

An abstract painting composed of various geometric shapes and vibrant colors including red, blue, yellow, green, and orange. The brushstrokes are visible, giving it a textured appearance. The composition is dense and layered, with some shapes overlapping others.

Background Information

INTRODUCTION

lingering sun —

the farmer's market peppers

redder and greener

Painting by Anna Macrae
Haiku by Michael Dylan Welch

City of Sammamish

Community

PROFILE



January 2014



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chapter 1

INTRODUCTION



Since the 1999 incorporation, the City of Sammamish has developed and adopted several vision statements to describe our desired future. The City's Comprehensive Plan vision, which considers the City as a whole, was adopted about 10 years ago as part of the 2003 comprehensive planning process. More recently, the City has approved vision statements for specific functions or locations, such as parks and recreation, sustainability, economic development and Town Center. Now, in 2014, the City is reviewing and refining the Comprehensive Plan vision to ensure it still accurately describes the City's desired future and provides pertinent guidance for policy development.

To support this process, this Community Profile provides a picture of Sammamish in 2014. It describes ways in which the city has changed or remained constant since 2003, current trends that might be a preview of change to come, and preferences that city residents have reported. The profile draws from comprehensive sources of information, such as the US Census and state, regional and county sources, to distill the key characteristics that will help frame the City's vision and policies to support that vision.

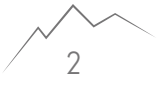
WHAT IS INCLUDED IN THE PROFILE?

This report is organized into several sections, summarized below.

Findings and Observations. Lists several broad themes drawn from the findings in this document and describes how these findings may influence the City's future.

People. Describes key population characteristics, including demographic characteristics, a health profile, and employment characteristics.

Places. Describes key features of the natural and built environment, including sensitive areas, land use and development patterns.



Mobility. Describes regional and local trends in transportation patterns.

Vision Statements. Lists the existing vision statements that have been reviewed or adopted by the City.

Public Comments. Summarizes public comments received through the 2012 citywide survey and solicited through recent comprehensive planning outreach.

chapter 2



FINDINGS & OBSERVATIONS

This Community Profile provides an overview of the demographic, land use and transportation characteristics and trends of the City of Sammamish. It also provides a summary of public comment received through January 2014 in response to questions about concerns, hopes and priorities for Sammamish's future. This information is provided primarily to help inform thoughts on the long-term vision for Sammamish, but also to provide a basis for policy recommendations in the City's Comprehensive Plan Rewrite project.

Early findings distilled from this input are summarized below for your consideration. We look forward to additional observations and future discussions as the City proceeds through the visioning and comprehensive planning process.

Findings and Observations

A. Sammamish will likely continue to be a city of families. Characteristics that are often identified as making cities friendly to families include affordable housing, high public safety, available job opportunities, good schools and good access to parks and recreation activities. Easy multi-modal connectivity to daily needs is also often mentioned.

In the future, if demographic change in Sammamish tracks with regional and national trends, there may be increasing demand for housing stock and services to meet the needs of smaller families, including single parent families and single person head of households, such as seniors or millennials.

B. Sammamish has a small but growing population of older residents. Over the past 20 years, the proportion of City population between ages 55 and 75 is increasing faster in Sammamish than in east King County as a whole. The proportion of older residents can be expected to continue over the next 10 – 20 years.



C. Sammamish is growing more ethnically diverse. Sammamish has the third highest proportion of foreign-born residents in east King County and, since 2000, has had the largest proportional increase of cities in east King County.

A city can welcome ethnic diversity through flexible housing standards that recognize diverse housing needs, multi-lingual provision of information, provision of adequate space for commercial, religious and cultural services, support for multi-cultural sports and recreation and other measures.

D. Sammamish has adequate residential capacity to meet Growth Management Act targets. The City does not need to increase residential densities in order to meet GMA housing targets and the majority of the 2035 housing growth target can be accommodated outside of Town Center. There may be other reasons to consider increasing the form, concentration or numbers of housing units.

E. Town Center will play a significant role in the City's future. Town Center is the only significant area in Sammamish for future commercial and employment growth. Town Center has the capacity to provide the cultural, shopping and dining options that are a priority for many residents, including youth. Town Center also provides significant capacity for residential development and would provide alternative housing options for those who are not well-served by the traditional single family residence, such as older residents, younger residents, single person households and others.

F. Transportation priorities have shifted in Sammamish. Although Sammamish continues to be a city for which mobility is provided primarily through the private automobile, general visioning preference surveys and youth visioning exercises did not rate more roads and connections as a high priority. This is consistent with a 2012 citywide survey, which showed that concern over traffic had decreased significantly. Non-motorized projects have been in demand as a result of increased active travel. It is also consistent with local and regional trends that show that growth in daily vehicle miles traveled has slowed significantly over time and per capita daily vehicle miles traveled is decreasing as commuters choose flexible work schedules, telecommuting, and transit to reduce peak hour and daily auto trips. In the future, alternative approaches to promoting mobility, such as management of demand, rather than expansion of facilities, may be more in line with transportation priorities expressed by residents.

chapter 3

PEOPLE



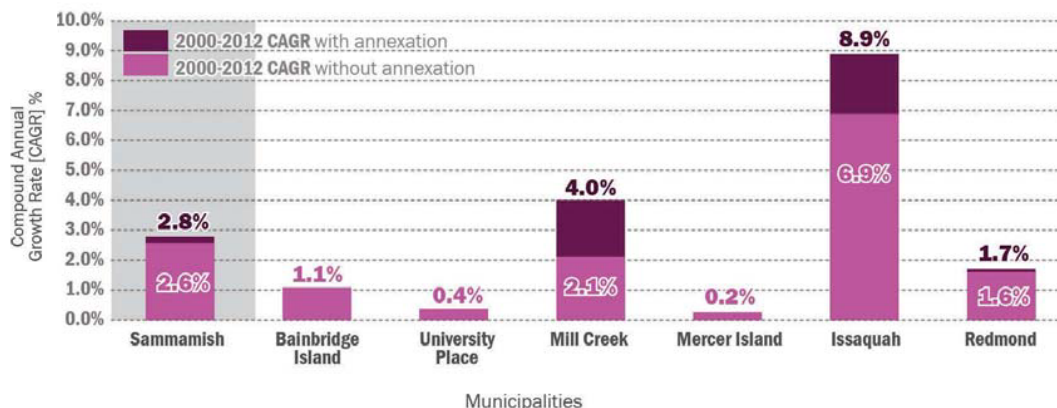
This chapter provides data on a range of topics to describe who lives and works in Sammamish. Data are divided into three broad topics: demographics, employment, and community health. Unless otherwise noted, data in this section is based on US Census data or the American Community Survey, an ongoing annual statistical survey conducted by the US Census Bureau to provide communities with updated information. Numbers and percentages are rounded to the nearest whole number.

Overview

In 2013, Sammamish had an estimated population of about 48,060 people, an increase of about 2,300 since 2010 and 14,000 since 2000. Overall, our rate of growth is within the range of growth experienced by comparable cities in the region.

POPULATION GROWTH RATE WITH ANNEXATIONS SAMMAMISH AND COMPARISON CITIES, 2000-2012

Washington Office of Financial Management, 2012; Puget Sound Regional Council



Age Composition

2012 SAMMAMISH POPULATION:

47,420

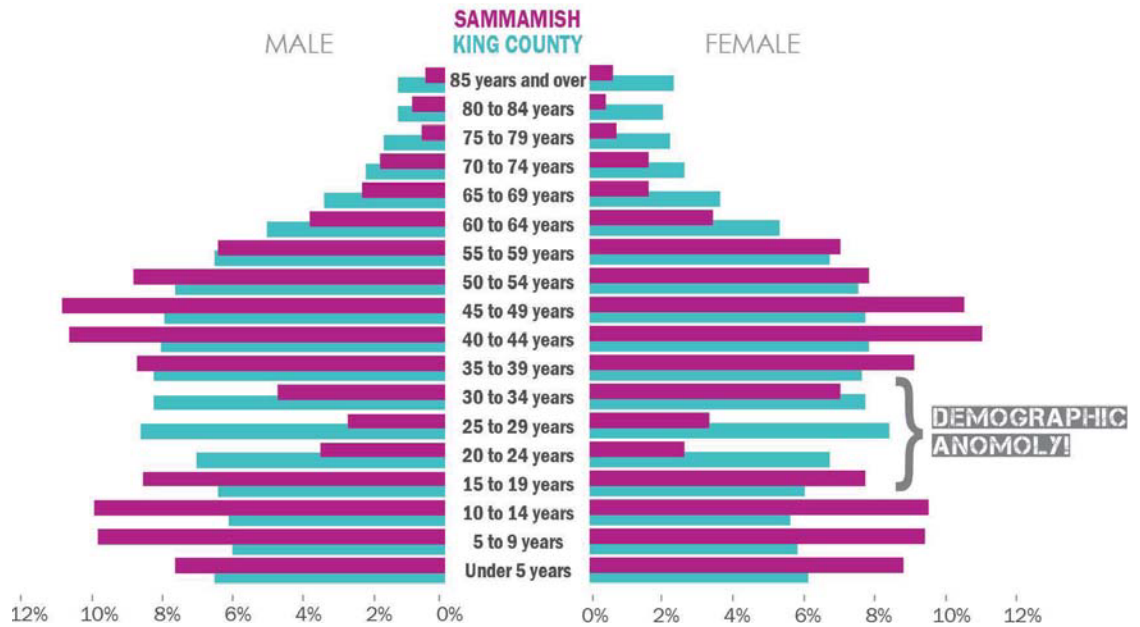
BETWEEN 2012 AND 2040 THE POPULATION OF SAMMAMISH IS FORECAST TO GROW BY

34% TO 63,529

- The median age of Sammamish residents was 37.5 in 2012 up from 35.3 in 2000.
- We have a large population of children. Roughly one-third of our population is under the age of 18.
- Relatively few young adults live in Sammamish. About 7% of our population is between the ages of 18 – 29.
- Although our over age 65 population is relatively small, this population is rapidly growing; single person households over age 65 grew from 172 in 2000 to 419 in 2012.

POPULATION PYRAMID OF SAMMAMISH

U.S. Census American Community Survey 2011 (ACS), CAI



Household Composition

- Compared to the surrounding region, our household size is relatively large and our percentage of households with children is relatively large. This is a consistent trend in Sammamish. Between 2000 and 2012, family households have accounted for most of the City’s growth and non-family households and single person households have declined as a proportion of all households. In 2012, we had about 15,500 households and an average household size of 3.05 persons. As comparison, the household size in the Puget Sound region has remained stable at about 2.4 persons since 2000, slowing a declining household size trend dating back to 1960. In the 2000 – 2010 time period, the composition of Puget Sound households has changed, with fewer children and more persons 65 years and older.¹

¹ Puget Sound Regional Council. Puget Sound Trends, No. D11. December 2012.

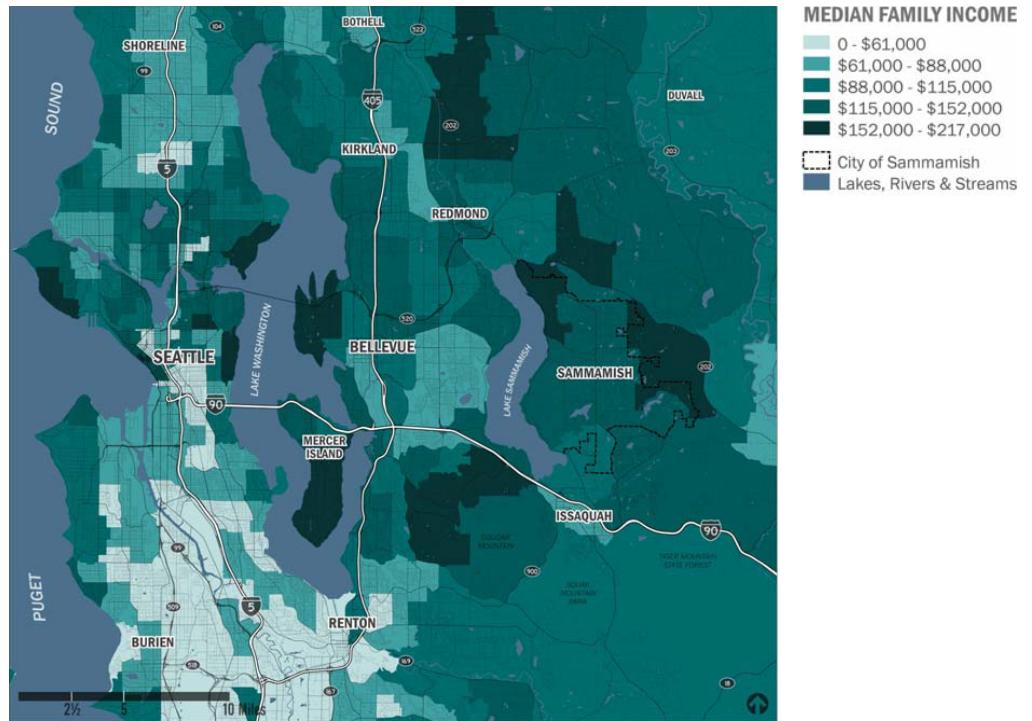
HOUSEHOLD COMPOSITION SAMMAMISH VS. KING COUNTY

U.S. Census ACS, CAI



Income

- We are an affluent community, with a median family income of about \$144,900, or about 60% higher than King County’s overall median income of \$89,700. Per capita income was \$53,800 compared with \$38,600 countywide.
- Sammamish also has a small portion of the population that is dealing with economic hardship. The city’s poverty level is 2.4%; about 2% of households (302 households) received SNAP (food stamp) benefits in the past 12 months, and 2.6% of the population (1,271 people) have no health insurance coverage.



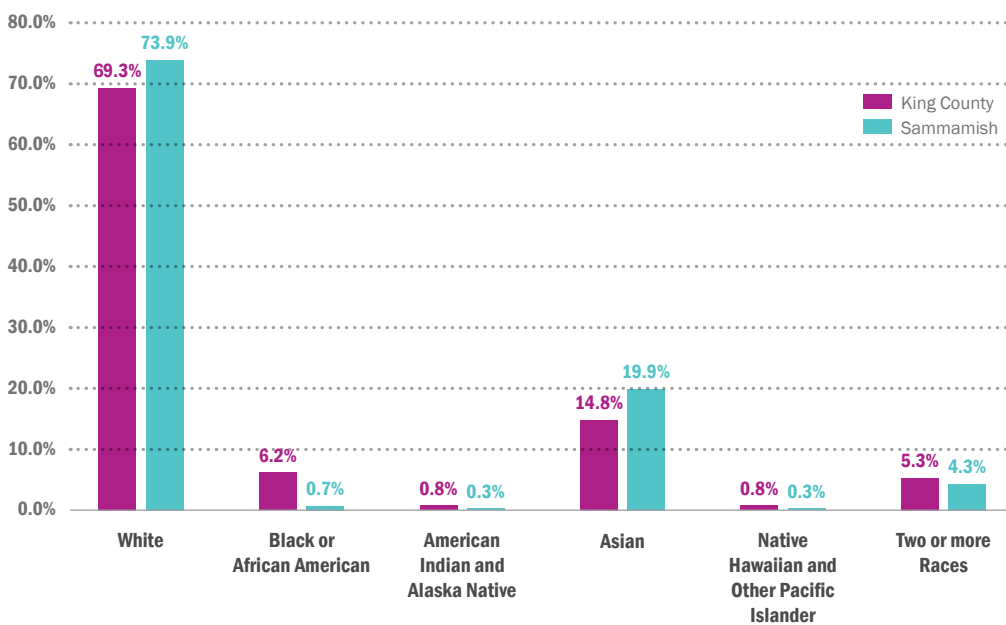
MEDIAN FAMILY INCOME
IN SAMMAMISH (\$143,632) IS NEARLY

60% HIGHER
THAN KING COUNTY OVERALL

Race and National Origin

- About three quarters (74%) of Sammamish residents identify as white. Asians are the largest nonwhite race represented in Sammamish, making up about 20% of the population, compared with 15% countywide. In 2000, 8% of Sammamish’s population was Asian.
- Sammamish is home to a relatively large proportion of foreign born persons—9% are foreign-born naturalized citizens, and 14% are foreign-born non-citizens. The total foreign-born population is 24%, slightly more than the county average of 21%. 26% of Sammamish residents speak a language other than English at home, and 6% speak English less than “very well”.

RACIAL MAKEUP OF SAMMAMISH



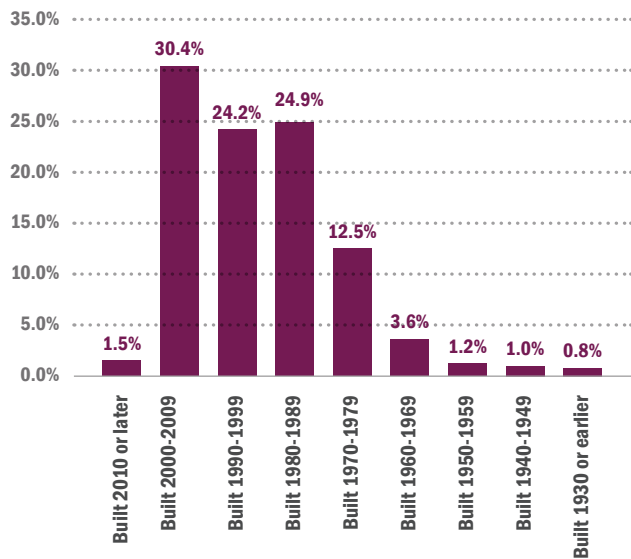
Education

We are a well-educated community. About 43% of residents 25 years and over have a bachelor’s degree and 27% have graduate or professional degrees, for a total of 70% of the population with a bachelor’s degree or higher. Comparatively, 46% have a bachelor’s degree or higher countywide.

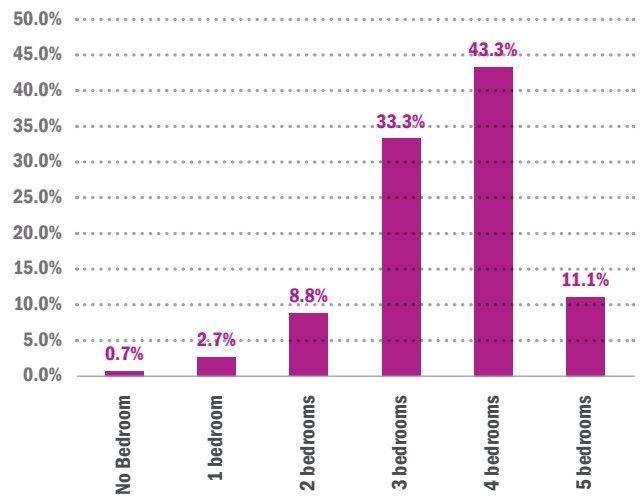
Housing

- The housing stock on Sammamish is nearly uniformly large single-family residences built in the past 30 years. Overall, housing units are relatively large, with over half having four or more bedrooms and a little over 10% having two bedrooms or less.
- The proportion of owner-occupied units to renter-occupied is higher than elsewhere in the county. 88% of homes are owner-occupied compared with 57% for King County.

YEAR STRUCTURE BUILT

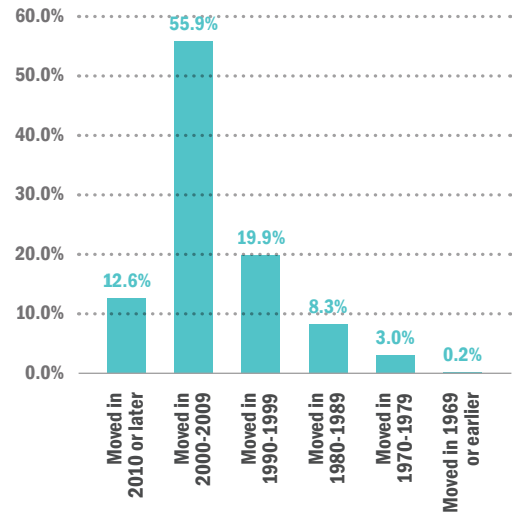


NUMBER OF BEDROOMS IN SAMMAMISH DWELLING UNITS

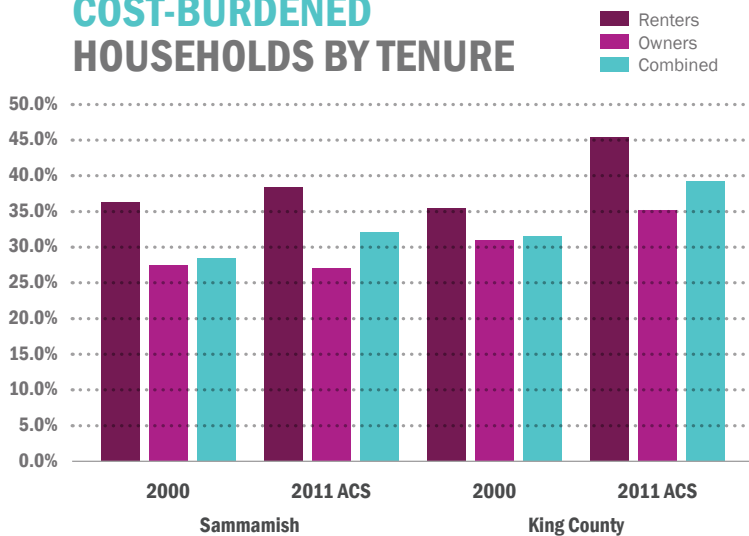


- Most residents are relatively recent arrivals, with 69% having moved in since 2000.
- Housing values are generally high, with an estimated 2010 median value of \$615,000 for owner occupied homes in Sammamish, an increase from an estimated median value of \$362,900 in 2000. Comparatively, median values in the neighboring cities of Redmond and Issaquah are estimated at \$457,000 and \$458,000, respectively.
- Roughly a third of households in Sammamish are cost-burdened (defined as paying more than 30% of income for housing). In general, more renters than owners are cost-burdened.

YEAR HOUSEHOLDER MOVED INTO UNIT

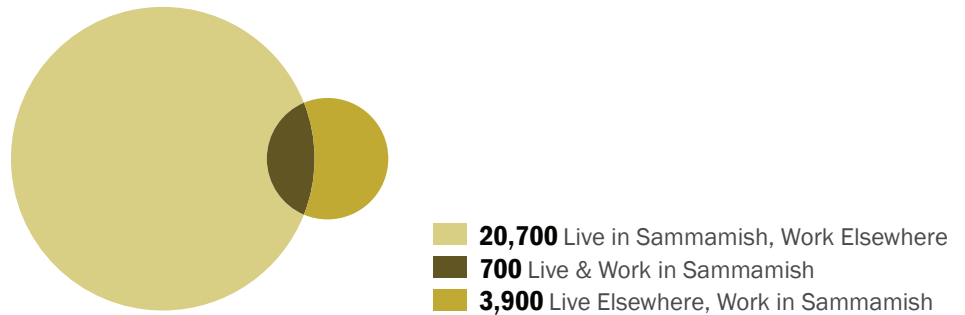


COST-BURDENED HOUSEHOLDS BY TENURE



Employment

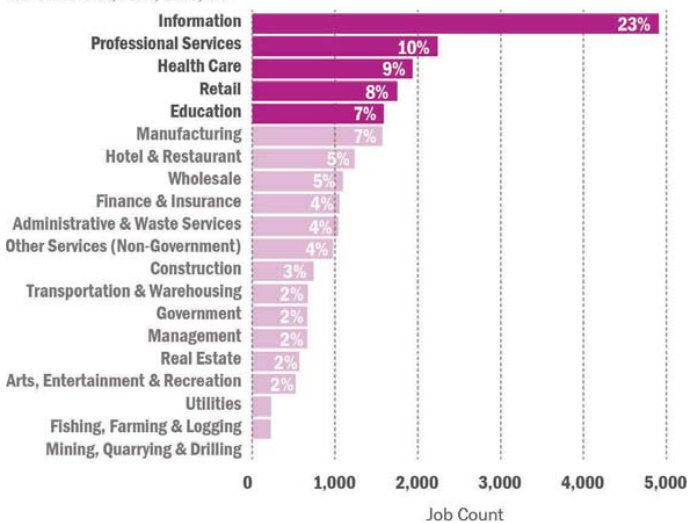
- There are 21,400 workers in Sammamish. 20,700 of these workers commute to jobs outside the City.
- There are about 4,600 jobs in the City of Sammamish. 700 of these jobs are filled by City residents and 3,900 are filled by those who live elsewhere.



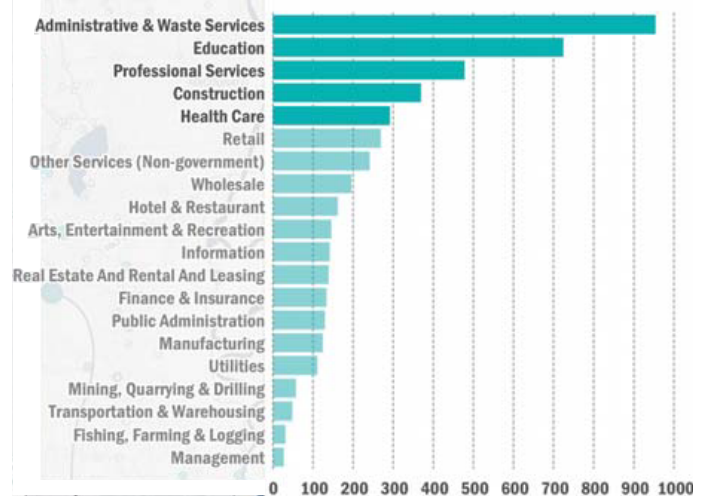
- The top employment sectors for all Sammamish workers are information and professional services. Together these two categories comprise about one-third of all jobs for Sammamish workers.
- The top employment sectors for jobs in Sammamish are administrative and waste services, and education, comprising roughly one-third of all jobs in the City.

TOP 5 EMPLOYMENT SECTORS FOR ALL SAMMAMISH WORKERS

U.S. Census ACS, PSRC, LEHD, CAI

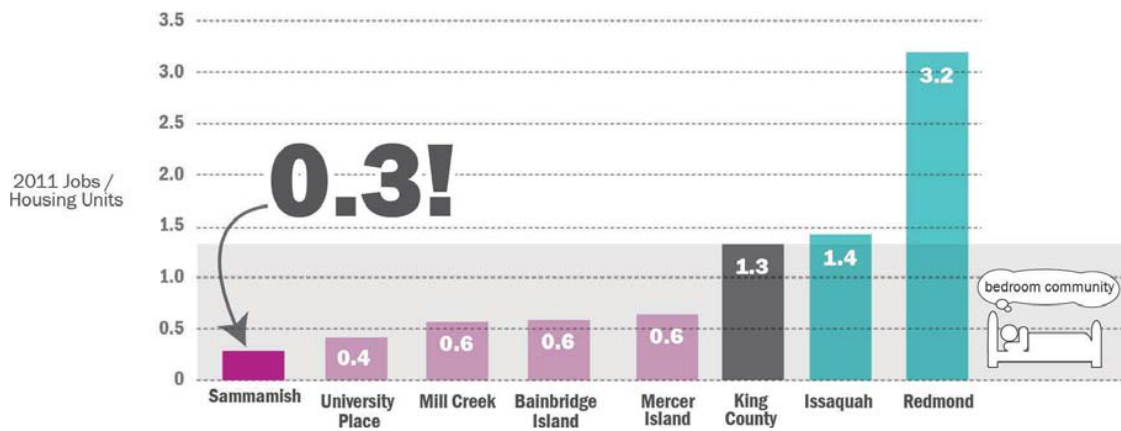


TOP 5 EMPLOYMENT SECTORS FOR SAMMAMISH JOBS



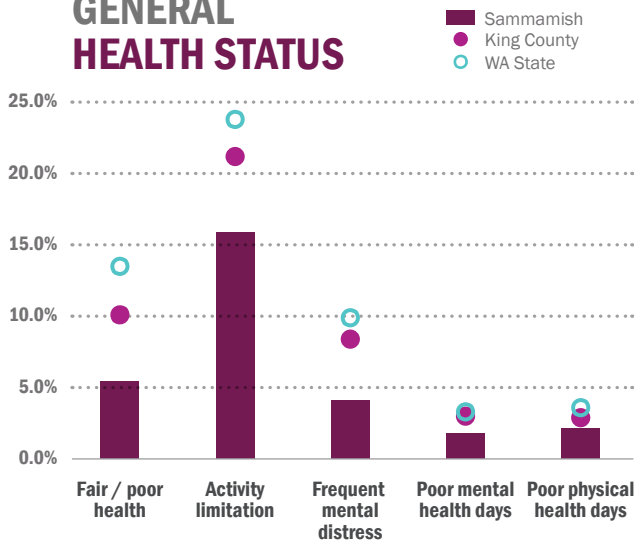
JOBS TO HOUSING RATIO SAMMAMISH AND COMPARISON CITIES, 2011

Washington Office of Financial Management, 2012



- We have a relatively low jobs to housing ratio (0.3) compared to neighboring cities.
- About 4,400 of Sammamish workers have children under the age of 6, and 10,202 have children between the ages of 6 and 17. Of those with children under age 6, about 46% have all parents in the labor force. For those with children ages 6-17, about 66% have all parents in the family in the labor force.

GENERAL HEALTH STATUS



Community Health

Overall, Sammamish residents enjoy comparatively good health. By nearly all health metrics reported by Seattle & King County Public Health, Sammamish is as healthy as or healthier than King County and the State of Washington as a whole.

Additional factors that influence the health of our community are found in other chapters of this Profile. For example, Chapter 3, People, describes our demographic characteristics, poverty status, housing affordability and employment profile; Chapter 5, Mobility, describes our opportunities for active transportation.

Of the 25 King County cities, Sammamish has among the best health outcomes in:

- Education and income levels
- Life expectancy and cause of death
- Risk factors and chronic disease

Sammamish also has:

- 3% of the population who are below the federal poverty level
- About 1/2 of all renters paying more than 30% of their income for rent

Youth Health Survey

The Issaquah School District recently conducted a healthy youth survey at its schools, including Skyline High, Pine Lake Middle School and Beaver Lake Middle School in Sammamish. At Skyline High School, only 10th graders were surveyed and most findings were similar to statewide averages. Some key findings are summarized below.

- About 24% report current alcohol use and 11% report binge drinking.
- 13% report current marijuana use.
- Most students reported feeling safe at school, with 27% of 10th graders reporting feeling bullied in the past 30 days.
- About 23% report 60 minutes of physical activity each day.
- About one-quarter report experiencing depressive feelings in the past year and 20% report having seriously considered suicide in the past year.

The trends reported at the high school level are generally mirrored at the middle schools.

chapter 4

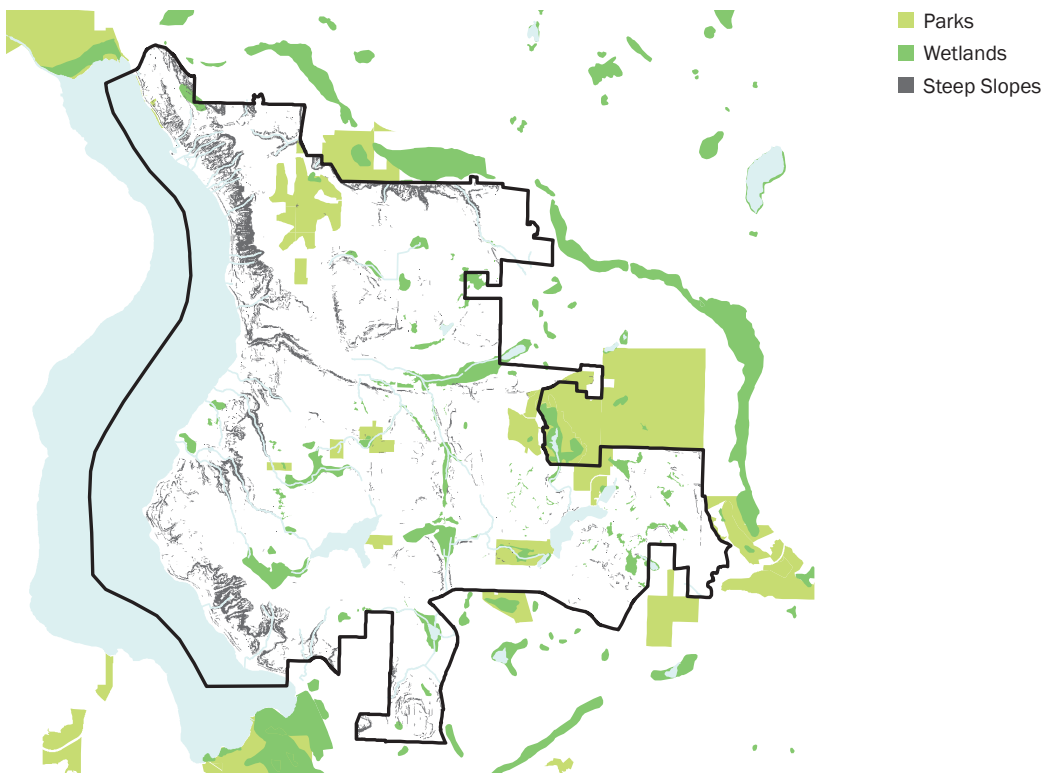
PLACES



This chapter describes important features of the natural and built environment that define the City of Sammamish. The description of the natural environment includes maps of critical natural features. The built environment discussion includes information on existing land use patterns, development trends, growth targets and land use capacity.

Natural Environment

The map below depicts critical natural features in Sammamish, including parks, wetlands, and steep slopes.



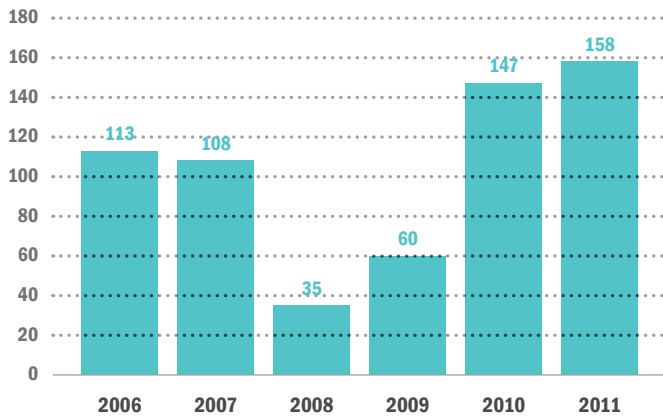
Built Environment

- Overall Sammamish is developed as a low density residential city, with over one-half of the area developed with single family residences.
- Primary land uses in the city are single family residences, vacant land, roads, and open water. Together, these categories comprise over 90% of the city’s land area.
- Commercial/mixed uses and multifamily development are the smallest land uses in the City, occupying about 1% of land area, combined.

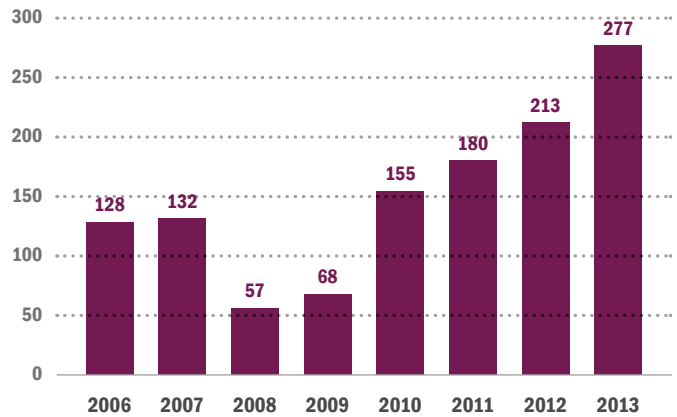
Development Trends

- Due in part to the recession, Sammamish development activity from 2006 to 2012 was limited. No major commercial construction took place. Residential construction consisted of single family and townhouse development.
- The pace of construction slowed during 2008 and 2009 but picked up substantially in 2010 and 2011. This increased pace of construction has continued through 2013.

NET NEW RESIDENTIAL LOTS



BUILDING PERMITS ISSUED



Growth Targets

Growth targets adopted for the City of Sammamish are established for two time frames. The 2006-2031 growth targets adopted as part of the King County Countywide Planning Policies will be used for the current King County Buildable Lands Report. The extended 2035 targets will be used for the 2015 Sammamish Comprehensive Plan.

GROWTH TARGETS

SAMMAMISH, 2006-2035

Sammamish Target	Measure
	Housing Units
2006-2031 Housing Target	4,000
2015-2035 Housing Target	4,640
	Employment
2006-2031 Job Target	1,800
2015-2035 Job Target	2,088

Source: King County, 2013; City of Sammamish, 2014.

Summary

Residential Capacity. In 2013, the City has available capacity for 5,120 housing units. Of this total, Town Center provides 2,000 residential units via zoning for higher density multifamily housing. The City of Sammamish has adequate residential capacity to meet the 2035 residential growth target of 4,640 units.

RESIDENTIAL CAPACITY FOR POPULATION

SAMMAMISH, 2013

City	2006-2031 GMA Target Housing Units	2006 Residential Capacity	Residential Units Developed	Added Capacity 2006-2012	NET 2013 Capacity
Sammamish	4,000	3,740	620	2,000	5,120

Source: Community Attributes, Inc., 2014.

Commercial Capacity. The following table summarizes the City’s commercial growth targets, development activity and remaining commercial capacity. Prior to the adoption of Town Center the City had no remaining commercial capacity. Town Center allows for a total of 600,000 sq ft of commercial square footage concentrated in Town Center-A Zones. The City of Sammamish has adequate commercial capacity, assuming existing Town Center zoning, to meet the 2035 job target of 2,088 jobs

COMMERCIAL CAPACITY AND JOBS

SAMMAMISH, 2013

City	2006-2031 GMA Target Jobs	2006 Job Capacity	Jobs Developed	Added Capacity 2006-2012	NET 2013 Capacity
Sammamish	1,800	0	200	2,400	2,200

Source: Community Attributes, Inc., 2014.

chapter 5

MOBILITY

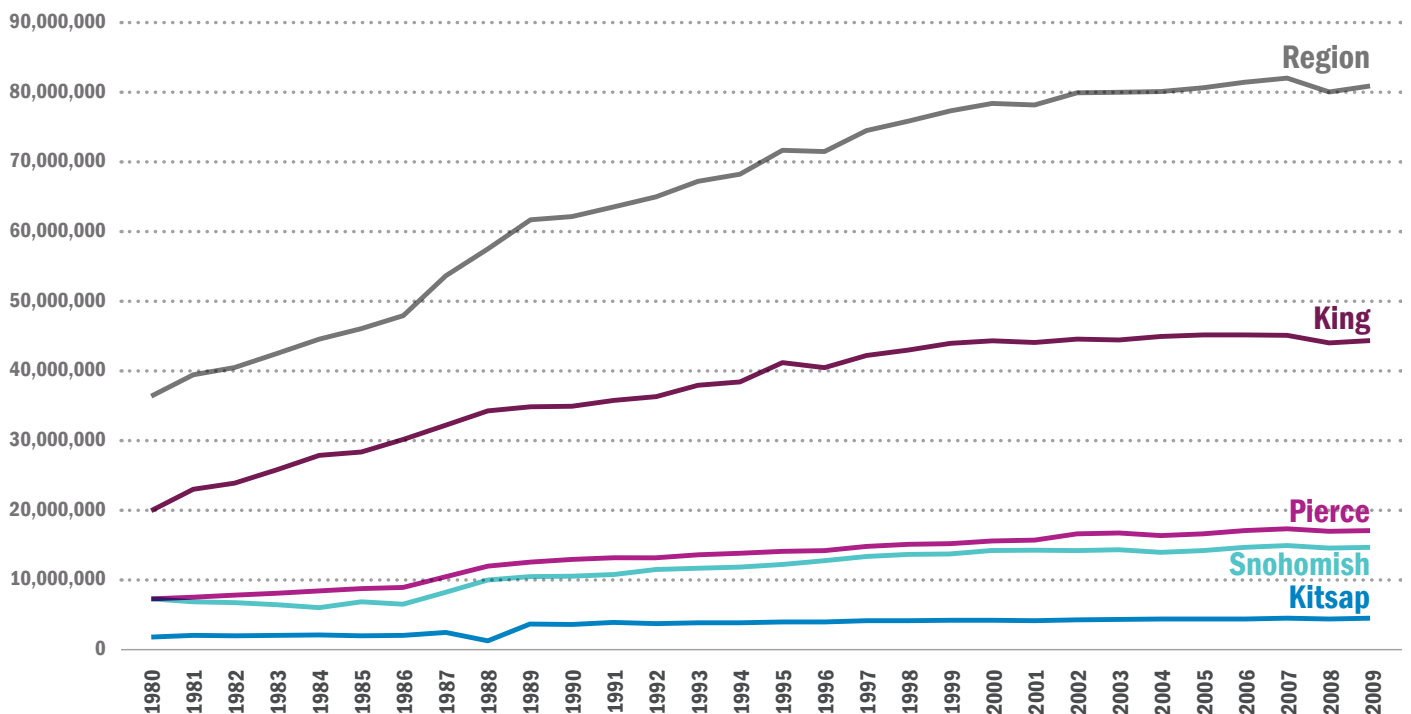


Overview

- Sammamish’s land use patterns and transportation network cause it to be a place where a car is needed for routine travel. Commuting is largely by car— 83.2% of residents drove, and 72.1% drove alone.
- The Washington State Department of Transportation tracks vehicle miles traveled (VMT) as part of the highway performance monitoring system. Following years of growing VMT, this number has stabilized over the past several years. This trend is consistent with declining average traffic counts on some local arterials in Sammamish.

DAILY VMT BY COUNTY

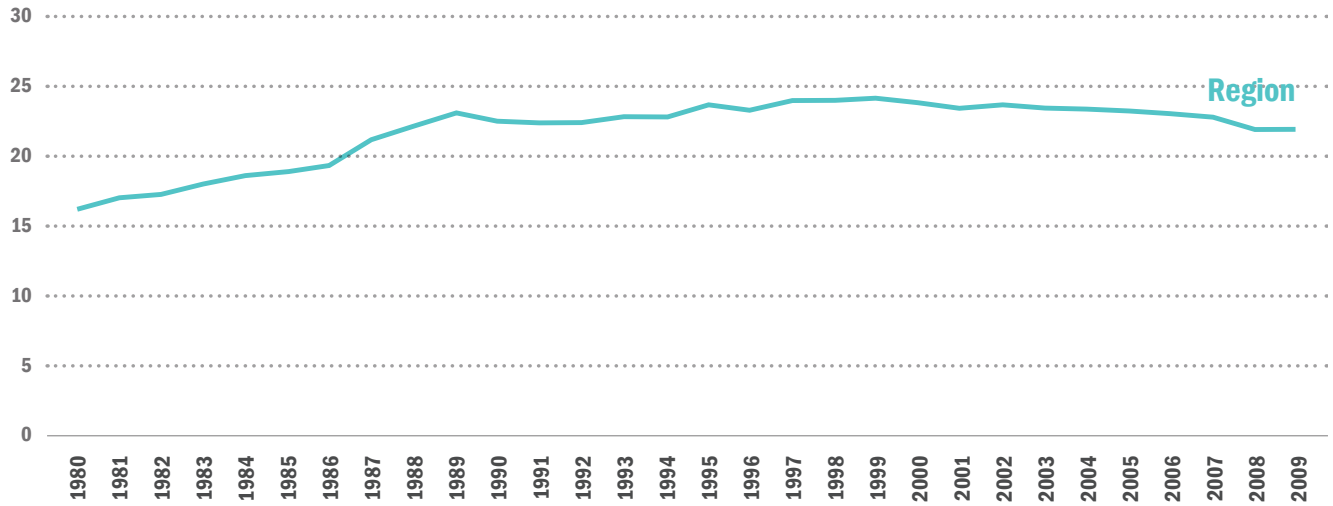
Source: Puget Sound Regional Council



- Similarly, VMT per person has been decreasing over the last decade or so. The Puget Sound Regional Council notes that this may be partially attributable to increased transit usage on a regional basis and rising fuel prices.

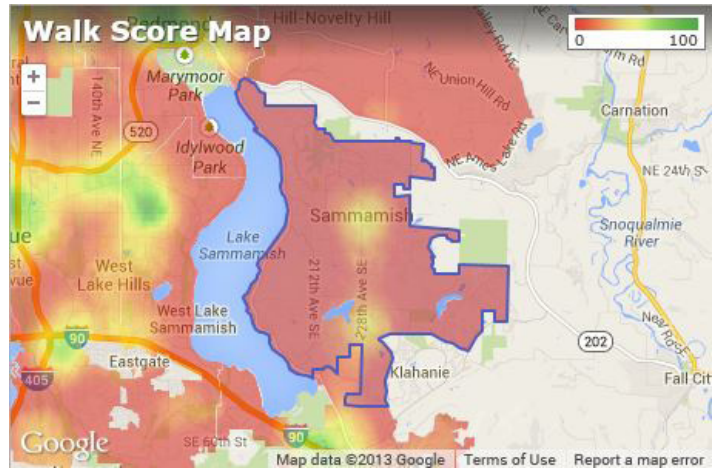
DAILY VMT PER CAPITA

Source: Puget Sound Regional Council



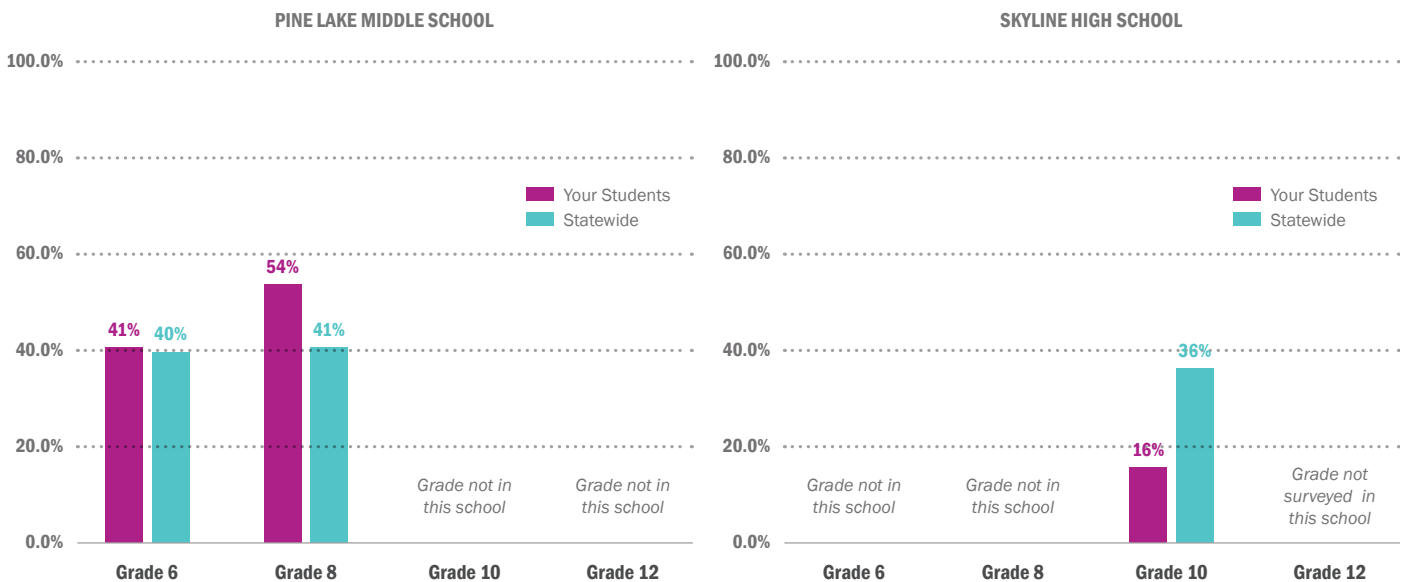
Walkability

- Walk Score assigns a numeric score for walkability based on proximity to pedestrian amenities and characteristics of the street network. Based on these attributes, a score of 1 – 100 is assigned, with higher scores indicating greater walkability. Sammamish as a whole has a score of 12, which indicates that a car is needed for most activities. By comparison, our neighbors Redmond and Issaquah have Walk Scores of 34 and 26 (Source: www.walkscore.com).
- Consistent with this rating, a survey of students at two schools in Sammamish found that most students commute to school via car or bus. Roughly half of middle school students and 16% of high school students walked or biked to school. Note that students in the 6th and 8th grade walk or bike to school at a rate equal or greater to the statewide average.



WALKING/BIKING TO OR FROM SCHOOL

PERCENT OF STUDENTS WHO REPORT WALKING OR RIDING A BICYCLE TO OR FROM SCHOOL DURING AN AVERAGE WEEK





chapter 6

VISION STATEMENTS



This chapter provides the vision statements that the City has created for its different plan and policy documents, including the following

- Comprehensive Plan
- Draft Economic Development
- Parks Recreation and Open Space
- Sustainability
- Town Center

The Comprehensive Plan vision, adopted in 2003, is listed first. The remaining statements are listed in order of approval, starting with the most recent.

Comprehensive Plan

Sammamish Comprehensive Plan, 2003

The vision of Sammamish is a community of families. A blend of small-town atmosphere with a suburban character, the City also enjoys a unique core of urban lifestyles and conveniences. It is characterized by quality neighborhoods, vibrant natural features, and outstanding recreational opportunities. A variety of community gathering places provide numerous civic, cultural, and educational opportunities. Residents are actively involved in the decisions that shape the community and ensure a special sense of place.

Economic Development

Final Draft Economic Development Vision Statement, October 2013

The City of Sammamish is a vibrant bedroom community that values, respects and enjoys a high quality of life, supporting a local economy that provides economic growth opportunities.

Parks, Recreation and Open Space

Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan, 2012

- Maintain safe places to play and recreate.
- Develop a parks and recreation system that meets diverse community needs.
- Provide recreational opportunities that promote healthy lifestyles and a sense of community.
- Serve as a steward of the environment to preserve and protect our natural resources.

Sustainability Strategy

City of Sammamish Sustainability Strategy, 2011

Sammamish's vision is to become an environmentally and economically sustainable community by crafting and implementing an achievable, multi-faceted and measurable strategy that maximizes opportunity and efficiency while minimizing cost. Undertaking this work will help Sammamish contribute toward larger regional and global goals, such as mitigating the effects of climate change, and will make our community an even better place to live, work and play.

Town Center

Sammamish Town Center Plan, June 2008

The Sammamish Town Center is a vibrant, urban, family- friendly gathering place in a healthy natural setting. The city's sense of community reflects a balance between its natural and urban characteristics.

The Town Center is urban in that it:

- Welcomes city residents and visitors seeking a unique place to live, work, learn, create, and play.
- Offers a unique sense of place reflected on its building forms, development patterns, and public realm which are oriented to take advantage of the city's topography and natural assets, preserve scenic views and enhance view sheds.
- Is fully integrated and synergistically complements the public parks and open spaces being developed as part of the Sammamish Commons.
- Is a central gathering place that increases social interaction and enhances art and cultural opportunities by providing for those functions, open spaces, and facilities such as a performing arts center and theaters, that bring people together.

- Offers the range of commercial, recreational, cultural, educational, and personal services and activities that provide local citizens what they need for a full life, and that reflects and incorporates the increasingly rich mixture of cultures of Sammamish's residents.
- Fosters education for all community members, and supports knowledge workers and businesses as well as a lively arts community.
- Features well-designed mixed-use development, compatible with surrounding neighborhoods.
- Offers a variety of housing types integrated throughout the Center.
- Is linked to the region with excellent transit service and bikeways and to the rest of the city with pedestrian trails.
- Offers an economically vibrantly center providing opportunities for activities and interactions during the evening and no matter what the weather.
- Is eminently walkable, with accessible sidewalks, trails, and pathways.

The Town Center's natural setting is preserved and enhanced by:

- Focusing new development away from natural resources and critical areas.
- Incorporating natural resources, view corridors, and sensitive site characteristics as amenities and design elements that reflect the distinctive character of the Town Center.
- Featuring a hierarchy of interconnected public and private open spaces, ranging from an active centralized plaza or town square to less formal gathering areas, quiet residential courts, and natural open spaces with native vegetation.
- Employing a variety of environmental enhancement and low-impact development techniques to improve ecological functions, such as protections for ground water and surface water hydrology and wildlife habitat.
- Featuring new buildings and structures that, while urban in their function, reflect a "Northwest character," human scale, and welcoming aspect.

Comprehensive Plan*

Sammamish Comprehensive Plan, 2015

Sammamish is a vibrant bedroom community blessed with a well-preserved natural environment, a family-friendly, kid-safe culture, and unrivaled connectedness. From its expanding tree canopy, to its peaceful neighborhoods, to its multi-modal transportation resources, Sammamish captures the best of the past even as it embraces a burgeoning digital future and meets housing affordability through balanced, sustainable housing. It is a state-of-the-art community—engaged, responsive and generous in its support for the full range of human endeavor.

** The 2003 Comprehensive Plan vision was revised by City Council and the Planning Commission to develop an updated vision for the City. This section was added to the Community Profile in September 2015, after the original document was published.*



chapter 7

PUBLIC OUTREACH



To kick off the comprehensive plan rewrite, City staff focused on a theme of “listen and connect” in our outreach. Instead of inviting people to City Hall, we went out into the community, met with people one-on-one and sought to build awareness of the comprehensive plan process. Between September 2013 and January 2014, we engaged in almost 20 activities and connected with over 500 people.

We selected popular events and other natural gathering places such as the Sammamish Farmer’s Market, Nightmare at Beaver Lake, Starbucks, Safeway, the Arts Fair and the South Sammamish Park & Ride. We also went to schools and conducted visioning exercises with over 200 students. We encouraged people to sign up for the email alert notification system to receive information about the project and have built the list to over 500 contacts. The table below summarizes the events we participated in, and numbers of people reached.

OUTREACH ACTIVITIES AND ESTIMATED HOUSEHOLDS REACHED

Date	Activity	Venue	Est. # of HH Reached	Date	Activity	Venue	Est. # of HH Reached
18-Sep	Staffed/display	Farmers Market	32	3-Nov	Staffed display	Library	10
25-Sep	Staffed/display	Farmers Market	30	14-Nov	Visioning exercise	Beaver Lake MS	40
9-Oct	Staffed/display	Library	20	18-Nov	Visioning exercise	Inglewood MS	36
12-Oct	Staffed/display	Arts Fair	40	20-Nov	Visioning exercise	City Hall-Youth Board	50
13-Oct	Staffed/display	Arts Fair	36	3-Dec	Visioning exercise	Eastside Catholic	78
24-Oct	Staff/survey	Nightmare at BL	20	4-Dec	Staff/survey	Safeway	18
25-Oct	Staff/survey	Nightmare at BL	15	5-Dec	Visioning exercise	Pine Lake MS	16
30-Oct	Staff/survey	Nightmare at BL	36	12-Dec	Coffee w/Comm. Collins	Starbucks	33
1-Nov	Staffed display	Library	3	14-Jan	Staff/survey	S. Sammamish P&R	33

Total: 546



In general, we focused on four different types of activities:

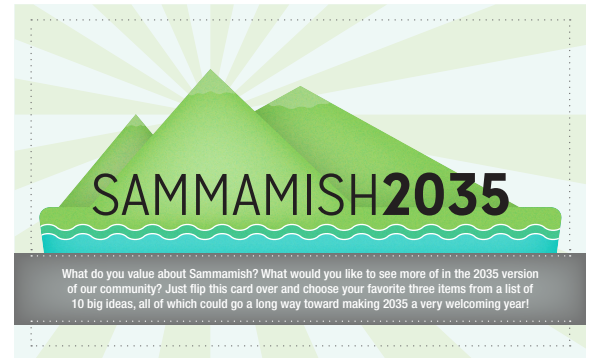
- Preference surveys (Nightmare at Beaver Lake, Safeway, Pine Lake Starbucks, South Sammamish Park & Ride)
- Youth visioning exercise (Beaver Lake, Pine Lake and Inglewood Middle Schools, Eastside Catholic High School and the Sammamish Youth Board)
- Community awareness (Farmer's Market, Arts Fair, Library)
- Electronic submissions (City website and notification through the comp plan e-alert)

Findings from these activities are summarized below. Following that discussion, we have summarized other recent citywide outreach conducted as part of other efforts.

Preference Surveys

We went to popular events and conspicuous locations, including Nightmare at Beaver Lake, Starbucks, Safeway and the South Sammamish Park and Ride. All together we collected input from 154 people. We provided people with a postcard that posed questions about potential future priorities and asked them to select their top three priorities.

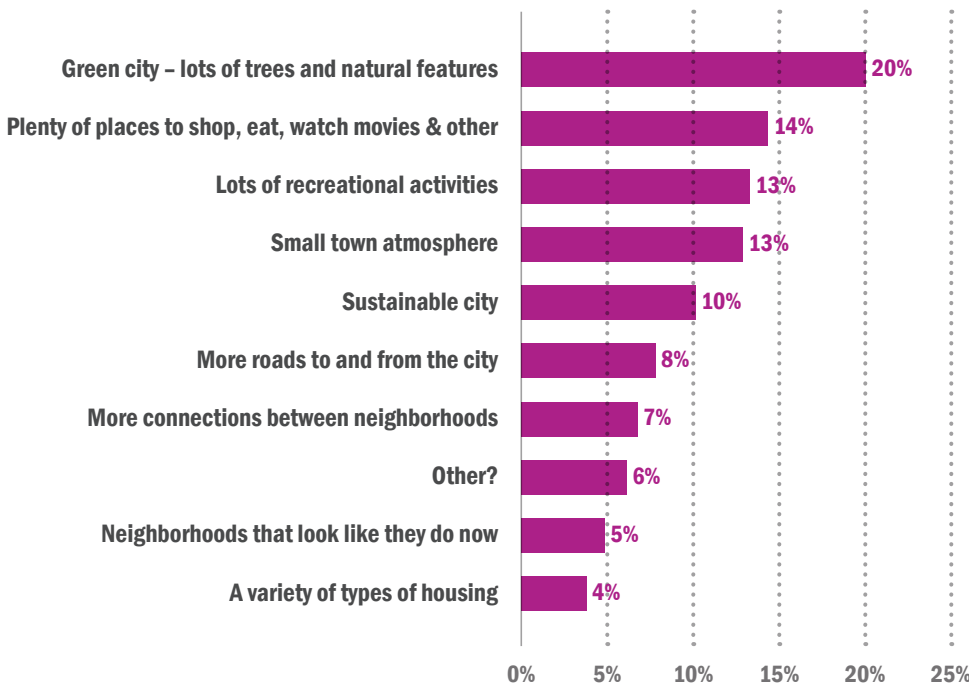
- The most frequent selection was “green city – lots of trees and natural features.” This emerged as a common theme across all outreach activities.
- Other notable priorities were the preference for amenities: “provide plenty of places to eat, shop and watch movies.” Often the same respondent would prioritize both “trees and natural features” and providing amenities.
- Transportation issues were not cited as being a high priority.



PICK THE TOP THREE MOST IMPORTANT IDEAS FOR SAMMAMISH IN 2035

<input type="checkbox"/> Lots of recreational opportunities	<input type="checkbox"/> More connections between our neighborhoods
<input type="checkbox"/> Small town atmosphere	<input type="checkbox"/> A sustainable city
<input type="checkbox"/> Plenty of places to shop, eat out at, watch movies and other recreational activities	<input type="checkbox"/> A green city – lots of trees and natural features
<input type="checkbox"/> More roads to and from the City	<input type="checkbox"/> Neighborhoods that look mostly like they do right now
<input type="checkbox"/> A variety of types of housing	<input type="checkbox"/> What did we miss?

YOUR OPINION MATTERS!
To be notified about surveys on important topics, print your email address here.



COMPREHENSIVE PLAN PREFERENCE SURVEY SUMMARY

Data collected Oct, Dec 2013 and Jan 2014

Youth Visioning Activities



We visited several middle schools, a high school and the City's Youth Board to get feedback about their vision for Sammamish in the future. Students were highly engaged and articulate, and provided thoughtful feedback. All together, we met with over 200 students.

When asked to prioritize a number of different vision concepts, the highest rated topics were:

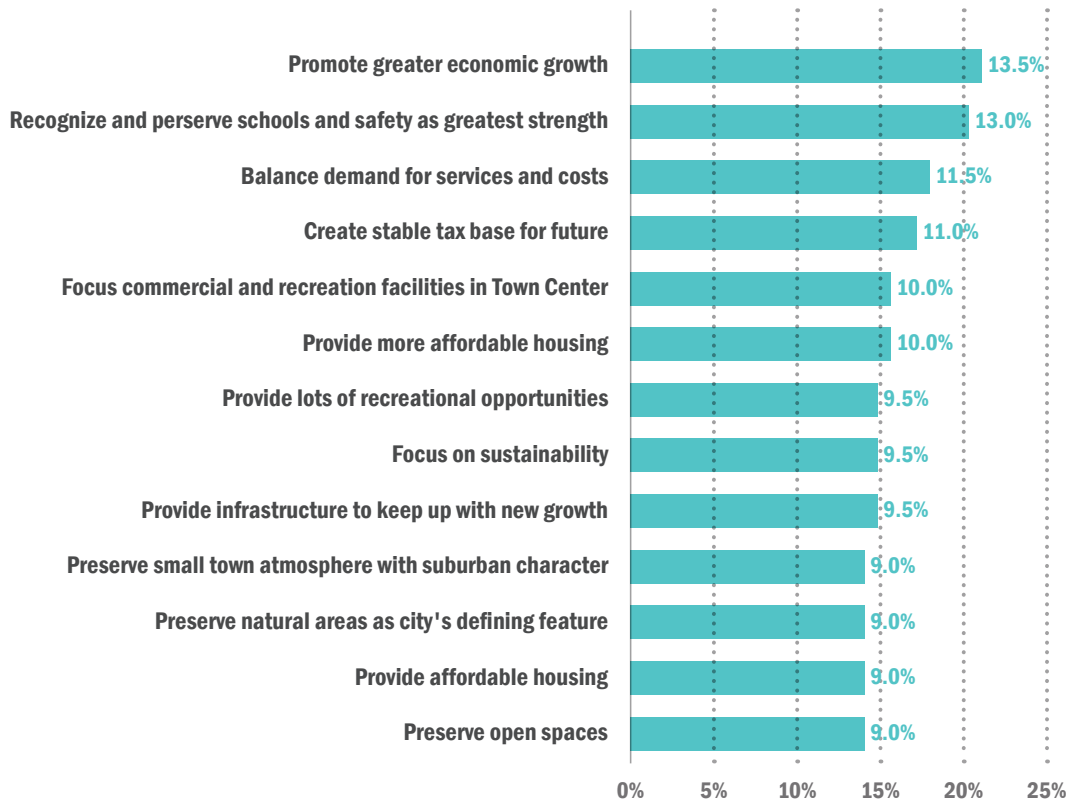
- Promote greater economic growth
- Recognize schools as greatest strength

Other topics that trended high were related to developing the City:

- Stable tax base
- Developing Town Center
- Balancing costs and services

Affordable housing ranked moderately high, and students discussed this more extensively than any other topic. Preserving natural areas was also ranked moderately high. The general sentiment on natural areas was that although they were important, the City was already doing a pretty good job preserving them.

In the least important column, students put “provide more roads off the plateau,” “encourage single family homes”, and “stay as a place to raise a family and then leave.” While not universal, participants commonly expressed the sentiment that the City already has plenty of single family housing, and that diversity was preferred over more of the same.



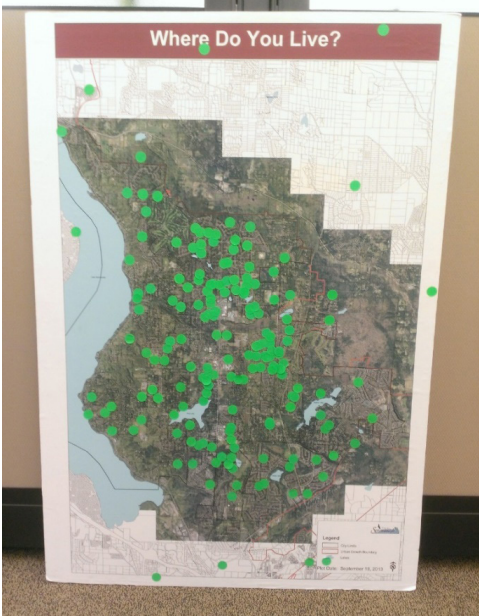
YOUTH VISIONING EXERCISES

FREQUENCY OF RESPONSES: "HIGHEST" PRIORITY

Data collected Oct, Dec 2013 and Jan 2014

Some common features of both the youth outreach and general outreach include:

- Sustainability, small town character, and more recreational opportunities are recognized as moderately high priorities in both surveys.
- More or expanded roads are generally a lower priority in both surveys.
- Youth expressed explicit interest in economic growth and a stable tax base.



Community Visioning Input: Farmer’s Market, Library and Arts Fair

To build awareness of the comprehensive plan and encourage community engagement, we set up booths at popular public venues, including the Farmer’s Market, the Arts Fair and the library. We displayed a large map of the city and invited passers-by to find their home on the map. We engaged people in a discussion about the Comprehensive Plan and the rewrite process. We reached about 170 people at these locations. Key findings include:

- Most people were not familiar with the comprehensive plan.
- There was some general feedback about concern that the City is developing too fast without regard for the people.
- Many expressed a general satisfaction with City governance and management.
- Many expressed appreciation for the City’s amenities, such as parks and libraries.



Electronically Collected Public Comment

The home page on the City’s website has a tab for the Comprehensive Plan with questions about specific topics. Between September 15, 2013 and January 15, 2014, 85 comments were received electronically. Key findings include:

- Feedback on the vision statement was generally broad and non-specific.
- Questions about housing elicited many responses expressing both support for and opposition to affordable housing. Many mentioned the need for more housing choice: for example, “It’s tougher to find small, quality homes.”
- Most respondents cited existing commercial areas as good locations for accommodating new development.

Other Community Research

2012 Citywide Survey

In May of 2012, a community research study¹ was conducted to gauge citizens' overall satisfaction with the City of Sammamish and quality of life. The study included a longitudinal component for comparison to a benchmark completed in 2008. The findings of the Hebert research were consistent with the findings of the preference surveys and the youth visioning, but less so with the public comments received electronically.

¹ Hebert Research, "City of Sammamish 2012 Community Research Survey." Bellevue, WA. July 11, 2012.

The Hebert study showed traffic is still a top concern, but it decreased significantly as a concern between 2008 (37%) and 2012 (12%). The relative lack of concern over traffic expressed in the Comprehensive Plan outreach is consistent with the findings in the Hebert study that most (over 80%) either somewhat or strongly agreed with the statement that "the City is making good progress on improving City roads." The students groups expressed almost no concern for traffic issues and respondents in the preference surveys prioritized natural areas more than twice as frequently as traffic-related issues. The public comment submitted electronically was the exception. Traffic was cited as an issue in the vision questions, with some expressing desire for more roads while some desired more transit, walkability and biking.

2011 Sustainability Strategy Public Outreach

Over the summer of 2010, more than 850 residents and businesses provided comments on possible sustainable goals and priorities via surveys on the City's website and at nearly 20 community venues including the weekly farmers' market, the Fourth of July Celebration, the City's summer concert series, and the City's second annual Sustainable Sammamish fair. This input was used to develop the five sustainability goals which were presented at a community meeting and workshop on September 30, 2010. Notes from the meeting group reports have been used to prepare the final set of goals:

Top 5 Sustainability Goals

- Goal 1: Reducing, Reusing, Recycling
- Goal 2: Creating & Protecting Natural Habitats
- Goal 3: Conserving Energy
- Goal 4: Conserving Water
- Goal 5: Fostering Healthy Neighborhoods

