

SAMMAMISH NEWSLETTER

The official publication of the City of Sammamish



Photo Courtesy of Sammamish Resident, Jan Bird

Neighbors and Friends,

The rain has returned, and our green vegetation couldn't be happier. Last month, kids were able to safely return to school; however, King County is still seeing an increase of new COVID cases since the summer. As the weather gets cooler and wetter, and we head indoors, please follow the vaccination, mask, and distance guidelines in place so we can keep our schools, restaurants, gyms, and entertainment establishments open for business.

Climate Impact is a Priority

In this newsletter, you will find information, resources, and tips on a topic that is a personal priority for me – a commitment to improving our impact on climate change. We will soon start working on the comprehensive plan for 2024 and at the forefront of projects will be how we can put policies in place that protect our beautiful natural environment.

For example, on the recently completed Ebright Creek Fish Passage project we up-sized the width of the culvert to account for climate change in accordance with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife design guidelines. If we all make the climate a priority, we can reach the goal of our State's Climate Commitment Act to cut climate pollution by over 50% in the next nine years, on the pathway to net-zero climate pollution by 2050.

Balanced Land Use and Mobility Analysis Environmental Impact Statement

Keep reading on page 6 for information on the Balanced Land Use and Mobility Analysis Environmental Impact Statement (BLUMA EIS) the City is preparing. The EIS describes our existing conditions, identifies probable environmental impacts, and analyzes four alternative options. The EIS will help us understand implications to the natural and built environment and identify a preferred alternative.

I want to take a moment to remind everyone, as we enter the rainy season, make sure to clear the storm drains near your home to avoid neighborhood flooding. The City is launching a new Adopt-a-Drain program. Read more about this program on page 7.

As always keep sharing your thoughts and ideas. - Mayor Karen Moran



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The Community Visioning Project - Envision the Future of Sammamish

Sara Estiri is a Management Analyst with the City of Sammamish's Department of Community Development.

The City is beginning an exciting project that focuses on getting community input around what the future of Sammamish should look like. This input will be used to review the existing community vision statement and see if any updates are needed.

This project is important because the Community Vision reflects the aspirations and goals Sammamish residents, business owners, and other stakeholders have for the future of the city. The last Community Vision statement was adopted in 2015, and things have changed a lot in the city and the region since then.

The Community Vision statement lays the foundation for the City's Comprehensive Plan.

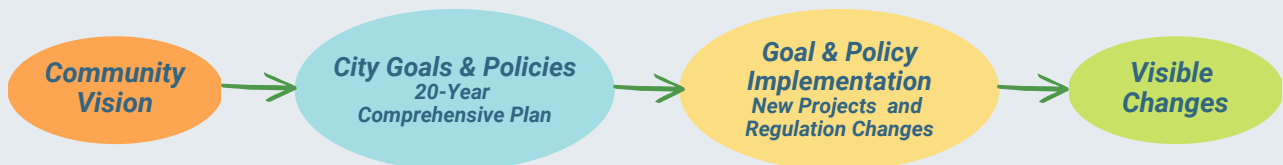
This is the City's long term plan for what growth and development will look like in the City over a 20 year period. The current Community Vision, for example, emphasizes a well-preserved natural environment in a future Sammamish. This is reflected in Comprehensive Plan goals for land use and environmental protection, which also inform development regulations that protect tree canopy cover, wetlands, streams, and wildlife habitat. This aspiration is also evident in recent City policies, such as adopting an Urban Forest Management Plan and planning for the next phases of Big Rock Park to preserve and showcase natural areas, ponds, and streams. These actions are rooted in the current Community Vision statement and move Sammamish closer to its ideal future.



The project is exciting because it's an opportunity to engage with residents and have broad and inclusive conversations about which aspects of the community are most important, what people's values and priorities are, and what a bright future in Sammamish could look like. It's also a time to start talking about major regional issues such as climate change, housing choice and affordability, and community resilience; how the City chooses to address these issues and incorporate requirements from King County will be guided by public input.

Look for opportunities to participate throughout the fall and into the winter.

We are posting a community survey this month and scheduling a range of events as well. We will also be reaching out directly to various community groups and Sammamish schools. To get the latest project updates and event schedule, please visit connect.sammamish.us/community-visioning.



Congratulations to Eastlake Little League Baseball

We are proud of the awe-inspiring season the Eastlake Little League Baseball team had this year. Not only are they a 2021 Little League World Series team, they are also 2021 Washington State Champions, Northwest Region Champions, and District 9 Champions! That's a lot of winning! The team brought a joy of baseball to the City this summer while exemplifying hard work and dedication. We applaud you and thank you for the excitement you have brought to the community.

Last month, the City hosted a rally at the team's home park, East Sammamish Park, and presented the players and coaching staff with keys to the park. View a video of the rally on the City's YouTube channel at www.youtube.com/c/Sammamish/videos. Photos credit: Jeff Steinbok



Washington State's Climate Commitment Act

PROVIDED BY DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY, STATE OF WASHINGTON

In May, the Washington Legislature passed the Climate Commitment Act, or CCA, which establishes a comprehensive program to reduce carbon pollution and achieve the greenhouse gas limits set in state law. The program will start Jan. 1, 2023



Beaver Lake

What does the Climate Commitment Act accomplish?

- Provides greater certainty of outcome in meeting legislated GHG limits by capping and reducing the vast majority of emissions;
- Maintains integrity of the cap on emissions through periodic review and adjustment of budgets, carbon pollution-reducing investments, an emissions containment reserve, and the use of offsets under the cap rather than in addition to the cap;
- Improves productivity of Washington's economy by ridding our state of costly energy waste, creating good jobs, and improving public health;
- Accelerates the clean transportation shift with \$5.2 billion in non-highway transportation spending through 2037, harnessing our clean and improving power system for an electrified future, plugging the economic drain of imported fuels, and delivering cleaner, safer infrastructure;
- Puts forward a clear signal for businesses to innovate, cooperatively and competitively, to cost-effectively reduce carbon pollution to legislated limits;
- Invests in rural communities, natural lands, clean air, clean water and marine natural resources, to stimulate local economies while equitably improving environmental health;
- Prioritizes recommendations of the Environmental Justice Council that at least 35% of investments are in the most vulnerable and impacted communities, including tribal nations, while also mitigating initial costs for these groups;
- Addresses local air pollution concerns in overburdened communities, developed alongside the HEAL Act, through air quality monitoring, high priority emitter designation, investments, and enhanced regulatory authority of Ecology and local clean air agencies;
- Treats the most vulnerable, but high-performing, businesses and potential new manufacturing fairly by recognizing trade-exposure and emission-intensity, and considering the relative efficiency of production compared to industry standards and growth.

5 Things You Can Do About Climate Change

While individuals alone may not be able to make a drastic change that limits climate change, personal action is essential to a better community.

1 - Leave the car at home

Instead of getting in the car, walk or cycle – and enjoy the physical and mental health benefits, and the money saved. For longer journeys, use public transport, or try car sharing. Not only do cars contribute to greenhouse gas emissions, but air pollution caused by exhaust fumes from traffic poses a serious threat to public health.

If driving is unavoidable...

Investigate trading in your gas vehicle for an electric or hybrid model.

If you drive a gas vehicle...

When behind the wheel, think about the way you drive: Switch off the engine when you park. Drive smoothly. Make sure the tires are fully pumped – this can improve the cars fuel mileage and efficiency.

2 - Respect and Protect Green Spaces

Parks and gardens, are important to a healthy environment. They absorb carbon dioxide and are associated with lower levels of air pollution. They help to regulate temperature by cooling overheated urban areas, can reduce flood risk by absorbing surface rainwater, and can provide important habitats for a wide variety of insects, animals, birds and amphibians. Consider creating your own green space. Plant trees and add plants to your home landscaping.

3 - Cut consumption and waste

Everything we use as consumers has a carbon footprint. Avoid single-use items and try not to buy more than you need. Shop around for second-hand or quality items that last a long time. Put your purchasing power to good use by choosing brands that align with your green aspirations.

- Try to minimize waste
- Repair and reuse
- Give unwanted items a new life by donating them to charity or selling them on
- Avoid wasting food

4 - Reduce your energy use and bill

Small changes at home will help you use less energy, cutting your carbon footprint and your energy bills:

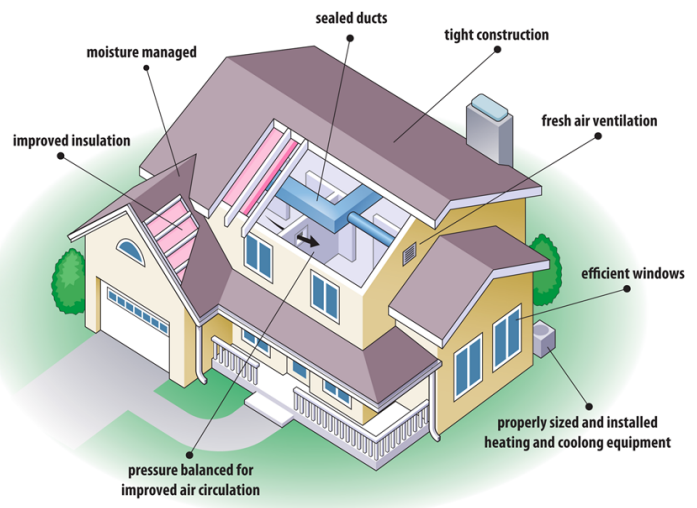
- Lower your thermostat
- Start a compost pile
- Install low-flow showerheads
- Seal all windows
- Limit space heater use
- Turn off unnecessary water
- Replace incandescent bulbs
- Unplug unused chargers
- Don't run washer with hot water

Go further...

Check that your home has proper insulation, and consider draft-proofing windows and doors. If you are in a rental, lobby your landlord to make sure the property is energy efficient.

5 - Talk about the changes you are making

Conversations are a great way to spread green ideas. As you make these positive changes to reduce your environmental impact, share your experience with your family, friends, customers and clients. Talk positively, and be honest about the ups and downs.



Balanced Land Use and Mobility Analysis Environmental Impact Statement

The Draft EIS and associated documents can be reviewed and downloaded at the project website at connect.sammamish.us/eis.

The City is preparing a Balanced Land Use and Mobility Analysis Environmental Impact Statement (BLUMA EIS) pursuant to the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) to analyze growth and infrastructure needs in Sammamish.

The BLUMA EIS addresses possible amendments to the Sammamish Comprehensive Plan and Sammamish Municipal Code related to the City's transportation level of service (LOS) standards and concurrency management program.

The EIS is an informational document meant to help City decisionmakers, and the public understand implications to the natural and built environment and identify a preferred alternative.



VOLUNTEER DRIVERS NEEDED

Community Van is seeking volunteers at lower risk for COVID

SCAN THE QR CODE TO LEARN MORE
OR CALL 425-200-8568



EIS Alternatives

The Draft EIS describes the existing conditions and identifies probable significant environmental impacts, mitigation measures to mitigate these impacts, and any significant unavoidable adverse environmental impacts from the proposal. Four alternatives are analyzed in the Draft EIS, including a no action alternative. The topics studied under the Draft EIS include: earth, water resources, plants and animals, land use, housing, plans and policies, transportation, and utilities (i.e. broadband).

Alternative 1 is a continuation of transportation LOS standards and concurrency program requirements currently in effect.

Alternative 2 proposes continuation of existing LOS standards for concurrency intersections and new LOS standards for concurrency roadway corridors and segments.

Alternative 3 assumes the same LOS standards as Alternative 2. Alternative 3 also incorporates land use measures intended to reduce travel demand and assumes reduced peak hour travel demand (15%).

Alternative 4 blends Alternative 2 LOS and Alternative 3 travel demand measures and holistic transportation capacity improvements to improve connectivity and efficiency in the transportation network.

Upcoming Community Events

Whimsical Wednesdays of Wonder
Virtual event series for families
Oct 27, Nov 3, and Nov 10
6:00 - 6:50pm

Costume & Pumpkin Contest
connect.sammamish.us/costume-and-pumpkin-contest

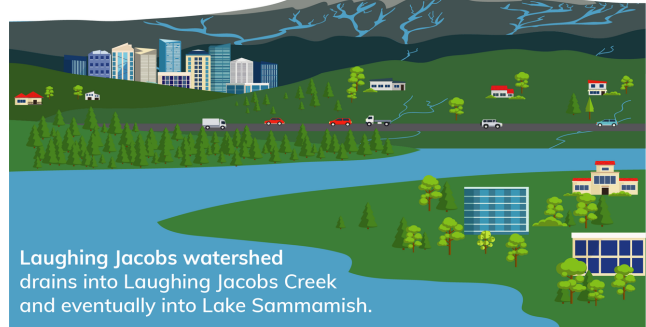
Residents Webinar for Laughing Jacobs Basin Plan

The Laughing Jacobs Basin Plan will check the current health of the basin and identify priority projects to help reduce flooding and preserve natural areas. The plan will recommend action items for the City to invest resources in areas where they are needed.

The City will host a Webinar for the public on October 26, from 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm on Zoom. Learn more about the future of your local watershed, hear what we've learned from your neighbors about local needs and values, and what priority projects have been selected for the basin plan. For webinar details, go to www.sammamish.us and search *Laughing Jacobs Basin Plan*.

Can't come but still want to learn more? Contact Toby Coenen, Senior Stormwater Program Manager at tcoenen@sammamish.us or call (425) 295-0567.

A watershed is an area of land where all of the streams, rainfall, and other precipitation drain into a common place, like a river or other body of water.



Sign Up for the New Adopt-a-Drain Program

Volunteer fifteen minutes, twice a month, for cleaner waterways and healthier communities. Storm drains flow directly to rivers, lakes, creeks, and the Puget Sound, acting as a conduit for trash and organic pollutants. Adopt-a-Drain asks residents to adopt a storm drain in their neighborhood and keep it clear of leaves, trash, and other debris to reduce water pollution and help prevent localized flooding.

When you adopt a storm drain, you become part of Adopt-a-Drain.org's network which invites you to share stories and photos with neighbors through social media, encouraging others to take action on behalf of local waterways. The quantity of debris you collect will inform annual reports on the collective impact we've had on local lakes and streams through the Adopt-a-Storm-Drain program.



How does Adopt-a-Drain work?

Residents can sign up to adopt a storm drain at www.Adopt-a-Drain.org. Enter your address and claim your storm drain. Adopt-a-Storm-Drain will send you tips on how to clean up safely.

Helpful tools for cleaning storm drains

You might want these tools for cleaning your drain: a broom, a rake, a trash grabber, work gloves, an orange cone and/or safety vest, a dustpan, and a 5-gallon bucket or yard waste bag.

Separating and disposing of storm drain waste

To dispose of waste, separate it into three categories and place it in the appropriate receptacle:

- trash (litter, dirt, and grit)
- clean recyclables (cans, glass and plastic bottles)
- clean compostables (leaves, grass clippings, and sticks)

When in doubt throw it in the trash. If there is A LOT of sediment near your drain, notify your city or county staff, as this may be an indicator of a bigger problem.



801 228th AVE SE
Sammamish, WA 98075

2021 SAMMAMISH CITY COUNCIL



Karen Moran
Mayor
kmoran@sammamish.us



Christie Malchow
Deputy Mayor
cmalchow@sammamish.us



Tom Odell
Councilmember
todell@sammamish.us



Kent Treen
Councilmember
ktreen@sammamish.us



Chris Ross
Councilmember
cross@sammamish.us



Ken Gamblin
Councilmember
kgamblin@sammamish.us



Pam Stuart
Councilmember
pstuart@sammamish.us

You can email the entire City Council at citycouncil@sammamish.us

City of Sammamish Offices

801 228TH AVE SE, SAMMAMISH, WA 98075 · 425-295-0500 · WWW.SAMMAMISH.US

City Staff

Dave Rudat
City Manager

Scott MacColl
Deputy City Manager

Lita Hachey
City Clerk

Dan Pingrey
Sammamish Police Chief

Jeff Clark
EF&R Fire Chief

Aaron Antin
Finance Director

Jim Hominiuk
IT Director

Jeff Elekes
Public Works Director

David Pyle
Community Development
Director

Anjali Myer
Parks, Recreation and Facilities
Director

City Resources

Police Non-Emergency
(206) 296-3311

Eastside Fire & Rescue
(425) 313-3200

King County Sheriff
(206) 263-9133

WA State COVID Call Center
1 (800) 525-0127

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

City Notices

Have an issue or concern?
Use the *My Sammamish* app
on your smartphone.

Have an emergency?
Dial 911

Receive Email and Text Alerts
To subscribe to the City of
Sammamish email and text
alerts and updates go to
www.sammamish.us and
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**Newsletter suggestions or
concerns?**
Contact the Front Desk at
(425) 295-0500

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