

## COMMUNITY CHARACTER

*Community character refers to the 'flavor' of a place, and includes diverse elements such as the architecture, landscape, community activities and the demographic mix of people. Community character resources include both natural and man-made features that contribute to the City's overall livability and positive sense of place. Local heritage, scenic beauty, a natural atmosphere and traditional design are important aspects of Snoqualmie's character.*

**Goal 5:** *Snoqualmie's community character is preserved, protected and enhanced, and future growth has been sensitively integrated into the City through design and the protection of character-defining resources.*

### 1. DESIGN CHARACTER AND QUALITY

**Objective:**

**5.1** The unique character and attractiveness of Snoqualmie has been maintained, with new development integrating smoothly with the existing built environment, helping it thrive as a rich tourist and commercial center while maintaining the natural and aesthetic quality of the Snoqualmie landscape.

**Policies:**

- 5.1.1 To maintain the natural character and quality of the Snoqualmie landscape, fully implement all policies of the Environment Element and the Parks, Open Space and Recreation Element.
- 5.1.2 Protect roadside views of the shoreline and other natural features from unnecessary clearing, signage and other visually degrading features or practices, and allow for the maintenance of existing view corridors through vegetation management that minimizes sensitive areas impacts.
- 5.1.3 Participate with the Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust and other such trusts to protect the scenic nature of the I-90 corridor and the upper Snoqualmie Valley.
- 5.1.4 Encourage all public and private projects to incorporate neighborhood profile design recommendations from Element 3 Community Character and incorporate pertinent sections of the 2006 Downtown Master Plan.
- 5.1.5 Employ zoning and development standards for site planning, building design, and landscaping that encourage appropriate infill development and maintain or enhance neighborhood character.
- 5.1.6 Maintain City historic district and, where eligible, King County landmark district designations for the downtown and Meadowbrook commercial districts and ensure site and building changes are consistent with historic character through appropriate design standards and other regulations.
- 5.1.7 Use a Design Review Board to oversee commercial and industrial development, including site planning, exterior features, parking, signage, landscaping, sidewalk design, lighting and related elements.
- 5.1.8 Maintain exterior lighting standards that promote dark-sky maintenance throughout the City.

For the more information on the Design Review Board, see Element 7 Land Use.

## 2. HISTORIC AND CULTURAL RESOURCES

### *Objective:*

- 5.2 Buildings, districts and landscape features with historic value, as well as the story of Snoqualmie's history, have been preserved to support sustainable development and provide a focus of civic pride and identity.**

### *Policies:*

- 5.2.1 Work individually and cooperatively to identify and evaluate important aspects of historical and cultural heritage and adopt appropriate regulations or other strategies to protect these resources.
- 5.2.2 Continue to support the downtown Snoqualmie historic district with urban design, streetscape and park improvements supporting the historic theme.
- 5.2.3 Support the preservation of Snoqualmie Valley history and culture by working with and supporting the efforts of heritage organizations and facilities such as the Snoqualmie Valley Historical Society and Museum, the Northwest Railway Museum, King County, Native American tribal organizations, and other local, state and national preservation agencies.
- 5.2.4 Consider local heritage when naming City streets and facilities.
- 5.2.5 Maintain an inter-local agreement with King County for historic preservation assistance and landmark designation purposes.
- 5.2.6 Maintain and update an inventory of historic sites, districts and buildings within the City.
- 5.2.7 Work with property owners and developers to implement best management practices and/or adaptive reuse strategies that will preserve the character and viability of our historic sites, buildings, districts, landscape features and neighborhoods.
- 5.2.8 Pursue grants and technical assistance as available to assist property owners with the preservation and rehabilitation of storefronts and buildings in the Downtown and Meadowbrook historic districts to preserve and restore their historic appearance and economic viability.

To assist with the preservation of local culture and history, and pursuant to State Law, the city requires property owners and developers to immediately stop work and notify the city and affected Indian tribes if anything of possible archaeological interest is uncovered during excavation. Advance permits are also required in areas known to contain archeological artifacts, requiring an archaeologist to perform an inspection or site evaluation in coordination with affected Native American tribes.