



PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION

2021 ANNUAL REPORT

(with highlights of 2020 accomplishments)

COMMISSIONERS:

Cassi Marshall
Steve Lorenz, Chair
Jason Irving, Vice-Chair

Brittany Grahn
David Dewey

Katy Daane
Ellen Burton

CITY COUNCIL LIAISONS:

Shannon Roberts Tim Hein

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Parks & Recreation Commission (Commission) did not present a 2020 annual report to City Council. Though 2021 continued to be disrupted by the pandemic, the Commission continued their work via virtual meetings. Per Camas Municipal Code, Chapter 2.28.060 – Annual Report, we are please to present this report which provides a snapshot of the Commission’s and the Parks & Recreation Department’s work in 2021 and highlights of accomplishments in 2020.



Graphic illustration of Commission accomplishments in the past couple of years



Key Highlights of 2020:

- Randy Curtis – A special Thank You to Randy Curtis for his eight years of service on the Commission. Randy served from December 2012 – December 2020.
- Legacy Lands – The City of Camas complete acquisition of all Legacy Land parcels, totaling 165 acres.
- Parks growth and funding assessment – The Commission completed preliminary analysis on other funding sources for Camas’ growing park and recreation system, including evaluation of Metropolitan Parks District as a tool. This important work is a great starting place as the City explores funding options to implement the updated 2022 Parks, Recreation and Open Space (PROS) Plan.

Key Highlights of 2021:

- Two new Parks & Recreation Commissioners were appointed by the Mayor in 2021.
- The new Parks & Recreation Director start in late January 2021.
- With the lens of ‘safety for all’ and under the state’s COVID-19 Healthy Washington Reopening plan and guidelines, Camas steadily rolled out its recreation programs, special events and facilities rentals in Spring 2021. Here are a few highlights:

Recreation Programs:

| | | |
|---|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Summer Free Pop-Ups Classes in the Park | 85 participants | 5 classes |
| Summer Free Self-Defense Classes | 99 participants | 1 senior & 4 all-ages classes |
| Youth and Adult Classes | 126 classes 1,464 participants | Soft opening in May |

Special Events:

| | | |
|------------------------|---|---|
| 7 Live Events | 5099 total participants (3000 attending Hometown Holidays) | \$5,297 Cash Donations/Spon. \$5,150 In-Kind Donations |
| 2 Activity Bags Events | 800 Easter Bags & 500 Halloween Bags | |

Other Donations:

| | |
|----------------------------------|---|
| Partners with Camas P&R | \$380 Grants for senior scholarships \$600 Funding for free women’s self-defense class \$12,892 Skate Park improvements |
| Parks Foundation of Clark County | \$3,444 Grants for scholarships |
| Instructor services | \$1,511 Free pop-up classes in the park \$2,475 Free self-defense classes |

Facilities Rentals:

| Facility | Lacamas Lodge | Fallen Leaf | Community Ctr. |
|---------------|---------------|-------------|----------------|
| Total Reserv. | 336 | 70 | 599 |
| # No Fee | 0 | 0 | 113 |
| # Classes | 280 | 23 | 463 |
| # Rentals | 56 | 47 | 23 |
| Total Revenue | \$55,060 | \$10,240 | \$6,237 |

- With COVID-19 safety measures in place, our volunteers and partners were able to accomplish 1358 volunteer hours, with the Ivy League cleanups drawing the most volunteers.
- The City of Camas completed the acquisition of 115-acres of forested land known as Green Mountain.
- The Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan update was initiated in March 2021 with Plan adoption anticipated in March 2022. The Commission served as the Project Advisory Committee to provide feedback throughout the year. Plan update process includes:



Phase 1: Data Gathering & Community Input

Phase 2: Building the Plan with continued Community Input

Phase 3: Plan Adoption

Spring/Summer 2021

Gather community feedback through a community-wide survey and hold stakeholder discussions, tabling events, and an online open house.

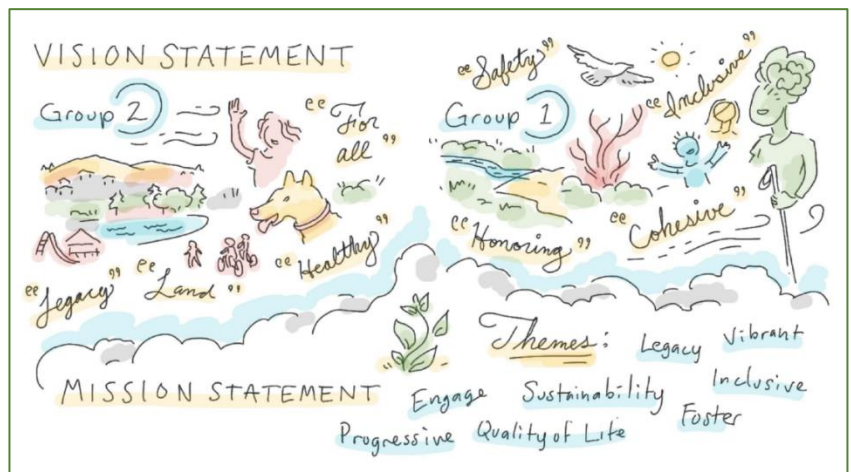
Summer/Fall 2021

Create the draft PROS Plan update, which will be shared with the community through a second online open house.

Winter 2021/2022

Incorporate community feedback into the final draft of the PROS Plan update and present to City Council for approval.

- As part of the annual Commission retreat, the Commission took the opportunity to update the department's Vision and Mission statements to reflect what we heard from the Camas community through the PROS Plan community engagement process.





- Review of Municipal Code Chapter 2.28.050 (Parks & Recreation Commission Duties and Responsibilities) and Chapter 12.32 (Parks Rules and Regulations). Recommendations to City Council will be presented in Spring/Summer 2022.
- Motions taken by the Commission included the following:

| MEETING DATE | MOTION |
|--------------|--|
| March 24th | A motion was made by Marshall, seconded by Irving, and carried to vote Steve Lorenz as Chair and Jason Irving as Vice Chair of the Parks & Recreation Commission for 2021. |
| April 28th | Lower Lacamas Creek Riparian, Phase I: A motion was made by Dewey, seconded by Grahn, and carried to accept the Lower Columbia Fish Enhancement Grant application as presented. A motion was made by Lorenz, seconded by Marshall, and carried to draft a letter in support of the Lower Columbia Fish Enhancement Project grant application . |
| | Recreational Water Access Safety: A motion was made by Grahn, seconded by Irving, and carried to make a recommendation to City Council to create a warning and educational sign at Lacamas Park Trail Bridge . |
| August 3rd | NW 38 TH Ave. Improvements, Grass Valley driveway: A motion was made by Marshall, seconded by Irving, and carried to direct the Director to send a letter to WSDOT to confirm that the impacts will be temporary and de minimis in scope . |
| | Chapter 2.28.050, Parks & Recreation Commission Duties and Responsibilities: A motion was made by Lorenz, seconded by Dewey, and carried to approval the recommended edits as drafted and directing the Director to move the recommendations of Code changes to City Council for approval . |
| December 8th | New Parks & Recreation Vision and Mission Statements: A motion was made by Burton, seconded by Grahn, and carried unanimously to accept the Vision statement as written and to change the word “strengthen” to “improve” in the Mission statement then approve as written . |
| | A motion was made by Dewey, seconded by Burton, and carried unanimously to accept option “A” as the new location for the WWII Memorial at Crown Park . |
| | Heritage Park Concession Agreement: A motion was made by Grahn, seconded by Marshall, and carried to approve the 3- year contract with Sweetwater Concession . |



Other Key 2021 Projects/Programs Presentations, Discussions and Update:

- Water Safe Pilot Campaign – In partnership with the Camas School District, P&R piloted an educational communication campaign to families to promote water safety in and around bodies of water. The campaign also included “Be Safe” signage at the Lacamas Trail Bridge and other popular bodies of water.
- Lower Lacamas Creek Restoration Grant – Lower Columbia Fish Enhancement Group applied for and was awarded funding from Clark County Clean Water Restoration Fund to improve riparian conditions and restore natural processes to approx. 9 acres of flood plain (shared by the Lacamas Creek and Washougal River), along the Washougal River Greenway trail. Project implementation will start in 2022.
- Dog Park – East county currently does not have a dog park where our furry family members can recreate off-leash. Parks staff and Commissioners from the Cities of Camas and Washougal completed several site tours in both cities and agreed that a vacant lot, owned by the City of Washougal, adjacent to the Washougal City Hall was the best location to launch the first dog park. City of Washougal plans to implement in 2022.
- Lakes Management Plan – The three lakes are an asset to Camas, and while the City does not own the lakes it has stepped up to lead the effort to complete the Lakes Management Plan. Led by Public Works, with Parks & Recreation staff on the project team, Phase 1 of the Lake Management Plan kicked off in 2021 with Phase 2 kicking off in early 2022.
- Crown Park – In November 2021, Council approved the implementation of the Crown Park Master Plan, with direction to provide flexibility for alignment with the to be adopted 2022 PROS Plan and additional funding opportunities. These considerations will be factored into the project scope, with a contract recommendation going to Council in early 2022. In addition, as noted above in the motions table, the Commission approved the relocation of the Mill’s WWII Memorial to Crown Park.