



November 29, 2023

City of Camas Council
616 NE 4th Avenue
Camas, WA 98607

Commissioners:

Ellen Burton, Chair

Katy Daane

David Dewey

Brittany Grahm

Jason Irving, Vice Chair

Steve Lorenz

Jenny Wu

RE: Requesting Approval of Crown Park's equipment pre-order and for Council to direct staff to bid the entire Crown Park project as designed

Dear City Council members,

The Camas Parks and Recreation Commission (Commission) respectfully requests the City of Camas Council:

1. Approves the Crown Park equipment pre-order contract, and
2. Directs staff to bid the entire Crown Park Improvement project per the 100% design plan.

There is no funding from the general fund used to renovate the park.

Crown Park is the City's "Crown Jewel", our primary community gathering space for decades. The adopted 2018 Crown Park Master Plan (Master Plan) preserved and enhanced those uses while creating a vision of the park for the next generation. The 7.3-acre park was donated to the City in 1934. While the park has received ad-hoc improvements between 1930's to 1970's, and care from the City since 1934, the first time the City brought our Community together to develop a holistic vision and plan for the entire park was through the Master Plan.

Many of the park amenities and infrastructure have aged over the years. For example, the picnic shelter (circa 1950) was rebuilt in 1987, the public pool (circa 1954) was decommissioned in 2018, and the tennis courts (circa 1938), the last major amenity, were refurbished a second time in 2015. While the community did lose their beloved public pool at Crown, that loss catalyzed the Master Plan that is leading the improvements to our crown jewel of the park system for this and future generation of users.

As shown in the attached Project Timeline exhibit, the City and community have worked on this project since 2016. Since refreshing this project in November 2021 when Council's direction to complete the 30% design process for the entire park, the City has involved our community in 14 public meetings, an open house and two surveys. Additionally, both City Planning and Public Works staff have participated in the process and reviewed the design. After an eight-year journey, we are almost to the finish line, with the possibility of a grand opening for the new Crown Park in 2025.

Our project's vision of inclusive play for all through universal design of the playground and interactive water feature goes beyond the minimum level of accessibility. Universal design provides play opportunities and accessibility for all ages and abilities. This vision was rewarded with a \$500,000 grant from the State of Washington's Recreation and Conservation Office. Accessibility and play for all also includes updating ADA accessibility to federal standards

VISION: *We envision Camas as a thriving, cohesive community that honors a unique legacy of coordinated parks, trails, natural areas and diverse recreation opportunities highlighted by our lakes, rivers and streams. Stewardship and thoughtful enhancement of these assets ensure a safe, healthy, active and balanced lifestyle for all.*

MISSION: *Camas Parks and Recreation promotes a healthy and sustainable community by listening and responding to the community's needs and desires, protecting and preserving its natural spaces to improve ecological health, and developing and maintaining parks, trails and recreation programs that are welcoming for all.*

throughout the park (i.e. pathways, restroom and access into Scout Hall) and around our park (i.e. sidewalks and crossings). In addition, the City will add a much-needed permanent bathroom, upgrade our gathering space for events, care for our trees, vegetation and lawn with updated stormwater management and irrigation, new furnishings, and a multi-use sport court including pickle ball.

Council, before you is the opportunity to move this project across the finish line and provide the entire community with much-needed improvements to their beloved park. The Commission recommends Council:

1. Approves the request to purchase playground equipment and turf, nature play equipment and a permanent bathroom; and
2. Directs staff to bid the entire project as designed.

We sincerely hope you will move the community's vision in the Master Plan into construction.

Thank you,

Ellen L. Burton

Chair
City of Camas Parks & Recreation Commission

Enclosure: A Brief History of Crown Park Improvement Project

A BRIEF HISTORY OF CROWN PARK IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

Crown Park, a 7.3 acre park was originally donated to Camas in 1934 by Crown Willamette Paper Company. Considered by many as the "Crown Jewel" of our entire parks system, Crown has been a primary gathering spot for the community for decades. It hosts many of the City's special events, such as the annual Camas Egg Scramble, summer Concerts and Movies In The Park, and the CamTown Youth Festival, but at its core, this is a family gathering spot for birthdays, reunions, picnics, and play for all.

