Date: December 3, 2014
To: Planning Commission
From: Jeff Thomas, Community Development Director
Re: Draft 2015 Comprehensive Plan Goals and Policies relating to tree retention

During the November 20th meeting, Commission requested to see the goals fronting the policies related to tree retention. Staff have assembled the draft goals and policies from the 2015 update to the Comprehensive Plan.

These are being provided to you to refresh your memories regarding the policy direction that is currently recommended for inclusion in the 2015 Comprehensive Plan update. The City’s municipal code must be consistent with Comprehensive Plan policies. Depending on how your policy discussions on the tree retention code proceed, you may wish to revisit these goals and policies in order to align your Comprehensive Plan policy recommendation with your code recommendation.

Please note that this is not an exhaustive list of all draft policies related to tree retention, as the Planning Commission has not yet completed its review of all of the draft elements.

Land Use Element:

- **Goal LU.2**: Enhance the City’s character and identity through the future land use pattern.
  - Policy LU 2.4: Recognize and preserve the natural environment as an important element of the City’s identity.
  - Policy LU 2.5: Develop design guidelines and development regulations to support the following: [...] b. Retention of trees and native vegetation

- **Goal LU.3**: Preserve and enhance the quality, character and function of the City’s residential neighborhoods.
  - Policy LU 3.3: Promote clustering to preserve open space, retain significant natural features and reduce surface water runoff.
  - Policy LU 3.6: Consider site and design measures in residential areas to: [...] c. Preserve vegetation, and encourage planting of trees and native vegetation

- **Goal LU.6**: Promote development design that maintains a harmonious relationship with the natural environment.
  - Policy LU 6.1: Encourage design flexibility, such as lot clustering, to preserve existing site features, including clusters of trees, wetlands, streams, native topography and similar features.
  - Policy LU 6.2: Maximize tree retention and restore where tree retention is not possible,
  - Policy LU 6.3: Promote retention of existing landscaping and native vegetation in development.
Environment & Conservation Element:

- **Goal EC.1**: Serve as a leader in environmental stewardship of the natural environment for current and future generations.
  - Policy EC 1.10: Conserve and protect environmentally critical areas from loss or degradation.

- **Goal EC.4**: Protect and promote a diversity of plant and animal species and habitat in Sammamish.
  - Policy EC.4.9: Use existing regulatory tools to protect habitat, including the City’s critical area regulations and tree retention ordinance.

- **Goal EC.5**: Maintain and protect surface water and groundwater resources that serve the community and enhance the quality of life.
  - Policy EC 5.9: Maximize vegetation retention, assure environmentally-friendly re-vegetation, and apply other best management practices.
  - Policy EC 5.16: Encourage retention of open space and vegetation in critical aquifer recharge areas (CARAs) with a high potential for groundwater recharge.

- **Goal EC.9**: Maintain and improve the City’s forested character
  - Policy EC.9.1: Preserve and enhance the City’s existing tree canopy
  - Policy EC.9.2: Preserve trees on all public properties and facilities to the maximum extent possible.
  - Policy EC 9.4: Encourage community residents and property owners to preserve the green and wooded character of existing neighborhoods.