Deputy Wunderlich, and their training comes through the city's existing police services agreement with the King County Sheriff's Office, ensuring Sammamish residents receive specialized law enforcement support without added costs.

Frosty Fest

Dec. 17 ❄️ 4-7 p.m.

Sammamish City Hall

801 228th Ave. SE, Sammamish, WA 98075

How to Get Information & Get Involved

Sammamish City Council Meetings

Regular city council meetings are held on the first Tuesday and third Tuesday of each month at 6:30 pm, with a study session on the second Tuesday at 6:30 pm. For agendas, minutes, and meeting videos, go to sammamish.us/citycouncil. To contact the Sammamish City Council, email citycouncil@sammamish.us.

Sammamish Planning Commission

Sammamish Planning Commission meetings are held on the first and third Thursdays of each month at 6:30 pm. For agendas, minutes, and meeting videos, go to sammamish.us/planningcommission. To contact the Sammamish Planning Commission, email planningcommission@sammamish.us.

Additional Public Meeting Information

Stay informed on city government with CivicWeb Portal. See a schedule of meetings, get meeting agendas, and view past meetings at sammamishwa.civicweb.net

Receive Email and Text Alerts

To subscribe to the City of Sammamish email updates and text alerts go to sammamish.us/subscribe.

City Newsletter

Suggestions or concerns? Contact communications@sammamish.us

Follow City of Sammamish on Social Media



Scan the QR code or visit us at
www.sammamish.us

RESOURCES FOR SAMMAMISH RESIDENTS

Police/Fire Emergency 911

Police Non-Emergency (206) 296-3311

Eastside Fire & Rescue (425) 313-3200

King County Sheriff (206) 263-9133

King County Animal Control (206) 296-7387

Garbage - Republic Services (425) 646-2400

Sammamish Permit Center (425) 295-0531

Sammamish Plateau Water and Sewer (425) 392-6256

NE Sammamish Water and Sewer (425) 868-1144



City of Sammamish
801 228th Ave SE,
Sammamish, WA 98075
425-295-0500 • www.sammamish.us

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We are hiring!

Looking to make a difference in your community?

The City of Sammamish is hiring and currently looking to fill multiple positions across various departments. Whether you're an experienced professional or just starting your career, there may be a role that's right for you.

Explore open opportunities and apply today at:
www.governmentjobs.com/careers/sammamish/

Join a team committed to public service, innovation, and the future of Sammamish!