



NEWSLETTER

The official publication of the City of Sammamish

**NEW & RETURNING
COUNCIL MEMBERS**

**CLIMATE ACTION PLAN
APPROVED**

**LUNAR NEW YEAR
EVENT**



January 2024

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 pm, with a study session on the second Tuesday at 6:30 pm. For more information, go to sammamish.us/citycouncil.

To contact the Sammamish City Council, email 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 City Council Announces Leadership for New Term: Clark Re-elected as Mayor, Howe Takes Deputy Mayor Role



At their regular meeting on January 2nd, the Sammamish City Council re-elected Kali Clark to serve another term as Mayor. Acknowledging her steadfast commitment to the community, members expressed confidence in Clark's ability to lead Sammamish with dedication and vision.

Additionally, the council elected Karen Howe as Deputy Mayor, recognizing her valuable contributions and collaborative spirit. Howe brings a wealth of experience and a passion for community engagement to her new role.

Together, Mayor Clark and Deputy Mayor Howe are poised to guide Sammamish through a year of progress and community development. The City Council looks forward to the continued positive impact of their leadership in the coming months.



Meet Your Newest Sammamish City Council Member: **Mr. Sid Gupta**

Welcome the newest addition to the Sammamish City Council, Mr. Sid Gupta. A dedicated community volunteer and environmental steward, Councilmember Gupta brings experience and a passion for positive civic engagement to his new role.

His extensive volunteerism and community involvement history show his commitment to Sammamish. As a Board Member and President of Sammamish Friends since 2016, he has successfully coordinated fundraising events, spearheaded a new website, and facilitated the implementation of a grant program while offering crucial administrative and logistical support to various community groups and partner organizations.

His dedication extends to regional organizations, such as the Washington Native Plant Society, where he served as a Board Member for the Central Puget Sound Chapter, focusing on membership recruitment and volunteer engagement. Councilmember Gupta has also played a pivotal role in the City of Sammamish as a Parks Commissioner since 2014, showcasing leadership as Vice Chair in 2018 and 2019 and as Chair in 2020 and 2021.

In addition to his roles in Sammamish, he has been an active Native Plant Steward with the Washington Native Plant Society, contributing to administration, advocacy, volunteer management, and on-site restoration efforts. His commitment to environmental sustainability is further demonstrated by his time as a Garden Steward with Seattle Tilth from 2012 to 2015, where he underwent and taught Master Recycler/Composter Eastside training.

A Community Member with a Vision:

Having lived in the Klahanie neighborhood for 13 years, Councilmember Gupta is not just a community leader but also a neighbor with a deep understanding of Sammamish's unique character. As a Native Plant Steward, he has hands-on experience preserving the natural environment. As a Parks Commissioner, he has witnessed the power of a passionate community in shaping the city's future.

He believes in the strength of diversity and envisions a responsible, inclusive, and prosperous future for Sammamish. With nearly a decade of building strong connections in the community, he is poised to ensure that every voice is heard as the city moves forward.

Join us in welcoming Sid Gupta to the Sammamish City Council, where his dedication and experience will contribute to our community's continued growth and well-being.

Council Member Gupta's Recognition and Awards:

Councilmember Gupta's contributions have not gone unnoticed, as he was honored with the 2016 SAMMI Award for Environmental Stewardship and the 2018 Volunteer of the Year Award from the City of Sammamish.

Contact
Councilmember Gupta:
sgupta@sammamish.us

City Council Approves Sammamish's Inaugural Climate Action Plan

In a landmark decision, the Sammamish City Council has given the green light to the city's first-ever Climate Action Plan (CAP), signaling a commitment to combat the multifaceted challenges of climate change. The overarching objective of the CAP is to align with broader regional, state, and federal efforts, propelling Sammamish towards a net-zero emissions target by 2050.

Identifying Key Contributors

The CAP recognizes that bold and ambitious action is needed to curb the current effects of climate change and prevent the worst of future impacts. It focuses on specific climate areas deemed most relevant to the City. Initial goals beyond those adopted by the City Council have been integrated into the CAP for each focus area. These goals, developed using King County-Cities Climate Collaboration (K4C) targets or other relevant sources where possible, address the situation's urgency. Some focus areas require additional baseline data, and the newly created Sustainability Commission will play a crucial role in reviewing and recommending updates to the City Council.



Focus Areas

Transportation and Land use, Buildings and Energy, Natural Resources, Water, Waste, and Resiliency.

Ambitious Goals Set in Motion

Setting the bar high, Sammamish has outlined ambitious goals, aiming for a 50% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 and an impressive 96% reduction by 2050, using 2019 data as the baseline. Additionally, the CAP targets a 30% reduction in per capita Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) by 2030 and an even more significant 50% reduction by 2050, relative to a 2016 baseline.

Tailored Actions for Maximum Impact

Actions were meticulously developed for each focus area, confirming a targeted approach to reducing emissions that most effectively addresses the City's emissions profile. Overarching quantitative goals were informed by regional frameworks such as the K4C Climate Action Toolkit to ensure that CAP strategies align with regional best practices.





From Goals to Action: The Implementation Phase

The CAP's implementation section underscores translating these ambitious goals into tangible results. Recognizing that success requires collaboration from federal and state agencies, residents, businesses, and local government, the plan allocates resources strategically. Investments in low-carbon energy, sustainable transportation, and community resilience are pivotal for success.

Local Impacts of Global Challenges

Rising concentrations of greenhouse gases (GHGs) globally have localized impacts on Sammamish, including reduced snowpack, increased wildfire risk, extreme heat events, storm intensification, and shifts in precipitation patterns. These challenges translate into threats like infrastructure damage, health concerns, and heightened wildfire risks, imposing significant economic, social, and environmental challenges.

Unanimous Approval: A Pledge for the Future

The Sammamish City Council unanimously adopted the CAP in December 2023, affirming its commitment to addressing climate change challenges over the next 30 years. The CAP aligns with existing city plans and state and regional legislative measures, aiming for a significantly reduced carbon footprint and mitigation of climate impacts.

A New Era: The Sustainability Commission

In tandem with the CAP's adoption, the city established the Sustainability Commission, a dedicated body focused on gathering baseline data, implementing CAP actions, and supporting Sammamish in achieving collective climate and sustainability goals. The Commission will visit local sustainability projects, utility facilities, and partner organizations, enhancing knowledge of environmental issues.

Get Involved: Join the Sammamish Climate Challenge

Achieving the CAP's objectives necessitates collective efforts. Community members are encouraged to participate in the Sammamish Climate Challenge, where you can learn more about CAP implementation and other sustainability initiatives and discover how to contribute to protecting the environment.



To view the Plan in its entirety scan the QR code or visit: sammamish.us/sustainability-hub

Participate in the Sammamish Climate Challenge at: sammamishclimatechallenge.org.

Celebrating Two Decades of Dedication: Lita Hachey's Retirement

"Thank you, Lita, for your dedication, leadership, and the positive influence on our community."



In a heartfelt tribute, the City of Sammamish bids farewell to Lita Hachey, our City Clerk, as she embarks on a well-deserved retirement after more than 20 years of exceptional service.

Lita's journey with the City of Sammamish began in 2001, and from the outset, she displayed an unwavering commitment to the community she calls home. Her roots run deep, making her not just a public servant but a dedicated resident of the Sammamish community.

Beyond her professional role, Lita's dedication extended to a profound connection with the well-being of our community. Colleagues have praised her leadership, describing her as a fantastic person and supervisor. Her impact on the City of Sammamish is lasting, and her legacy will continue to resonate for years.

As Lita approaches retirement, her proactive approach has been remarkable. Recognizing the importance of a smooth transition, she has spearheaded a comprehensive cross-training initiative within the Clerk's office. Staff members have attended City Council meetings under her guidance, ensuring operations remain seamless during this transition period.

Lita's meticulous planning and dedication to transparency are evident in the thoughtful transition of the online records management program and the implementation of an email retention policy. Her foresight and efficient project management ensure that the Clerk's office will thrive in her absence.

We extend our deepest appreciation to Lita Hachey for her exceptional contributions to the success and resilience of the City of Sammamish. In recognition of her dedication, the City Manager recently presented Lita with a well-deserved Special Recognition award.

Congratulations, Lita Hachey, on a remarkable career! As you step into this new chapter of your life, may it be filled with joy, relaxation, and the satisfaction of a job well done. Your legacy in the City of Sammamish will always be cherished, and your impact will be felt for years.

Thank you, Lita, for your dedication, leadership, and the positive influence on our community. We wish you all the best in your well-earned retirement!

Sammamish City Council Embraces Transparency with Open Government Training

The Sammamish City Council received open government training on January 16, emphasizing the city's commitment to openness and transparency as part of its obligations under the Public Records Act (chapter 42.56 RCW; "PRA") and the Open Public Meetings Act (chapter 42.30 RCW; "OPMA"). The PRA governs public records in Sammamish, which mandates public access to records and materials held by state and local agencies.

Sammamish's adherence to the PRA and its proactive approach starts with investments made in recent years, which includes a dedicated Public Disclosure Officer (PDO) who works with other city staff in every department to oversee public records requests, ensuring efficiency and transparency. The City has also invested in technology to make searches more efficient and established an online public records portal, allowing residents to submit requests electronically. This portal and a dedicated tracking system ensure a streamlined and accessible process. Sammamish embraces technology to facilitate public participation and make government information readily available.

The public records request process offers multiple submission methods, including online, email, fax, mail, in-person, or by phone. Sammamish provides extensive information on the types of records that can be requested, offering a wide range of accessible resources online, including permit information, development maps, government meeting records, and more.

Moreover, the city categorizes public records requests based on the complexity, volume, and availability of records, providing a transparent framework for requestors. Sammamish's commitment to responsiveness is evident in its estimated completion dates for each category, ensuring requestors clearly understand the timeline.

The city's dedication to transparency extends to its fee structure. While there is no charge for requesting or inspecting public records, Sammamish follows a reasonable fee schedule for copying, mailing, and other associated costs. This approach aligns with the principles of the PRA.

Sammamish's proactive measures, online accessibility, and commitment to transparency set a standard for cities of its size. By investing in public disclosure training and embracing modern tools, the Sammamish City Council demonstrates its commitment to fostering an open and accountable government for its residents.



To Request City Public Records:
sammamish.us/government/clerk/submit-prr/

Washington State Public Records Law:
mrsc.org/explore-topics/legal/open-government/public-records-act/public-records-act-basics

Exploring a Future in Law Enforcement: The Sammamish Police Explorers Program

Are you a young adult between the ages of 14 and 21, intrigued by the world of law enforcement? If so, the Sammamish Police Explorers Program, hosted by the King County Sheriff's Office, offers an unparalleled opportunity to dive into the heart of this dynamic and challenging career.

A Glimpse into Law Enforcement

The Explorer Program is a volunteer organization designed for individuals interested in exploring a career in law enforcement. It provides a unique chance to witness firsthand what the profession entails by working alongside the Sheriff's Office and Deputies. Unlike anything you can find in a book, job description, or TV show, this experience offers a genuine understanding of the day-to-day life of law enforcement professionals.

Ride Along for Real Action

One of the program's highlights is riding along with Deputies on patrol. This gives participants insights into responding to in-progress calls and the real-world scenarios professional law enforcement officers face daily.



The Sammamish Police Explorers Program provides a range of exciting opportunities for its members:

- Ride Along with Officers on Patrol: Experience the real-life scenarios officers face during patrols.
- Visit Specialized Units: Explore units such as Air Support and Marine Patrol to understand their crucial roles.
- Community Engagement: Attend and serve the public at community events, fulfilling community service requirements for school programs.
- Law Enforcement Competitions: Participate in regional, state, or national Law Enforcement Explorer Competitions, showcasing your skills on a broader stage.

Explore Specialized Units

Through guest speakers, Explorers get a taste of various specialized units within law enforcement. From SWAT and Search and Rescue to K-9, Marine Patrol, Bomb Disposal, Crisis Negotiation, Air Support, and more, participants gain insight into the diverse facets of the field.

Hands-On Training for Unique Skills

Special training sessions like Range Day and Emergency Vehicle Operations Course offer hands-on experiences, allowing Explorers to learn skills unique to individuals of their age. These opportunities enhance their understanding and equip them with practical knowledge.

Join the Sammamish Police Explorers Program

This volunteer program is open to young adults throughout the year and is accepting new members. While many participants aspire to pursue a career in law enforcement, it is not a prerequisite for joining.

All Explorer advisors are commissioned deputies with the King County Sheriff's Office, ensuring that participants receive guidance and mentorship from experienced professionals in the field.

If you're ready to explore the exciting world of law enforcement, the Sammamish Police Explorers Program is for you. Join today and embark on a journey beyond textbooks and TV shows, providing a genuine glimpse into the lives of those who protect and serve our communities.

Contact:

kingcountypoliceexplorers.org/sammamish.html

City of Sammamish's 25th Anniversary Photo Contest

Celebrate the City of Sammamish's 25th Anniversary Silver Jubilee by showcasing your photography skills in our special photo contest! We invite photographers of all ages and skill levels to submit captivating images that capture the essence of Sammamish over the past 25 years. Whether it's the vibrant events and celebrations, civic buildings, diverse activities, scenic landscapes, historical figures, or the beauty of our open spaces and wildlife, we want to see your unique perspective on what makes Sammamish special.

Photographers of all ages and skill levels are invited to submit photos.

Photos should be emailed to communications@sammamish.us with the subject heading: Jubilee Photo Submission. Email should include name and phone number for contact.



RULES

1. Photographs must have been taken within the city limits of Sammamish.
2. Each participant may enter one photograph.
3. Entries must be suitable for display on public websites and social media.
4. Photographs should be high resolution, up to 300 dpi, for printing and display at City Hall.
5. All entered photographs may be used as content, with a photo credit, on the City's website, newsletter, social media, or other non-commercial ways to promote Sammamish.
6. Participants will be asked to sign a photo release if selected to be displayed by the City. By entering this contest, you agree to comply with the above rules.

2024 Comprehensive Plan Update

2023 was a busy but productive year for the 2024 Comprehensive Plan Update. The City accomplished a lot with the support and feedback from the community and City Council. Over the year, the project team conducted several engagement opportunities in the community, including hosting booths at the Sammamish Farmer's Market, holding focus groups, and hosting the Sammamish Block Party in September. The Block Party was a fun, family-friendly community event designed to inform the community on what topics and issues will be addressed during the update process. The event was a big success and attracted roughly 350 community members.

The Planning Commission and City Council also provided critical policy direction at the 2024 Comprehensive Plan Goals and Policies Workshop and through several public meetings. Key among the policy issues was how the city will work to accommodate more diverse and affordable housing options and what needs to be done to plan for future growth appropriately.

This winter, staff will use the community's feedback and the City Council's direction to draft the updated Comprehensive Plan. In the spring of 2024, the Planning Commission will review the revised plan before the City Council reviews it in the fall. The 2024 Comprehensive Plan will be adopted by December 31, 2024.

Please visit www.envisionsammamish2044.org to follow along with the process.



Sammamish Youth Board Applications Open

Seeking New and Returning Members to Apply for the 2024-2025 Service Year

The Sammamish Youth Board (SYB) is a City Commission made up of and run by Middle School and High School students living in Sammamish. The City recognizes the value that students can bring to local government and relies on its members to address the problems, concerns, and needs of the youth of Sammamish.

The Youth Board coordinates community service projects, helps plan and manage community-wide events, and is encouraged to pursue other projects that benefit fellow Sammamish residents. Serving on the Board is a great way to earn volunteer hours and learn about the inner workings of local government!

Applications are open now for the next service year, beginning in September 2024 and running through August 2025. Apply online at sammamish.us/government/commissions-boards/sammamish-youth-board/ or scan the QR code to be taken to the application.

Contact SYB Staff Liaison Janie Walzer, jwalzer@sammamish.us with any questions.

Apply online by scanning the QR code below to be taken to the application.



LUNAR NEW YEAR

February 10th | 1:00pm - 5:00pm

CWU Sammamish, 120 228th Ave NE , Sammamish

Join us in celebrating the Year of the Dragon! The diversely talented international community of Sammamish will be featured with activities centered around Asian culture and ceremonial traditions.

Event highlights:

- **Vibrant performances**
- **Music**
- **Dance**
- **Visual arts**
- **Various interactive booths for kids**
- **Food trucks**

**This year's
Lion Dance
will take place
at 4:00pm**

*by Mak Fai Dragon
& Lion Dance Association*

This event is brought to you by:
City of Sammamish
CWU - Sammamish
Skyline High School Chinese Classes
Sammamish Chinese School and WaHaHa Youth
United Seattle & Bellevue Korean School - Bellevue Campus

**FREE
and open to
audiences of
all ages!**

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

Community Van communityvan@sammamish.us

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Celebrating 25 Years of Sammamish: A Year of Community Pride

In 1999, the City of Sammamish was officially incorporated, marking a pivotal moment in our shared history. As we enter 2024, we embark on a journey to commemorate a quarter-century of community spirit, growth, and resilience.

The city will join local organizations throughout this year to weave the 25th-anniversary theme into city and community programs. From engaging community events to spirited social media campaigns and commemorative publications, every moment will be an opportunity to reflect on our shared accomplishments and look ahead to a promising future.

Join us as we celebrate the past, present, and future of Sammamish—a city that thrives on the strength of its community. Let's make 2024 a year to remember, honoring our remarkable journey together.