



# NEWSLETTER

The official publication of the City of Sammamish

**CITY WORKS ON  
BUDGET ADOPTION**

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**COMPREHENSIVE PLAN  
HELPS CITY FOCUS  
ON THE FUTURE**

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**GET READY FOR  
WINTER WEATHER**

**December 2024**

*Photo credit: Liz Rivelin*

# Sammamish City Council



**Kali Clark**  
Mayor



**Karen Howe**  
Deputy Mayor



**Roisin O'Farrell**  
Councilmember



**Amy Lam**  
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](http://sammamish.us/citycouncil).

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

# Sustainable Sammamish Holiday Waste Reduction

***Give back to the Earth and your community by keeping sustainability top of mind this season.***

The holidays are coming, and however you celebrate, chances are you amass a lot of, well, stuff. Much of this is recyclable paper and cardboard, such as shipping boxes, holiday cards and envelopes, shirt boxes and shoeboxes, and wrapping paper. Unfortunately, haulers also see items that do not belong in the recycling stream, including string lights, artificial trees and wreaths, and ribbons and bows. These are not recyclable and can even do damage to recycling sorting equipment. Take a few minutes and learn what and how to recycle, to end the year on a more environmentally friendly note.

As a general rule, paper and cardboard, metal cans, and plastic bottles and jugs are recyclable as long as they're empty, clean and dry.

**Here are five simple actions you can do for the planet this season.**



### **Think Before You Buy:**

A great way to make a difference in waste reduction is to avoid purchasing excess items in the first place.



### **Choose Simple:**

Choose non-laminated, glitter-free wrapping paper and gift bags to ensure the person you gifted to can recycle them.



### **Reuse Materials:**

Save non-recyclables like bubble wrap, ribbons, and bows for your next gifting event.



### **Organize Food Waste:**

If you have an organics cart, compost leftover food. Never place leftover food in your recycle bin.



### **Dispose of Decor Properly:**

Fake foliage should go in the waste cart. Consider donating them if still usable. Some live plants, like poinsettias can be composted without a pot.

**Recycling Do's and Don'ts for common holiday items include:**



### **Do Recycle:**

- Cardboard
- Paper boxes (gift, shoes and shipping)
- Wrapping paper (plain)
- Holiday cards and envelopes (without embellishments)



### **Don't Recycle –**

*Reuse or Dispose:*

- Bubble wrap
- Ribbons and bows
- Gift bags (laminated, coated or dyed)
- Embellished wrapping paper (foil or glitter)
- Cellophane
- Foam packing peanuts
- Artificial Christmas trees
- Holiday string lights



**What goes where?**

*Scan QR code for more information.*



CITY OF SAMMAMISH

# Year

## in Review



### 1

#### City Celebrates 25 years

The City celebrated its Silver Jubilee with two events this summer. The first was a gathering with former elected officials, city leaders, current elected officials, and staff. The second was a large party with live music, a beer and wine garden, games and so much more. We also showcased a video that included interviews from community members and footage from our most popular events.

**To see more about this celebration, visit our website: [www.sammamish.us/our-community/celebrate-sammamish-25th-anniversary/](http://www.sammamish.us/our-community/celebrate-sammamish-25th-anniversary/)**



### 2

#### Comprehensive Plan

We expect to adopt our 2024 Comprehensive Plan by the end of the year, which is the 20-year guide for our future that helps us plan for and accommodate future growth. The plan includes ways to increase housing options, creates opportunities for more businesses and restaurants, increases mobility options, and plans for infrastructure support for our roads, parks, etc.

**You can read more about the Comprehensive Plan on Page 7 or visit: [envisionsammamish2044.org/](http://envisionsammamish2044.org/)**

### 3

#### Transportation Master Plan

We expect to adopt our first Transportation Master Plan by the end of 2024. The TMP guides our transportation investments, projects, future needs and our multimodal system to ensure residents can easily and safely move around the City.

**You can read more about the Transportation Master Plan on Page 10 or visit: [sammamish.us/government/public-works/transportation-planning/2024-transportation-master-plan/](http://sammamish.us/government/public-works/transportation-planning/2024-transportation-master-plan/)**



## 4 Racial Equity

This year, City Council adopted a resolution establishing the Racial Equity Commitment and Vision, as a part of the Council's Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging goal. The next step in this process is to adopt and implement a racial equity workplan. The City will also develop and strategically implement a Racial Equity Toolkit, which will lay out a process and a set of questions to guide the development, implementation, and evaluation of policies, initiatives, programs, and budget issues.

**To learn more visit: [www.sammamish.us/our-community/diversity-equity-inclusion-and-belonging/](http://www.sammamish.us/our-community/diversity-equity-inclusion-and-belonging/)**



## 5 Sustainable Sammamish

The Sustainability Commission is the newest City commission serving as an advisory group to the City Council, providing recommendations on sustainability projects and programs to assist the City in reaching its environment and sustainability goals. This includes community engagement on City initiatives related to implementing the adopted Climate Action Plan such as the recently published Sustainable Sammamish Guide – a centralized source of information and resources for Sammamish residents on Climate Action Plan and Urban Forestry topics.

**To learn more visit: [www.sammamish.us/our-community/environment-sustainability/](http://www.sammamish.us/our-community/environment-sustainability/)**



## 6 Louis Thompson project begins

We started work on Louis Thompson late in the summer and held a groundbreaking ceremony to mark the occasion, which was attended by several elected officials. The Louis Thompson Road Tightline project upgrades the roadway by replacing the old ditch and culvert system with a new stormwater system. These improvements will alleviate flooding and landslide issues adjacent to Zackuse Creek. The construction will add a new sidewalk, bike lane and widened shoulders to connect with the East Lake Sammamish Trail.

**To learn more visit: [www.sammamish.us/projects/louis-thompson-tightline/](http://www.sammamish.us/projects/louis-thompson-tightline/)**



## 7 Arts Strategic Plan

The City moved forward with working on its first Arts Strategic Plan. This is an effort to promote and support public experiences of the visual arts and other artistic disciplines for the good of the residents of Sammamish. This plan will help guide the City as it seeks to enhance economic health, environmental sustainability, and quality of life through public art and programs.

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

# Inglewood Middle School community fields open to the public, groups

## Timeline

### Feasibility Study:

April 2021 – February 2022  
(Complete)

**Feasibility Approved as Complete by City Council:**  
Feb. 15, 2022 (Complete)

**Design, Construction Documents, and Permitting:**  
Summer 2022 - Spring 2023  
(Complete)

**Bidding and Award:**  
Summer/Fall 2023 (Complete)

**Construction:** Spring 2024 - Fall 2024 (Complete)

**Field Opening:** Oct. 5, 2024

The City of Sammamish and Lake Washington School District celebrated the grand opening of the newly renovated athletic fields at Inglewood Middle School on Oct. 5, 2024. This project, a product of a 20-year partnership, addresses the growing demand for community athletic space by converting underutilized and poor-quality fields into a state-of-the-art public athletic facility.

Spanning eight acres, the site now includes synthetic turf, enhanced lighting, and spectator seating, along with accessible parking and a gender-neutral restroom. The upgrades also provide accessibility options for residents facing mobility challenges, with features including accessible fields and dugouts and a lit walking path open to the community.

This development is a prime example of sustainable infrastructure, transforming existing fields rather than investing in new land. The renovation will provide over 2,500 hours of community use annually, benefiting both Inglewood students and the wider Sammamish community throughout the year.

Speeches at the event emphasized the project's importance in addressing the need for additional athletic facilities and highlighted the effective collaboration between the City and the School District. This facility is designed to enhance recreational opportunities while serving as a welcoming space for community events.



## Sign up for King County Alerts

The City is encouraging everyone to take action and be prepared for an emergency. The best way to do so is to use King County for resources. The County has an awesome program that will provide alerts to the public in case of an emergency.

Want to be notified if an emergency is happening in your area? ALERT King County is a free subscription service that allows you to stay informed about potential hazards or threats in the city. Residents should register with a physical address, email addresses, and/or a phone number. You can choose to receive alerts from a list of languages.

**Registration is easy and can be done at this link: <https://bit.ly/4eLphb5>**





# 2024 Comprehensive Plan helps City anticipate future needs

The Sammamish City Council is preparing to adopt the 2024 Comprehensive Plan in December 2024. The Comprehensive Plan is the City's 20-year road map to the future that guides City decisions on where new housing and jobs should go in the City, how to make it easier to move within the City, how to protect our environment and climate, and where to make capital investments such as roads, utilities, sidewalks, and parks.

The plan focuses future growth in and around areas with existing or planned retail, services and amenities, and access to transportation while ensuring adequate public services and infrastructure that will support growth. The plan coordinates our strategy for growth with state, regional, and local partners while protecting and enhancing what makes Sammamish unique and beautiful, like our parks, open spaces, and natural environment.

Listed below are some of the key policy initiatives from the 2024 Comprehensive Plan:

- Creation of meaningful opportunities for new diverse and affordable housing within the City to provide options for current residents and those who want to come to Sammamish.
- Foundational components of an approach to economic development in the City, emphasizing supporting local businesses and growing services and amenities for the community.
- Addressing the impacts of climate change at the local level through an increased emphasis on mobility choices, lowering greenhouse gas emissions through educational outreach, and electrifying the City's fleet.
- Increased connectivity of parks and trails while providing high-quality park spaces and recreational opportunities.
- Establishment of the City's first Transportation Master Plan that will expand the transportation network and emphasize alternative means of transportation like biking, public transit, and focus on walkability.
- Pairs policies with the recently adopted Critical Areas regulations to protect the City's trees, green spaces, waterbodies and habitats.

The 2024 Comprehensive Plan is the result of more than two years of planning, extensive community engagement, input from stakeholders and partners like the Snoqualmie Tribe, school districts, and service providers, and review by the Planning Commission and City Council. The plan will ensure that as we grow, we are protecting what makes Sammamish so special while being a welcoming place to live, work, and play for generations to come.



# City Budget Update

The City of Sammamish adopts a two-year, or biennial, budget in even-numbered years. By law, the City is required to adopt a budget by the end of the year. This year's budget process has been like no other, with significantly enhanced transparency, the first-ever published Citywide Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) and a budget that is better aligned with actual spending over the next two years. Here's what that looks like:

- **A transparent, understandable budget:** For the first time, staff delivered the entire budget draft document to the Council ahead of time. Staff presented on the budget at 11 separate Council meetings and the City held three public hearings. In addition, the City did outreach at various Farmers Markets and through an online survey to understand the infrastructure priorities of the Sammamish community.
- **Citywide Capital Improvement Plan:** The City published its first six-year Capital Improvement Plan (CIP), which documents both funded projects over the next two years, as well as projects within the six-year horizon that will need to be funded. The Citywide CIP allows Councilmembers to see what obligations are on the horizon while understanding how spending in the coming biennium affects the out-years.
- **Budget alignment with expenditures:** The 2025-2026 biennial budget better aligns budget with expected level of service cutting out "what if" and contingency spending. While it generally maintains the same level of service as the previous biennium, cost reduction measures were implemented, including a reduction of office supplies, restriction of out of state travel and trainings, limiting overtime and reducing the number of seasonal positions. As a result, the 2026-2026 budget represents only a .5% increase over the 2023-2024 budget.

Even with these improvements, and last year's budget reduction of 4%, or \$2.45 million, the City of Sammamish finds itself in a similar situation as many of our neighbors where revenues are not keeping up with expenses. In fact, to largely preserve City services in the coming biennium, the City is forced to use ending fund balance, otherwise known as the City's savings account, to balance the budget. This is not sustainable, and if it continued, the City would not be able to fund basic services by 2029.

This reality is why the City is implementing the recommendations of the 2023 Fiscal Sustainability Taskforce. Made up of 10 Sammamish community members, this group validated the City's structural fiscal imbalance and proposed a three-legged stool for the City to achieve fiscal sustainability:

- Identify budget reductions of \$1 million in 2024 to lower the rate of growth. The City exceeded this recommendation and achieved a \$2.45 million reduction, or 4% of the overall budget.
- Implement a utility tax, already in place in most of our neighboring jurisdictions, to increase revenues to fund City services at existing levels.
- Consider a Metropolitan Parks District, a voter-approved measure that, if passed, would improve and maintain the City's well-loved parks system.

The 2025-2026 budget contemplates the implementation of the Taskforce's recommendation of a utility tax beginning in 2026. However, final decisions have not been made and additional work will be required in 2025 before any new revenue would come online. The City is committed to ongoing public engagement with the Sammamish community as this effort continues to progress.





# How You Can Help Prevent Flooding in Your Neighborhood:

- 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 drive into flooded areas.
  - **Make a difference and help protect our waters! Join the City's Adopt a Storm Drain program: [wa.adopt-a-drain.org/](http://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.**
- 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.
- 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: [kingcounty.gov/en/dept/dnrp/nature-recreation/environment-ecology-conservation/flood-services/how-to-prepare-flooding/sandbag-distribution-use](http://kingcounty.gov/en/dept/dnrp/nature-recreation/environment-ecology-conservation/flood-services/how-to-prepare-flooding/sandbag-distribution-use)**



## Prepare for heavy rains

In Western Washington, the “wet season” runs from Oct. 1 through April 30. During heavy rains, the City of Sammamish Maintenance and Operation’s staff are ready to respond to flooding problems that threaten public health, safety or property. Common activities include cleaning leaf-clogged storm drains, inspecting and cleaning stormwater pipes, and monitoring known problem areas to ensure the public drainage system is operating properly.

**Report a non-emergency stormwater problem.**  
[seeclickfix.com/sammamish-wa](http://seeclickfix.com/sammamish-wa)

**In an emergency, call 911.**

# Transportation Master Plan will provide a framework for decisions, investments

The City of Sammamish's first Transportation Master Plan provides a strategic framework that will guide transportation decisions and investments for the next 20 years in support of the long-term vision for the city.

The goals and policies in the Transportation Element of the City's Comprehensive Plan Update serve as the foundation for the TMP. The TMP will be adopted by reference into Volume 2 of the City's Comprehensive Plan Transportation Element and will provide the framework for developing a multi-modal transportation network to enhance greater connectivity within the city and the region.

The TMP addresses existing and future conditions, roadway classifications, levels of service, multi-modal transportation (transit, bicycle, pedestrian, & vehicle), transportation improvements, financing strategies, and system concurrency management.

The TMP proposes a prioritized list of projects, programs, and strategies that advance the transportation vision and goals, meet the Growth Management Act requirements, and reflect input from the community.

City Council is anticipated to consider the TMP for adoption in December.

**To learn more visit: [sammamish.us/government/public-works/transportation-planning/2024-transportation-master-plan/](https://sammamish.us/government/public-works/transportation-planning/2024-transportation-master-plan/)**

# Be prepared for winter weather

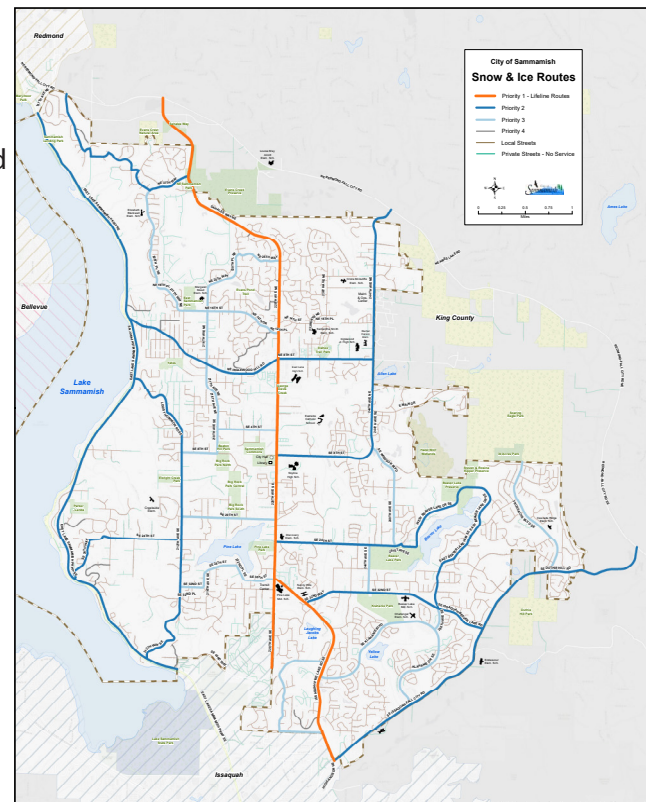
Winter storm preparedness and response is a collaboration between the City and the community. Winter storms in Sammamish and in the region include heavy rain, wind, sleet, and snow and ice.

The City's preparedness and response planning for the winter begin months in advance and response is refined prior to and during a storm event, depending on changing weather conditions and available resources. Winter storm preparedness is mostly done by the Public Works department and includes monitoring of natural waterways, inspection of the stormwater system, snow and ice management, storm debris management, and utility coordination.

The City's goal is to provide the safest and most accessible transportation system possible during inclement weather and winter storm events, while considering both environmental and cost impacts. Since there are over 415 lane miles of public roads in Sammamish, a majority of the City's resources during an event are utilized to maintain good winter driving conditions on roads that serve the greatest number of people and accommodate transit, fire, police, and medical response. The City has four Priority Routes, and our snowfighters service Priority 1 Routes first.

The other three priority routes are serviced in sequential order. Depending on the type of storm, length of the storm, and resources, local roads may not be serviced – especially for snow or ice storms that are forecast to last a few days. Using fewer resources on isolated storms reduces the impact on the environment, optimizes resources, and allows materials and equipment to be preserved for larger storm events.

**To learn more about how the City prepares for snow and ice, visit our Snow and Ice Program webpage here: [sammamish.us/government/public-works/snow-and-ice-response/](https://sammamish.us/government/public-works/snow-and-ice-response/)**



# Learn about the cross-cultural senior program

In March 2023, Indian American Community Services (IACS), in partnership with the City of Sammamish, opened the doors of Beaver Lake Lodge to welcome local seniors to the city's first cross-cultural senior program.

The goal was to reduce isolation and promote connections within our diverse senior community through year-round programming offered three days per week. In the time since, the program has thrived and continues to effectively address social connections, health and wellness, and provide access to resources and support services for caregivers and seniors.



The cross-cultural senior program serves over 200 local seniors per week. Each operating day starts with a round of hot beverages and cookies while the seniors mingle and settle in, followed by a wellness activity such as gentle movement dance, tai chi, or yoga. During the activity hour, seniors enjoy interacting over activities like knitting, crochet, card/board games, and meditative art. Nutritious lunches are served every afternoon featuring a rotating menu of cuisines.

Seniors hear about relevant health topics from nurse practitioners or physicians who provide valuable tips about maintaining their health. The program also offers discussions around topics such as access to health insurance, transportation, gardening, and more.

The Sammamish Cross-Cultural Seniors Program is a collaborative effort sponsored by the City of Sammamish and operated by the Indian American Community Services. This program enables seniors 55+ to connect and celebrate at Beaver Lake Lodge on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. **For more information, please email [Seniorcoord@iaww.org](mailto:Seniorcoord@iaww.org) or call: (253) 235-9989 (ext-3).**

Join us for

# FROSTY FEST

Dec. 13 | 4–7 p.m.

FREE

CWU Sammamish



**Event features a photo booth, holiday market, live reindeer and a food truck.**

# 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



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***Closed  
for the  
Holidays***

## City Hall Holiday Closures

**Dec. 24** ..... **Christmas Eve**  
**Dec. 25** ..... **Christmas**  
**Dec. 31** ..... **New Years Eve**  
**Jan. 1** ..... **New Years**  
**Jan. 20** ..... **MLK Day**