



NEWSLETTER

The official publication of the City of Sammamish

**INTRODUCING
SAMMAMISH'S NEW
POLICE CHIEF**

**CITY NAMES INTERIM
CITY MANAGER**

**CITY BUDGET
PROCESS TO KICK
OFF IN SEPTEMBER**

August 2026

Photo credit: Gary Marcos

Sammamish City Council

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!



Josh Amato, Mayor



Debbie Treen, Deputy Mayor



Roisin O'Farrell, Councilmember



Amy Lam, Councilmember



Kent Treen, Councilmember



Pamela Stuart, Councilmember



Michael Boyer, Councilmember

Meet Councilmember Michael Boyer



Councilmember Michael Boyer has proudly called Sammamish home for over 30 years, appreciating its natural beauty, safe neighborhoods, and a strong sense of community. He and his wife raised two sons here.

“We could have lived anywhere but chose Sammamish to put down roots,” he said. “We found a peaceful, welcoming and desirable community removed from urban pressures but connected to the opportunities of the region.”

Boyer has a background of over four decades spanning the semiconductor, aerospace, shipbuilding, and healthcare industries. His education includes a BS in Industrial Engineering, an MBA and a Ph.D. in leadership, which he feels has prepared him for his role as an elected official.

His priorities while serving on the Council include the City’s financial health, sensible growth and sound governance. “We must preserve the distinctive environment and unique character of Sammamish,” Boyer said. “In ten years, I want Sammamish to still feel like Sammamish, a place of natural beauty, a safe and welcoming community, recognized as one of the best places in the country to live.”

City celebrates Pride at Farmers Market



Councilmember Pam Stuart, Rep. Janice Zahn, and Cheryl Smith from Eastside Pride spoke at the event celebrating the LGBTQ+ community. Pride Month is in June, commemorating its roots in the Stonewall Riots of June 1969 – a series of demonstrations by LGBTQ+ individuals against police harassment that marked the beginning of the modern gay rights movement.

Thank you to everyone who showed up to support, and to the groups who tabled at the event, making it a true celebration.

“It’s so important to show people not just to say we believe in diversity, inclusion, equity, and belonging, but to show people,” Stuart said. “To have our actions come out and to welcome everyone in our community. No matter who you are. We want to create that place where everyone feels like they belong.”

Keep your kids safe, learn more about e-bikes and e-motorcycles



Electric-assisted bikes (e-bikes) are growing in popularity around Sammamish—but they’re often confused with

e-motorcycles. Each has different classifications and legal requirements. To help clarify, the Sammamish Police Department has resources to help the community.

E-motorcycles are not the same as e-bikes. Legal e-bikes are primarily powered by the rider. Their motors don't produce more than 750 watts of power, they must have pedals, and can't go faster than 20 MPH without the rider pedaling. If a bike doesn't meet all those requirements, it is considered a motorcycle and must be registered, insured, street-legal, and operated only on the road by a licensed driver wearing a helmet. Motorcycles can't be ridden on trails, or sidewalks.

What you need to know:

- Class 1 & 2 e-bikes top out at 20 mph. Class 1 requires pedaling; Class 2 can operate via throttle.
- Class 3 e-bikes provide power up to 28 mph while the rider is pedaling and must have a speedometer. Operators must be at least 16 years old.
- E-bikes are not allowed on soft-surface trails or boardwalks in Sammamish. Class 3 e-bikes are not allowed on sidewalks unless no other bike or pedestrian path is available.

Reminder, E-motorcycles must be licensed, insured, registered and driven by licensed drivers.

Learn more: www.sammamish.us/government/police/e-bicycles-e-motorcycles/

Watch this video for more information: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bwoSAK8uSp8>

Introducing Sammamish's new Police Chief



The City of Sammamish is pleased to announce that Tim Meyer has been appointed as Sammamish's Chief of Police. Meyer has served with the King County Sheriff's Office for more than 18 years, after a private-sector career in transportation and logistics.

Meyer completed his field training in Sammamish in 2008, followed by assignments in Kenmore, Shoreline and Sound Transit. Meyer has served as a Field Training Officer, Master Police Officer, IIU Detective Sergeant, and Media Relations Officer before command positions in patrol and support services.

He holds a degree in Business Administration from Western Washington University. He and his wife are lifelong Eastside residents. Outside of work, Chief Meyer is an avid marathon runner and became a living kidney donor in 2024. He is grateful for the opportunity to return to the community and support the men and women serving in Sammamish.

Interim City Manager named

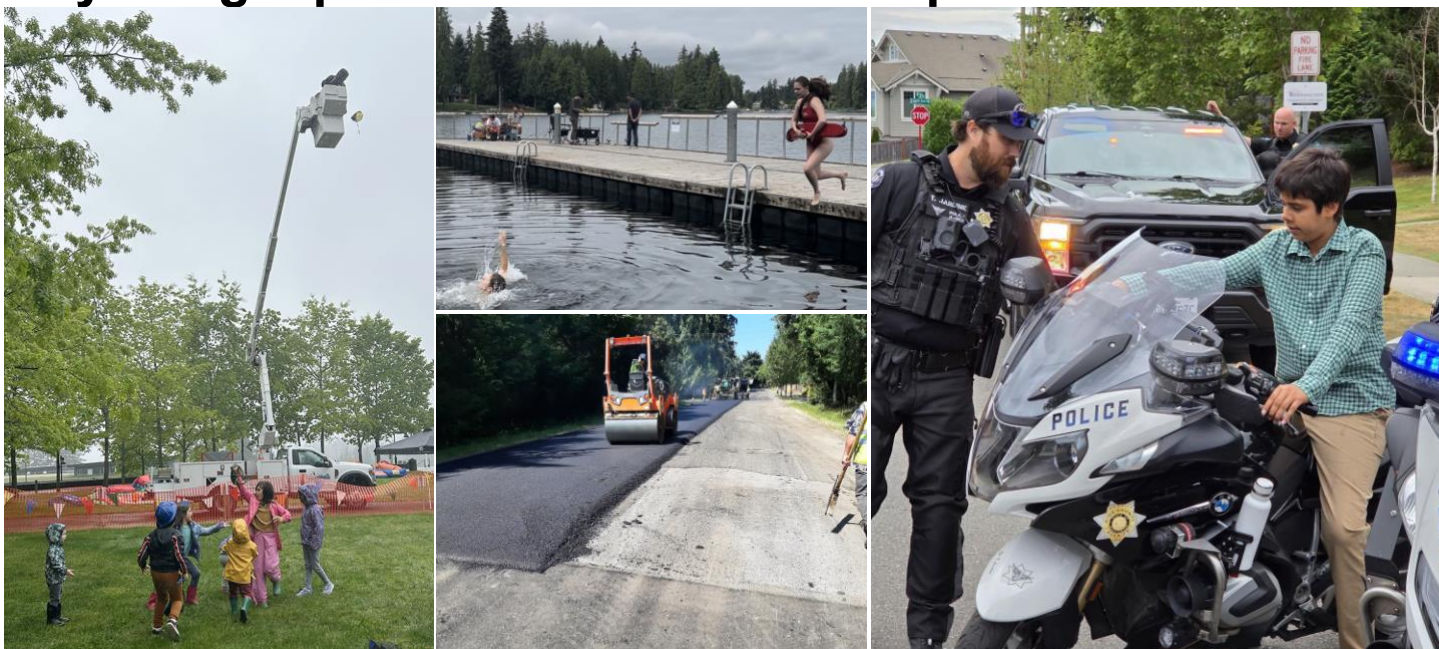


In May, former City Manager Scott MacColl announced he was leaving the City for a new position with the City of Auburn. MacColl worked at the City for five years, serving as the permanent City Manager starting in 2023.

In June, representatives from the City Council, and a senior staff member, interviewed candidates for the interim position. Top candidates were discussed with the entire City Council, which then selected Andy Parks. Parks was most recently the Interim City Administrator for the City of Burlington, WA.

Parks has served in various roles throughout his career, including stints with the Cities of Madras, OR, Bremerton, WA, and Bend, OR.

City budget process to kick off in September



Every two years, the City of Sammamish adopts a biennial budget that sets funding levels for City operations and services over the next two-year period. While the formal process begins in September, City staff and the City Council have spent the past several months reviewing long-term financial sustainability and future budget challenges.

The City faces a structural budget challenge: ongoing expenses are projected to grow faster than ongoing revenues. This is largely due to state limits on the City's primary revenue source, property taxes, which can only increase by 1% annually unless voters approve additional funding. The cost of delivering services has risen significantly due to inflation and higher labor costs. Sammamish is not alone in facing these pressures, but difficult decisions will be needed during this budget cycle.

Property taxes are shared among multiple jurisdictions, including the City, schools, emergency services, libraries, and others. Depending on the school district, the City receives approximately 8% - 12% of residents' total property tax bill. The majority of property taxes, more than 60%, support local and state school funding, with over half coming from voter-approved levies for schools, emergency services, and libraries.

The portion of property taxes received by Sammamish makes up more than 50% of the City's General Fund budget, making it our largest ongoing revenue source. The City also receives about 8% of sales tax collected locally, with the vast majority of sales tax revenue going to the state. A utility tax implemented earlier this year, now common among Washington cities, helps address immediate needs but does not fully resolve the long-term gap. All utility tax revenue stays with the City of Sammamish's General Fund to help pay for police, fire, parks and recreation, and other general government services.

The City Council will evaluate options to address the funding challenge while continuing to deliver essential services. This includes reviewing program costs, considering service adjustments, and exploring future revenue strategies. State law requires the City to adopt a balanced budget by Dec. 31.

Sammamish residents are encouraged to participate by attending Council meetings, following budget updates online, and providing public comment.

Learn more and stay informed: www.sammamish.us/projects/2027-2028-budget

CITY OF SAMMAMISH

COMMUNITY

PULSE

**Please scan the
QR code to share
your thoughts
with the City.**



**We want to hear from
you! We are doing
short surveys to
gauge public opinion
about topics related
to City business.
This survey includes
questions related to
our Parks and
Recreation
Department.**

How to keep your pets safe in an emergency



When disaster strikes, your pets' safety depends on how well you've prepared in advance.

Start by placing a rescue alert sticker near your front door listing the number and types of pets in your home. Not all emergency shelters accept animals, so arrange a safe haven in advance. Designate a trusted neighbor or friend as a temporary caregiver who has a key to your home and identify a permanent caregiver in case something happens to you.

Equally important is having an emergency kit ready to grab on your way out. Pack 7–10 days of food and at least a week of bottled water per pet, a first-aid kit, copies of medical records, any required medications, a sturdy carrier, and recent photos in case you get separated. Make sure your pet always wears an up-to-date ID tag and consider microchipping as a more permanent backup.

Bring pets indoors at the first sign of any storm or emergency and never leave them behind. Remember, if conditions aren't safe for you, they aren't safe for your animals either.

Those with horses, birds, reptiles, or small animals should take extra species-specific precautions. Whatever pets you have, the key is to plan early, prepare thoroughly, and act quickly.

National Preparedness Fair, free event!

Sept. 26 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. at the Sammamish YMCA

Gain knowledge, skills, and confidence to handle emergencies from local experts.

Free for non YMCA members as well.

New mural at Klahanie Park focuses on nature



A new mural was painted on the walls of the bathroom structure at Klahanie Park in June by artist Cody Esp.

This art was brought to the City thanks to the Sammamish Arts Commission. Residents provided feedback on the subject matter via social media, which Esp used to create a piece inspired by the natural environment. The mural depicts flora and fauna like the blue heron, cherry blossoms, fir trees, bears, and mountains. Klahanie Park was chosen as the location for the artwork because it is a hub of activity and hosts our Shakespeare in the Park event each year.

“I wanted to celebrate classic, local King County elements but elevate them with a fun, playful twist that resonates with Sammamish’s vibrant, family-oriented community,” she said.

Louis Thompson project is complete



Construction on Louis Thompson Road was completed this summer, after two years of work.

Louis Thompson Road is a vital connection route serving residents of Sammamish and surrounding communities. Historically, the corridor was impacted by uncontrolled stormwater runoff. Improvements were made on a section of roadway between 210th Place Southeast to Eastlake Sammamish Parkway Northeast.

Improvements include:

- Upgrades to existing stormwater conveyance, culvert, and ditch systems in the area to alleviate flooding, erosion, and landslide issues.

- A new sidewalk and bike lane on the downhill side of the road to improve safety and connectivity to adjacent neighborhoods.
- A widened 6-foot minimum width shoulder and 8-inch painted edge line uphill improves visibility.

The City celebrated the end of this project with a ribbon-cutting in July. Mayor Josh Amato, Deputy Mayor Debbie Treen, and Councilmembers Amy Lam, Kent Treen and Roisin O'Farrell were in attendance. Representatives My-Linh Thai and Lisa Callan were part of the celebration, too.

Upcoming recycling events

Sunday, Sept. 27, 2026

Saturday, Oct. 31, 2026

9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

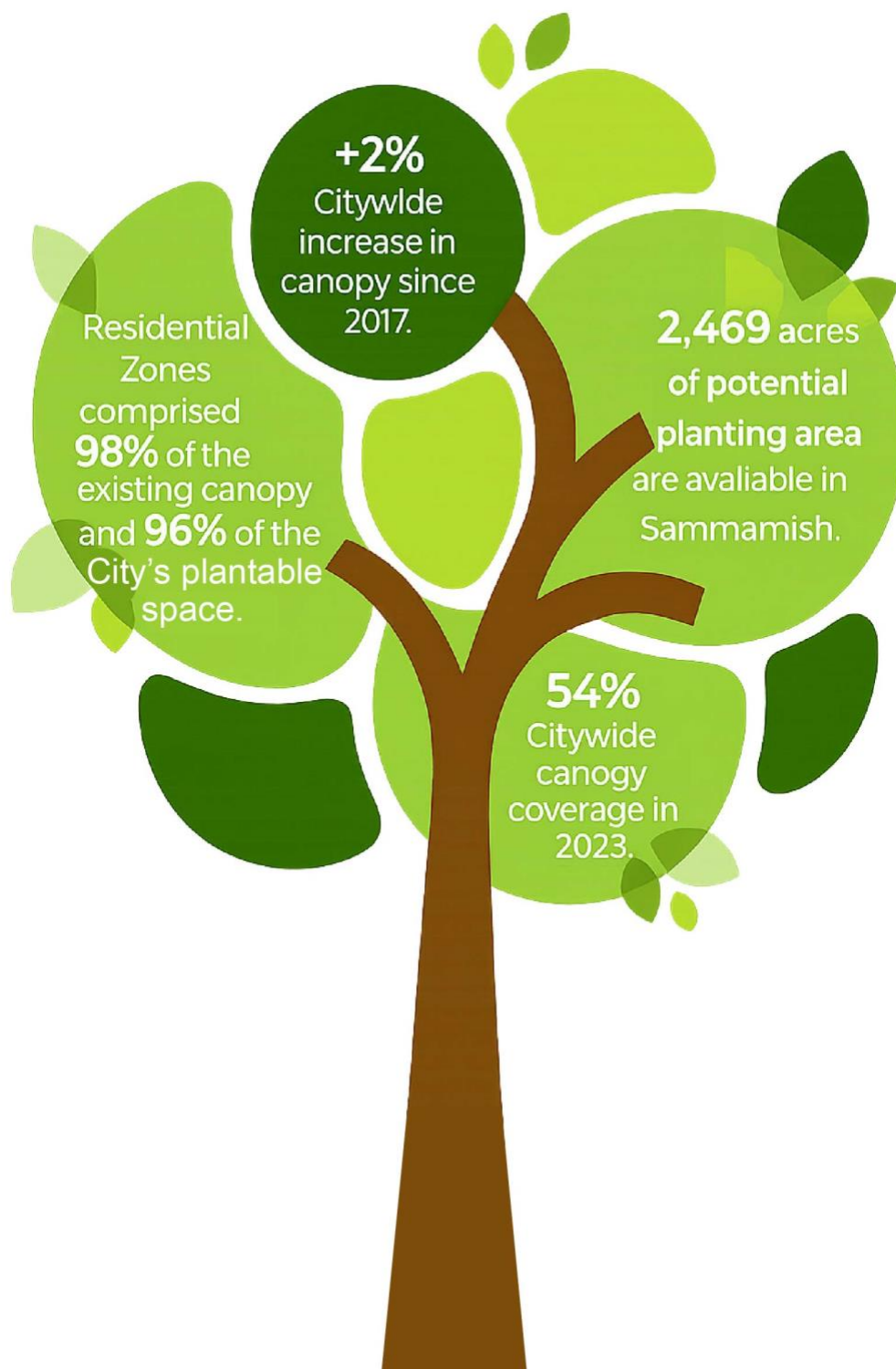
Eastside Catholic School

232 228th Avenue SE, Sammamish, WA 98074

Learn more about accepted materials by scanning the qr code below.



Sustainable Sammamish: Let's talk about trees



This year, as part of the King Conservation District Urban Forestry Program, Sammamish received a City-wide tree canopy assessment. The assessment provides us with data on canopy cover from 2017 to 2023 and supports urban forest planning efforts. At ~54% canopy cover, the City of Sammamish has one of the densest tree canopies in King County.

With over 2,000 acres in residential zones comprising 96% of plantable space throughout the city, expanding Sammamish's canopy is well within reach. Trees in Sammamish do more than just make

the city beautiful; they also enhance livability, promote health and well-being, and support wildlife and habitat.

Tree giveaway alert

Saturday, Nov. 7 from 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. in Issaquah

Plant a free tree for a greener future! The 2026 Tree Giveaway Program is a joint program open to all City of Sammamish residents, including groups and organizations such as schools, faith organizations, non-profits, HOA's, and small businesses under 25 employees within the City limits.

Tree Application

People must apply to reserve a tree and cannot show up to pick one up without an application.



Tree Catalog



This year, City of Sammamish is celebrating the 15th anniversary of being certified as a Community Wildlife Habitat. A Community Wildlife Habitat provides habitat for wildlife throughout the community. You can participate by transforming your backyard or organization green space into a wildlife habitat too!

To learn more about creating habitat at home and explore certification with the National Wildlife Federation, visit the following resource: www.sammamishstewards.org/your-wildlife-habitat

Sammamish Parks 101– Pine Lake Park



Did you know Sammamish's parks have stories as rich as their landscapes? In our Sammamish Parks 101 series, we explore the history, growth, and hidden gems of our local parks—while revisiting some fun photos along the way.

Parks 101 is your guide to discovering (and rediscovering) the spaces that make Sammamish special. Let's talk about Pine Lake Park!

Pine Lake Park was originally a private resort in the 1910s. The resort was purchased in 1932 and renamed French's LaPine Resort but was more commonly known as Pine Lake Resort. The resort featured cabins, fishing, and a dance hall. King County purchased the property for a public park in the mid-1960s, and then it was transferred to the City of Sammamish when the city incorporated in 1999.

Lifeguards will be at Pine Lake until Aug. 24 from 12 p.m. – 7 p.m. We also have a life jacket loaner program at Pine Lake Park to help people stay safe. Fishing is allowed according to the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife with a license starting the fourth Saturday in April through Oct. 31 (these dates can vary by year).

This park offers:

- A playground
- Picnic Shelter
- Restrooms
- Athletic Courts & Fields
- Trails
- Fishing
- Beach

To learn more about this park visit our website: <https://www.sammamish.us/our-community/recreation/parks-trails/pine-lake-park/>



Protecting our streams starts at home

Many people assume that water flowing down a storm drain is treated before it reaches natural waterways. In reality, storm drains in our communities often flow directly into nearby streams, wetlands, and lakes — carrying everything in that water along with it.

When cars are washed on driveways or paved surfaces, the runoff can contain soap, oil, grease, dirt, heavy metals, and other pollutants that wash straight into the stormwater system. Even soaps labeled “biodegradable” can still harm fish and aquatic life when they enter streams untreated. Pressure washing driveways, sidewalks, patios, and parking areas can create similar problems.

These pollutants can:

- Harm fish and aquatic insects
- Reduce water quality
- Increase algae growth
- Damage habitat for wildlife
- Pollute lakes and streams used for recreation

Simple Ways You Can Help

- Choose a commercial car wash
- Wash vehicles on vegetation for natural infiltration of toxins

Small Actions Make a Big Difference

For more information: www.sammamish.us/our-community/environment-sustainability/help-keep-clean/car-care





Upcoming Holiday Closures

City public facilities will be closed the following days:

- Sept. 7 Labor Day
- Oct. 12 Indigenous Peoples' Day
- Nov. 26 & Nov. 27 Thanksgiving
- Dec. 24 Christmas Eve
- Dec. 25 Christmas Day

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

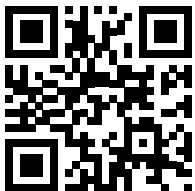
To subscribe to the City of Sammamish email updates and text alerts go to sammamish.us/subscribe.

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