



NEWSLETTER

The official publication of the City of Sammamish

**JOIN US FOR OUR EARTH
DAY CELEBRATION**

**TOWN CENTER
UPDATE**

**POLICE DEPARTMENT
UPDATE**

April 2025

Photo credit: Jessica Burnam

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

Stormwater Management Program

The NPDES Phase II Municipal Stormwater Permit, issued by the Department of Ecology, requires that all regulated jurisdictions, including Sammamish, update their Stormwater Management Program (SWMP) Plan and submit a report each year.

The City's SWMP Plan describes the city's existing stormwater programs, as well as the plan to update and modify these programs as necessary to meet future requirements of the permit. The City's 2024 Annual Report was also completed recently and submitted to the Department of Ecology.

Both documents are available for public review and comment on the city's Stormwater webpage. www.sammamish.us/government/public-works/stormwater/npdes-stormwater-permit/.

CITY OF SAMMAMISH Bike and Pedestrian Mobility Plan

The City is evaluating existing bike and pedestrian facilities and will propose new projects to improve safety and connections for everyone. We want to hear from you:

- Share your ideas for walking and biking connections in Sammamish
- Learn about existing facilities and potential future projects



Visit the website to stay up to date!

Visit the website or scan the QR code: sammamish.us/government/public-works/transportation-planning/bike-and-pedestrian-mobility-plan/





Solarize Eastside Community Workshop

April 23, 2025

6:30-8 p.m.

Sammamish City Hall

801 228th Ave. SE, Sammamish,
WA 98075

Speaking of supporting your environment, solar is a great renewable energy source (yes, even in Washington). We know installing solar on your home can seem like a daunting process: from perceived costs, to technical details, to figuring out which installers to choose. To address these challenges and support homeowners, the City is partnering on Solarize Eastside, a program that provides Eastside residents with access to trusted solar installers, discounted prices, and made-in-Washington equipment.

**Learn more and sign up for
this workshop at
SolarizeEastside.org.**



Ecosystem services, learn more about solar power

Spring is here, and as flowers bloom, it's a great time to think about the natural environment that makes Sammamish so special. Natural resources such as native species, bodies of water, soil, and open space play an essential role in Sammamish. They provide numerous tangible and intangible benefits called ecosystem services to residents, visitors, neighboring communities, and wildlife.

Four Types of Ecosystem Services

- 1. Provisioning Services** - Fruits, vegetables, fish, and livestock are direct products of ecosystems. Along with food, other types of provisioning services include drinking water, raw materials, and medicine.
- 2. Regulating Services** - Regulating services include pollination, water and air filtration, erosion and flood control, and climate regulation, often from native species. All these processes work together to make ecosystems clean, sustainable, functional, and more resilient to change.
- 3. Cultural Services** - A cultural service is a non-material benefit that contributes to the development and advancement of people and cultures; the building of knowledge and spreading of ideas; creativity from interactions with nature (music and art); and recreation.
- 4. Supporting Services** - Ecosystems and humans are sustained by underlying natural processes, such as photosynthesis, nutrient cycling, the creation of soils, and the water cycle.

By making decisions that positively impact the health of our ecosystems and community, we can work together to support the environment that supports us.

**Learn more about what you can do for the environment at
Sammamish.us/Sustainability.**

What's Next for Sahalee Way?

Join the Conversation!

We heard you, Sammamish! Last year, hundreds of residents shared their thoughts on potential improvements to Sahalee Way. Now, it's time for the next step. The City has developed three options for the corridor, and we want your feedback on these concepts.



Your feedback is needed!

SAVE!
THE DATE

April 24, 2025

6–8 p.m. (presentation at 6:15 p.m.)

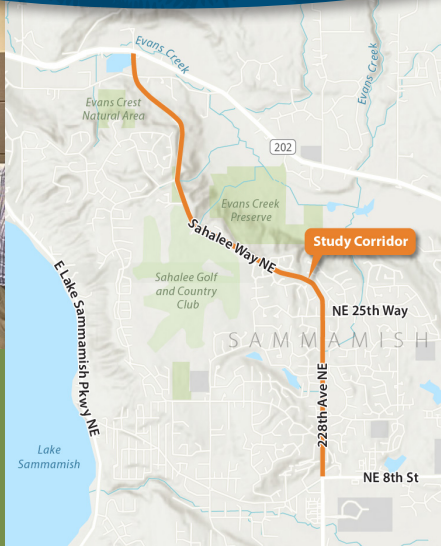
Sammamish City Hall



Learn more

and review the alternatives at:

sammamish.us/sahalee-corridor



Join us for an open house, where you can review the proposed options, ask questions, and provide your feedback. Your voice is critical in shaping the future of this important roadway.

We hope to see you there!

Can't make it in person?

You can also weigh in by completing our online survey, open until April 30.



THE CONE ZONE

Scheduled Road Work Projects to Know About



The City will start several Public Works projects this summer as the weather improves and conditions become prime for construction.

We will do work on Louis Thompson Road, East Lake Sammamish Parkway, and 212th Avenue Southeast along with some stormwater and fish passage projects. A list of upcoming 2025 projects was shared in the February Newsletter, please refer to that to learn more about some of the specific projects slated for this year. Our crews work hard to continue to maintain our roads and update culverts.

To stay up to date on construction impacts to traffic, please check our Cone Zone webpage:

sammamish.us/i-want-to/cone-zone/. This page is updated when we receive news that work will be done in our area.

If you have questions about any work, contact information will be shared on our project webpages.



Updated Sammamish Municipal Code regulations on new platform, include middle housing regulations

A new state law requires cities to allow more dense housing in residential zones. The legislation aims to increase housing availability and affordability by promoting a larger diversity of housing types.

Middle housing refers to a range of housing options that fall between single-family detached homes and larger multi-family apartment buildings, such as duplexes, townhouses, and cottage clusters. Sammamish residents expressed a desire for small to medium-sized housing types to accommodate the needs of different phases of life and be accessible to people across income levels.

The City's new middle housing regulations were adopted by City Council on Dec. 10, 2024, and went into effect on Jan. 1, 2025.

As part of the efforts to make both new and existing regulations more accessible to the public, the Sammamish Municipal Code, which includes the development regulations from the state, was migrated to an updated online platform. This modern platform has improved search functionality, appearance settings, and legislative history.

To learn more visit: <https://sammamish.municipal.codes/>



City recycling events return this spring

The City of Sammamish, in partnership with the City of Issaquah, is excited to announce its upcoming Spring Recycling Events on Sunday, April 27 and Saturday, May 10 at Eastside Catholic High School. These events are an excellent opportunity to responsibly recycle your unwanted items and help reduce waste in our community.

Thanks to the ongoing support of King County Solid Waste Department, King County Hazardous Waste Management Program, and the Washington State Department of Ecology, these events are open to all Sammamish and Issaquah residents. Since 2000, our Recycling Events have been a great success—averaging over 1,300 vehicles per event since 2021.

An accepted materials list will be mailed to every household and posted on the City's website as soon as it's available. For details and to stay updated, visit the City's Event Calendar. **sammamish.us/news/events**

We look forward to seeing you there!

Stay informed about Town Center

The Sammamish Town Center Plan, adopted in 2008, created a vision of a centralized gathering place that would offer a variety of housing types and local services. While the Plan depicts a compelling vision, it does not adequately meet the challenges facing the City today. Over the last several years, the pressures of the state and regional housing crisis have been felt in Sammamish. Home prices are at an all-time high, and the City lacks diverse and affordable housing options. The community is also eager for more local retail, services, and amenities.

The Town Center presents an opportunity to address these concerns. In 2023, the City Council directed staff to begin the Town Center Plan and Code Amendment Project to analyze what barriers may exist to providing more diverse and affordable housing in the Town Center and provide options for developing more local services and amenities. This work is responsive to goals and policies established by the City's recently adopted 2024 Comprehensive Plan and aligns with regional and state planning requirements. The work also follows the Town Center Plan's recommendation of revisiting the plan and development cap when approximately one-third of the planned residential development is reached, which is where things are today.

What's Next?

Last year, the project began by examining the Town Center's existing conditions, understanding the effectiveness of the Town Center Plan and development regulations, and identifying areas that need refinement. The project has shifted to a new phase, where amendments to the Town Center Plan and development regulations will be drafted for further review and refinement. A Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) will also be completed to provide an updated environmental impact analysis for the Town Center, which was last completed in 2007.

Share Your Feedback

Use the Draft SEIS comment period to submit feedback on whether the impacts were adequately addressed in the analysis or if something else must be considered. We also encourage you to watch or attend Planning Commission and City Council meetings and provide public comment. Attending the community workshops is another great way to share your input.



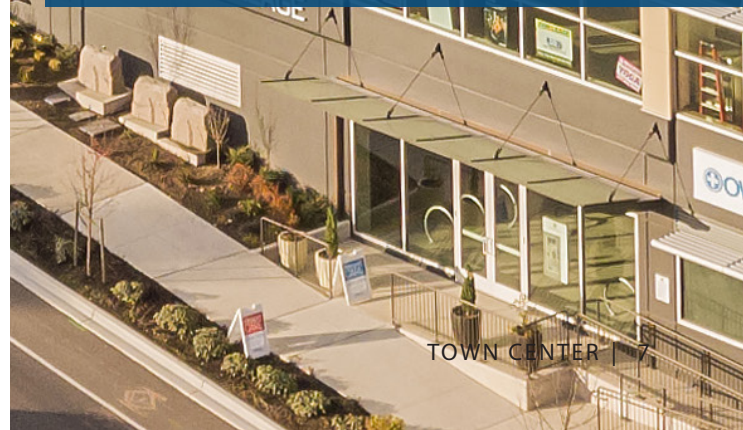
Important Upcoming Dates

4/21 - 5/21	Draft SEIS Comment Period
April/May	Community Workshop
5/1	Planning Commission Meeting
5/6	City Council Meeting
6/19	Planning Commission Meeting
7/9	Community Workshop
7/17	Planning Commission Meeting

Dates above are tentative.



To learn more and find answers to frequently asked questions, visit www.sammamish.us/TCAmendment.





Celebrate Earth Day with the City of Sammamish

Join us for a fun-filled, eco-friendly celebration at the City of Sammamish Earth Day event on Saturday, April 19 from 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. at Beaver Lake Lodge.



This family-friendly event is designed to inspire and educate our community about sustainability, conservation, and the importance of protecting our planet. Whether you're passionate about the environment, looking for engaging activities for your children, or simply eager to enjoy a day outdoors, there's something for everyone.

Please consider walking, biking, or carpooling to the event.

What to Expect:

Educational Booths – Learn practical ways to reduce waste, conserve water, and support pollinators in your own backyard. Take home a tree or native plant to enhance your garden while supporting local biodiversity. Supplies are limited, so be sure to stop by early.

Interact with Animals – Get up close with friendly farm animals at the Plucky Palomino Animals petting zoo or witness a majestic bird of prey up close while learning about its vital role in our ecosystem with the Falconer.

Interactive Activities – Get creative with Earth Day-themed crafts, using sustainable materials to make beautiful, eco-friendly projects. Embark on a nature-inspired scavenger hunt, perfect for kids and families looking for a fun adventure while learning about local plants. Explore the wonders of the natural world through engaging activities and displays from Nature Vision, a local organization dedicated to environmental education.

Story Time by the Library – Gather around for special Earth Day-themed stories at 11:30 a.m., 12:30 p.m., and 1:30 p.m., hosted by the King County Library.

Food Trucks – Enjoy delicious food from Sunn Health Bar, offering fresh and nutritious options, and Cascadia Pizza, serving up tasty wood-fired pizzas.

Check out the City's Sustainability Guide for tips on reducing waste, conserving energy, and making eco-friendly choices in your daily life.

For more information visit: sammamish.us/our-community/environment-sustainability/sustainable-sammamish/



Top 5 things for you to do to be extra prepared for an emergency

1

Sign up for ALERT King County.

This free service helps you stay informed about potential threats or hazards in your area. kingcounty.gov/en/dept/executive-services/health-safety/safety-injury-prevention/emergency-preparedness/alert-king-county

2

Find a CERT training to attend.

CERT stands for Community Emergency Response Team, and you can play an important role in helping your neighborhood or workplace before, during, or after an emergency. Trainings can be found through www.fema.gov and the City of Sammamish will host a training this September.

3

Ensure that your emergency supply list is up to date.

Being prepared means having your own food, water, and other supplies to last several days. A disaster kit is a collection of basic items your household may need in the event of an emergency. Check out ready.gov for more information on how to assemble a kit.

4

Don't forget your pets.

Your pets are an important part of your family, so they need to be included in your family's emergency plan. This includes, having an evacuation plan for your pet, planning with neighbors or friends to make sure someone can watch them if you aren't available, and building a kit for them with food and water.

5

Safeguard important documents.

In the event of an emergency, you want to make sure vital documents are stored safely and are easy to access. Store important documents in a safety deposit box, external hard drive, or on the cloud.

Sammamish Police Department Update

Sammamish Police honored Sergeant Christine Elias at the March 4 City Council Meeting before providing the council with a department update.

Sergeant Elias has worked for the Sammamish Police Department for eight years, starting as a patrol sergeant before being promoted to Administrative Sergeant in 2018. Sergeant Elias will now serve as Police Chief for the Muckleshoot Indian Tribe.

Along with highlighting Sergeant Elias' service, Sammamish Police Chief Steven Lysaght provided a department update that included crime stats and information about the upcoming community police academy.

The data provided in the presentation clearly shows that Sammamish remains well below the King County averages for crimes against people and property. To view this presentation, visit: bit.ly/policeupdatemarch.

Sammamish PD has also welcomed two new officers—Sergeant Eric Kim and Sergeant Lesa Ford. Detective Keith Gaffin was also named employee of the year.

Sammamish PD will facilitate another community police academy from April 17– May 29. This includes five three-hour sessions on Thursdays and two seven-hour sessions on Saturdays. Community members will learn more about how the police work including SWAT and K9 units. Call 206-263-9133 for more information. **You can apply at: kingcounty.gov/en/dept/sheriff/courts-jails-legal-system/patrol-precincts/pct-2/community-police-academy**



Honoring Lena Wegner: **Volunteer of the Year**

Lena Wegner shares her dedication, passion, and service to her community and has been named the City's Volunteer of the Year.

As a founding member of the Sammamish Botanical Garden Society, Lena has been instrumental in shaping the vision and success of the Heritage Garden at Big Rock Park Central. Over the past five years, her unwavering commitment has helped transform this garden into the beautiful and thriving space it is today.

Beyond her hands-on work in the garden, Lena has also provided legal guidance during the Society's early years and continues to serve on the board of directors. Her leadership, perseverance, and selfless devotion to community service make her a true inspiration to all.

Her tireless efforts have left a lasting impact, not just on the garden she has nurtured but on the hearts of those who have worked alongside her.

RIGAPALOOZA

May 17

11 a.m. - 2 p.m.

at City Hall Plaza





Sammamish 101: Learn more about the Recreation Division

Sammamish's Parks and Recreation system is an integral part of our healthy and sustainable community that connects people to nature, play and culture. The Recreation Division includes five employees who oversee beloved City events and support environmental initiatives that make Sammamish a great place to live.

The team is responsible for organizing city events such as 4th on the Plateau, Earth Day, Rigapalooza, Frosty Fest, and the summer concerts at Pine Lake Park, bringing neighbors together through free celebrations paid for by the City's General Fund. Their efforts extend to coordinating volunteer and restoration programs and managing facility rentals. Recreation staff also work as liaisons for the Arts Commission and Youth Board.

Beyond events, the team supports the community in critical ways. They manage a lifeguarding program at Pine Lake, ensuring safe summer recreation, and recently launched a life jacket loaner program at Pine and Beaver Lake to promote water safety.

Volunteers are a key part of Sammamish's success, and the Volunteer Coordinator leads City-wide efforts such as Eagle Scout service projects, Adopt-A-Road, and the Bee City USA Initiative, which promotes pollinator-friendly landscaping and sustainable land management.

Restoration efforts are led by the City's Restoration Specialist, who manages habitat restoration and environmental education programs. Through partnerships with local high schools, elementary schools, and environmental clubs, students gain hands-on experience in habitat restoration, local ecology, and native plant stewardship.

The Parks & Recreation Department manages key community partnerships, including leases with the Boys & Girls Club for the Teen Center, Youth Eastside Services for CrossPath Counseling Center, and the YMCA for the Sammamish Community & Aquatic Center. These agreements ensure that essential programs remain available to residents, supporting youth development, mental health, and recreational activities.

According to Sammamish's 2024 Community Survey, 89% of residents rated Parks & Recreation opportunities as excellent or good. To view those results visit: sammamish.us/projects/2024survey/. With a commitment to hosting free community events and protecting natural spaces, the Recreation Division's work ensures that Sammamish remains a place where people can connect with nature and each other.

Recreation by the numbers



23

City-hosted events



76

volunteer events



3,522

restoration volunteer hours



532.5

hours of discounted rental hours to non-profits



114

bags of litter collected from city right-of-way via adopt-a-road program



1,300

tree-house visitors

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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ECRWSS

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Upcoming City Hall Closures

May 26
Memorial Day

June 19
Juneteenth

July 4
Independence Day