



PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION 2023 ANNUAL REPORT

COMMISSIONERS:

Ellen Burton, Chair
Jason Irving, Vice-Chair

Katy Daane
Steve Lorenz

David Dewey
Jenny Wu

Brittany Grahn

CITY COUNCIL LIAISONS:

Tim Hein

Leslie Lewallen

Per Camas Municipal Code, Chapter 2.28.060 – Annual Report, we are pleased to present this report which provides a snapshot of the Parks & Recreation Commission’s (Commission) and the Parks & Recreation Department’s (Department) work and accomplishments in 2023. The Commission’s and Department’s work focuses on community driven priorities outlined in the Parks, Recreation and Open Space (PROS) Plan; and 2023 was a year of celebration for our parks and recreation community with many projects and programs coming to fruition and kicking off. This report outlines the following:

- Key highlights of 2023;
- Summary of facility rentals, special events and recreation programs;
- PROS Plan – 2023 Work Plan outcomes;
- Motions taken by the Commission; and
- Projects/Programs – Presentations, Discussion and Updates

Key Highlights of 2023:


Riverside Bowl Skatepark
Welcome All

This park renovation was made possible due to the gracious contributions of many. With the support and dedication in our community from advocates, donors, fundraisers and volunteers working in conjunction with the design team, this dream has come to fruition. We are grateful to you all.

Established 2000
Renovated 2023


- Skatepark improvements initiated by community advocates in 2017 came to fruition in 2023. **Riverside Bowl Skatepark grand reopening** was held July 27 with more than 350 community members coming together to celebrate the completion of the park and watch skaters, roller bladers, scooters and bikers enjoy the updated park.
- **Louis Bloch Park**, home field to the Babe Ruth Baseball League, received new bleachers and ADA improvements.
- **The Conservation and Recreation Office (RCO) awarded the City \$2.25 million** in grant funding for three projects – Crown Park Improvements, S. Lacamas Creek Trailhead Improvements and Green Mountain Acquisition.

- The **Department of Natural Resources (DNR) awarded the City a Focused Technical Assistance (FTA) grant.** The FTA includes direct technical assistance from DNR staff and a **\$75,000 grant**, with \$70,000 towards the City’s Parks and Open Space Management Plan development and \$5,000 towards City staff training.
- Through a **partnership with Lower Columbia Fish Enhancement Group**, the department piloted the Hope for Salmon summer day camp. Students spent the week outdoors learning about salmon habitat, native plants, and how they relate to the health of our local watersheds and communities.
- The City has a new partnership with **Evergreen Mountain Bike Alliance (EMBA)** for volunteer trail clean-up at Fallen Leaf Lake Park. EMBA’s first trail clean-up event was on Dec. 10 with eight high school students and three adults, putting in thirty hours of volunteer time.
- **Steve Lorenz retires from the Commission after 23 years** of leadership and dedicated service on the Commission to promote and steward Camas’ park, recreation, open space, and trail system.
- The Downtown Camas Association and the Camas-Washougal Business Chamber partnered with the City to host the return of the **tree lighting ceremony at Hometown Holidays.**



Hope for Salmon Day Camp

- 8 participants - Ages 11-15
- Students from - Odyssey MS, Liberty MS, Skyridge MS, Prune Hill MS, Camas HS, Discovery HS

In partnership with 



Summary of facility rentals, special events and recreation programs:

Facilities Rentals:

Facility	Lacamas Lodge		Fallen Leaf		Community Ctr.	
	2023	Notes	2023	Notes	2023	Notes
Total Reservations	1016	14% increase in number of reservations & gross revenue.	78	Consistent with prior year.	1046	24% increase in number of reservations mainly in one-day rentals and classes. Additional one-day rentals generated 41% increase in gross revenue.
# No Fee	0		0		127	
# Rec. Classes	893		19		723	
# Rentals	104		43		135	
# Non-Profit Rentals (hourly & full day)	19		16		61	
Total Gross Revenue	\$92,195		\$15,310		\$23,514	

Scout Hall: This building located in Crown park is available for use by non-profit organizations for free and programed with youth camps and special event activities during the summer. Our primary users are the local Camas Scout Troops who holds their troop meeting there September thru June.

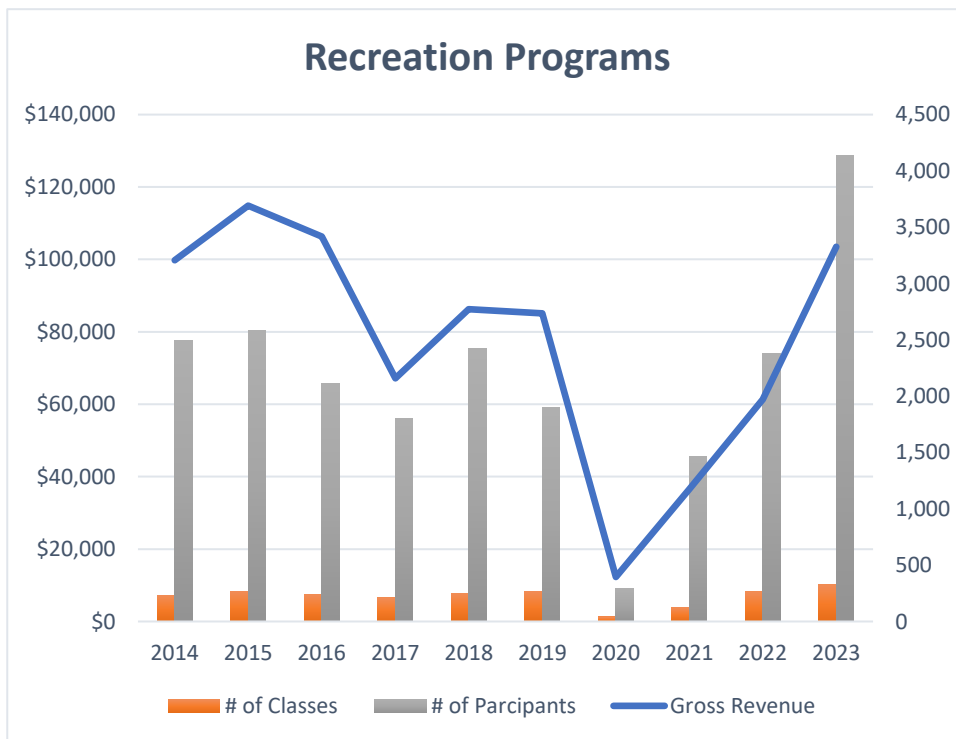
Special Events:

# of Events	# of Participants and Notables
22 live events from April through December	11,186 participants Staff + 1,562 volunteer hours to makes these events come to life.



Recreation Programs:

Recreation Classes	# of Classes & Participants	Notables
Free classes – Pop-ups and Senior Fitness	6 pop-up classes Weekly senior fitness classes 292 participants	Free pop-up classes included kids and toddler soccer, adult and toddler yoga, line dancing and self-defense. Senior fitness is in partnership with Aging & Disabilities of Southwest Washington.
Youth and Adult Classes	325 classes 4,135 participants	24% more classes offered, with 74% more participants than 2022.
Scholarships	10 recipients	Funded through partnership with Parks Foundation of Clark County.







Year	Notes
2014	Moved some classes to Lodge & online registration starts.
2016	No coed soccer and youth basketball - School District facility rental rate too high to run program.
2017	Transitioned youth enrichment camps to contractor.
2018	Camas Pool closed.
2020	March 2020 COVID hit, all classes cancelled.
2021	May 2021 soft opening w/COVID restrictions.
2022 2023	Addition of new classes.

Volunteers, Grants & Donations:

Organization or Program	Award Details
Volunteers	<p>3,034 total of volunteer hours in 2024, with a value (\$16/hour) of \$48,544.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ivy League: 770 total volunteer hours removing invasive ivy. Watershed Alliance: 702 total volunteer hours from 240 volunteers for lake clean-up day. Special Events: 1562 total volunteer hours
Parks Foundation of Clark County	<p>Crown Park Improvements - \$2,500</p> <p>Recreation (programs & scholarships) - \$1,650</p>
Special Events	<p>Cash Donations/Sponsorships/Grants - \$9,470</p> <p>In-Kind Donations - \$ 10,740</p>
Recreation Program	<p>In-Kind Pop-up in the Park & Self-defense classes - \$ 2,075</p>
RCO Grants – total award of \$2.25 million	<p>Washington Wildlife Recreation Program, Local Parks category - 2023-25 Crown Park Improvements Phase 1 - \$500,000 Construction</p> <p>Washington Wildlife & Recreation Program, Trails category - 2023-25 Green Mountain Grant - \$1,250,000 for acquisition reimbursement</p> <p>Washington Wildlife & Recreation Program, Trails category - 2023-25 S. Lacamas Creek Trailhead - \$500,000 Construction</p>
DNR’s FTA Grant	<p>Includes direct technical assistance from DNR staff and a \$75,000 grant, with \$70,000 towards the City’s Parks and Open Space Management Plan development and \$5,000 towards City staff training.</p>

Parks, Recreation & Open Space (PROS) Plan – 2023 Work Plan outcomes

2023 P&R WORK PLAN			YR-END REPORT	
PROS PLAN:	GOALS	ACTIONS	Implemented or Underway & On-Track	Delayed or On-Hold & moving to 2024
 Welcoming for all	6	13	9	4
 Stewardship of Land, Parks & Programs	5	17	13	4
 Plan For & Fill Known System Gaps	6	13	6	7
 Organizational Excellence	4	6	4	2
TOTAL	21	49	32	17

2023 is year two of PROS Plan implementation. In addition to the regular portfolio of programs and services the department provides, the 2023 Work Plan focused on 21 goals with 49 actions from the PROS Plan. Of the 49 actions, 32 were implemented or underway and on-track, and 17 were delayed due to staff capacity, lack of resources and/or unforeseen circumstances. These 17 delayed actions will move into 2024 for implementation or be re-evaluated during the FY2025-26 budget process.



Motions taken by the Commission in 2023:

MEETING DATE	MOTION
January 25	<p>Vote for Chair and Vice Chair of Parks & Recreation Commission:</p> <p>A motion was made by Lorenz, seconded, and approved to vote Jason Irving as Vice Chair for the Camas Parks & Recreation Commission in 2023.</p> <p>A motion was made by Irving, seconded, and approved to nominate Ellen Burton as the Chair for the Camas Parks & Recreation Commission in 2023.</p> <p>2022 Annual Report to City Council:</p> <p>A motion was made by Grahn, seconded by Daane, and approved unanimously to approve the 2022 Parks & Recreation Commission Annual Report as written.</p>
February 22	<p>Parks & Recreation Core Values:</p> <p>A motion was made by Lorenz, seconded by Grahn, and carried unanimously to approve the Core Values document as presented.</p> <p>Parks & Recreation Events Sponsorship Program:</p> <p>A motion was made by Dewey, seconded by Lorenz, and carried to approve the new Special Event Community Sponsorship policy as presented.</p> <p>Renaming the skatepark to Riverside Bowl Skatepark:</p> <p>A motion was made by Lorenz, seconded by Grahn, and carried unanimously to change the Camas-Washougal Skate Park name to Riverside Bowl Skate Park.</p>
June 29	<p>Chapter 12.32 – Park Rules and Regulations:</p> <p>A motion made by Irving, seconded by Grahn, and carried unanimously to approve the updated park rules with the addition of “open space” to the definition and to move this forward to City Council for adoption.</p>
November 29	<p>Crown Park – Letter of support to Council:</p> <p>A motion was made by Grahn, seconded by Dewey, and carried unanimously to submit the Crown Park letter of support to City Council as written.</p> <p>Chair & Vice Chair Nominations:</p> <p>A motion was made by Grahn, seconded by Dewey, and carried unanimously to nominate Ellen Burton as Chair and Jason Irving as Vice Chair for the Parks & Recreation Commission in 2024.</p>

Projects/Programs - Presentations, Discussions and Updates:

- *CMC 12.32, Parks Rules & Regulations* – In 2021, the Parks and Recreation Commission (Commission) worked with staff to review and update Camas Municipal Code (CMC) related to the roles and responsibilities of the Commission (Chapter 2.28); and rules and regulations in parks (Chapter 12.32). The intent of the code review and amendments are to incorporate what we learned during and post COVID pandemic to ensure our code continues to be responsive to the growth and increased use of the parks and recreation system.

The Commission approved the code edits in two meetings, recommending moving forward to City Council for adoption.

- *On August 3, 2021, the Commission voted and approved the recommended edits to Chapter 2.28.050 of the CMC to move forward to City Council for consideration and adoption.*
- *On June 29, 2023, the Commission voted and approved the recommended edits with the addition of “open space” to the definition of Park to Chapter 12.32 of the CMC to move forward to City Council for consideration and adoption.*

On Aug. 7, 2023, Council adopted Ordinance 23-006 amending CMC 2.28.050 and Ordinance 23-007 amending CMC 12.32.

- 2023 Peace Pole – Heritage Park trailhead was honored with the 2023 Peace Pole from the Camas-Washougal Rotary Club.
- DOGPAW partnership – In partnership with DOGPAW, the City completed a community survey to gauge interest from residents in a new off-leash dog park. The park survey had great participation – 765 responses – of which 90% would like to have a dog park in Camas. We’ll continue our partnership with DOGPAW to plan next steps and fundraise to get this project off the ground in 2024.
- Crown Park – On Dec. 4, 2023, City Council directed staff to move the entire park improvement project to bidding phase; and on Dec. 18, Council approved the request for owner-furnished equipment purchase which includes the bathroom, playground equipment and nature play equipment. Project groundbreaking will be in 2024.
- S. Lacamas Creek Trailhead – On Dec. 18, Council approved the request for owner-furnished equipment purchase of the bathroom. Project groundbreaking will be in 2024.



Reflecting On 2023, Moving Forward in 2024

In closing, 2023 was truly a year for the Commission and Department to celebrate our accomplishments and progress implementing the PROS Plan. The strong partnership and collaboration between the Department and Commission has helped us to achieve many of our 2023 goals and provide significant opportunities and value to Camas residents and visitors. The parks and recreation system is a reflection of our community’s needs and desires. We continue to listen and learn from the Camas community and encourage those interested in our parks and recreation system to attend our monthly Commission meeting, or reach out to the Department with their questions, comments, feedback or even kudos. We look forward to the continued support and engagement of the City Council and liaisons to the commission, commissioners and City staff.