Commenter Signup:

First Name:

Last Name:

Email: luckybookworm@comcast.net

Address:

City:

Zip Code: 98075

Comment Form Results:

Question: Most of the places to live in Sammamish are housed in developments, designed for two-parent households with children. In the next ten to twenty years, do you think we need other kinds of housing for our increasing numbers of empty nesters, retired people and single parents?

Answer: Yes, we will need small apartments, townhouses and condos for single individuals as well as our older adult population who are active yet not needing large homes or apartments in the future. Unless you are wealthy enough to live in Issaquah's Providence communities, there don't seem to be units like these available in Sammamish. If I become widowed, I certainly will want to remain in Sammamish but will not need a 4 bedroom house.

Question: Some residents believe Sammamish should not allow any more new development while others want restrictions on growth lessened. Given that that state law requires every city to accommodate a share of new growth, how and where should we focus that growth?

Answer: We should focus our growth near existing shopping centers or future expansion as need requires. I think we should continue to grow to encourage small business to thrive in Sammamish in addition to our necessary big box stores, such as groceries and hardware stores, etc.

Question: About 1/3 of Sammamish residents pay more than 30% of their income on housing. Is housing affordability a concern to you or someone you know in Sammamish? What do you think should be done?

Answer: Yes, Sammamish like most of the Eastside is becoming a place for the wealthy to live. As our population grows and our parents move to live with or nearly us, we need small units to provide them with affordable and independent living. Right now, if I became widowed, I would have to sell and move somewhere else in King County.
Question: Housing in Sammamish is generally not affordable to those who work in Sammamish. For example, about one-quarter of the Sammamish workforce works in public education and the average entry-level teacher’s salary is about $40,000. Overall, average private-sector wages in Sammamish were the fourth lowest among King County. Is it important for the community to have housing that is affordable for these workers? What do you think should be done?

Answer: We need to work with neighboring cities to jointly develop plans for affordable housing in our Eastside corridor, especially creating housing near public transit.

Question: Do you have other ideas or concerns about housing in Sammamish?

Answer: Many of us moved to Sammamish to retire and have no children in the School District, yet we (gladly) pay taxes to keep our schools academically excellent. However, the tax burden seems to be increasing rapidly but no City improvements or future plans address benefits for seniors, except the library. We need a community center that offers programs, activities and classes for us. Everything planned right now is for folks with children!

Question:

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Does this vision for Sammamish feel correct to you?

Answer: No - the only places to gather are the local Starbucks or the library if you can reserve a room. The City residents seem to forget that their are older folks in their midst who seek opportunities to gather other than expanding soccer fields for boomers with kids.

Question: Are there aspects you would change?

Answer: Yes - stop all work on the YMCA community center. We are going to lose our shirts on this deal and end up paying more in taxes to maintain the YMCA facility with only limited space for City residents. Again, the space seems to be for kids and not older adults.

Question: What do you most value about Sammamish?

Answer: Access to the I-90 corridor and good bus transportation to and from Seattle from the Issaquah Park and Ride. Wish we had better daily bus service all day like the Sound Transit 554 bus from Issaquah. On weekends, you can no longer get seating at the Issaquah Transit Center because the Highlands has expanded rapidly and their folks load up the 554 ST buses at the Highlands (first) bus stop.

Question: What concerns do you have for the future?
Answer: Sammamish is getting too expensive to continue living here because of taxes and policies of the King County Development Board, etc. We moved here in 2001 because it was heavily wooded, now it is becoming San Francisco's Eastside - nothing but small houses slammed together and wooded areas being ripped out.
Commenter Signup:

First Name: Stacey
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Address: 24103 NE 29th Street
City: Sammamish
Zip Code: 98074

Comment Form Results:

Question: Most of the places to live in Sammamish are housed in developments, designed for two-parent households with children. In the next ten to twenty years, do you think we need other kinds of housing for our increasing numbers of empty nesters, retired people and single parents?

Answer: No. I think Sammamish is best served as a bedroom community and that's why most people have moved here.

Question: Some residents believe Sammamish should not allow any more new development while others want restrictions on growth lessened. Given that that state law requires every city to accommodate a share of new growth, how and where should we focus that growth?

Answer: I do not know one person in Sammamish that is not a builder that wants restrictions lessened on growth... I have lived here for 17 years and I know a lot of people. I think the only people wanting to lessen the restrictions are the ones that can profit from it! I think Sammamish should only allow new development after the roads have been widened and the new schools have been built to accommodate for the extra cars and students that come with growth.

Question: About 1/3 of Sammamish residents pay more than 30% of their income on housing. Is housing affordability a concern to you or someone you know in Sammamish? What do you think should be done?

Answer: If you can afford to live here, then move here. Everyone makes choices about how they are going to spend their income and where they are going to live. It's a part of life. Move to an area that you can afford to live.

Question: Housing in Sammamish is generally not affordable to those who work in Sammamish. For example, about one-quarter of the Sammamish workforce works in public education and the average entry-level teacher’s salary is about $40,000. Overall, average
private-sector wages in Sammamish were the fourth lowest among King County. Is it important for the community to have housing that is affordable for these workers? What do you think should be done?

Answer: The teacher's who work in our Sammamish schools have the benefit of allowing their children to attend our schools. We definitely need to pay our teachers more money, that's a whole other issue, but I do not feel it is necessary that we provide housing for our teachers, the education benefit is enough. Oh, and I am a teacher.

Question: Do you have other ideas or concerns about housing in Sammamish?

Answer: Yes, we definitely do not need to be rezoning land areas so accommodate more jammed in housing. Part of what was attractive to us about living here was being able to have trees and greenspace around us with good-sized yards. The more houses we jam-jam-jam in per acre just takes away from the beauty of Sammamish and also creates major traffic problems and overcrowded schools. Traffic problems and overcrowded schools are NOT an attractive characteristic to people moving here and is slowly becoming a new way of life in Sammamish.

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Answer: I didn't move to Sammamish for an "urban lifestyle" so you can remove that statement from the vision statement and the it would work for me. We moved out here to get away from the city and to raise our family in a safe, beautiful and green environment. The Sammamish logo with trees on it says it all! I don't see a bunch of houses jammed together on the "Welcome to Sammamish" signs posted at the entrances to our city, it is a sign that reflects nature and evergreen trees surrounding us.

Question: Are there aspects you would change?

Answer: Yes, I would slow the growth! We don't need to be plowing down acres and acres of trees to build new neighborhoods with 4 or more houses per acre on them. This is NOT what Sammamish is about. I was here for the incorporation of Sammamish in 1999 and one of the main reasons for incorporation was to be able to control the growth.... let's get back to focusing on that please.

Question: What do you most value about Sammamish?

Answer: The access to parks, the excellent schools, the safety of the area for raising kids.
Question: What concerns do you have for the future?

Answer: Well, just recently when a tree was blown down and blocking East Lake Sammamish Parkway (one route off the plateau) the traffic gridlock that occurred during that event was very frightening. Just losing one of our 4 or 5 routes off the plateau caused complete mayhem. I am worried that the growth has already gone too far in Sammamish and that our roads cannot support the quantity of traffic that exists today. In the event of a natural disaster where it would be necessary to evacuate the area, we're in trouble.
Commenter did not sign up for project updates.

**Comment Form Results:**

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**Answer:** It would be nice to have some options for empty nesters and retired people. It's tough to find smaller, quality homes.

**Question:** Some residents believe Sammamish should not allow any more new development while others want restrictions on growth lessened. Given that that state law requires every city to accommodate a share of new growth, how and where should we focus that growth?

**Answer:** See answer above.

**Question:** About 1/3 of Sammamish residents pay more than 30% of their income on housing. Is housing affordability a concern to you or someone you know in Sammamish? What do you think should be done?

**Answer:** See answer below.

**Question:** Housing in Sammamish is generally not affordable to those who work in Sammamish. For example, about one-quarter of the Sammamish workforce works in public education and the average entry-level teacher’s salary is about $40,000. Overall, average private-sector wages in Sammamish were the fourth lowest among King County. Is it important for the community to have housing that is affordable for these workers? What do you think should be done?

**Answer:** I think we have enough options already for lower income housing.

**Question:** Do you have other ideas or concerns about housing in Sammamish?

**Answer:** We're seeing too many developments lately where it seems the houses are crammed into too small of a space. They are right on top of each other. Some of them are stuck in awkward configurations. I would rather see fewer houses in the space. It looks like developers/builders are trying to get too much bang for their buck.

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Does this vision for Sammamish feel correct to you?

Answer: Yes

Question: Are there aspects you would change?

Answer: No

Question: What do you most value about Sammamish?

Answer: The trees and open spaces. Love the smattering of barns that are still around but fear they will soon be gobbled up by new housing developments.

Question: What concerns do you have for the future?

Answer: Too much growth with too many houses. If there is an acre of land, I don't want to see 6 or 7 homes crammed in on it. 4 or 5 makes more sense.
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Question: Most of the places to live in Sammamish are housed in developments, designed for two-parent households with children. In the next ten to twenty years, do you think we need other kinds of housing for our increasing numbers of empty nesters, retired people and single parents?

Answer: If/when our town center is ever built, would be nice to have the business/residential buildings. Business below & residential above. That could help accommodate the down sizers/retired folks.

Question: Some residents believe Sammamish should not allow any more new development while others want restrictions on growth lessened. Given that that state law requires every city to accommodate a share of new growth, how and where should we focus that growth?

Answer: We are busting at the seams! Our roads can not take much more; please restrict the growth.

Question: About 1/3 of Sammamish residents pay more than 30% of their income on housing. Is housing affordability a concern to you or someone you know in Sammamish? What do you think should be done?

Answer: Stop building McMansions & build more appropriate sized houses on "nice" sized lot.

Question: Housing in Sammamish is generally not affordable to those who work in Sammamish. For example, about one-quarter of the Sammamish workforce works in public education and the average entry-level teacher’s salary is about $40,000. Overall, average private-sector wages in Sammamish were the fourth lowest among King County. Is it important for the community to have housing that is affordable for these workers? What do you think should be done?

Answer: See above in the 1st question

Question: Do you have other ideas or concerns about housing in Sammamish?

Answer: Schools are way too crowded- if you build more houses you need to look at the schools.

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Does this vision for Sammamish feel correct to you?

Answer: No, our shopping options on the plateau are lame. Regency owns all the shopping centers & they bring in their box stores. If I want a box, I'll go to Redmond/Issaquah. I want a small home town community. We are not a destination place; folks don't come to Sammamish to shop. Those of us who live here do. Give us a small hardware store, craft supply store like a Ben Franklin (think of all those school projects & all the artsy folks), kid friendly restaurants that is not a fast food & had serves alcohol for the parents.

Question: Are there aspects you would change?

Answer: Traffic- make it move More street lights on the back roads; hard to see at night on some of the roads More schools that are not on the main roads; put them in the neighbourhoods Footpath around Beaver Lake

Question: What do you most value about Sammamish?

Answer: Small home town feel with great beauty Privacy, being on a hill we are "out of the way" Sense of community

Question: What concerns do you have for the future?

Answer: Getting to big for our britches Becoming another Issaquah :( Losing the natural beauty being replaced by paved roads & more houses
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Answer: No

Question: Some residents believe Sammamish should not allow any more new development while others want restrictions on growth lessened. Given that that state law requires every city to accommodate a share of new growth, how and where should we focus that growth?

Answer: Slow growth

Question: About 1/3 of Sammamish residents pay more than 30% of their income on housing. Is housing affordability a concern to you or someone you know in Sammamish? What do you think should be done?

Answer: No. No new growth

Question: Housing in Sammamish is generally not affordable to those who work in Sammamish. For example, about one-quarter of the Sammamish workforce works in public education and the average entry-level teacher’s salary is about $40,000. Overall, average private-sector wages in Sammamish were the fourth lowest among King County. Is it important for the community to have housing that is affordable for these workers? What do you think should be done?

Answer: No

Question: Do you have other ideas or concerns about housing in Sammamish?

Answer: No new growth

Question:

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the decisions that shape the community and ensure a special sense of place.

Does this vision for Sammamish feel correct to you?
Answer: No new growth

Question: Are there aspects you would change?
Answer: Lower the speed limits on all arterials

Question: What do you most value about Sammamish?
Answer: Nothing

Question: What concerns do you have for the future?
Answer: Increase in population
Commenter did not sign up for project updates.

**Comment Form Results:**

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Answer: Perhaps some high end ramblers or high end townhomes

Question: Some residents believe Sammamish should not allow any more new development while others want restrictions on growth lessened. Given that that state law requires every city to accommodate a share of new growth, how and where should we focus that growth?

Answer: Higher end housing and shopping/restaurants....but not strip malls. We should not become Grand Ridge Plaza...

Question: About 1/3 of Sammamish residents pay more than 30% of their income on housing. Is housing affordability a concern to you or someone you know in Sammamish? What do you think should be done?

Answer: Nothing--people have lots of options to live in other areas. Sammamish should retain the current structure of the city. If we artificially lower housing costs, the integrity of the city changes. Living here is a privilege--not a right.

Question: Housing in Sammamish is generally not affordable to those who work in Sammamish. For example, about one-quarter of the Sammamish workforce works in public education and the average entry-level teacher’s salary is about $40,000. Overall, average private-sector wages in Sammamish were the fourth lowest among King County. Is it important for the community to have housing that is affordable for these workers? What do you think should be done?

Answer: Absolutely not. Living in the city is a privilege and artificially forcing lower than market value housing does not make sense. If people cannot afford a certain area, they should find an appropriate area to live. I.E. I would love to live in a waterfront home on Mercer Island, but cant afford it. Should MI make affordable housing for me even though the market is priced accordingly?

Question: Do you have other ideas or concerns about housing in Sammamish?

Answer: That builders are being incented to cram more houses onto smaller lots.

Question:

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Does this vision for Sammamish feel correct to you?

Answer: Yes

Question: Are there aspects you would change?

Answer: A few more mid to high level restaurants would be nice...

Question: What do you most value about Sammamish?

Answer: That it is an upscale city with a small town feel.

Question: What concerns do you have for the future?

Answer: That Sammamish artificially forces lower income housing into the city. This will change the city's dynamic and makes no sense. There are tons of affordable housing options in Issaquah, Redmond, Snoqualmie. We should retain our upscale exclusivity which makes us special.
Commenter Signup:

First Name: Paul
Last Name: Gardiner
Email: paulgardiner2138@comcast.net
Address: 2138, 221 Place NE
City: Sammamish
Zip Code: 98074

Comment Form Results:

Question: Most of the places to live in Sammamish are housed in developments, designed for two-parent households with children. In the next ten to twenty years, do you think we need other kinds of housing for our increasing numbers of empty nesters, retired people and single parents?

Answer: Yes, case in point, I am 64 and will be retiring next year my wife is 68 we will be downsizing within the next 5 to 10 years. We would like a single level home close to the shops and public transportation we currently are in a 4 bedroom home with 3000ft2 and would probably looks for 2-3 bedroom home about 2,000 to 2,500 ft2 with a smaller garden. New Town center concept/location would be ideal if it incorporated this style of housing.

Question: Some residents believe Sammamish should not allow any more new development while others want restrictions on growth lessened. Given that that state law requires every city to accommodate a share of new growth, how and where should we focus that growth?

Answer: Around existing developments with a clear intention to retain significant amount of green wooded space between them to retain the rural appeal of the city. I would much rather the development was here than strung out into the Cascades which need to be free of development for everyone to enjoy the incredible good fortune we have.

Question: About 1/3 of Sammamish residents pay more than 30% of their income on housing. Is housing affordability a concern to you or someone you know in Sammamish? What do you think should be done?

Answer: It's not a concern to me personally but I do think we need affordable housing to accommodate teachers and others with lower salaries so they can serve the community and provide a needed diversity that comes with different levels of income. Note that it is no good having affordable housing if the cost of living here is so high people will not use it.

Question: Housing in Sammamish is generally not affordable to those who work in
Sammamish. For example, about one-quarter of the Sammamish workforce works in public education and the average entry-level teacher’s salary is about $40,000. Overall, average private-sector wages in Sammamish were the fourth lowest among King County. Is it important for the community to have housing that is affordable for these workers? What do you think should be done?

Answer: Yes, it should be a condition placed on builders to set aside land and build affordable housing we should encourage Habitat for Humanity to support this work.

Question: Do you have other ideas or concerns about housing in Sammamish?

Answer: Public transportation to and from the Plateau is designed around the commuter. This is not frequent enough to support an aging population that can no longer drive or does not wish to drive. Even the commuter transportation does not serve the community well as can be seen with the Microsoft buses and vans.

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Does this vision for Sammamish feel correct to you?

Answer: I would like to see "cultural diversity is encouraged" in the vision. We are seeing a wonderful broadening of the background that people bring to the community since it was established 10 years ago we should recognize it, encourage it and facilitate crosscultural experiences. Every effort should be made to avoid cultural isolation.

Question: Are there aspects you would change?

Answer: I am a bit concerned about the focus on Families, absolutely they are the heart of the community but single adults and empty nesters may feel excluded. I would prefer something that was more "7 ages of man"

Question: What do you most value about Sammamish?

Answer: The growing sense of community, The wonderful views of the Cascades. The location also gives us a clear community definition as "The Plateau" which reinforces the growth of a communal sense. The trees. To retain the rural feeling that is a critical part of our "brand" we need to make sure we retain areas that are stands of trees not just facades to hide developments.

Question: What concerns do you have for the future?

Answer: 1) The slow pace of the Town center development. Issaquah may have trumped us
with the recent Highlands shopping center development. The closing of ACE was a disaster. 2) The lack of any business activity why would we not try for commercial buildings for Software development startups, Wineries, Commercial and professional services, etc we have so many relatively young Microsoft employees up here I am sure there is untapped entrepreneurial spirit there. 3) Do we have any sense of how many people we believe is the right size for the Plateau. If not we should.
Commenter Signup:

First Name: Denine
Last Name: Scallen
Email: denine@gmail.com
Address: 22257 NE 7th St
City: Sammamish
Zip Code: 98074

Comment Form Results:

Question: Most of the places to live in Sammamish are housed in developments, designed for two-parent households with children. In the next ten to twenty years, do you think we need other kinds of housing for our increasing numbers of empty nesters, retired people and single parents?

Answer: I think we need to think less of more housing and more development of retail and business space.

Question: Some residents believe Sammamish should not allow any more new development while others want restrictions on growth lessened. Given that that state law requires every city to accommodate a share of new growth, how and where should we focus that growth?

Answer: Focus the growth on retail and business growth which will bring in revenue for the city. Our roads are at capacity for housing development.

Question: About 1/3 of Sammamish residents pay more than 30% of their income on housing. Is housing affordability a concern to you or someone you know in Sammamish? What do you think should be done?

Answer: Not a concern for me at this time.

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Answer: Perhaps we should think about developing the city center with mixed use apartments and retail and business space and help make public transportation along 228th more of a
priority.

Question: Do you have other ideas or concerns about housing in Sammamish?

Answer: We need to work on better transportation on the very limited roads off/off the Plateau and how to handle additional capacity with more housing before we all more housing development.

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Answer: The small-town atmosphere is almost impossible to "create". You have it or you do not and Sammamish has too much housing and not enough business/retail.

Question: Are there aspects you would change?

Answer: I would concentrate on helping businesses get and keep space in the city.

Question: What do you most value about Sammamish?

Answer: Our city is pretty, has nice parks and a lot of schools which is nice because our children do not have to travel long distances to school.

Question: What concerns do you have for the future?

Answer: I am concerned about the housing development along Inglewood Rd and Rose Terrace that will bring so many more cars to Inglewood Hill Road. We need to work closer with Sound Transit to bring more bus service to our city to help ease traffic along 228th and ESLP.
Commenter Signup:

First Name: Paul
Last Name: Gardiner
Email: paulgardiner2138@comcast.net
Address: 2138, 221 Place NE
City: Sammamish
Zip Code: 98074

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Answer: Yes, it should be a condition placed on builders to set aside land and build affordable housing we should encourage Habitat for Humanity to support this work.

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Answer: Public transportation to and from the Plateau is designed around the commuter. This is not frequent enough to support an aging population that can no longer drive or does not wish to drive. Even the commuter transportation does not serve the community well as can be seen with the Microsoft buses and vans.

Question:

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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.

Does this vision for Sammamish feel correct to you?

Answer: I would like to see "cultural diversity is encouraged" in the vision. We are seeing a wonderful broadening of the background that people bring to the community since it was established 10 years ago we should recognize it, encourage it and facilitate crosscultural experiences. Every effort should be made to avoid cultural isolation.

Question: Are there aspects you would change?

Answer: I am a bit concerned about the focus on Families, absolutely they are the heart of the community but single adults and empty nesters may feel excluded. I would prefer something that was more "7 ages of man"

Question: What do you most value about Sammamish?

Answer: The growing sense of community, The wonderful views of the Cascades. The location also gives us a clear community definition as "The Plateau" which reinforces the growth of a communal sense. The trees. To retain the rural feeling that is a critical part of our "brand" we need to make sure we retain areas that are stands of trees not just facades to hide developments.

Question: What concerns do you have for the future?

Answer: 1) The slow pace of the Town center development. Issaquah may have trumped us
with the recent Highlands shopping center development. The closing of ACE was a disaster. 2) The lack of any business activity why would we not try for commercial buildings for Software development startups, Wineries, Commercial and professional services, etc we have so many relatively young Microsoft employees up here I am sure there is untapped entrepreneurial spirit there. 3) Do we have any sense of how many people we believe is the right size for the Plateau. If not we should.
From: RProebsting@sammamish.us
To: Cynthia Tiwana; Debbie Beadle
Subject: New Comprehensive Plan Comment
Date: Sunday, November 17, 2013 7:46:15 PM

Commenter did not sign up for project updates.

Comment Form Results:

Question: Most of the places to live in Sammamish are housed in developments, designed for two-parent households with children. In the next ten to twenty years, do you think we need other kinds of housing for our increasing numbers of empty nesters, retired people and single parents?

Answer: Not necessarily. This is typically a cliché argument raised by developers who want higher density and profit. A better solution would be incentives for building smaller homes on the same size lots, not making excuse to rezone for higher density.

Question: Some residents believe Sammamish should not allow any more new development while others want restrictions on growth lessened. Given that that state law requires every city to accommodate a share of new growth, how and where should we focus that growth?

Answer: I understand the need for development, but it is disappointing to see the lack of concern for trees and our natural environment. Why does every development need to remove every tree or leave only a few. I would concentrate development along the main arterials close to shopping, after defining and protecting key wildlife corridors.

Question: About 1/3 of Sammamish residents pay more than 30% of their income on housing. Is housing affordability a concern to you or someone you know in Sammamish? What do you think should be done?

Answer: Yes, housing affordability is a concern to me, but it seems like people should choose to live wherever they can afford. I don't believe a city can legislate affordability.

Question: Housing in Sammamish is generally not affordable to those who work in Sammamish. For example, about one-quarter of the Sammamish workforce works in public education and the average entry-level teacher’s salary is about $40,000. Overall, average private-sector wages in Sammamish were the fourth lowest among King County. Is it important for the community to have housing that is affordable for these workers? What do you think should be done?

Answer: I think people should live wherever they can afford. If that's not in Sammamish, so be it. The market drives pricing, not legislation.

Question: Do you have other ideas or concerns about housing in Sammamish?

Answer: Yes. I am concerned that developers and property owners are allowed to remove all their trees, while the process for individual homeowners to remove individual trees is unnecessarily onerous. It's sad that the large parcels are cleared and there seems to be no respect for the remaining forested areas. Requiring environmental reports doesn't solve the problem because you can pay for whatever outcome you want. The city needs to step up and...
establish rules that result in the preservation of our precious remaining wildlife habitat. Otherwise people won't want to live in this city regardless of prices.

Question:

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Does this vision for Sammamish feel correct to you?

Answer: Yes, it's a good vision. However, if the vision is for a small town atmosphere, where is that? All I see are sprawling developments and strip malls. Where is the downtown pedestrian friendly area that would go along with a small town atmosphere? There's a nice boulevard, but it isn't conducive to walking and there's nothing to walk to.

Question: Are there aspects you would change?

Answer: Fine a core area and create a downtown. I actually don't understand why Sammamish ever became a city. It's a bunch of disconnected neighborhoods and shopping areas. The vision needs to create the connections, especially pedestrian friendly connections, that would allow people to enjoy a core area of shopping, restaurants and entertainment. Think Front Street in Issaquah, Downtown Kirkland, Downtown Bothell, etc. I don't see anything approaching that opportunity in Sammamish.

Question: What do you most value about Sammamish?

Answer: The wildlife and the lakes (Pine Lake, Beaver Lake, Lake Sammamish, etc.)

Question: What concerns do you have for the future?

Answer: That the area will lose its larger wildlife and be left like most other suburban cities, devoid of nature. I'm also concerned that someone will be seriously injured or killed on East Lake Sammamish Pkwy because of the lack of safe parking at the new city park. What a mess.
Commenter Signup:

First Name: Colleen

Email:

Address:

City:

Zip Code:

Comment Form Results:

Question: Most of the places to live in Sammamish are housed in developments, designed for two-parent households with children. In the next ten to twenty years, do you think we need other kinds of housing for our increasing numbers of empty nesters, retired people and single parents?

Answer: Yes, but we need to be very careful how many are built and where.

Question: Some residents believe Sammamish should not allow any more new development while others want restrictions on growth lessened. Given that that state law requires every city to accommodate a share of new growth, how and where should we focus that growth?

Answer: I'd like to see less development. If there is ever going to be a town center, that would be the place to "develop". Leave the rest alone.

Question: About 1/3 of Sammamish residents pay more than 30% of their income on housing. Is housing affordability a concern to you or someone you know in Sammamish? What do you think should be done?

Answer: I think housing cost is where it should be. I like that everyone knows that it's expensive to live in Sammamish and don't want to ruin that. I don't want what we used to call "projects" in my city!! The "projects" were government built housing for "the poor" that was built in my "upscale"-trending neighborhood in Seattle. Guess what--the new "projects" caused everyone's home value to crash. Crime came with the new residents and the place was never (still isn't) the same. Don't overbuild and make what we have (and have paid dearly for) end up not worth what we paid for it!

Question: Housing in Sammamish is generally not affordable to those who work in Sammamish. For example, about one-quarter of the Sammamish workforce works in public education and the average entry-level teacher’s salary is about $40,000. Overall, average private-sector wages in Sammamish were the fourth lowest among King County. Is it
important for the community to have housing that is affordable for these workers? What do you think should be done?

Answer: No. I don't live next to where I work. My family's workplaces are on average over twenty miles away from our house. If we can drive 20 miles each way to work every day, why can't they? Why should we guarantee that a person who teaches in a Sammamish school gets to live next to their workplace?

Question: Do you have other ideas or concerns about housing in Sammamish?

Answer: It was so wonderful 15 years ago--before it go so crowded up here! Do any of you commute up/down 228th at five pm? Ever try to park at one of the three grocery stores after school gets out? There are not enough roads, stores, gas stations, and so on right now to serve the people who live here--don't keep on approving new developments or we'll end up like the Issaquah Highlands--horrible inner-city-like density!!!! Then who's going to want to pay these prices to live here?

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Does this vision for Sammamish feel correct to you?

Answer: Boy! If the word Sammamish wasn't in there I'm not sure I would have been able to guess you were talking about my city! Where is the "unique core of urban lifestyles"?---on 228th every morning and again in the late afternoon? We have our own rush hour!!

Question: Are there aspects you would change?

Answer: Yeah. I'd stop giving developers all the building permits and give them to single families! Quit building mega neighborhoods, or risk turning into the Issaquah Highlands!

Question: What do you most value about Sammamish?

Answer: The way our homes HAVE values! At least they do now. Maybe not so much if you keep building 300 homes at a time! On the smallest lots possible! When it starts taking 25 minutes to drive up to the library from I-90 at five o'clock, who's going to want to live here? Will my house still be worth what it is now?

Question: What concerns do you have for the future?

Answer: See all my previous answers! Basically, don't ruin what we've got! don't keep building mega-neighborhoods. Traffic on 228th is bad enough--look how many times you've had to remove the plantings in the middle of the road so more CARS could fit on the road!
Doesn't that tell you anything??? Too many cars = too many people = too many houses = no one will pay big bucks to live here!
Commenter Signup:

First Name: Raymond
Last Name: Macey
Email: raymacey@yahoo.com
Address: 24034 NE 29th Street
City: Sammamish
Zip Code: 98074

Comment Form Results:

Question: Most of the places to live in Sammamish are housed in developments, designed for two-parent households with children. In the next ten to twenty years, do you think we need other kinds of housing for our increasing numbers of empty nesters, retired people and single parents?

Answer: Sammamish currently has a large portion of the City zoned R1 which adds to its beauty and charm. I think the increase in population/housing units should be centered around the planned Town Center project and not rezoning the current R1 areas to R4 or R6. Having high density homes adjacent to the more 'rural' R1 just seems to be a 'mish-mash, hap-hazard' planning on the part of the City planners.

Question: Some residents believe Sammamish should not allow any more new development while others want restrictions on growth lessened. Given that state law requires every city to accommodate a share of new growth, how and where should we focus that growth?

Answer: Higher density housing units i.e., condos, PUD's and apartments in and around the Town Center.

Question: About 1/3 of Sammamish residents pay more than 30% of their income on housing. Is housing affordability a concern to you or someone you know in Sammamish? What do you think should be done?

Answer: There is obviously a good reason Sammamish residents are willing to pay 30% of their income on housing affordability. People generally move to Sammamish because of what CURRENTLY is. A smaller community without traffic problems, a reputation for friendliness, excellent schools and ready access to the commercial conveniences of Redmond, Issaquah & Bellevue. For this convenience, residents know the cost of housing in Sammamish is higher than some surrounding areas and are willing to pay for that convenience with more expensive housing.
Question: Housing in Sammamish is generally not affordable to those who work in Sammamish. For example, about one-quarter of the Sammamish workforce works in public education and the average entry-level teacher’s salary is about $40,000. Overall, average private-sector wages in Sammamish were the fourth lowest among King County. Is it important for the community to have housing that is affordable for these workers? What do you think should be done?

Answer: Generally, workers in the public education sector are not single family wage earners and have a second wage earner living in their house.

Question: Do you have other ideas or concerns about housing in Sammamish?

Answer: My overall general concern is that Sammamish will turn into a Redmond or Issaquah in a few short years if we do not control the number of new housing units being built. It should be plain to the Planning Commission and City Council that home builders are building in Sammamish because people ARE willing to pay the price of those new homes for good reason: because of what Sammamish CURRENTLY is and not necessarily of what it WILL be in a few years.

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Does this vision for Sammamish feel correct to you?

Answer: Yes. However, we are currently under siege by home builders seeking to change that "...small-town atmosphere with a suburban character".

Question: Are there aspects you would change?

Answer: ???

Question: What do you most value about Sammamish?

Answer: The more rural-suburban atmosphere with clean air, clean water, relatively minor traffic issues, low crime rates, excellent schools & a sense of community spirit.

Question: What concerns do you have for the future?

Answer: The growth in the past few years has greatly outstripped the pace some of the basic in infrastructure needs of the current & long-term residents. Roads are not keeping pace with the additional vehicles that are being added by higher density housing. When the City was predominately R1 we did not have this issue. Now with virtually all new housing being built in R4 & R6 we have added exponentially more traffic, more crime and obviously more strain.
on our schools without added developer fees to pay for these infrastructure needs.