



City of Camas 2025 Federal Agenda

Once considered a mill town that employed nearly 2,700 people at the Georgia Pacific paper plant, the City of Camas is undergoing a dramatic transformation. Camas with its great schools and outdoor amenities is now a destination for high-tech companies, recreational enthusiasts, and families. With this transformation comes the need to update the city's aging and inadequate infrastructure. However, the City of Camas is undergoing a budget crisis that is, in part, a result Georgia Pacific closing portions of their operations in recent years which, in addition to now only employing 150 people, has also impacted the proportion of property taxes collected.

Community Initiated Projects

Everett Street Corridor Safe Streets Improvements

\$2 million

Camas requests \$2 million to improve and upgrade portions of its Everett Street (State Route 500) Corridor to become a "Complete Street". Currently, this portion of Everett Street that serves the 2000+ students at Camas High School and the recently master planned North Shore Area is a rural two-lane road with no bike lanes, sidewalks, streetlights, or safety shoulders. With extensive public outreach, the city designed a project to further the multimodal improvements needed for the Corridor's 15,000+ daily users. It will also set the stage for significant economic development opportunities in the North Shore Area, which is master planned to include approximately 1,400 jobs, 8,000 residents and the development of the city's 170-acre Legacy Lands Park and recreation area. The improvements will also provide multi-modal connections to regional recreational areas along the Corridor, such as Lacamas Lake, Lacamas Regional Park, Round Lake, Fallen Leaf Lake, and Crown Park.

Improvements will also include a stormwater system that meets current standards and will collect and treat stormwater runoff before being discharged into the 303d listed Lacamas Lake. The current request for funding for this multi-phased project will go towards Phase 1 from Northeast 35th Avenue to Northeast 43rd Avenue, an approximate 0.4 mile stretch where most of the corridor's businesses and recreational opportunities are sited.

Camas's Library Improvements

\$2 million

Built in 1940, the Camas Library is adjacent to the historic Camas downtown and is thriving community hub. Even in a time when a lot of information is received digitally, the library has seen an increase in its patrons. Like any building built 84 years ago, the library is showing signs of wear and tear. Given the age of the building, renovations happen about every 25 years, with its last update occurring in 2002. In the past, the library had consistent had voter approval for its bonds (the last one passing in 2002), however, with inflation, current funding does not meet the need. This is further aggravated by the fact that the next two bonds Camas will put before voters will be for a fire station and city hall, meaning, the library must identify alternative funding. If successful with this request, money would go towards new equipment, furniture, flooring, and lighting.



Police Safety Device

\$75,000

The rise in drug overdoses in the United States has increased dramatically in recent years and has been made even more deadly with the amount of fentanyl that now floods our community. Fentanyl seems to be mixed in with every kind of drug on the streets, including counterfeit prescription pills. DEA statistics show that seven out of every ten pills seized has a lethal dose of Fentanyl. In the first five months of 2024, Camas Police Officers dealt with 24 cases involving drugs, many of which involved Fentanyl. The Camas Police Department requests federal funding to purchase a handheld device that can detect hazardous chemicals by scanning packaging, minimizing its officers' risk to exposure.

Future Projects

PFAS Mitigation

PFAS have been detected in Camas's groundwater supply, impacting the quality of the city's primary water source. The need for response is urgent – PFAS levels from Well 13 (which provides 15-20% of the city's water) exceed Washington State Action Levels (SALs); and sampling at the city's other 8 wells have yielded results that exceed the United States Environmental Protection Agency's (USEPA) maximum contaminant levels (MCLs). This project will quickly progress design and implementation of a PFAS mitigation strategy at Well 13 while establishing a sustainable and equitable approach for long-term PFAS mitigation across their system.

The three main goals of the project are to: (1) quickly develop and construct a near-term treatment plan at Well 13 to reduce the presence of PFAS below the State Action Levels; (2) thoughtfully develop a system-wide long-term mitigation plan; and (3) secure and maintain key stakeholder support. PFAS mitigation (and city compliance with the new EPA MCLs) may be best addressed via some combination of drilling new wells, adding PFAS treatment technologies, or modifying operational practices. The PFAS response plan will provide an adaptive strategy which will serve to highlight the best approach for the city to take while considering future water needs, cost, and project-specific risks and opportunities. Success of the project will be measured against the project's Level of Service Goals, guiding principles for overall regulatory compliance, system resilience and alignment with community values. The project's long-term PFAS response plan is intended to remain a working document that will be updated as new data and information are received, and our collective understanding of this issue continues to evolve.

Lacamas Lake Water Quality

The City of Camas, in partnership with Clark County, are developing plans to improve water quality within the Lacamas Watershed, Lacamas Lake and Round Lake. From 2019 through 2023, the City and its regional government and non-profit partners, including Clark County, Department of Ecology, Department of Fish and Wildlife, Department of Agriculture, Clark Conservation District, Lacamas Watershed Council and others, developed a Lakes Management Plan for Lacamas, Round and Fallen Leaf Lakes that establishes short-and long-term solutions for improving water quality and helping to prevent toxic algal blooms. The three lakes, that are the center of the City's outdoor recreation hub,



become eutrophic in the summer and experience high levels of phosphorus and nitrogen, which encourages algae growth. During the summer months, the lakes are often posted with advisories of hazardous conditions by the Public Health Department due to frequent harmful algal blooms that can sicken humans, wildlife and pets. A study in 2023 showed that concentrations of phosphorus in the sediment and deeper waters were higher in Round and Lacamas Lakes than in the past years. Through the multi-year effort to develop the Lakes Management Plan, Lacamas Creek and the broader 67 square mile Lacamas Creek Watershed, which feeds into Lacamas Lake and Round Lake, was found to make up approximately 80% of the total nutrient load.

Camas and Clark County have signed an Interlocal Agreement to recognize the importance in managing and improving the water quality within the watershed and Lakes, but the two partners know it is not possible to make significant improvements alone. In addition to identifying short-term actions to improve water quality in the lakes, the Lakes Management Plan also identifies long-term strategies to improve the Watershed, which not only include partnering with other public agencies, such as the Department of Ecology, Clark Conservation District and the Department of Natural Resources, but also with volunteer and non-profit groups such as the Lacamas Watershed Council who may be able to more easily work with private property owners.

While Camas began chemical treatments during the summer of 2024, but this is only treating the symptom. Future funding requests will be used for creek restoration and planting projects, stormwater improvements, public education, and agricultural practices improvements.

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