



# NEWSLETTER

The official publication of the City of Sammamish

**BACK TO SCHOOL  
SAFETY**

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**THE CITY OF SAMMAMISH  
COMPREHENSIVE PLAN**

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**SAMMAMISH BLOCK  
PARTY**

**September 2023**

# Sammamish City Council



**Kali Clark**  
Mayor



**Amy Lam**  
Deputy Mayor



**Roisin O'Farrell**  
Councilmember



**Rituja Indapure**  
Councilmember



**Kent Treen**  
Councilmember



**Pamela Stuart**  
Councilmember



**Karen Howe**  
Councilmember

## Council Meetings

Regular 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 more information, go to [sammamish.us/citycouncil](http://sammamish.us/citycouncil).

**To contact the Sammamish City Council, email [citycouncil@sammamish.us](mailto:citycouncil@sammamish.us).**

## Coffee with Council

On the first Saturday of every month at 9:30 am, join Sammamish City Councilmembers for a cup of coffee and conversation at Metropolitan Market in Sammamish. Depending on the weather conditions, the councilmembers may be in the outdoor seating area. Otherwise, you'll find them in the upstairs seating area near the cafe. We hope to see you there!



# Sammamish Welcomes New Deputy City Manager Rachel Bianchi

Rachel Bianchi has over 20 years of experience in local government, public affairs, and political campaigns. Most recently, she served as Deputy City Administrator in the City of Tukwila, where she was responsible for the development and implementation of the City's first equity policy, project management of the design and construction of two new fire stations and a justice center, and managed technology, human resources, human services, communications, community engagement, and the City Clerk's Office.



# Safety First: Drivers and Pedestrians, Stay Alert!

The Rectangular Flashing Beacon (RFB), or the Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon (RRPB) is a traffic device mounted on a sign structure. It employs vibrant, attention-grabbing flashing lights to alert drivers and pedestrians at designated crossings. It is commonly used in many places including Sammamish. We currently have about 20 RFB's installed at various locations ranging from principal arterials to local roads. There is also a "Circular Flashing Beacon" serving the same purpose as an RFB but in a different shape.



## Interact with the Rectangular Flashing Beacon

As a pedestrian, it is essential to have a clear understanding of the proper usage and interpretation of the Rectangular Flashing Beacon in our community:

**Push the button:** Pedestrians, when intending to cross at the marked crosswalk, should press the button located on the signal pole near the crosswalk to activate the RFB. This triggers the flashing lights, indicating to drivers that a pedestrian intends to cross.

**Wait for the signal:** After activating the RFB, wait for the lights to engage and traffic to come to a complete stop before proceeding safely across the street.

**Pay attention to traffic:** While the Rectangular Flashing Beacon adds an extra layer of safety, it is crucial to remain cautious and adhere to traffic laws. Always exercise caution and look both ways before crossing the street.

## Stop for Pedestrians: It's the State Law!

In Washington State, drivers shall stop at intersections to allow pedestrians and bicycles to cross the road within a marked or unmarked crosswalk (RCW 46.61.235).

## Making Sammamish a Safer Place

The Rectangular Flashing Beacon is designed to improve safety, but it requires the cooperation of everyone in our community to be effective. By paying attention and respecting others, we can create a safe environment for all. The quickest way to report a malfunctioned RFB is to submit a request on the My Sammamish App (<https://www.sammamish.us/i-want-to/my-sammamish/>). Stay alert, stay safe, and let everyone contribute toward a safer Sammamish!

*For more information about the RFB, visit the USDOT Federal Administration website (<https://highways.dot.gov/safety/proven-safety-countermeasures/rectangular-rapid-flashing-beacons-rrfb>) and other pedestrian law and safety information on WSDOT website (<https://wsdot.wa.gov/travel/bicycling-walking/walking-rolling-washington/pedestrian-laws-safety>) to learn more!*



# Back to School Safety: Ensuring a Secure Journey for Students

Student and pedestrian safety is always a top priority. While it may be convenient for Skyline students to cross NE 8th from Sammamish Hills Lutheran Church, the safest route is always a crosswalk. The City of Sammamish, working closely with Skyline High School Administration, recently installed new signage directing students to cross at the NE 8th Street and 228th Ave SE crosswalk. Pedestrians should always utilize crossings at controlled intersections with crosswalks to ensure the safest route.

## School Safety Tips

**Backpacks:** Backpack safety is often overlooked but plays a significant role in preventing injuries. Encourage your child to use both straps of their backpack to distribute the weight evenly and avoid strain. Additionally, ensure that the backpack does not exceed 5% to 10% of your child's body weight. For those using rolling backpacks, caution them about potential trip hazards, especially in crowded school hallways.

**Playgrounds and Sports:** When it comes to playground safety, it's crucial to eliminate potential strangulation hazards. Instruct your child to leave necklaces and jackets with drawstrings at home. While minor injuries are common in sports, head injuries should never be ignored. Prioritize your child's safety by ensuring they have proper protective gear and providing immediate attention to any potential head injuries.

By prioritizing safety and following these guidelines, parents, students, and drivers can contribute to a secure environment for everyone during the back-to-school season. Let's ensure that education begins and ends with safety in mind.

Remember, it's a collective responsibility to create a safe environment for our students. Stay alert, be cautious, and let's make this school year a successful and accident-free one.

## School District Resources

### Lake Washington School District

[www.lwsd.org/](http://www.lwsd.org/)

### Issaquah School District

[www.isd411.org/](http://www.isd411.org/)

### Snoqualmie Valley School District

[www.svsd410.org/](http://www.svsd410.org/)

### Eastside Catholic

[www.eastsidecatholic.org](http://www.eastsidecatholic.org)

### CWU Sammamish

[www.cwu.edu/sammamish](http://www.cwu.edu/sammamish)

Sources:  
*Injury Facts - National Safety Council*  
*National Safety Council*

# 2023-2024 Bell Schedules

## Lake Washington School District

### Eastlake High School

Start Time: 8:30 am

End Time: 3:20 pm (Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday)

End Time: 1:50 pm (Wednesday, 90 min early release)

### Inglewood Middle School

Start Time: 7:50 am

End Time: 2:20 pm (Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday)

End Time: 12:50 pm (Wednesday, 90 min early release)

### Renaissance

Start Time: 8:30 am

End Time: 3:00 pm (Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday)

End Time: 1:30 pm (Wednesday, 90 min early release)

### Elementary Schools

Start Time: 9:30 am

End Time: 3:50 pm (Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday)

End Time: 2:20 pm (Wednesday, 90 min early release)

## Issaquah School District

### Skyline High School

Start Time: 8:00 am (Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday)

Start Time: 10:10 am (Wednesday)

Early Release Start: 8:00 am

End Time: 2:55 pm (Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday)

End Time: 3:45 pm (Wednesday)

Early Release End: 11:10 am

### Beaver Lake Middle School

Start Time: 8:10 am (Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday)

Start Time: 10:20 am (Wednesday)

Early Release Start: 8:10 am

End Time: 2:35 pm (Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday)

End Time: 3:30 pm (Wednesday)

Early Release End: 10:55 am

### Pine Lake Middle School

Start Time: 8:10 am (Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday)

Start Time: 10:20 am (Wednesday)

Early Release Start: 8:10 am

End Time: 2:35 pm (Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday)

End Time: 3:30 pm (Wednesday)

Early Release End: 10:55 am

### Elementary Schools

Start Time: 9:15 am (Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday)

Start Time: 9:15 am (Wednesday)

Early Release Start: 9:15 am

End Time: 3:40 pm (Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday)

End Time: 1:30 pm (Wednesday)

Early Release End: 11:45 am

## Eastside Catholic

### Middle School

Start Time: 7:50 am (Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday)

Late Start: 9:30 am (Thursday) | End Time: 2:50 pm

### High School

0 Period Start Time: 7:00 am (Mon., Tue., Wed. & Fri.)

1st Period Start Time: 7:50 am (Mon., Tue., Wed. & Fri.)

Late Start: 9:30 am (Thursday) | End Time: 2:50 pm

# Sharing the Road with Students

The school environment brings increased congestion, with buses, bicycles, and pedestrians converging around schools. It's vital for drivers to exercise caution and remain vigilant during these times.

**If You're Dropping Off:** Familiarize yourself with the specific drop-off procedures of the school your child attends. Avoid double parking, as it obstructs visibility for other children and vehicles. Never load or unload children across the street from the school. Consider carpooling to reduce the number of vehicles at the school, minimizing traffic congestion and potential hazards.

### Sharing the Road with Young Pedestrians:

Children walking to school, especially those aged 4 to 7, are particularly vulnerable. Avoid blocking crosswalks, and be vigilant when stopping at red lights or making turns. Yield to pedestrians crossing the crosswalk or intersection when school zone flashers are blinking. Respect school patrol officers and crossing guards, stopping when they hold up a stop sign. Take extra care in school zones, near playgrounds, parks, and residential areas.

**Sharing the Road with School Buses:** School buses play a crucial role in transporting students safely. When driving behind a bus, allow for more distance than you would with a car. This additional space provides time to stop when the yellow lights start flashing. Remember that passing a stopped bus loading or unloading children is illegal in all 50 states. Exercise caution, as children near buses can be unpredictable and may disregard hazards.

**Sharing the Road with Bicyclists:** Bicycles are a common sight around schools, and drivers should be aware of their presence. Treat bicyclists as you would any other vehicle on the road, maintaining a safe distance when passing—around 3 feet. When turning left and a cyclist is approaching from the opposite direction, wait for them to pass. Similarly, when turning right and a cyclist is approaching from behind on the right, allow them to go first. Always use your turn signals and exercise extra vigilance in school zones, residential areas, and when exiting driveways or opening car doors.

# The City of Sammamish Comprehensive Plan: Envisioning the Future of a Thriving Community

In the ever-evolving landscape of urban development, the State of Washington requires that cities must plan for the future to ensure sustainable growth, regional connectedness, and prosperity. As the city updates its comprehensive plan, we envision a vibrant and inclusive community, guiding decisions on land use, transportation, housing, capital facilities, parks, and the environment.

## **Understanding Comprehensive Plans:**

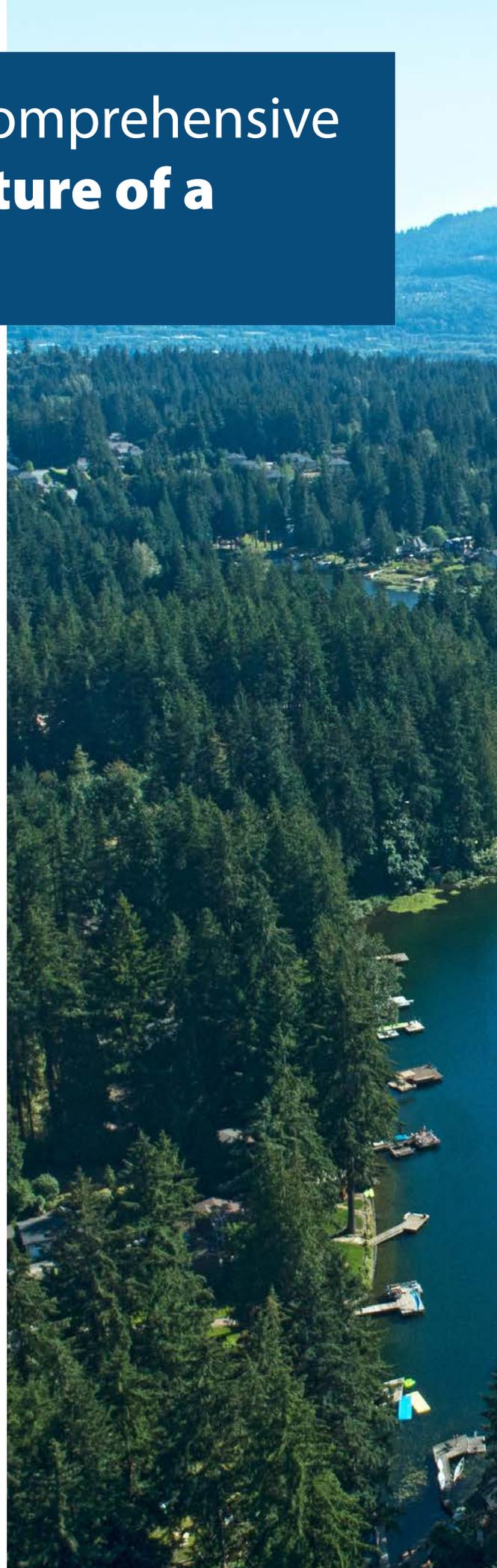
A Comprehensive Plan serves as a blueprint for a city's future character and development. It encompasses a wide range of topics that address the community's physical, social, and economic health. As the name suggests, it provides a comprehensive approach to long-range planning, considering the needs of the present and anticipating those of future generations. A Comprehensive Plan guides decision-making sets standards for infrastructure, zoning, and development regulations, and identifies funding sources.

## **The Sammamish Comprehensive Plan Update:**

The City of Sammamish is updating its Comprehensive Plan, looking forward to 2044. This update builds on the previous 2015 plan, responds to community needs, and fulfills the Washington Growth Management Act (GMA) requirements. Additionally, it adheres to King County's Countywide Planning Policies and the Puget Sound Regional Council Vision 2050. The plan is comprised of ten chapters (known as elements) that address vital aspects of city development. The elements are Land Use, Housing, Transportation, Environment and Conservation, Climate Change and Resiliency, Capital Facilities, Parks, Utilities, Economic Development, and Shoreline.

**Land Use and Zoning:** The land use element of the Comprehensive Plan ensures responsible and sustainable development, balancing growth with the preservation of natural resources and existing sense of place. It identifies areas for various land uses, such as residential, commercial, and mixed-use, while considering factors like population growth, additional housing opportunities, and economic vitality.

**Housing:** The housing element, known as "Live Sammamish," focuses on meeting the diverse housing needs of the community. It identifies strategies to preserve, improve, and develop housing while accommodating population growth and ensuring affordability across income levels. The element aims to maintain the city's sense of place while promoting compatibility with new development.





**Transportation:** The transportation element emphasizes the creation of a comprehensive and efficient transportation system that caters to all users and modes of travel. It addresses challenges like disconnected street systems and limited transit services, focusing on promoting alternatives to single-occupancy vehicles and integrating emerging technologies for improved connectivity and sustainability.

**Environment and Conservation:** “Sustain Sammamish” is the element dedicated to environmental stewardship and conservation. It addresses issues such as air and water quality, sustainable development practices, and protecting natural resources like wetlands. The Comprehensive Plan aims to enhance public safety, promote ecological health, and mitigate geologic hazards. For more information on the other elements, please visit <https://www.envisionsammamish2044.org/comp-planning-sub>

**Importance of Comprehensive Plans:** Comprehensive Plans play a vital role in city governance for several reasons. Firstly, they provide a shared vision for the future, ensuring that decision-making aligns with the long-term goals and values of the community. By considering various aspects of city life, these plans facilitate holistic development, addressing social, economic, and environmental factors.

Furthermore, Comprehensive Plans enable cities to meet legal requirements, such as those outlined in the Growth Management Act. They establish a framework for land use regulations, zoning, and infrastructure development, ensuring consistency and transparency in decision-making processes. These plans also allow cities to qualify for grants and funding opportunities by demonstrating a commitment to comprehensive and sustainable growth.

Lastly, Comprehensive Plans foster public participation and engagement. They provide avenues for community input, allowing community members to have a say in shaping their city’s future. This collaborative approach fosters a sense of ownership and pride, strengthening the community’s social fabric.

The City of Sammamish’s Comprehensive Plan update is a significant step toward creating a thriving and sustainable community. The plan ensures responsible growth and development by addressing key elements such as land use, housing, transportation, and the environment while preserving what makes the city unique. Comprehensive Plans are indispensable tools for city governments, guiding decision-making, engaging community members, and creating a shared vision for a prosperous future. Through thoughtful and comprehensive planning, cities like Sammamish can navigate growth challenges and remain desirable places to live, work, and thrive.

**BIG IDEAS:**

*Get*

**INVOLVED!**

## Get Involved!

There will be multiple opportunities to share your feedback this fall:

- **Join us at the Sammamish Block Party at Central Washington University: September 30, 2023**
- **Participate in our Community Survey #3 of the Preferred Design Concept: September 15 – October 2, 2023**

For more detailed information on the upcoming event, to participate in the online survey, and to stay up to date on where we are in the process, please visit the project website at [www.sammamish.us/notch](http://www.sammamish.us/notch).



# Preferred Park Concept Design at the Notch Property

Thank you to those who participated in the previous Notch Property park concept design options community outreach. We appreciate hearing your input! The Parks, Recreation & Facilities team is now ready to share the preferred park concept design.

Notched within the Town Center Mixed-Use area and directly adjacent to Lower Sammamish Commons is a 1.37-acre City-owned site currently referred to as the “Notch” property. The site is identified as part of the Green Spine in the Town Center Plan and Town Center Infrastructure Plan, so this project will build upon the work already done and proceed with Concept Design instead of a typical master plan process. Used as a guiding document for implementing future improvements, the Concept Design will create the initial “big picture” of the park.

## Concept Design Process

**Phase 1: Site Investigation and Analysis** (Complete)

**Phase 2: Park Program** (Complete)

**Phase 3: Concept Design Development** – In Progress

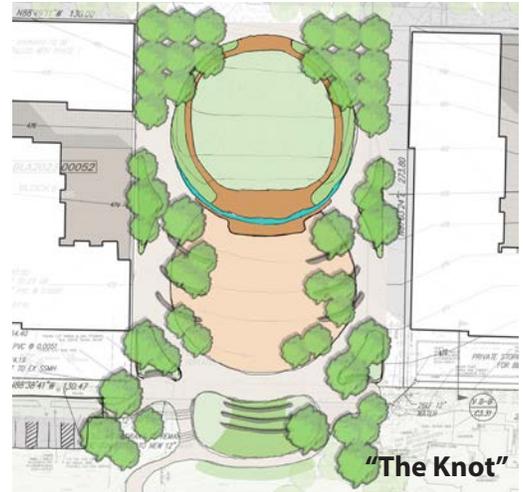
The park program survey feedback, along with the findings from site analysis, site studies, and input from City staff, were synthesized to generate three initial design options. The second survey, which encompassed input from the wider community, City staff, Parks & Recreation Commission, City Council, and community stakeholders, played a crucial role in refining these three options to one preferred Concept Design for the park. The final concept design will be incorporated into a comprehensive Concept Design Report, which will be adopted by City Council at the conclusion of this phase. Funds for implementing the concept plan may be budgeted for in the future, pending approval by the City Council.



Scan the QR Code for  
more information.



“The Glade”



“The Knot”



“The Plateau”

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# New Senior Programming at Beaver Lake Lodge

In March of 2023, the Sammamish Seniors Program at Beaver Lake Lodge was established through funding provided by the City of Sammamish. Designed exclusively for residents aged 55 and above, this program aims to create space where seniors can come together, forge new friendships, and engage in activities that promote their physical, mental, and social well-being. Operating on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 10 am to 2 pm, this no-cost initiative offers an array of enriching experiences within a limited capacity of 75 seniors per day.

The Senior Programming at Beaver Lake Lodge encompasses a diverse range of activities that cater to the varied interests of its participants. The day commences with a warm welcome and mingling session, allowing seniors to connect with one another and foster a sense of community. The fitness hour offers a selection of exercise options such as yoga, Tai Chi, and strength training, ensuring that physical health remains a priority.

Throughout the program, seniors can participate in a multitude of engaging activities, including art sessions, games, card matches, bridge tournaments, puzzles, book clubs, and the ever-popular Wisdom Cafe. For the adventurous at heart, the Traveling Armchair segment virtually transports participants to exciting destinations, igniting their imaginations.

Senior Programming at Beaver Lake Lodge also offers informative presentations on a range of topics relevant to seniors' lives. From health talks and estate planning to transportation, health insurance, and gardening, these presentations equip participants with valuable knowledge to enhance their overall well-being and quality of life.

Lunch is provided, featuring dishes from various cultures. This culinary experience promotes cross-cultural understanding among seniors.

By offering a safe space for connection, discovery, and engagement, this program empowers seniors aged 55 and above to lead fulfilling lives. With its wide array of activities, educational presentations, and a vibrant community, the Senior Programming at Beaver Lake Lodge opens doors to new friendships, exploration, and a renewed sense of vitality for seniors in Sammamish.

## Register in Advance!

**As space is limited, advanced registration is highly recommended. Interested individuals can secure their spot by visiting the program's Eventbrite page or by reaching out via email at [seniorcoord@iaww.org](mailto:seniorcoord@iaww.org) or phone at (253) 239-9989 (ext) 3.**

# Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) Plan Open House

*Wednesday, September 6, 2023*

**5:00 - 7:00 p.m. | City Hall, 801 228th Ave SE**

Share your ideas for parks, recreation facilities, and trails in Sammamish. We need your help to ensure our parks meet the needs of the community! The event will take place inside City Hall during the Farmer's Market. Stop by the market for a treat and then swing by to see how community input has shaped the PROS Plan so far and let us know if we're on the right track or if there is something we've missed. A draft of the plan will be presented to City Council in November.



*Sammamish Arts Commission  
presents*

## **F.L.O.W. FOR LOVE OF WATER**

**Art representing the many aspects of water  
and its essential connection to our lives.**

Exhibition opening artist reception

**Friday, September 22, 2023**

**6:30 pm - 8:30 pm**

**City Hall**

**801 228th Ave SE, Sammamish**

Open to the public.



# Join the Issaquah Sammamish Food Project: Making a Difference One Green Bag at a Time

The Issaquah Sammamish Food Project, known as “the green bag project,” plays a pivotal role in supporting the Issaquah Food & Clothing Bank by collecting essential food items and basic necessities from generous neighbors throughout the year.

Participating is easy! On the second Saturday of even-numbered months, you can join this community-driven initiative by leaving a bag filled with the most needed items outside your front door. Neighborhood Coordinators will pick up bags from approximately 10 neighbors, leave empty green bags for the next collection, and transport the donations to a designated collection site for sorting and unloading.

By becoming a regular food donor, a neighborhood coordinator, or even a one-time food donor, you can contribute to providing meals for those in need in our community. Each bag of nonperishable food items has the potential to provide up to 10 meals. As a neighborhood coordinator, you can help us provide up to 100 meals every other month, which amounts to an impressive 600 meals per year.

## How to Get Involved:

To learn more about the Issaquah Sammamish Food Project and find out how you can make a difference, visit their website at: [issaquahsammamishfoodproject.org](http://issaquahsammamishfoodproject.org).

The City of Sammamish supports the Food and Clothing Bank through a biannual human services grant.



Join us for food trucks, free face painting & games, and to learn about the City's big planning projects!

**Saturday, September 30th**  
**11 AM - 2 PM**

Central Washington University (CWU) Campus  
120 228th Ave NE, Sammamish, WA 98074  
[www.sammamish.us/block-party](http://www.sammamish.us/block-party)

## Sammamish Block Party!

The Sammamish Block Party is an exciting community event designed to bring residents of all ages together while offering an interactive platform for learning about and contributing to the City's major planning projects. This family-friendly event features food trucks, free games, face painting, balloon artists, and more, creating an engaging and fun atmosphere for attendees. Community members will have the opportunity to share their thoughts on various topics, including climate change, housing, transportation, parks, and other significant elements that shape the future of Sammamish.

The Sammamish Block Party promises an enjoyable and informative experience for everyone, fostering a greater understanding of the City's planning projects and enhancing community connections.

# 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](http://sammamish.us/citycouncil). To contact the Sammamish City Council, email [citycouncil@sammamish.us](mailto: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](http://sammamish.us/planningcommission). To contact the Sammamish Planning Commission, email [planningcommission@sammamish.us](mailto: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](http://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](http://sammamish.us/subscribe).

## City Newsletter

Suggestions or concerns? Contact [communications@sammamish.us](mailto:communications@sammamish.us)

## Follow City of Sammamish on Social Media



Scan the QR code or visit us at [www.sammamish.us](http://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

Community Van [communityvan@sammamish.us](mailto:communityvan@sammamish.us)

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## A Successful Fourth!

The Fourth on the Plateau event was a resounding success! Nearly 12,000 attendees enjoyed a day filled with family fun, delicious food, and captivating entertainment. From lively bands to awe-inspiring fireworks, this celebration embodied patriotism and community.

The event featured live music from The Royals, Three Trick Pony, and The West Coast Feed. Children had a blast at the Kids Zone and the Lower Commons playground. A variety of food vendors satisfied everyone's cravings, offering mouthwatering dishes.

The highlight of the event was the fireworks show at 10 pm, lighting up the sky with breathtaking colors and patterns. This free, inclusive celebration showcased the City of Sammamish's commitment to our community members.

Thanks to the generous support of World Taekwondo Center Sammamish, the event was a resounding success. Fourth on the Plateau created lasting memories, celebrating patriotism, community, and the enduring spirit of Sammamish.