



Staff Report

August 15, 2022 Council Workshop Meeting

Camas-Washougal Skate Park Improvements

Presenter: Trang K. Lam, Parks & Recreation Director

Time Estimate: 10 minutes

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BACKGROUND: The park story...

In 2000, there was a movement to build a skatepark in the Camas Washougal area. The two cities worked with local skaters to design the skatepark. The skaters, who were used to skating on any features that they could find around town, wanted a park that simulated the street style that they were used to...thus the current park was built and opened in 2002.

With nearly 20 years of use, the park needed a refresh. In 2017, local resident Tim Laidlaw saw a park that no longer fit the needs of the current skate community. Some features had been removed and the remaining ones were outdated, too difficult and awkward for the skaters of today. Tim started a movement and organized with Riverside Bowl, a group of skaters and local residents, to help revitalize the skatepark area by volunteering to clean the park and advocating for updates to the park. Thanks to their advocacy work, the skatepark improvement project was prioritized as a capital improvement project.

This skatepark renovation project was a community driven project in 2017 and continues to be community driven in 2022. In 2018, prior to the pandemic, the Cities of Camas and Washougal initiated an effort to update park design and construct new features. Energy around the project grew in 2019 with a successful skateboarding demonstration and fundraising event driven by the community and local businesses and organizations. In 2020, due to the pandemic, the project was placed on hold.

In 2022, with the support of the community and our non-profit partners, Camas Parks Foundation and Parks Foundation of Clark County, the City of Camas is moving the project forward. Unfortunately, with this restart, the City of Washougal will not be partnering financially on the project.

Lewallen Architecture, who completed the 2018 preliminary design for the skatepark, along with Collective Concrete who help with cost estimates in 2018 rejoined the project team; and we've added KPFF Inc, to round out the team with engineering expertise. The new 2022 design provides features for skaters of all skill levels.

SUMMARY: The updated design includes elements for beginner to advance skaters. Beginners can start learning tricks on the new funbox and quarter pipe that's added to the existing loading dock at the southwest end of the park; intermediate skaters can hone their skills with the added entry pyramid and quarter pip with deck; and a new bowl is added at the northeast end of the park for advance skaters. Construction cost for this updated skatepark design is estimated to be just under \$250,000. The project could be constructed in two phases, with phase I being the installation of the bowl. Phase I is

estimated to be 50-60% of total project cost. Staff is recommending construction of the entire park so that youths (and adults) at various skill levels can enjoy this park together. In addition, we have seen construction cost continue to escalate, so waiting to complete the second phase at a later date would only increase project costs.

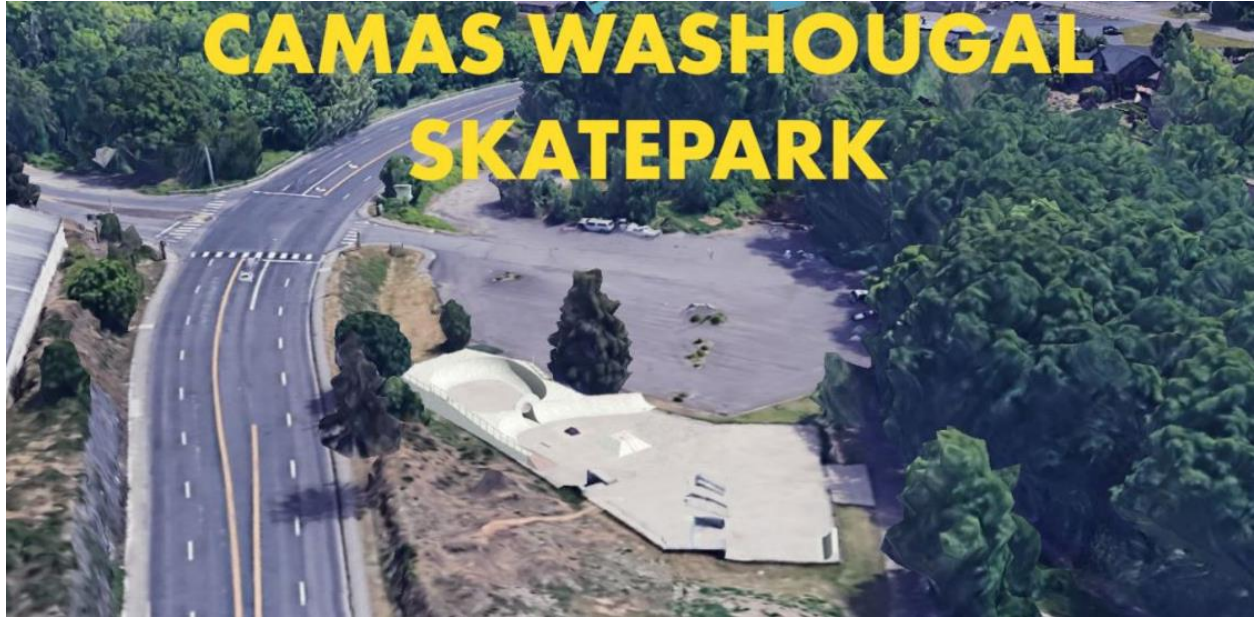


Figure 1: Rendering of updated design

The Parks and Recreation (P&R) 2022 capital budget includes \$75,000 allocated to the skatepark improvement project. In addition, our non-profit partners and community driven fundraising events have raised nearly \$28,000. The balance of funds needed to complete this project can be funded through the 2022 Open Space/Parks/Trails P&R capital budget line item. No new funding will be needed.

This project will be advertised for bid in August and Staff will return to Council with bid award recommendation in September.

EQUITY CONSIDERATIONS:

What are the desired results and outcomes for this agenda item?

To provide Council with project information for the Camas-Washougal Skatepark Improvement Project. The goal of the project is to rejuvenate the area by providing an updated skatepark that serves skaters of all skill levels and create a destination that would encourage youth to get outdoor and be active.

What's the data? What does the data tell us?

The 2022 Parks, Recreation and Open Space (PROS) plan had nearly 1400 people participate in the Community Survey. Here are a couple of data points from the survey that are relevant to this project:

- Over 98% of participants feel parks and recreation is essential or important.

- 53.4% of respondents were supportive of additional/upgraded skatepark

According to Census tract data in this area, it indicates this site is deficient in four of the five demographic and health categories that the Recreation and Conservation Office uses as measures for public need of parks amenities. Compared to State averages, this site has a higher Body Mass index for ages 16-19, a lower median household income, higher mortality rate, and disability is consistent with the state average which is higher than the city as a whole at 6.8%.

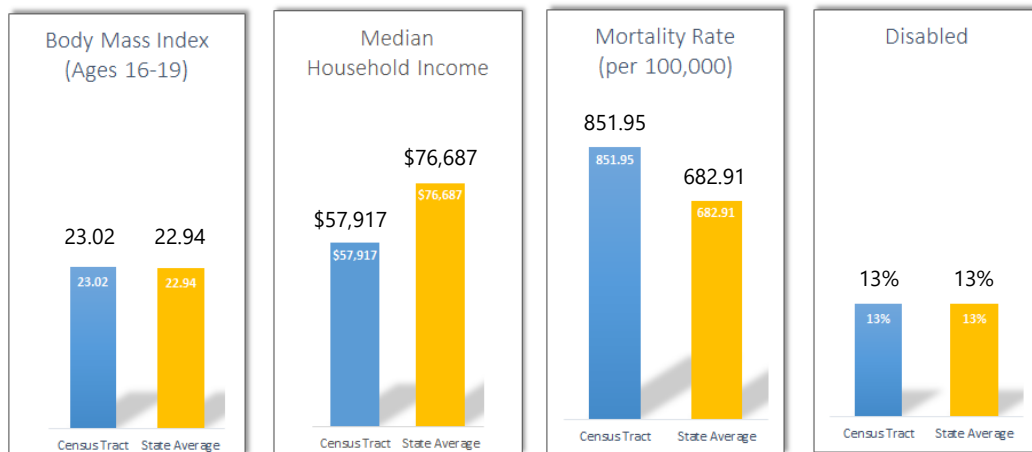


Figure 2: Local area Census Tract data (blue) and State Average data (orange)

Studies show that low-income communities are more frequently located in areas with limited access to quality parks and open spaces and they also frequently face significant health disparities which contributes to a much higher obesity and mortality rate.

A revitalized skatepark will encourage our youths to go outdoors and enjoy physical activities leading to healthier physical and mental health.

How have communities been engaged? Are there opportunities to expand engagement?

Community engagement has been through the fundraising efforts in partnership with the Camas Parks Foundation, who worked with local business and community members, and with Parks Foundation of Clark County through on-line donations. This spring, the community had an opportunity to learn more about the project and donate at the following events:

- April 28: Bones Brigade movie at Liberty Theatre and Grains of Wrath pint fundraiser
- April – June: Camas Parks Foundation on-line silent auction, T-shirt sales, general donation
- May – Utility billing postcard insert provided project information and link to on-line donation through the Parks Foundation of Clark County
- June 4: Information booth and skate demonstration area at Camtown Youth Festival
- April – Current: [Parks Foundation of Clark County](#) on-line fundraising
- Current: Project information can be found on-line at [Camas Parks Foundation](#) and [Engage Camas](#)

Who will benefit from, or be burdened by this agenda item?

Our youths will benefit the most from this project. In addition, we know of adult skaters and rollerbladers that are eager to see these improvements.

What are the strategies to mitigate any unintended consequences?

Because the current park has outdated skate features, it is not a popular destination. With limited user and eyes on the park, this location has had increase graffiti and vandalism over the years. The improvements will add popular features and bring more user and eyes on the park which will help deter vandalism. And user interest has not been from just youth, but interest has been truly multi-generational.

Does this agenda item have a differential impact on underserved populations, people living with disabilities, and/or communities of color? Please provide available data to illustrate this impact.

This skatepark is the only location in Camas and Washougal and will serve both communities. As noted above with the census tract data, the skatepark is in a lower income and higher mortality rate neighborhood.

Will this agenda item improve ADA accessibilities for people with disabilities?

The park will be ADA accessible.

What potential hurdles exists in implementing this proposal (include both operational and political)?

Allocated capital budget and donations currently can pay for Phase I of the project. Council will need to approve for the City to use existing capital funds in the 2022 Open Space/Parks/Trails P&R capital budget line item to cover the remainder of the project.

How will you ensure accountabilities, communicate, and evaluate results?

The City will continue to provide project updates and information via Engage Camas and Social Media posts.

How does this item support a comprehensive plan goal, policy or other adopted resolution?

This project meets the following Camas 2035 Comprehensive Plan goals:

5.7.2 Parks and Recreation Goals: Preserve and enhance the quality of life in Camas through the provision of parks, recreation programs, recreational facilities, trails, and open spaces.

This project meets the following 2022 PROS Plan goals & objectives:

STEWARDSHIP OF LAND, PARKS & PROGRAMS:

Enhance parks and trails amenities: Refresh existing legacy parks with new features to reflect current community desires, such as Crown park.

ORGANIZATIONAL EXCELLENCE:

Continue building strong partnerships: Partner with user groups of specialized facilities, such as sport fields, off-leash areas, disc golf, skatepark, bike skills/pump track, etc. to continually improve programing and maintenance.

BUDGET IMPACT: Funds currently exist in the Parks & Recreation 2022 capital budget to pay for the project through Account Numbers 300.00.594.762.63 (Skatepark Improvements) and 300.00.594.762.61 (Open Space/Parks/Trails). In addition, the City partnered with the Camas Parks Foundation and Parks Foundation of Clark County to fundraise nearly \$28,000.

RECOMMENDATION: Project bidding process will be completed in August and Staff will return to Council in September with a recommendation for bid award.