

**DRAFT**

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# **PARKS, RECREATION & OPEN SPACE PLAN**

City of Camas

February 2022





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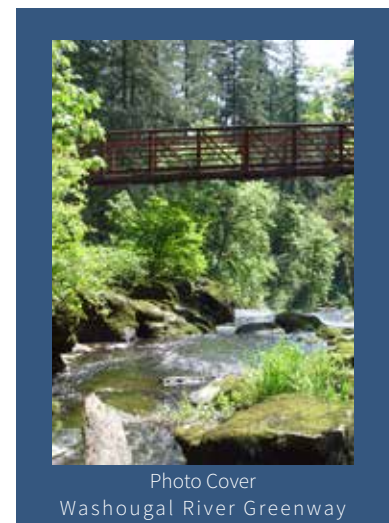


Photo Cover  
Washougal River Greenway

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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# 2022 PROS Plan

## MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Core to our city, our community, and our residents are the parks, open spaces, forested lands, and recreational system that you've had a hand in building and growing. These treasured amenities compel stewardship as a core value, create great places, and engage our community to be active and healthy. It has been my great honor to start my tenure as Camas Parks & Recreation Director by working with the community, Parks and Recreation Commission, City Council, Planning Commission, City staff and the consultant team to develop this Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan that will help guide the City and the Parks and Recreation Department over the next 6+ years to maintain, care for and grow this beautiful system we call home. Please join me on the trail to accomplishing our shared vision for Camas.

Trang K. Lam, Parks & Recreation Director

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# Executive Summary

The City of Camas owns and manages over 1,000 acres of parks and open spaces, which supports a range of active and passive recreation experiences. The park and recreation system provides developed parks with playgrounds, public waterfront access sites, active recreational facilities for team sports, a skate park and 12 miles of walking paths and trails.

Additionally, recreation facilities and services available within Camas are a major community asset and support the physical, mental and social health of community members. Camas residents can also access additional parks, trails, open spaces and recreational facilities provided by Clark County, the Camas School District, the Port of Camas-Washougal, and the cities of Washougal and Vancouver.

This Parks, Recreation and Open Space (PROS) Plan is a six-year guide and strategic plan for managing and enhancing park and recreation services in Camas. It establishes a path forward for providing high quality, community-driven parks, trails, open spaces and recreational opportunities. The Plan proposes updates to service standards for parks and trails and addresses goals, action items and other management considerations toward the continuation of quality recreation opportunities to benefit the residents of Camas.

Camas is preparing for continued growth, with a forecasted 2035 population of approximately 34,100. New investments in parks and recreation will be necessary to meet the needs of the community, support youth development, expand opportunities for inclusion, provide options for residents to lead healthy, active lives, and foster greater social and community connections.

This Plan was developed with the input and direction of Camas residents. The Plan inventories and evaluates existing park and recreation areas, assesses the needs for acquisition, site development







and operations, and offers specific policies and recommendations to achieve the community’s goals. Through a robust and COVID-sensitive community engagement process, the Community feedback can be synthesized into three core, community priorities:

- Maintain what we have,
- Fill gaps and improve trail connections, and
- Develop and improve existing park.

With these key community priorities in mind and thorough data driven evaluation of the system, the following Plan findings and recommendations will help Camas meet its growth sustainably:

## MAINTAIN WHAT WE HAVE

Mindful stewardship of over 1,000 acres of parks and open spaces will require strengthening of maintenance and operational approaches. Specifically, the Plan recommends the preparation of a system-wide Open Space Management Plan to guide City staff in the care, maintenance and stewardship of open space, along with an Urban Forestry Management Plan to examine the health and coverage of the urban forest. These two plans should define an implementation program that effectively carries out the maintenance and operations strategies outlined in the plans.

## FILL GAPS AND IMPROVE TRAIL CONNECTIONS & DEVELOP AND IMPROVE EXISTING PARKS

The Plan includes a modest acquisition program to secure strategically located sites for future parks and/or trail corridors. To connect Camas’ residents to destinations throughout the City and provide healthy and safe options for walking and bicycling, the Plan recommends additional trail development, and trail connections including sidewalk and bike lane improvements, along with coordination with local subdivision and site development projects for smaller scale linkages.

Serving existing and future residents will require improvements to existing parks and additional investments in the park, trail and recreation system. To ensure existing and new parks provide desired recreational amenities and offer safe and accessible opportunities to play and gather, the PROS Plan recommends investments throughout the park system to enhance accessibility, safety and usability of park features. Recommended projects include an all-inclusive play area, water feature, pump track, sport field enhancements and mountain bike trails.

## IMPLEMENTING THE PLAN

The City has built an amazing system of developed parks, trails and open spaces. Per capita, the Camas community enjoys more park land and trail miles than other similarly sized cities. In the last decade, the City has been fortunate to add nearly 463 acres into its system. Despite flat staffing levels since 2010, developed parks have been well maintained; however, park amenities are aging out of their life cycle and levels of service for maintenance of open space have not kept up with acquisition. The City currently relies on Park Impact Fees (PIF), Real Estate Excise Taxes (REET), grants, donations, and general and special revenue funds to finance individual projects or programs. Periodically updating the existing PIF program, which assesses fees on new development to meet the increased demand for parks, will allow the City to obtain future acquisition and development funding from residential development. Dedicated, new funding will be required to finance maintenance and operations, upgrades to, and growth in the parks system to meet community needs.

The Camas community is reaching a size that will result in greater public demand for major facilities investments such as a recreation center with aquatics programs and a sports field complex, which will require additional public and policy conversations. Bond or levy will be needed to augment existing revenue to support major investments such as parkland acquisitions and development, trail development, recreational facilities, waterfront opportunities and general park element upgrades. Such mechanisms would require both political and public support. State and federal grant programs offer additional potential opportunities to leverage available local revenues to fund specific projects.









## CHAPTER 1

# A Thriving CAMAS



*When my kids were young, activities such as the Easter Egg Hunt and Boo Bash were important as was safe, accessible and fun playground equipment. Without children in our household, I'm more interested in trails, both walking and biking.*

- Online Open House participant



## PURPOSE OF THE PLAN

**T**he City of Camas Parks, Recreation & Open Space Plan (PROS Plan) is an update to the 2014 Parks, Recreation & Open Space Plan that builds on the previously completed planning work and incorporates the feedback from an extensive community engagement process conducted throughout 2021. This Plan creates a vision for a thriving, inclusive, and interconnected system of parks, trails, and open space that promotes recreation, health,





Photo: Paul Newmann

environmental conservation, and fiscal responsibility as integral elements of a thriving, livable Camas.

The PROS Plan serves as a blueprint for the growth, enhancement, and management of the City of Camas park and recreation system and assists in guiding decisions related to planning, acquiring, developing, and maintaining parks, open space, trails, and recreational facilities. This Plan also identifies priorities for recreation programs and special events.

The 2022 PROS Plan provides updated system inventories, demographic conditions, needs analyses, and a comprehensive capital project list. The Plan identifies parks and recreation goals and establishes a long-range plan for the Camas park and recreation system, including action items and strategies for implementation over the next six to ten years. The recommendations in this Plan are based on community input, evaluations of the existing park system, operating conditions, and fiscal considerations.

The PROS Plan is part of the City's broader Comprehensive Plan and is consistent with the guidelines established by the Washington State's Growth Management Act. The PROS Plan, updated approximately every six years, allows Camas to remain current with community interests and retain eligibility for state grants through the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO), which administers various grant programs for outdoor recreation and conservation efforts.

## PLANNING PROCESS

This PROS Plan represents the culmination of a year-long planning effort, and it reflects the community's interests and needs for parks, open space, trails, and programming - balanced with the realities of budget considerations. The planning process, which included a variety of public outreach activities, encouraged public engagement to inform the development of the priorities and future direction of Camas' park and recreation system. Community members expressed their interests through surveys, an online open house, stakeholder interviews, focus group discussions, tabling at events, online outreach, Parks and Recreation Commission meetings, and City Council meetings.

In addition to community engagement, the actions identified in this Plan are based on:

- An inventory and assessment of the City's existing park and recreation facilities to establish the system's current performance and to identify needed maintenance and capital repair and replacement projects, and
- Service level and walkability assessments to quantify the system's ability to serve current and future residents.

The Plan's capital facilities section and accompanying implementation and funding strategies are intended to sustain and enhance, preserve, and steward the City's critical parks and recreation infrastructure.

## DEPARTMENT OVERVIEW

The City of Camas Parks and Recreation Department (Department) provides and manages a wide range of places that provide year-round active and passive recreational opportunities for residents and visitors. The Department develops, operates and maintains:

- 16 developed parks, including Fallen Leaf Lake Park
- A variety of outdoor recreation facilities, ranging from playgrounds and picnic areas to boating and water access points, to sports facilities like the Camas Skate Park and Prune Hill Sports Park
- Three indoor recreation and community gathering facilities – the Camas Community Center, Lacamas Lake Lodge, and Scout Hall
- 12 miles of City trails
- Over 1,060 acres of parks and open space

The Department also provides special events and recreational programs – including sports instruction, arts and crafts, and general education programs – for residents of all ages, often in partnership with local businesses.

### Guided by Values

As part of this PROS Plan update, the Parks and Recreation Commission took the opportunity to update the Department's vision and mission statements to reflect current community input. The vision and mission statements, along with the PROS Plan goals, will guide the Department's work in the coming years.

#### 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.*

#### 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.*

### Accomplishments Since the 2014 Plan

The 2014 PROS Plan guided City officials, management, and staff in making decisions about planning, operating, and implementing various parks and recreation services. The following represents a short list of the major accomplishments realized following the adoption of the previous Plan:

- Opened the Lacamas Lake Lodge and Conference Center
- Prepared a site master plan to guide renovations to Fallen Leaf Lake Park
- Completed the first phase of field and site improvements for the Prune Hill Sports Park
- Constructed the Cooper's View Neighborhood Park
- Prepared a site master plan to guide renovations to Crown Park
- Acquired multiple properties along the north shore of Lacamas Lake, also known as Legacy Lands, (165 acres) and forest land at Green Mountain (115 acres)



## Parks & Recreation Commission

Additionally, the efforts of the Department are guided by the Parks and Recreation Commission, a seven-member advisory group to the City Council. The Commission meets monthly to provide guidance and give recommendations on policy and issues relating to the delivery of parks and recreation services. The Commissioners are appointed by the Mayor and subject to confirmation by the City Council for three year terms.

## CURRENT CHALLENGES

### Impacts of the COVID-19 Pandemic

The COVID-19 pandemic and the associated health mandates for social distancing have transformed the way municipalities plan for and conduct public engagement. To develop this Plan, the City implemented a sound public process that was compliant with health mandates by using a range of online tools for communications, engagement and community feedback.

Health mandates related to the pandemic also had dramatic impacts on the City's recreation programming and operations, requiring the temporary closure of some facilities, capacity and use restrictions, and the cancellation of recreation programming. However, with improvements in local caseloads, Camas has now begun to offer in-person recreation programs and community events.

### Equity, Inclusivity & Accessibility

Much has been written lately about the subject of equity and inclusion. Maintaining and enhancing social equity across recreational opportunities and facilities should be a core function of municipal park and recreation systems. Through this PROS Plan, the City of Camas made a concerted effort to reach out to and engage its historically underrepresented communities, and the City also invested in a dual language community survey to include Spanish.

Also, portions of the City's parks, trails and open space system were developed before the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) was implemented. The conditions assessment identified several deficiencies related to ADA compliance. The City must continue to find ways to provide safe and



equitable access to parks, trails, open space areas, facilities, recreation programs and other services.

### Growth & Development

Over the past ten years, Camas has seen rapid population growth, which is expected to continue over the coming decade. More residents and new development will increase the need for recreational spaces and experiences across the city and increase the use of existing parks and facilities. Rapid growth will also intensify existing community needs for safe and accessible walking and biking routes as well as the preservation of open space and natural resources. In response, the City should consider ways to improve recreation facilities and parks to adapt to emerging needs, complete critical connections in the City's extensive trail network, and proactively acquire or preserve parks and open spaces in strategic areas.

### Asset Management

Established park and recreation systems require ongoing maintenance to serve the community safely and effectively. Public recreation providers across the country consider maintaining existing park facilities to be a key management issue. Poorly maintained assets – from benches to playgrounds to pools – can fail, either structurally or operationally, posing safety risks and reducing their recreational value. Aging infrastructure may also fail to meet community expectations or need capital upgrades to adapt to changing community needs. However, recreation providers often struggle to establish adequate funding mechanisms for routine and preventative maintenance and repair of facilities as well as the major rehabilitation and replacement of existing recreation facilities at the end of their useful life.

This Plan includes condition assessments of the City's parks and facilities to provide a baseline of current conditions that then informs facility, maintenance, and operations policies and improvements. Proper maintenance of park and recreation assets will prevent them from deteriorating thereby reducing long-term capital and operating costs, maintaining safety, improving public perception and increasing community use.

### Active Older Adults

The City of Camas' relatively older population, low rates of disability among residents over 65, and high rates of participation among residents of all ages, indicate a potential local need for active recreation opportunities for active older adults. Nationwide, active seniors are often looking at retirement age differently, and many are transitioning to new careers, finding ways to engage with their community, and focusing on their health and fitness. To meet the needs of active older residents, the City will need to consider how the City's park and recreation facilities and programming can meet the needs of this growing group.







## GUIDING DOCUMENTS

This PROS Plan is one of several documents that comprise Camas' long-range planning and policy framework. Past community plans and other relevant documents were reviewed for policy direction and goals as they relate to parks, open space, trails, and recreation opportunities across Camas.

- Comprehensive Plan Camas 2035
- City of Camas Strategic Plan
- Camas Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan (2014)
- City of Camas Transportation Plan
- Lacamas Lake Management Plan (under development)
- North Shore Lacamas Lake – A Vision for Conservation and Recreation (2017)
- Lewis & Clark Regional Trail Concept Plan (2020)
- Clark County Conservation Areas Acquisition Plan (2020)
- Clark County Parks, Recreation & Open Space Plan (2020)
- City of Washougal Comprehensive Parks & Recreation Plan (2021)

## CONTENTS OF THE PLAN

The remainder of the Camas PROS Plan is organized as follows:

- Chapter 2: Community Profile – provides an overview of the City of Camas and its demographics.
- Chapter 3: Community Engagement – highlights the methods used to engage the Camas community in developing the Plan.
- Chapter 4: Classifications & Inventory – describes the existing park and recreation system.
- Chapter 5: Parks & Trails
- Chapter 6: Open Space & Stewardship
- Chapter 7: Recreation & Events
- Chapter 8: Operations & Maintenance
- Chapter 9: Goals & Objectives – provides a policy framework for the park and recreation system grouped by major functional areas and goal themes.
- Chapter 10: Capital Planning & Implementation – details a 6-year program for addressing park and recreation facility enhancements, maintenance, or expansion projects.
- Appendices: Provides technical or supporting information to the planning effort and includes survey summaries, focus group notes, recreation trends, and funding options, among others.

# Community PROFILE

Situated in the eastern, hilly portion of Clark County, the City of Camas offers many amenities for the community including a quaint yet vibrant downtown, First Friday evening family events, a beautiful public library, summer farmer’s market on Wednesdays, Lacamas Lake and miles of surrounding trails to walk, and much more.

The City of Camas is located along the Columbia River and State Route 14 in southwestern Washington. Incorporated in 1906, Camas is now home to 26,065 residents. Camas prides itself on its small-town character, vibrant downtown, safe residential neighborhoods, and an abundance of open space and trails.

Most of the City is developed with single family homes interspersed with forested green spaces. The City’s historic downtown attracts locals and tourists while major employers, including many high-tech manufacturers, provide employment opportunities for city and regional residents. The City is bordered to the east by the City of Washougal and by the City of Vancouver to the west. Camas is located just 20 miles from downtown Portland, Oregon.

The City of Camas provides a wide range of government services and is dedicated to maintaining the community’s family-friendly character while providing sustainable economic growth and preserving the city’s access to nature. The City’s parks, open spaces, trails, and recreational opportunities are highly valued – for recreation, respite, and their ecosystem values.





A photograph of a natural area. The foreground is filled with tall green grass and numerous purple flowers, possibly wildflowers or lupines, in various stages of bloom. The background shows a dense line of trees with dark trunks and green foliage, slightly out of focus. The lighting is bright, suggesting a sunny day.

”

I love the walking trails through the natural areas SO MUCH!! Would love to have more of them connected.

- Online Open House participant

## DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE

Camas is a city of over 26,000 residents and has tripled in population over the past thirty years. The city is home to many families with children, see Figure 1. The City’s residents are generally very well educated and have higher incomes than other county residents. Many are employed

in the education, health care, professional, or manufacturing sectors, including at the multiple technology companies located in Camas. Residents also commute to other areas of the Portland-Vancouver metropolitan region for work.

Figure 1. Population Characteristics: Camas, Clark County, and Washington

Demographics	Camas	Clark County	Washington
<b>Population Characteristics</b>			
Population (2020)	<b>26,065</b>	503,311	7,705,281
Population (2010)	<b>19,355</b>	426,709	6,724,540
Population (2000)	<b>12,534</b>	347,510	5,894,121
Percent Change (2000-20)	<b>100.0%</b>	45.0%	31.0%
Persons w/ Disabilities (%)	<b>9.1%</b>	12.3%	12.7%
<b>Household Characteristics</b>			
Households	<b>9,234</b>	195,036	3,202,241
Percent with children	<b>45.1%</b>	33.8%	30.6%
Median Household Income	<b>\$111,584</b>	\$75,253	\$73,775
Average Household Size	<b>2.81</b>	2.69	2.55
Average Family Size	<b>3.16</b>	3.15	3.09
Owner Occupancy Rate	<b>77.7%</b>	67.0%	63.0%
<b>Age Groups</b>			
Median Age	<b>40.2</b>	38.4	37.7
Population < 5 years of age	<b>5.6%</b>	6.2%	6.1%
Population < 18 years of age	<b>28.5%</b>	24.3%	22.2%
Population 18 - 64 years of age	<b>59.6%</b>	60.7%	62.7%
Population > 65 years of age	<b>11.9%</b>	15.0%	15.1%

Sources: Washington Office of Financial Management Population Estimates, 2020  
U.S. Census, 2000 Census, 2010 Census, 2015-2019 American Community Survey

### Population and Anticipated Growth

The City of Camas incorporated in 1906 and grew slowly through most of the 20th century, see Figure 2. However, the completion of the Interstate 205 bridge and the opening of Hewlett Packard and Tektronix plants in the mid-1980s spurred rapid growth. Between 1990 and 2000, Camas’ population nearly doubled, from 6,442 to 12,534 residents. Continued economic expansion in the technology industry, expansion of the city limits through annexation, and the City’s proximity to the growing Portland, Oregon and Vancouver, Washington have spurred steady growth in the past two decades. In

2020, Camas was home to about 26,065 residents and makes up about 5% of the total population of Clark County. Annual population growth has averaged over 5% per year over the past forty years. The Camas 2035 Comprehensive Plan projects that the city will grow to about 34,100 people by 2035, equivalent to about 2.05% annual growth over that period.

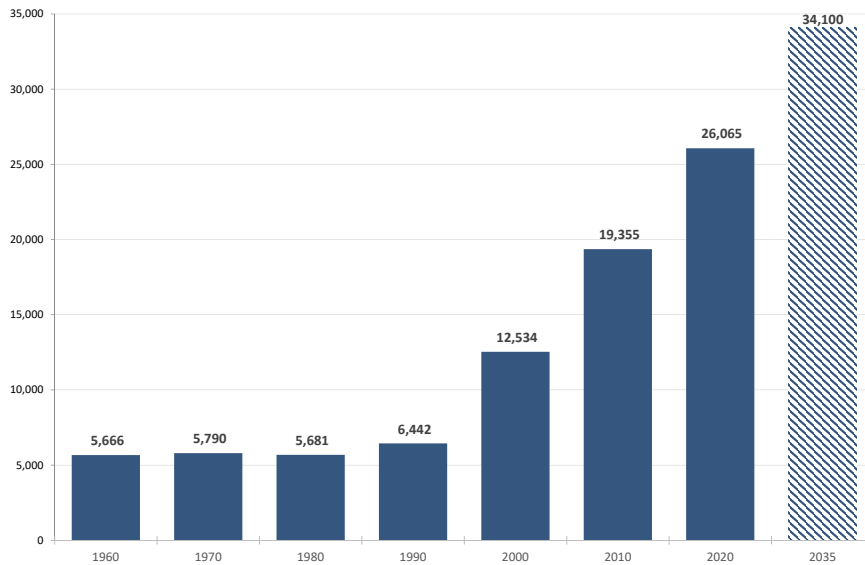
In 2020, Camas was home to 9,235 households of which 45% were families with children under 18, and 36% were individuals living alone. The 2019 average household size in Camas was 2.81 people, which is quite a bit larger than that of the county (2.69) and state (2.55).



The size of a community and its anticipated growth over time are key indicators of whether existing park and recreation facilities will be sufficient to meet future needs. Population growth can also result in increased residential density and/or the development of currently vacant land within a city, potentially increasing the need for away-from-home

recreation opportunities while simultaneously reducing potential locations for park and open space acquisition. Advanced planning for parks and recreation facilities can help ensure residents can enjoy sufficient, conveniently located parks, open space, and recreation facilities while the community grows and evolves.

Figure 2. Population – Actual and Projected: 1970-2040



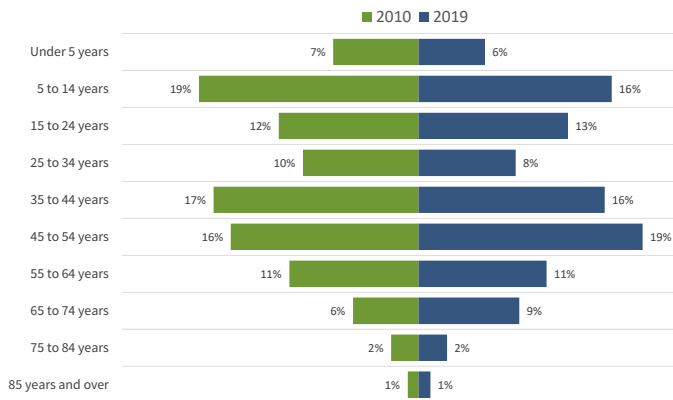
## Age Group Distribution

Camas has a median age of 40 (2019), older than that of the county (38.4) and state (37.7). The City also has a relatively high population of families with children (45%). These demographics have important implications for park and recreation needs. Adults between 40 to 59 years old make up the city’s largest 20-year population group, comprising 35% of the overall population in 2019, see Figure 3.

While just over one-third of residents are youth and young adults up to 24 years of age, 43% are 25 to 54 years old, and 23% are 55 and older.

- Youth under 5 years of age make up 5.6% of Camas’ population, see Figure 3. This group represents users of preschool and tot programs and facilities, and, as trails and open space users, are often in strollers. These individuals are the future participants in youth activities.
- Children ages 5 to 14 years make up current youth program, whole-family program, and event participants. Approximately 16% of the city’s population falls into this age range.
- Teens and young adults, age 15 to 24 years, are in transition from youth programs to adult programs and participate in teen/young adult programs where available. Members of this age group are often seasonal employment seekers. About 13% of city residents are teens and young adults.
- Adults ages 25 to 34 years are users of adult programs. Approximately 8% of residents are in this age category. These residents may be entering long-term relationships and establishing families.
- Adults between 35 and 54 years of age represent users of a wide range of adult programs and park facilities. Their characteristics extend from having children using preschool and youth programs to becoming empty nesters. This age group makes up 35% of the city’s population.
- Older adults, ages 55 years plus, make up approximately 23% of Camas’ population. This group represents users of adult and senior programs. These residents may be approaching retirement or already retired and may be spending time with grandchildren. This group also ranges from very healthy, active seniors to more physically inactive seniors.

Figure 3. Age Group Distributions: 2010 & 2019



### Race and Ethnicity

According to the 2019 American Community Survey, Camas residents identified as 84% White, 8% Asian, 6% as two or more races, and less than 1% Black or African American, American Indian or Alaskan Native, Pacific Islander, or another race. Approximately 5% of people identified as Hispanic or Latino of any race. Camas’ low level of racial diversity is on par with that of Clark County, where 85% of residents identify as White. Camas’ population has become only modestly more diverse over the past decade, see Figure 4.

Figure 4. Changes in Racial Composition - 2000 to 2019

Racial Identification	2010	2019
White	87.4%	83.6%
Asian	6.0%	8.2%
Two or more races	3.6%	6.0%
Some other race	1.2%	0.4%
Black or African American	1.0%	0.8%
American Indian and Alaska Native	0.6%	0.9%
Native Hawaiian & Other Pacific Islander	0.2%	0.1%
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	4.1%	4.9%

In 2019, approximately 11% of Camas’ population spoke a language other than English at home; Asian and Pacific Island languages and other Indo-European languages comprise the largest non-English language groups. However, less than 3% of residents speak English ‘less than very well’. Camas has a smaller percentage of people who speak a language other than English at home than compared to Clark County as a whole (15%).

### Persons with Disabilities

The 2019 American Community Survey reported 9.1% (2,092 persons) of Camas’ population aged 5 years and older as having a disability that interferes with life activities. This is lower than the county (12.3%) and state average (12.7%). Approximately 8% of residents between 18 and 64 have a disability. Among residents 65 and older, the percentage rises to 25%, which is lower than the percentage found in the general senior population of Washington State (35%).

Nationally, the design and marketing of municipal recreation programs have also historically been biased against serving communities of color. In addition, residents who speak languages other than English may face barriers in finding, accessing, and participating in park and recreation facilities and programs. Camas should consider how it could best provide recreational opportunities, programs, and information that are accessible and relevant to, and meet the needs of, all community members.

Planning, designing, and operating a park system that facilitates participation by residents of all abilities will help ensure compliance with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). In addition to ADA, there are other accommodations that people with disabilities may need to access parks and participate in recreation programs. Camas should consider community needs for inclusive and accessible parks, recreational facilities, programs, marketing, and communications.



## Employment & Education

According to the 2019 American Community Survey, the 2019 work force population of Camas was 17,743 (76%). Of this population, 68% is in the labor force, 2% is unemployed, and 32% is not in the labor force. Nearly 60% of employed residents work in a management, business, science, or arts occupation. One quarter of employed residents work the education or health care industries, while another 15% work in the professional/management industries. The manufacturing sector also employs a large percentage of local workers (approximately 13%).

Approximately 29% of Camas residents over age 25 have a bachelor's degree or higher, and 82% have at least some college education. This level of education attainment is higher than that of Clark County and the state (in which 68% and 69% of residents have some college, respectively). Additionally, 95% of city residents have a high school degree or higher, approximately four percentage points higher than the statewide average.

Higher levels of employment and educational attainment positively correlate with both the income and health status of a community – both of which have further impacts on the use and need for park and recreation facilities, as described in the next two sections.

## Income & Poverty

A community's level of household income can impact the types of recreational services prioritized by community members, as well as their willingness and ability to pay for recreational services. Perhaps more importantly, household income is closely linked with levels of physical activity. Low-income households are three times more likely to live a sedentary lifestyle than middle and upper-income households, according to an analysis of national data by the Active Living by Design organization.

In 2019, the median household income in Camas was \$111,584. This income level was about 50% higher than the median income for Clark County (\$75,253) and Washington households (\$73,775).

Higher income households have an increased ability and willingness to pay for recreation and leisure services, and they often face fewer barriers to participation. Approximately 56% of city households have incomes in the higher income brackets

(\$100,000 and greater), which is significantly more than across the state (36%).

At the lower end of the household income scale, approximately 6% percent of Camas households earn less than \$25,000 annually, significantly fewer than households in Clark County (13%), the State of Washington (15%), and across the United States (23%). In 2019, less than 2% of the city's families were living below the poverty level, set at an income of \$25,750 for a family of four. This percentage is lower than the countywide (approximately 5.8%) and statewide (7%) levels. Poverty affects 3% of youth under 18 and 4% of those 65 and older.

Generally, lower-income residents may face barriers to physical activity, including reduced access to parks and recreational facilities, a lack of transportation options, a lack of time, and poor health. Low-income residents may also be less financially able to afford recreational service fees or to pay for services, such as childcare, that can make physical activity possible.

## Health Status

The overall health of a community's residents can impact their ability to participate in recreation and other physical activity and may also reflect, in part, the locality's level of access to appropriate and convenient green spaces, recreation opportunities, and active transportation facilities.

Information on the health of Camas residents was not immediately available. However, according to the County Health Rankings, Clark County ranks in the highest quartile of Washington counties for health outcomes, including length and quality of life.

Clark County residents also rank as some of the healthiest residents in Washington (high middle quartile) when it comes to health behaviors. Only 18% of Clark County adults ages 20 and older report getting no leisure-time physical activity – on par than the statewide average of 17%. This may be due, in part, to the large number of places to participate in physical activity, including parks and public or private community centers, gyms, or other recreational facilities. Over 96% of residents in Clark County have access to adequate physical activity opportunities, more than the 88% average for all Washington residents. However, approximately 29% of Clark County adults are overweight or obese, compared to 27% of Washington adults.

CHAPTER 3

# Community LISTENING

Community engagement played an essential role in developing the 2022 PROS Plan. Although the planning process occurred during the COVID-19 pandemic, numerous efforts were made to connect with the community, seek their input and provide information about the project. Public outreach methods were varied and extensive, including:

- Random-sample mail survey
- Online community-wide survey in English and Spanish
- Two online open houses
- Stakeholder group discussions
- Individual stakeholder interviews
- Tabling and outreach at multiple community events
- Meetings with the Parks and Recreation Commission, Planning Commission and City Council
- Camas city website and Engage Camas online forum with interactive mapping tool, plan information and feedback opportunities
- Multiple social media postings, email blasts



Parks, Recreation & Open Space Comprehensive Plan







### Welcome to the City's online engagement platform!

We understand better decisions are made when our community provides input, and we want to make that easy. Contribute your ideas and take the opportunity to influence decision making on local issues and projects that matter to you.

[Join the Conversation](#)

### What's Happening in Camas - We Want to Hear From You!



**Parks, Recreation & Open Space Comprehensive Plan**



**Lacamas Lake Management Plan**

The City has begun a process to develop a Lake Management Plan



**Ask The City!**

Do you have a question for the City, or maybe you've heard something you want clarified? We

**Over 1,700 participants provided insights on current community preferences and priorities.**

### COMMUNITY SURVEY

A community-wide, online survey was conducted to assess the recreational needs and priorities of Camas residents. The City mailed 2,500 surveys to randomly chosen households in Camas on May 29, 2021, of which 509 surveys were completed and returned. Online versions of the survey in English and Spanish were posted to the City's website on June 4, 2021. An additional 874 surveys in English and two in Spanish were completed from the general, community-wide online surveys. In all, 1,385 surveys were completed.

Information about the survey was provided on the City's website and on the Engage Camas site for the PROS Plan project. It was promoted via public meeting announcements, multiple social media postings, city email blasts and an email blast through Camas School District mailing list. Print copies were made available at the Camas Library and the Camas School District Family Community Resource Center. Also, signage and flyers with QR codes were placed at numerous parks and local businesses.

The survey measured current levels of satisfaction and which facilities were primarily being used by residents. Residents were asked about future improvements and the types of recreational amenities they would like to see considered for the park system. Survey respondents were asked about:

- Performance and quality of programs and parks
- Usage of city parks and recreation facilities
- Overall satisfaction with the value of services being delivered by the city
- Opinions about the need for various park, recreation, and trail improvements
- Preference for learning about programs
- Priorities for future park and recreation services and facilities, including revenue generation and other funding tools

Significant survey findings are noted below, and a more detailed discussion of results can be found in the needs assessment chapters covering parks, open space, recreation, and trails (Chapters 6 - 8).

#### Major Survey Findings:

- **Livability:** Nearly all respondents (97%) feel that public parks and recreation opportunities are important or essential to the quality of life in Camas.
- **Usage:** Park visitation is high, with 88% of respondents visiting parks or recreation facilities at least once a month. The most popular activities are walking or running (80%), followed by fitness and exercise (70%), and relaxation (56%).
- **Park Amenity Priorities:** More than three in four respondents are very or somewhat supportive of adding walking trails (87%), updated (75%) and accessible (75%) playground features, and more picnic shelters (74%) to the City's existing parks. A plurality of survey respondents think that Camas does not have enough walking and biking trails (46%).
- **Recreation Facilities & Programming:** Respondents to both the mail and online survey ranked maintaining existing parks, expanding trail opportunities, building new parks, and acquiring land for future parks as their top priorities. More than half of survey respondents felt the City needed more outdoor adventure summer camps, teen activities, adult wellness classes, and programs for adults over 55.

The complete survey summary is provided in Appendix A.

## ONLINE OPEN HOUSE #1

The City hosted an online open house to share information about the Camas Parks, Recreation and Open Space (PROS) Plan Update with the public and dive deeper into survey responses to explore more about which park and recreation programs, services and facilities are important to them. More than 130 people visited the online open house from July 29 and August 22, 2021, and 74 community members provided responses in the online open house. The online open house was promoted via social media posts, community event tabling, email blasts and public meeting announcements.

#### Major Online Open House Findings:

- After-school and summer day camps, outdoor adventure camps and youth sport programs were strongly supported by respondents.
- Top park improvement priorities included building new parks on city-owned land, installing a splash pad and building additional shared-used trails.
- Other top improvements included acquiring and developing trail corridors to fill gaps and providing an off-leash dog area.

A summary of responses to the online open house is provided in Appendix B.

## STAKEHOLDER DISCUSSIONS

COVID-sensitive, online focus group discussions and individual interviews with external stakeholders were conducted to more broadly assess local needs and opportunities for partnership and coordination. Stakeholders were identified by city staff based on their past coordination, their involvement, or interest in the future of recreation, park, athletic or trail facilities. The group-based discussion sessions were conducted via Zoom and occurred between July 2020 and September 2021. Representatives from the following organizations participated:

Summary meeting notes from each focus group session are provided in Appendix C.



Figure 5. Stakeholder Group Participants

<b>Mountain Bike &amp; Pump Track Advocates</b>		<b>Sport Field User Groups</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Evergreen Mountain Bike Alliance</li> <li>■ Camas Bikes</li> <li>■ Local resident advocates</li> <li>■ Portland Parks &amp; Recreation</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Camas Little League</li> <li>■ Camas Lacrosse</li> </ul>
<b>Underrepresented Users Group</b>		<b>Bike &amp; Pedestrian Trail Users Group</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Clark County Commission on Aging</li> <li>■ Clark County Community Services</li> <li>■ Washington State School for the Blind</li> <li>■ SW Washington Center of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing</li> <li>■ Hispanic Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce of SW Washington</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Evergreen Mountain Bike Alliance</li> <li>■ Camas Ivy League</li> <li>■ All Weather Walkers</li> <li>■ Washington Trails Alliance</li> <li>■ Local volunteers</li> </ul>
<b>Public Agencies Group</b>		<b>Individual Interviews</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ City of Washougal</li> <li>■ City of Vancouver</li> <li>■ Clark County</li> <li>■ Port of Camas-Washougal</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Former City Administrator</li> <li>■ Former Mayor</li> <li>■ Local Land Development Representative</li> <li>■ Downtown Camas Association</li> </ul>

## ENGAGE CAMAS ONLINE FORUM

The City of Camas has implemented an integrated online engagement platform to their city website, called Engage Camas. The PROS Plan was a highlighted city project on Engage Camas, which included information about the plan update and public process, a video introducing the project, periodic updates and interim project documents, such as presentation materials and summaries from community outreach. Engage Camas was also a primary forum for community members to offer direct feedback, comments and questions. The PROS Plan page was maintained and updated through the duration of the project.

- Replace the play equipment at Grass Valley Park
- Provide parking on the north side of Lacamas Lake
- At Crown Park, consider new/updated programming to tie in with programs/activities to be offered at new Garfield Performing Arts Center, splash pad or kids pool, new restroom
- Consider a splash pad or community fountain, parking lot and picnic tables at Fallen Leaf Lake

## ONLINE INTERACTIVE MAPPING

On the Engage Camas project page, the public was provided an interactive map of Camas and given the opportunity to share which parks, trails, and open spaces they currently visit in Camas; where they think improvements need to be made; and what new things they would like to see offered in Camas’ park system. Eleven unique users submitted a total of 22 comments. A highlight of some of the comments follows:

## COMMUNITY EVENT TABLING

This section summarizes the feedback received at the three tabling events held in July and August to build awareness of the PROS Plan Update and share information about the project. Approximately 50 people were engaged at these events. Tabling was held at the following times and places:

- July 31st at Heritage Park from 10 a.m.-12 p.m. and 1 p.m. - 2 p.m.
- August 17th at Concert in the Park from 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
- August 18 at Camas Farmer’s Market from 3 p.m. - 7 p.m.

Community comments ranged from concerns about water quality at the lakes, to interest in an expanded trail network, to specific park improvements and enhanced communications from the City.

## ONLINE OPEN HOUSE #2

The City hosted a second online open house to share information and seek feedback on the public draft of the PROS Plan in January 2022. The online open house garnered a total of 136 survey responses and 923 site visits. The majority of participants (68%) believe the PROS Plan is on the right track. The two most common requests were for a bike park/pump track and new sports fields. Many respondents would like off road/mountain biking trails and turf and/or lights added to sport fields. A few other notable requests include adding a pool, creating more trail connections, and adding more bike lanes and trails.

## PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETINGS

The Parks and Recreation Commission provided feedback on the development of the PROS Plan during five regularly scheduled public sessions. The first session occurred on April 28, 2021, immediately after the planning project was initiated. The Commission discussed the update and provided their perspectives on a vision for the system, specific challenges, opportunities, and ideas about parks, trails and programs. The Commission spent significant effort reviewing and commenting on the PROS Plan public process, project priorities, and system-wide goals and strategies to implement improvement projects. Subsequent sessions in July, September (joint with Planning Commission), October, December 2021 and January 2022 (joint with Planning Commission) were used to review public feedback and solicit direction from the Commission on priorities and recommendations for the new PROS Plan.

## OTHER OUTREACH

In addition to the direct outreach opportunities described above, the Camas community was informed about the planning process through a variety of media platforms. The following methods were used to share information about the project and provide opportunities to participate and offer comments:

- City website home page
- PROS Plan project page on Engage Camas
- Email blasts to the Parks and Recreation distribution list
- Social media: Twitter & Facebook
- Media releases
- Announcements at Council and Parks & Recreation Commission public meetings
- Announcements at Stakeholder Focus Group meeting





# BENEFITS OF PARKS, RECREATION & OPEN SPACE

A number of organizations and non-profits have documented the overall health and wellness benefits provided by parks, open space and trails. The Trust for Public Land published a report called *The Benefits of Parks: Why America Needs More City Parks and Open Space*. This report makes the following observations about the health, economic, environmental, and social benefits of parks and open space:

- Physical activity makes people healthier.
- Physical activity increases with access to parks.
- Contact with the natural world improves physical and psychological health.
- Value is added to community and economic development sustainability.
- Benefits of tourism are enhanced.
- Trees are effective in improving air quality and assisting with stormwater control.
- Recreational opportunities for all ages are provided.



## Physical Activity Benefits

Residents in communities with increased access to parks, recreation, natural areas and trails have more opportunities for physical activity, both through recreation and active transportation. By participating in physical activity, residents can reduce their risk of being or becoming overweight or obese, decrease their likelihood of suffering from chronic diseases, such as heart disease and type-2 diabetes, and improve their levels of stress and anxiety. Nearby access to parks has been shown to increase levels of physical activity. According to studies cited in a 2010 report by the National Park and Recreation Association, the majority of people of all ages who visit parks are physically active during their visit. Also, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reports that greater access to parks leads to 25% more people exercising three or more days per week.



## Community Benefits

Park and recreation facilities provide opportunities to engage with family, friends, and neighbors, thereby increasing social capital and community cohesion, which can improve residents' mental health and overall well-being. People who feel that they are connected to their community and those who participate in recreational, community and other activities are more likely to have better mental and physical health and to live longer lives. Access to parks and recreational facilities has also been linked to reductions in crime, particularly juvenile delinquency.



## Economic Benefits

Parks and recreation facilities can bring positive economic impacts through increased property values, increased attractiveness for businesses and workers (quality of life), and through direct increases in employment opportunities.

In Washington, outdoor recreation generates \$26.2 billion in consumer spending annually, \$7.6 billion in wages and salaries, and \$2.3 billion in state and local tax revenue. Preserving access to outdoor recreation protects the economy, the businesses, the communities and the people who depend on the ability to play outside. According to the Outdoor Recreation Economy Report published by the Outdoor Industry Association, outdoor recreation can grow jobs and drive the economy through management and investment in parks, waters and trails as an interconnected system designed to sustain economic dividends for citizens.

## CHAPTER 4

# Classifications & INVENTORY



*Need to provide facilities for additional outdoor activities that create community connection and activity. With the number of sporting families, Camas lacks facilities that other communities provide.*

- Online Open House participant



**T**he City of Camas manages over 1,000 acres of parks and open space lands, providing several public waterfront access sites, active recreational facilities for team sports, several playgrounds, more than 12 miles of walking paths and trails, picnic areas, and hundreds of acres of natural forest lands.

## PARKLAND CLASSIFICATIONS

Parkland is classified to assist in planning for the community's recreational needs. The classifications also reflect standards that inform development decisions during site planning, in addition to operations and maintenance expectations for the level of developed facilities or natural lands. The Camas park system is composed of a hierarchy of

various park types, each offering recreational opportunities and natural environmental functions. Collectively, the park system is intended to serve the full range of community needs.

Each park classification defines the site's function and expected amenities and recreational uses. The classification characteristics serve as general guidelines addressing the size and use of each park type. The following six classifications are used in Camas' park system.



## Neighborhood Parks

Neighborhood parks provide close-to-home recreation opportunities. These parks provide both active and passive recreation opportunities for people living within approximately one-half mile of the park. Typical facilities found in a neighborhood park include playground equipment, picnic areas, open grass areas for passive use, outdoor basketball court, and multi-use open grass area for field sport practice. Dorothy Fox Park and Cooper's View Park are examples of typical neighborhood parks in Camas.

Neighborhood parks should be located and designed based on the scale and type of surrounding uses. During site master planning, parks in locations with higher residential density should be designed with more resilient features and facilities that can withstand more intensive use.

### Site Selection & Design:

- Neighborhood park sites should be 5 to 10 acres in size. The minimum size for neighborhood parks is 3 acres when land constraints do not allow a larger site.
- At least 50% of a neighborhood park site should be suitable for active uses.
- The site should have good visibility from surrounding streets and have a minimum of 200' of street frontage.
- The site should be relatively central to the area it is intended to serve (within about ½ mile of the intended users).
- The site should be accessible by walking, bicycling, or driving. Connections to the community trail network should be provided, where possible, to facilitate walking and bicycling. Sidewalks should be provided.
- Regional-scale facilities (e.g., large sports complex, community center, etc.) should not be provided



## Community Parks

Community parks are larger parks, typically between 10 and 30 acres, that provide a wide variety of recreation opportunities that appeal to the entire community. Typically, these sites are designed for active recreation, supported by facilities such as sport fields, outdoor courts, skate parks and recreation centers. Community parks can accommodate large numbers of people and offer a wider variety of facilities than neighborhood parks, such as disc golf, volleyball, tennis courts, dog parks, and group picnic areas. These parks also may serve as destination for access to water and large community events, and they may include significant natural areas and trails. For this reason, community parks require more support facilities, such as off-street parking and restrooms. Community parks can also serve as local neighborhood parks for their immediate areas, and they may be connected to schools or other community facilities. Prune Hill Sports Park and Crown Park are examples of community parks.



### Site Selection & Design:

- Community park sites should be 10 to 30 acres in size. The minimum size for community parks is 6 acres when land constraints do not allow a larger site.
- At least 30% of a community park site should be suitable for active uses.
- The site should have good visibility from surrounding streets and provide parking and restrooms.
- The site should be accessible by walking, bicycling, or driving. Connections to the trail network should be provided, where possible, to facilitate walking and bicycling. Sidewalks should be provided.
- Community parks should accommodate diverse active-use recreation, such as sport fields, sport courts and large playgrounds.

## Regional Parks

Regional parks may be provided by Camas and also are provided by Clark County - serving residents from throughout Clark County and beyond. Regional parks are usually larger than 50 acres in size and provide opportunities for diverse recreational activities. Facilities may include sports fields, extensive trail systems, or large picnic areas. In addition, regional parks often include passive recreation space and unique features, such as significant natural areas or access to lakes or rivers.



### Site Selection & Design:

- Regional park sites should be 50 to 200 acres in size. There is no minimum size for regional parks, since the size of the site relates to the uniqueness of the landscape or recreational experience provided.
- Regional parks should provide parking and restrooms.
- The site should be accessible by walking, bicycling, or driving. Connections to the trail network should be provided, where possible, to facilitate walking and bicycling.
- Regional parks may accommodate active-use recreation and/or passive uses such as trail walking or wildlife viewing. Specialized regional amenities may be provided, such as mountain biking trails, equestrian trails, and water access (e.g., boat ramps & docks).



## Special Use Areas

Special use areas are sites that are occupied by a specialized facility or that fulfill a specialized purpose. Some uses that fall into this park type include waterfront parks, pools, boat ramps, interpretive centers, botanical gardens, community gardens, single purpose sites used for a particular field sport or sites that offer indoor recreation opportunities. Fallen Leaf Softball Field, Lacamas Lodge and the Camas Community Center are examples of special use areas in Camas.

### Site Selection:

- Site size should be adequate to support the proposed specialized use, as well as necessary supporting facilities, including parking, stormwater management, etc.
- Site selection criteria will be dependent on the specific specialized use proposed, and may include criteria determined through an economic feasibility study.
- The site should be accessible from the community-wide trail system.
- Prior to the addition of any special use areas, the City should prepare a detailed cost/benefit analysis and maintenance impact statement for each proposed site being considered.



## Natural Open Space

Natural open space is defined as undeveloped land primarily left in its natural form with passive recreation use as a secondary objective, such as trails. This type of land often includes wetlands, steep hillsides, or other similar undevelopable spaces. In some cases, environmentally sensitive areas are considered as open space and may include wildlife habitats, stream and creek corridors, or unique and/or endangered plant species. There are currently a number of natural open space areas in Camas, and the Ostensen Canyon Greenway and the Prune Hill South Open Space are examples of natural open space.

### Site Selection:

- Site size should be based on natural resource and connectivity needs.
- Public use of natural open space sites should be encouraged through trails, viewpoints, and other features, but environmentally sensitive areas should be protected.
- The site should have access to a public street, to public land, or contribute to the planned open space network.
- Features in natural open space areas should be limited to those appropriate for the numbers and types of visitors the area can accommodate, while retaining its resource value, natural character, and the intended level of solitude.



## Cemetery

The Camas Cemetery is an important historic and aesthetic resource for the City of Camas. Located adjacent to Lacamas Park, the cemetery is a unique, special facility and component of the park and open space system that provides a peaceful resting place and a quiet space for reflection. The City took over the operations of the cemetery in 2007.

## PARK & OPEN SPACE INVENTORY

The park and open space inventory identifies the recreational assets within Camas. The City provides 1,068 acres of public parkland distributed among 59 parks and natural area properties, see Figure 6 and 7.

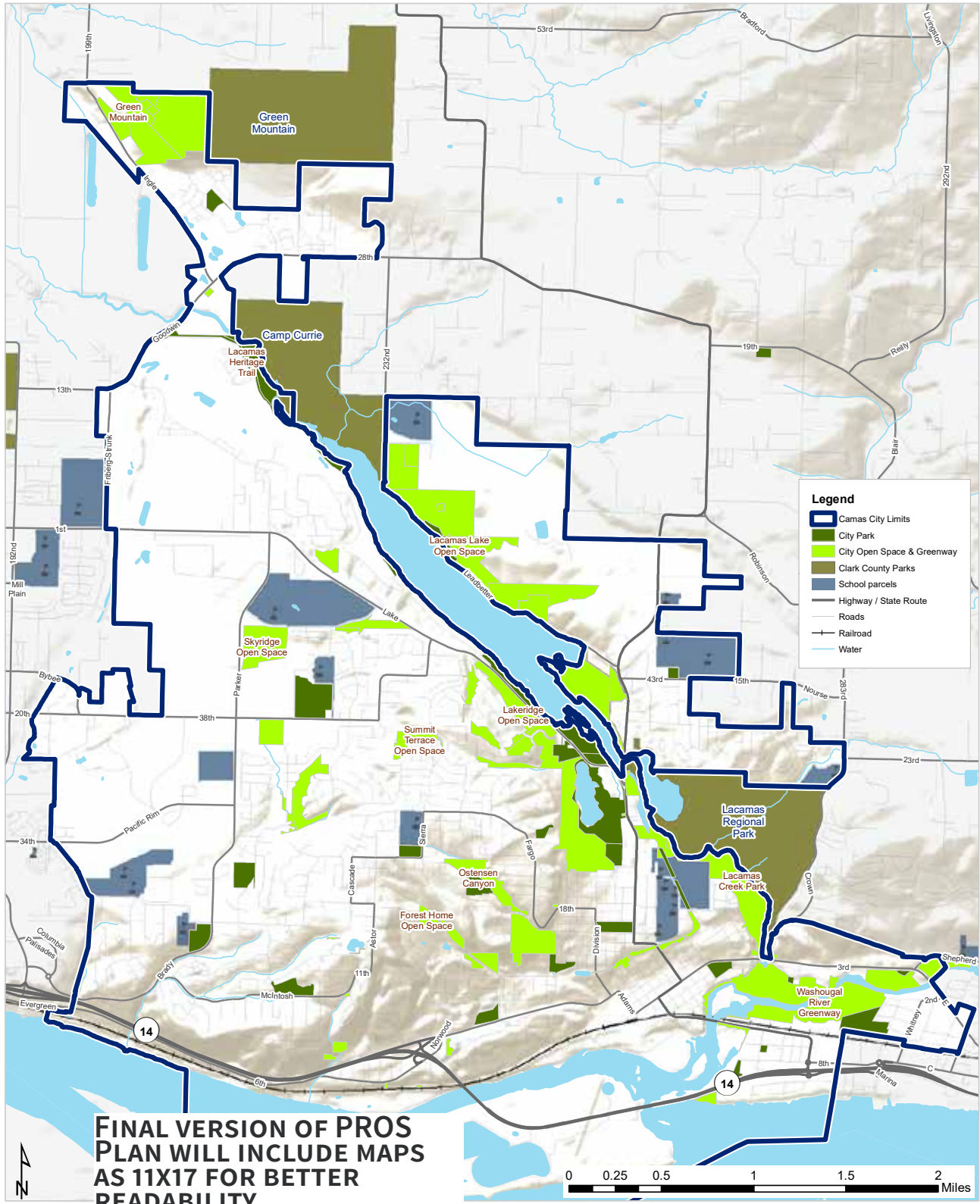
Figure 6. Existing Inventory of City Park & Natural Areas

Name	Classification	Status	Acreage
Fallen Leaf Lake Park	Regional Park	Developed	54.8
Green Mountain	Regional Park	Undeveloped	114.2
<b>Subtotal</b>			<b>169.0</b>
Crown Park	Community Park	Developed	7.3
Grass Valley Park	Community Park	Developed	25.0
Goot Park	Community Park	Developed	5.8
Heritage Park	Community Park	Developed	12.8
Prune Hill Sports Park	Community Park	Developed	9.0
<b>Subtotal</b>			<b>59.7</b>
Ash Creek Park	Neighborhood Park	Undeveloped	9.7
Benton Park	Neighborhood Park	Undeveloped	2.2
Coopers View Park	Neighborhood Park	Developed	2.5
Dorothy Fox Park	Neighborhood Park	Developed	5.0
Forest Home Park	Neighborhood Park	Developed	4.7
Green Mountain Neighborhood Park	Neighborhood Park	Developed	5.3
Klickitat Park	Neighborhood Park	Developed	8.8
Lacamas Heights Park	Neighborhood Park	Undeveloped	2.3
Louis Bloch Park	Neighborhood Park	Developed	5.0
Oak Park	Neighborhood Park	Developed	2.5
Ostensen Canyon Park	Neighborhood Park	Undeveloped	8.2
<b>Subtotal</b>			<b>56.2</b>
Baz Park	Special Facility	Developed	0.6
Camas Community Center	Special Facility	Developed	0.9
Downtown Community Garden	Special Facility	Developed	0.1
Fallen Leaf Softball Field	Special Facility	Developed	6.0
Lacamas Lake Lodge & Conference Center	Special Facility	Developed	4.8
Leadbetter House	Special Facility	Undeveloped	3.0
Pomaria House	Special Facility	Undeveloped	3.0
Skate Park	Special Facility	Developed	0.9
<b>Subtotal</b>			<b>19.4</b>
Heritage Trail	Trail / Linear Park	Developed	30.9
Mill Ditch Trail	Trail / Linear Park	Undeveloped	1.7
Renaissance Summit Trail Access	Trail / Linear Park	Undeveloped	0.4
<b>Subtotal</b>			<b>33.0</b>
Camas Cemetery	Cemetery	Developed	25.4
<b>Subtotal</b>			<b>25.4</b>
<b>TOTAL PARKS &amp; GREENSPACE</b>			<b>1,068.0</b>

A listing of existing City open space and greenways follow in Figure 7. Detailed descriptions of the City’s parks and natural areas is provided in Appendix D.

The following map shows the location of existing parks and natural areas within the City.





Map 1: Existing Parks & Open Spaces

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Figure 7. Existing Inventory of City Greenways & Natural Areas

Name	Acreage	Name	Acreage
6th Ave Open Space	0.6	Mill Ditch Open Space	9.1
Columbia River Open Space	2.8	Mills Open Space	31.6
Columbia View Terrace Open Space	0.2	Ostensen Canyon Greenway	50.3
Crown Road Open Space	1.4	Prune Hill Slope Open Space	19.1
Fallen Leaf Open Space	52.3	Prune Hill South Open Space	3.9
Forest Home Open Space	19.7	Renaissance Summit Open Space	0.3
Goodwin Road Open Space	0.8	Skyridge Open Space	29.6
Grass Valley Open Space	11.3	Summit Terrace Open Space	12.3
Lacamas Creek Open Space	10.6	Sunningdale Open Space	1.7
Lacamas Creek Park	50.9	Tidland Heights Open Space	1.5
Lacamas Lake Open Space	169.3	Top Fallen Leaf Open Space	0.4
Lake Road Open Space	7.0	Triangle Open Space	9.4
Lakeridge North	33.3	View Ridge Open Space	0.3
Lakeridge Open Space	26.2	Washougal River Greenway	135.7
Meadows Open Space	3.4	Wildlife League	10.3
		<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>705.3</b>

## OTHER RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES NEAR CAMAS

The ownership and management of recreational resources in the larger Camas region involves several public agencies. Facilities include parks, trails, boat launches, and other attractions. Though some of these facilities are not located within city limits, their close proximity to residents of Camas makes them important components of the broader recreation ecosystem.

### Homeowner Associations

Numerous homeowner associations (HOA) across Camas include open space tracts, and some include small pocket parks serving HOA residents. In all, HOA properties include 385 acres of open space and 43 acres of pocket parks.

### School Districts

The Camas School District operates 19 school sites across Camas and, via use agreements, makes certain fields and gymnasiums available for community use by youth sport leagues. Evergreen School District borders Camas to the west and also makes sport fields and gymnasiums available for community use.

### Clark County

Clark County provides and maintains a system of regional parks, special facilities, regional trails, greenways and natural areas, in addition to neighborhood and community parks and sports fields in or proximate to the Vancouver urban unincorporated area. The park and open space inventory identifies the recreational assets within the county. The county provides 3,325 acres of public parks and recreation facilities distributed among 88 sites, along with an additional number of greenway parcels that comprises over 3,135 acres of conserved public open space. Within and near Camas, Clark County manages Lacamas Regional Park, Camp Currie, Green Mountain, and Harmony Sports Complex.

### Port of Camas-Washougal

The Port of Camas-Washougal provides several recreation opportunities for the greater Camas community.

- Captain William Clark Park at Cottonwood Beach is an 85-acre park that includes walking paths, paved parking, picnic tables, covered cooking areas, a

recognition plaza, three restroom buildings, and replicas of Chinookan canoes and Lewis and Clark's dugout canoes. A two-mile trail on top of the levee at the north side of the Park offers opportunities for hiking, jogging, biking, and horseback riding.

- The 3-mile Lewis and Clark Heritage Trail follows the Columbia River from Steamboat Landing Park to the border of the Steigerwald Lake National Wildlife Refuge. This has been connected to the Washougal Waterfront Park and trail creating a long walking trail into Camas and Washougal.
- Marina Park offers a walking path, picnic tables, an open lawn for entertainment, and a deck overlooking the marina.
- The Natural Play Area features a giant Sasquatch named Eegah along with a hill-side slide, log steppers, xylophone, drums, a boulder maze, and log balancing beams.

## Other Urban Park Systems

Adjacent cities provide recreation opportunities that should be considered relevant components of the overall Camas open space system. Some facilities, such as regional trails, will require partnerships and coordination that extend beyond city boundaries. Two adjacent municipalities operate and maintain park and recreation facilities, including:

- City of Washougal: The City of Washougal has over 120 acres of park land, ranging from parks, playgrounds, sports fields, and open space. Washougal's 19 parks include special use areas, including several riverfront sites that enhance Washougal's Park system.
- City of Vancouver: The City of Vancouver serves the community with approximately 1,600 acres of parkland at 113 sites, which includes 90 parks and 20 miles of trails plus numerous natural areas. The city offers a full range of recreation programming and operates two community centers.







## CHAPTER 5

# Parks & TRAILS

The PROS planning process assesses recreational needs and priorities for park facilities, active use areas, and trails in Camas. The park assessment included a discussion of specific local needs with consideration given to the City's broader park system. Public input and information on park inventory conditions were also heavily relied upon in the planning process.

By considering the location, size, and the number of park facilities by type and use, along with community interests and priorities, the PROS Plan evaluates the existing and future demand for park and recreation

amenities and provides recommendations for future initiatives. The six-year Capital Facilities Plan, which identifies and prioritizes crucial upgrades, improvements, and expansions, is based on the needs assessment and the recreational interests expressed by residents.

The recreational interests of Camas residents were captured in the community survey and compared to regional, state and national trend data. Local support for and interest in trails for walking and biking, water access opportunities, and kayaking align with recreation participation data from multiple sources.

## PARK USE TRENDS

Various resources have been assembled and summarized to provide an overview of current trends, market demands, and agency comparisons in the provision of parks and recreation services. This information is helpful when balanced with local insights and feedback from the community in guiding future initiatives.

The following national and state data highlights some of the current park use trends and may frame future considerations for Camas' park system. Additional trend data and summaries are provided in Appendix E.

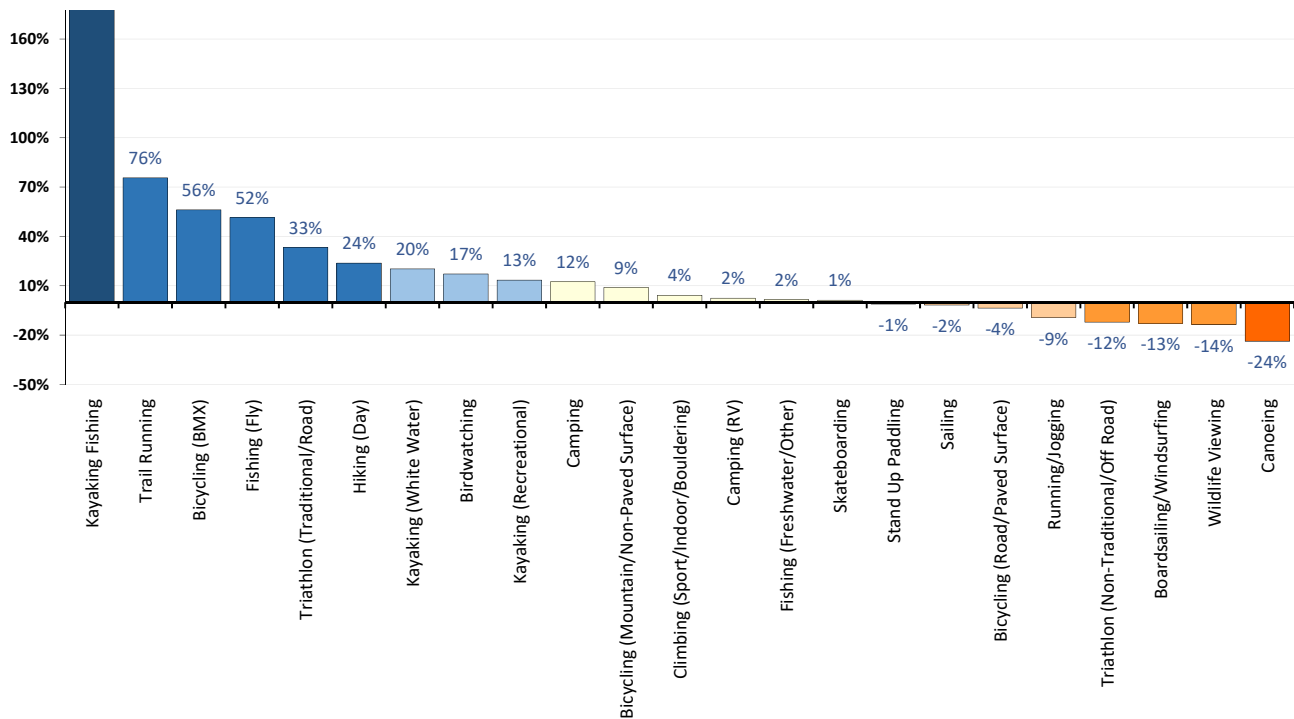
- Nationwide, 82% of U.S. adults believe that parks and recreation are essential according to the American Engagement with Parks Survey from 2020. <sup>(1)</sup>
- 77% of survey respondents indicate that having a high-quality park, playground, public open space, or a recreation center nearby is an important factor in deciding where they want to live. <sup>(1)</sup>
- Just over half of Americans ages six and older participated in outdoor recreation at least once in 2019, the highest participation rate in five years. However, the number of outings per participant declined – continuing a decade-long trend – resulting in fewer total recreational outings (pre-pandemic). <sup>(2)</sup>

- Walking, running, hiking, and cycling saw significant increases in participation in the early months of the COVID-19 pandemic (March to June 2020). <sup>(2)</sup>
- Running, jogging, and trail running are the most popular outdoor activities across the nation, based on levels of participation, followed by fishing, hiking, biking, and camping. <sup>(2)</sup>
- Walking ranked as the top activity by participation rate (94%) in Washington State. <sup>(4)</sup>
- Trail running, day hiking, and recreational kayaking are rapidly increasing in popularity – participation in each increased more than 5% per year between 2014 and 2019. <sup>(3)</sup>
- People of all ages and income levels are interested in outdoor activities like fishing, camping, hiking, biking, bicycling, and swimming. Younger people are more interested in participating in team sports, such as soccer, basketball, and volleyball. Older adults are more likely to aspire to individual activities like swimming for fitness, bird and nature viewing, and canoeing. <sup>(3)</sup>

Sources:

- (1) 2020 American Engagement with Parks Survey
- (2) 2020 Outdoor Participation Report
- (3) 2020 Sports, Fitness, and Leisure Activities Topline Participation Report
- (4) 2018-2022 Recreation and Conservation Plan for Washington State

Figure 8. 5-Year Change in Outdoor Recreation Participation by Major Activity (2021 Outdoor Participation Report)



## Operational & Service Challenges Due to COVID-19

A statewide survey of Washington park and recreation agencies was conducted in the second half of 2020, with a focus on service demand and operational challenges, both preceding and as a result of COVID-19. City, county, and parks and recreation district leaders were asked to complete the survey, and the survey was sent to 227 agencies - 109 cities, 39 counties, 79 Special Purpose Park Districts with 73 responses. The project was a collaboration between the Washington Recreation & Park Association, the Washington State Association of Counties, the Association of Washington Cities, and Metro Parks Tacoma.

In a question that asked the agency about how stable its outlook is for 2020 pre- and during COVID-19, the percentage of agencies that stated their outlook as very strong and stable decreased by 25 points, with 27.8% indicating as very stable at the beginning of the year to 2.8% indicating as very stable by August 1, 2020. Similarly, agencies that felt moderately or significantly underfunded and unstable rose from 5.5% to 50% by August 1, 2020.

Also, significant majorities of agencies indicated service delivery impacts due to the COVID-19 pandemic in the following ways:

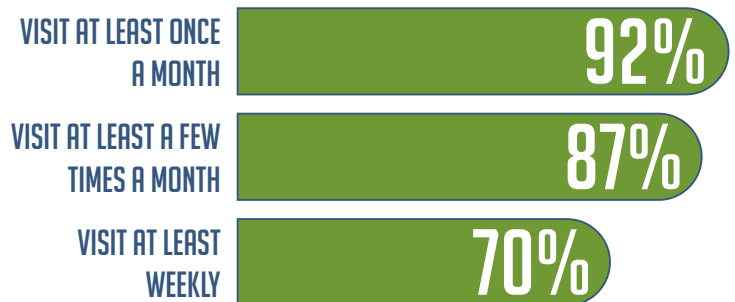
- Reduced ability to manage, maintain, operate, and secure passive parks to safety standards and control access (87%).
- Cancellation of special events and tourism campaigns that support local employment and drives the local economy (87%).
- Inability to operate critical community programs, pools, attractions and facilities, including services for vulnerable populations (81%).
- Lack of ability to hire/maintain seasonal employees & offer programs/services allowable under Safe Start (74%).
- Addressing public use and behaviors that put the community at risk, such as tearing down caution tape, using fields (85%).

## LOCAL INSIGHTS

Local recreation demands and needs were explored through various community engagements to gather feedback on the strengths and limitations of existing recreational resources and parks available to Camas residents. Public outreach included a community survey, an online open house and several stakeholder focus group discussions to explore project priorities and opportunities to enhance the City's park system (see Appendices A, B & C). Through this outreach, nearly 1,600 responses were recorded.

The community survey confirmed that local parks, recreation options, and open space opportunities are important or essential to the quality of life in Camas. Virtually all respondents (97%) feel that local parks and recreation opportunities are important or essential to the quality of life in Camas. Respondents tend to visit frequently, with more than two in three visiting at least once a week (68%) and another 20% visiting one to three times per month.

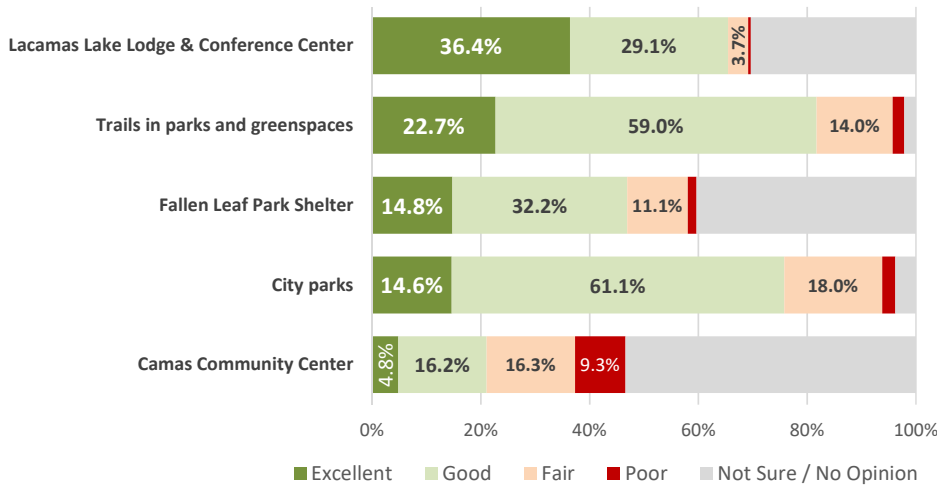
Figure 9. Frequency of Visitation to Parks, Trails & Open Space



Survey respondents were asked to rate the condition of a variety of park and recreation facilities on a scale from poor to excellent. Respondents gave overwhelming high marks to the condition of the City's trails in parks and greenspaces and the parks themselves. Overall, the Lacamas Lake Lodge & Conference Center received the highest condition ratings, with 95% of respondents who provided a ranking rating it as excellent or good.

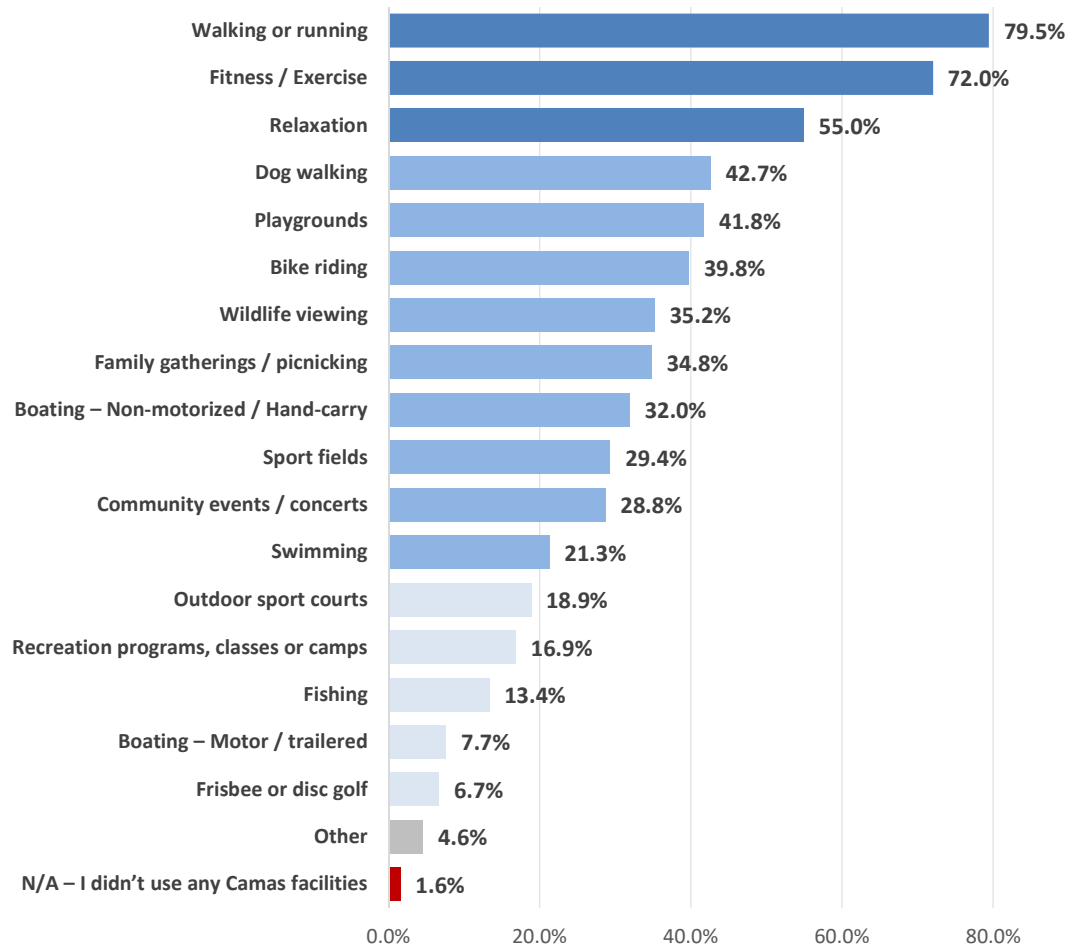


Figure 10. Sentiment of Condition of Park and Recreation Facilities.



Survey respondents visit local parks and recreation facilities for a variety of reasons. The most popular activities are walking or running (80%), followed by fitness and exercise (72%), and relaxation (55%). More than three in ten respondents visited to walk their dog (43%), visit a playground (41%), ride their bike (40%), view wildlife (35%), or attend a family gathering or picnic (35%). Relating to statewide and national trend statistics, the popularity of walking and running have consistently ranked as top outdoor activities – in alignment with Camas’ survey responses.

Figure 11. Main Reasons For Visiting Local Parks and Recreation Facilities.



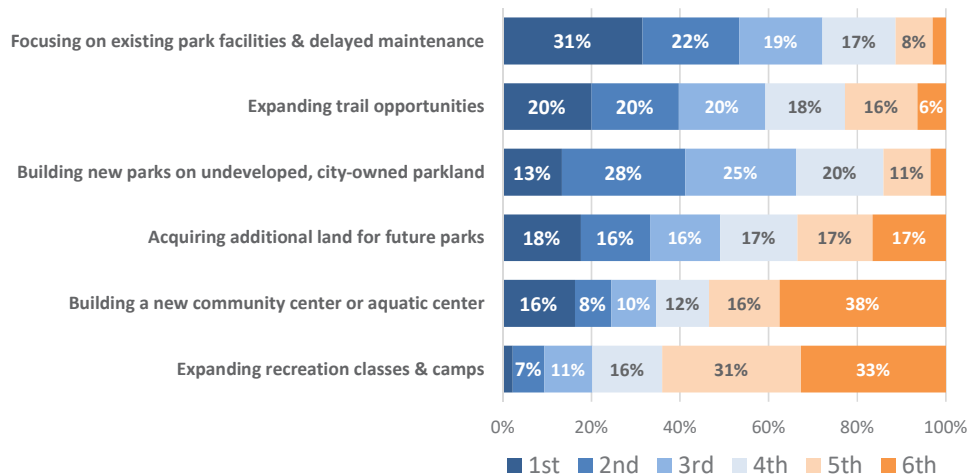
More than three in four respondents are very or somewhat supportive of adding walking trails (88%), updated or renovated playgrounds at existing parks (82%), all-abilities accessible playground equipment (81%), and more picnic shelters (80%) to the City's existing parks. A majority of respondents are also supportive of developing more biking trails, splash pads, off leash dog areas, pools or aquatic centers, tennis or pickleball courts, a new community center, disc golf course, and basketball courts. However, through the community survey, approximately two out of three community members are willing to travel for an unmet recreational amenity in Camas (such as splash pad, aquatic/pool center, community center and bike skills park) versus increasing taxes to pay for development of a new facility.

Recognizing the significance of trail access to the Camas community, the survey also inquired about different trail types. Respondents overwhelmingly rated unpaved trails in natural areas (94%) as very or somewhat important. Majorities of respondents also feel paved, shared use paths for pedestrians and cyclists (87%) and accessible trails (73%) are either very or somewhat important. An online open house followed the community survey to dive deeper into the community's strong interest in trails. Respondents to the online open house, 74 respondents total, noted the need to acquire land and develop trails to fill gaps in trail corridors as a top priority. Also, respondents were particularly interested in improving trail connections for the North Shore of Lacamas Lake, the Mill Ditch, Lake Road, and the Lewis & Clark Regional Trail.

Respondents were asked to rank a list of potential recreation, park, and open space investments. Generally, respondents ranked maintaining existing parks, expanding trail opportunities, building new parks, and acquiring land for future parks as top priorities. Respondents ranked offering building a new community or aquatic center and expanding program offerings as their lowest priorities. Respondents of different ages prioritized the investment options similarly, with the exception of building a new community or aquatic center, which was a higher priority for significantly more younger respondents. Respondents with children in their home tended to rate building a new community or aquatic center higher than those without children in the home, who were more likely to rate expanding trail opportunities as a high priority.

- 
**EXPAND WALKING & BIKING TRAILS**  
 88% Support & Top Priority
- 
**RENOVATE PLAYGROUNDS**  
 81% Support
- 
**ADD PICNIC SHELTERS**  
 80% Support
- 
**INSTALL SPLASH PAD / SPRAY PARK**  
 75% Support
- 
**PROVIDE OFF-LEASH DOG PARK**  
 66% Support
- 
**PROVIDE POOL OR AQUATIC CENTER**  
 69% Support
- 
**EXPAND TENNIS & PICKLEBALL OPTIONS**  
 64% Support

Figure 12. Park Amenities to Consider Adding to Camas Park System



## Common Themes from Community Outreach

Considering all of the community feedback from the survey, online open house, stakeholder interviews, and stakeholder focus group discussions, a number of core themes and interests emerged.

### Trails

- Trail connectivity is important. Complete loops and circuits, and focus on trail connectivity (connecting trail gaps).
- Enhanced linkages between residential neighborhoods and downtown via pedestrian- and bicycle-friendly routes are an important focus area.
- COVID has accelerated the trends toward higher trail usage, which include more users on trails and a wider age distribution of off-road bike riders.
- There is broad interest and excitement for the potential of expanded trail connections via the Mill Ditch property for walking/hiking and the Green Mountain acquisition for mountain biking and hiking. The Mill Ditch property for walking/hiking and the Green Mountain acquisition for mountain biking and hiking are two examples of potential projects.

### Parks & Open Space

- The maintenance of existing parks and open spaces remains a key priority.
- Building new parks on undeveloped, city-owned parkland was one of the highest rated priorities.
- There has been strong interest in expanding recreational options in the park system that include the installation of a splash pad, bike skills/pump track, off leash dog areas, and tennis or pickleball courts.
- The City should provide space and amenities for programming (sport fields & courts, shelters for outdoor education, etc.) and increase sport field capacity by improving field quality and adding lighting where appropriate.
- Coordination with the school district might result in benefits for more community access to existing school fields and the development of additional sport fields.

### Convenience & Support Amenities

- Upgraded and expanded access to restrooms and parking is a highly-desired user convenience improvement.
- Wayfinding, maps and communications were noted as ways to improve the user experience and familiarity with the park and trail system.





## PARK SYSTEM CONDITIONS ASSESSMENT

The overall condition of park infrastructure and amenities is one measure of park adequacy and assurance of public safety. Proper stewardship of park infrastructure requires developing a long-term maintenance and capital plan to ensure the safety of park users that aligns with community needs and allocates limited funding resources properly.

The current conditions of the Camas park system were assessed to identify existing site maintenance issues and opportunities for future capital improvements. The assessment included walkways, parking lots, park furniture, drainage and irrigation, lighting systems, vegetation, and other amenities. The following conditions assessment matrix summarizes the results of these assessments. They will inform the PROS Plan, including developing the project prioritization strategy for park improvements, identifying funding strategies, and updating the recommended parks six-year Capital Facilities Plan.

Park infrastructure and amenities were rated based on the following scale:



1 – Good Condition: Generally, amenities in good condition offer full functionality and do not need repairs. Good facilities have playable sports surfaces and equipment, working fixtures, and fully intact safety features (railings, fences, etc.). Good facilities may have minor cosmetic defects and encourage area residents to use the park.



2 – Fair: In general, amenities in fair condition are mainly functional, but need minor or moderate repairs. Play surfaces, equipment, fixtures, and safety features that are operational and allow play, but have deficiencies or periods where they are unusable. Fair facilities remain essential amenities for the community but may slightly discourage the use of the park by residents given the current condition.



3 – Poor: In general, amenities in poor condition are largely or completely unusable. They need significant repairs to be functional. Some examples include athletic fields that are too uneven for ball games, irreparably broken features, buildings that need structural retrofitting, etc. Poor facilities discourage residents from using the park and may present safety issues if left open or operational.

In general, good conditions should be the goal for the management and stewardship of park facilities. Where infrastructure or amenities are rated as “fair,” strategies should be developed for repair or restoration. Park features, structures, amenities, or landscapes rated as “poor” should receive immediate attention and be prioritized for near-term maintenance, capital repairs, or a new capital project. Facilities in “poor” condition should also be evaluated and taken out of operation if they are deemed unsafe. Based on this assessment, the City’s sport courts, trails, site furnishings, turf and ADA compliance are in the greatest need of attention.

Detailed site conditions and site enhancement recommendations are noted in Appendix D for the park sites visited.

## Overview of Condition of Existing Parks

The following list summarizes some of the key observations and recommendations to enhance the City's park and trail system, its visual character, and longer-term sustainability.

1. Overall, the level of maintenance observed at the developed parks appears to be very good.
2. Consider upgrades to City Park Standards for signage and furnishings. For future park improvements and prior to implementing new master plans for undeveloped parks, it would be beneficial to use the same standard design, style and color for benches, picnic tables, other site furnishings and signs to provide a consistent identity to the park and trail system and reduce future maintenance costs.
3. As the trail system develops with additional connections, a wayfinding system would be beneficial. Coordinated with the graphic style for the park identification signs, this wayfinding signage would help trail users navigate the connections and know the destinations along the trails. Distances, destinations, trail etiquette, and other essential information should be planned and located at strategic sites to inform walkers, runners, and bikers.
4. Consider adding more destination amenities into the park system, such as splash pads, rock climbing, fitness equipment, nature play, inclusive play and/or themed designs to add a more diverse character to the system.
5. Many of the developed sites need ADA upgrades. Among the most common deficiencies observed are:
  - Current park standard trash and recycling receptacles are not ADA
  - The minimum ratio of ADA compliant tables and benches is below the required ADA standards
  - Lack of companion spaces adjacent to ADA compliant benches
  - Minimum clearances surrounding picnic tables are often not met
  - Several ADA compliant amenities are not along accessible routes
6. Many of the playgrounds lack ADA ramps leading into the play pit areas
7. All of the playground surfacing consists of engineered wood fiber. Although it is considered accessible when it is properly maintained; however, infrequent maintenance and refilling is fairly common. Consider transitioning to more stable playground safety surfacing options for the heaviest used playgrounds.
8. Several playgrounds do not have the minimum number of ADA accessible features
9. Several parks have vegetated open space within or adjacent to the property and may be good candidates for trail locations. Some open spaces connect residential neighborhoods with parks together and could provide alternative routes to City parks.
10. Camas has multiple storm facilities and or wetlands throughout the City, some of which are adjacent to existing developed parks. These facilities might offer opportunities to incorporate interpretive and educational experiences within the parks for a relatively low implementation cost. Proposed educational amenities might include wildlife viewing blinds and overlooks accompanied by interpretive signage.

Most of the undeveloped open space that was observed consisted of dense vegetation, including invasive species. The City should consider an invasive weed removal program, along with a more broadly framed open space management plan to identify resources and tactics to care for the City's nearly 700 acres of natural areas.

Figure 13. Park Condition Assessment

Site Name	Park Type	Recreation Amenities															Site Amenities						Park Structures					Vegetation			ADA Compliance
		Playgrounds	Paved Courts: Basketball	Paved Courts: Tennis	Volleyball	Soccer Fields	Baseball / Softball Fields	Pathways / Trails	Off-Leash Area	Waterfront/Beach	Other Rec Element	Site Furnishings	Lighting (Y/N)	Signage	Parking Areas	Restrooms	Picnic Shelters	Boat Dock / Ramp	Concession Building	Turf	Park Trees	Landscaped Beds	Natural Areas								
Park Site Average																															
<b>PARKS</b>																															
Ash Creek Park	Undeveloped / Undefined	2.0																									2				
Coopers View Park	Neighborhood Park	1.1	1					1			1	N	1												1	2	1	1			
Crown Park	Community Park	2.0	2	2	2			2			3	N	2	2	2	2								2	1	2		2			
Dorothy Fox Park	Neighborhood Park	1.5	2	1.5				2			2	N	1.5	1	1									1	1	2		2			
Forest Home Park	Neighborhood Park	1.8	1	2				2			2	Y	2	2	2									2	2	2	2	2			
Goot Park	Community Park	1.4	1.5	1.5				1.5			1.5	N	1	1	1									1.5	1.5	1.5		1.5			
Grass Valley Park	Community Park	1.7	2	1	2.5			2			1	Y	2	1	1									2	1	2	2	2			
Green Mountain Neighborhood Park	Neighborhood Park	1.3	1	1	2			1.5			1	Y	1.5	1	1								2	1	2			2			
Louis Bloch Park	Neighborhood Park	1.7	1	2				1.5			2	Y	1.5	2	1								2	2	1	2		2			
Oak Park	Neighborhood Park	1.8	1.5	2				2			2	N	1	1									2	2	1			3			
Benton Park	Neighborhood Park	2.1									1.5	N	1										3		3			2	3		
Klickitat Park	Neighborhood Park	1.9	1.5	2				2			1.5	N	2	1	1								2.5	2	3	2.5	3	2.5	3		
Lacamas Heights Park	Neighborhood Park	2.0									N																2				
<b>SPECIAL FACILITY SITES</b>																															
Fallen Leaf Lake Park	Regional Park	1.9									2	Y	1.5	locked	2													1	2		
Fallen Leaf Softball Field	Special Facility	1.7						1			2	N	2	2.5	1.5									1	2	1		2	3		
Prune Hill Sports Park	Community Park	1.4	2	1.5				1			1	1	1											1.5	1	1		1	1.5		
Heritage Park	Community Park	1.3	1					1.5			1	1	1	1	1.5	1	1							2	1	2	2	2	1		
Leadbetter House	Undefined Park	-																													
Pitt Property	Undefined Park	1.2	1		2			1			1	Y	1	1										1	1	1		1	2		
Pomaria House	Undefined Park	1.0																						1	1	1		1			
Wildlife League	Undefined Park	1.4	2					2			1	N	1											1	1	1		2	2		
Baz River Front Park	Special Facility	2.0						3			3	N	2	3	2													2			
Skate Park	Special Facility	2.5						2			3	N	2	3	2													3	3		
<b>Average:</b>		<b>1.67</b>	<b>1.46</b>	<b>1.61</b>	<b>2.25</b>	<b>2.25</b>	<b>2.25</b>	<b>1.75</b>	<b>1.50</b>	<b>1.17</b>	<b>1.50</b>	<b>1.75</b>	<b>1.63</b>	<b>1.63</b>	<b>1.44</b>	<b>1.53</b>	<b>1.45</b>	<b>1.29</b>	<b>1.50</b>	<b>1.67</b>	<b>1.67</b>	<b>1.81</b>	<b>1.31</b>	<b>1.95</b>	<b>1.80</b>	<b>1.95</b>	<b>1.80</b>	<b>2.15</b>			



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## GAP ANALYSIS

Understanding the known gaps in the park system and evaluating the City's existing levels of service for parks (i.e., snapshot in time of how well the City is meeting its adopted standards) will provide a foundation for strategic planning as a basis for a balanced distribution of parks, trails and recreation amenities in the future.

To better understand where acquisition efforts should be considered, a gap analysis of the park system was conducted to examine and assess the current distribution of parks throughout the City. The analysis reviewed the locations and types of existing facilities, land use classifications, transportation/access barriers and other factors as a means to identify preliminary acquisition target areas. In reviewing parkland distribution and assessing opportunities to fill identified gaps, residentially zoned lands were isolated, since neighborhood and community parks primarily serve these areas. Additionally, travelsheds were defined for neighborhood parks using a ¼-mile primary and ½-mile secondary service area with travel distances calculated along the road network starting from known and accessible access points at each park. Travelsheds for community parks were derived using ¼-mile, ½-mile, 1-mile and 2-mile travel distances to acknowledge that these park types (including athletic fields) serve a wider array of users and driving to such sites is typical.

Maps 2 through 5 illustrate the application of the distribution criteria from existing parks. Areas in white do not have a public park within reasonable walking distance of their home. The illustrated 'travelshed' for each existing Camas park highlights that certain areas within the city do not have the desired proximity to a local park.

Striving to provide a neighborhood park within a reasonable walking distance (e.g., ½-mile) may require acquiring new park properties in currently under-served locations or improving multi-modal transportation connections to allow local residents to safely and conveniently reach their local park. As Camas develops and acquisition opportunities diminish, the City should consider taking advantage of acquisition opportunities in strategic locations and as funding allows to fill remaining gaps. In concert with the search for developable park

land, the City should continue to coordinate with proposed residential land development projects to consider when and how a public park (or trail connection) could be incorporated into the planning of newly developed residential areas.

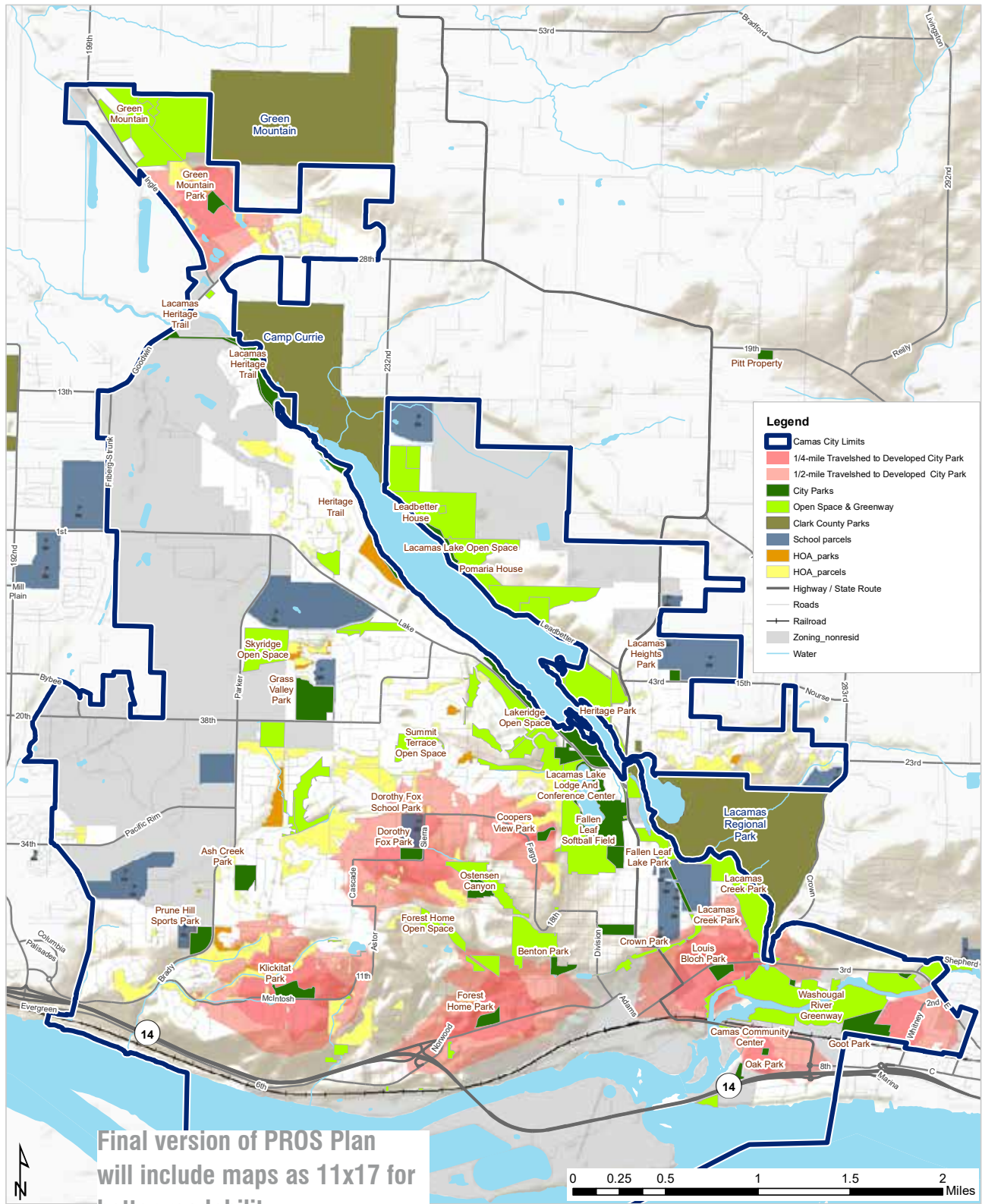
The mapping of park distribution and 'travelsheds' helps to illustrate the underserved neighborhoods in Camas. Areas of southwest Camas and north-central Camas have limited access to public parks or open space as indicated by white areas on Map 6. These areas of the City should be targeted for future acquisitions to help create more equitable access for all residents.

Camas has been very successful in securing park and open space as the community has grown, and the small number of potential acquisition sites is a testament to that effort. It should also be noted that the City owns several properties that are intended to serve as neighborhood parks, but are as of yet undeveloped. The future planning and development of these sites will further improve the overall distribution of parks for the Camas community, and these sites have been accounted for in the gap analysis. These future parks include:

- Ash Creek Park (future neighborhood park)
- Ostensen Canyon Park (future neighborhood park on approximately 8 acres of upper shelf)
- Lacamas Heights Park (future neighborhood park adjacent to Camas High School)
- Green Mountain property (pending community planning)
- North Shore Lacamas Lake (TBD, pending community planning)

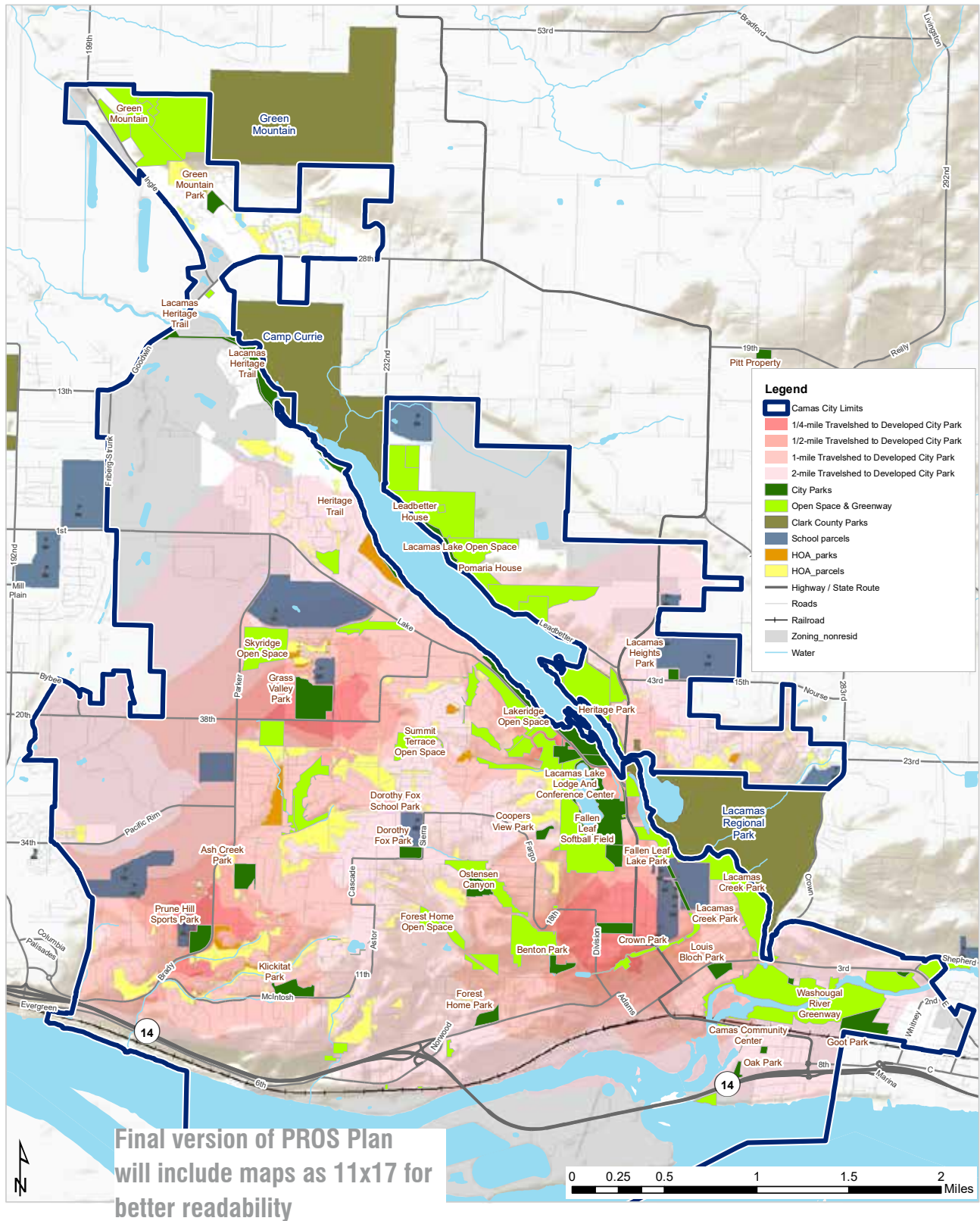
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Map 2: Travelsheds for Neighborhood Parks (1/2-mile)

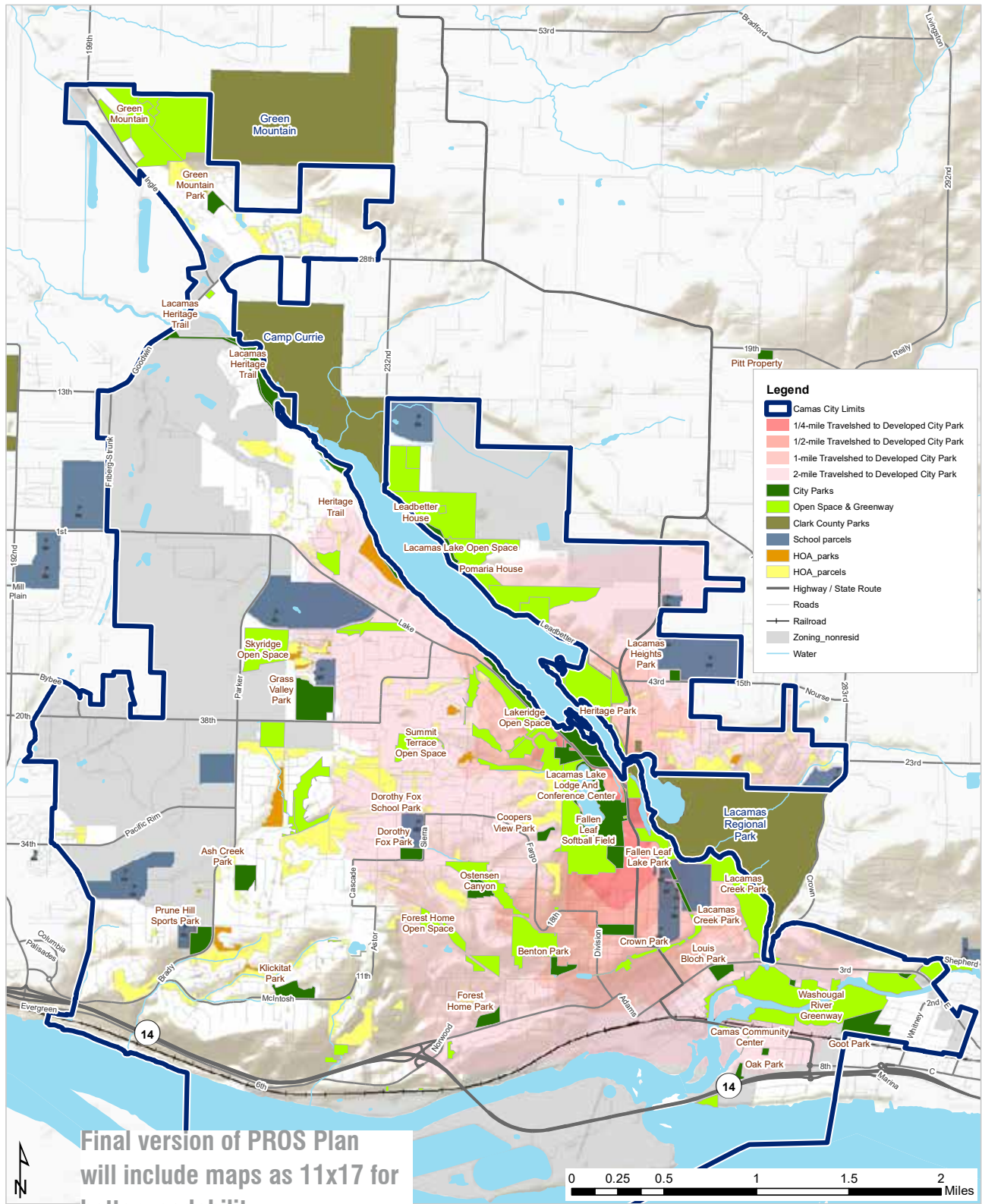
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Map 3: Travelsheds for Community Parks (2-miles)



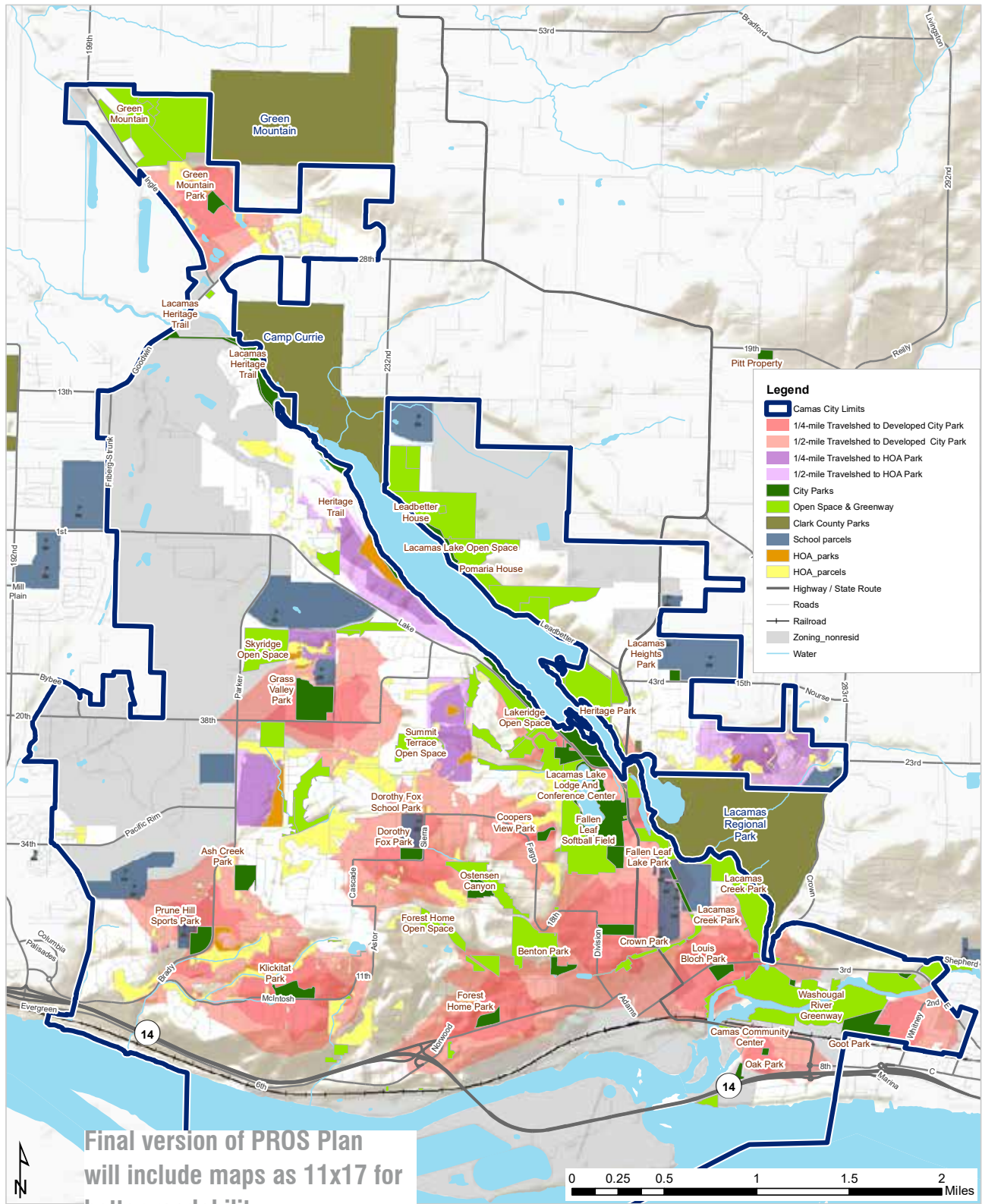
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Map 4: Travelsheds for Special Use Areas (2-miles)

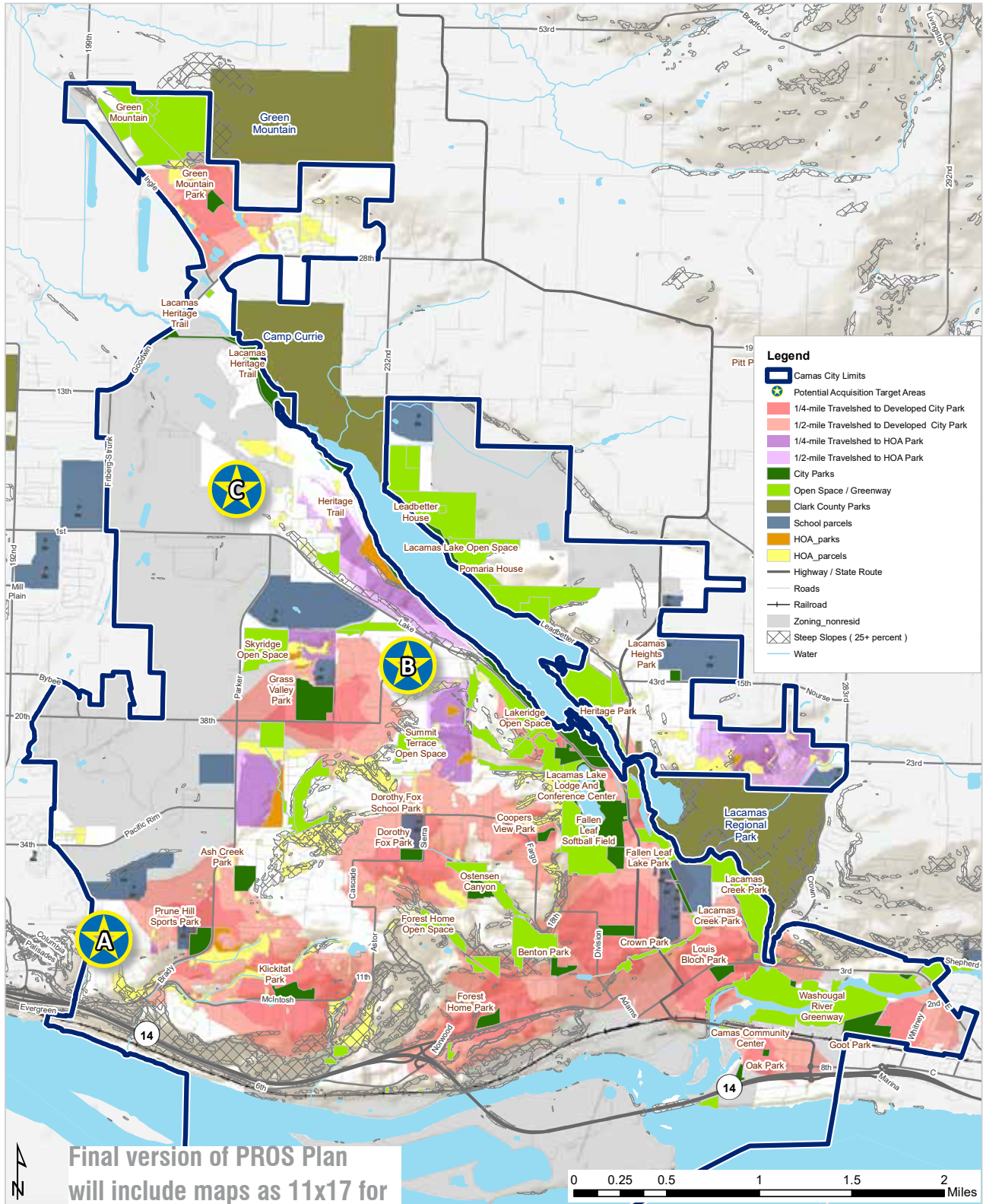
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Map 5: Travelsheds for All Parks & HOA Parks (1/2-mile)

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Map 6: Potential Acquisition Target Areas

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## TRAILS

The City of Camas consistently has been working to create a network of trails to connect important destinations and help create a more walkable community. Individual parks typically have internal (and usually paved) pathways that provide walking opportunities within the park. While these are popular amenities for park visitors and help provide access to recreational amenities, their isolation from other destinations limits their value. The lakefront, riparian areas and woodlands in Camas also have provided locations for aligning recreational, off-road trails as opportunity arises. Trail connections and walking or biking linkages have been noted as the

highest priority for future improvements to Camas' park system.

The Heritage Trail offers the longest, singular trail at 3.7 miles within City ownership, and Lacamas Creek Park provides an additional 2.4 miles within a forested, park setting. Other significant trails within City open space include those at Fallen Leaf Lake (1.7 miles), Heritage Park (1.3 miles) and the Washougal River Greenway (1.5 miles). In total, Camas has almost 12 miles of walking or biking trails dispersed across its park system.

Figure 14.. Trail Inventory in Camas

Trail Owner Type	Mileage
Camas Recreational Trails	11.9
Camas ROW* Trails	6.8
Clark County Park Trails	10.9
Private / HOA Trails	8.4
School District Trails	1.2
<b>Total Trail Miles</b>	<b>39.2</b>

\* Right-of-Way (ROW) trails utilize sidewalk and/or bike lane connections

Figure 15. City of Camas Park Path & Trail Inventory

City Trails	Mileage
Benton Park	0.2
Dorothy Fox Park	0.2
Fallen Leaf Lake Park & Open Space	1.7
Goot Park	0.1
Grass Valley Park	0.4
Heritage Trail	3.7
Klickitat Park	0.6
Lacamas Creek Park	2.4
Oak Park	0.1
Ostensen Canyon Greenway	0.5
Prune Hill Slope Open Space	0.6
Washougal River Greenway	1.5
<b>Total City Trail Miles</b>	<b>11.9</b>





## TRAILS FOR WALKABLE COMMUNITIES

Parks are known to contribute to a healthier community by providing accessible outdoor recreation particularly through the walking trail within each park. Getting to the park by foot or bike can also offer a healthier choice integrated with the park destination and its amenities. In the NRPA publication *Safe Routes to Parks*, the elements of walkable, healthy community design are outlined as convenience, comfort, access & design, safety, and the park itself. Sidewalks, bikeways and trails should provide an integrated alternative transportation system for residents to access parks and other destinations within their community. As further emphasis for the importance of a walkable community to promote public health, the Surgeon General has issued a *Call to Action* to “step it up” and promote more walking and build a more walkable world. A more connected network of trails, sidewalks, and bike lanes with links to public transit also provides economic values.



Credit: Camas Post-Record

## TRAILS FOR AGING POPULATIONS

Today’s active seniors are looking at retirement age differently, as many are retooling for a new career, finding ways to engage with their community and focusing on their health and fitness. It will be critical for Camas’ park and recreation system to take a comprehensive approach to the city’s aging population needs. Accessibility and barrier-free parking and paths, walkability and connectivity will be paramount to future planning. Providing programming for today’s older adults includes not only active and passive recreation, but also the type of equipment needed to engage in certain activities. Trails provide the infrastructure for the most popular and frequent outdoor recreation activity of older adults: walking.

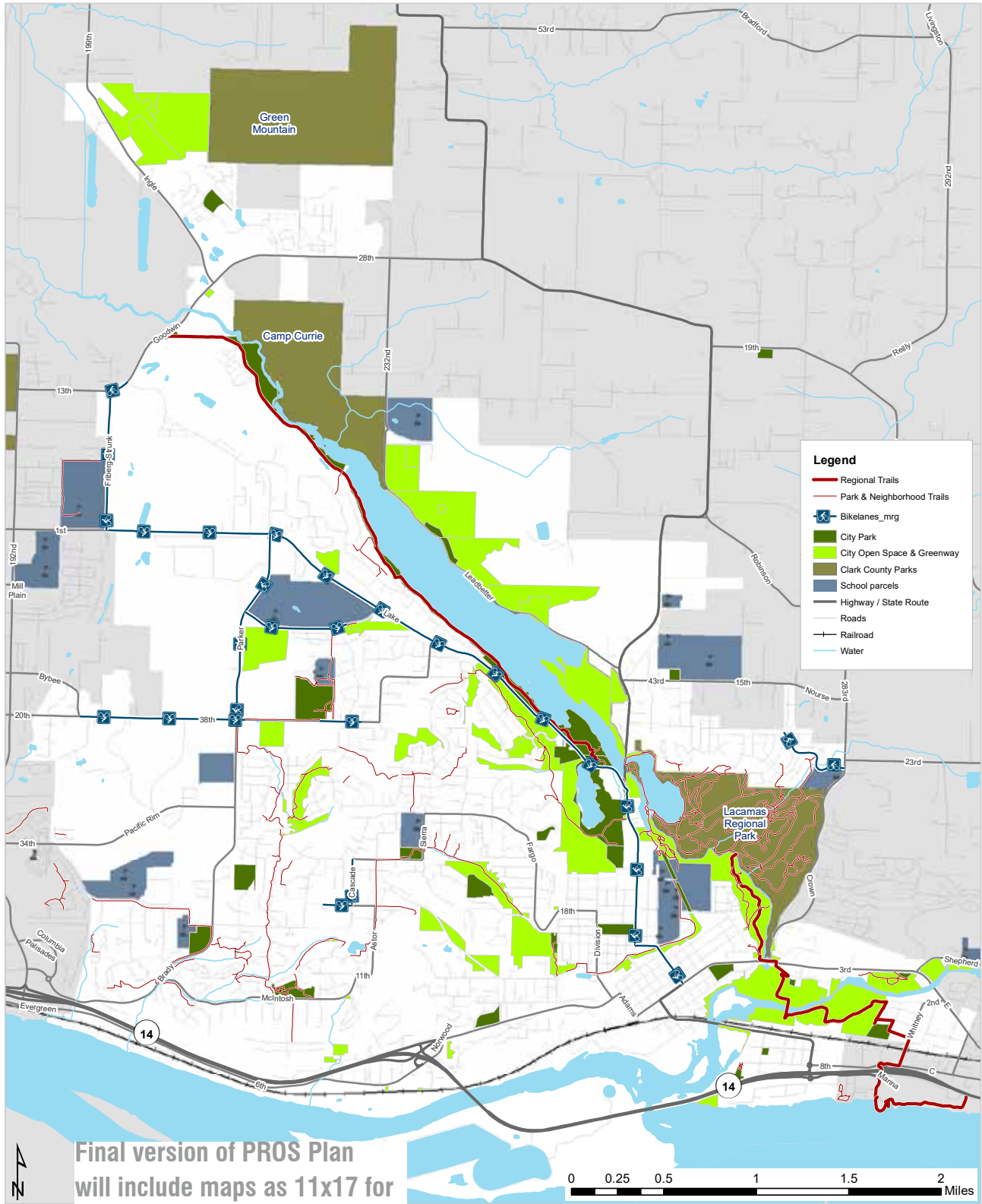


Credit: Camas Post-Record

## TRAILS FOR ECONOMIC HEALTH

In the 2009 report, *Walking the Walk: How Walkability Raises Housing Values in US Cities* by Joe Cortright for CEOs for Cities, research cited the connection between home value and walkability. Higher WalkScore measurements, where more typical consumer destinations were within walking distance, were directly associated with higher home values. Homes located in more walkable neighborhoods command a price premium over otherwise similar homes in less walkable areas. The National Association of Realtors reports in their *On Common Ground* publication with numerous articles citing the preference of walkable, mixed-use neighborhoods and the role of walkability in creating healthier communities. These preferences translate into higher housing values. Even the National Association of Homebuilders (March 2014 publication: “Walkability, why we care and you should too”) have recognized that walkability is desired by consumers, creates lower development costs and allows flexibility in design. As part of the system of walkability and bike-ability, recreational trails are real estate assets that enhance community connections and contribute to economic health, and these attributes should be considered as Camas enhances trail connections to downtown and plans the future of the North Shore.





## Map 7: Existing Trails

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## TRAIL DEMAND

### Park & Neighborhood Trails

During the public outreach, 80% of the community clearly identified that walking or running was a top reason for visiting Camas' parks. Park pathways are popular recreational amenities and significant contributors for promoting physical activity. This recreational trend is notable in state and national recreation surveys. Running, jogging and trail running are the most popular outdoor activities across the nation, based on levels of participation. Also, the need for more walking and biking trail connections that link parks together has been reinforced in the community survey and other public feedback. The online open house polled opinions about potential trail links and which were the highest priority. The Mill Ditch connection and safe crossings along Lake Road were also noted as important.

With the array of existing park trails and pathways within homeowner association lands, the City should prioritize a couple other connections to close existing gaps and improve options for loop trail routes, to include:

- Ostensen Canyon gap to link Dorothy Fox Park to Benton Park
- Prune Hill Sports Complex to Forest Home Park via Forest Home Open Space (will require on-street connections in coordination with transportation system planning)

### Regional Trails

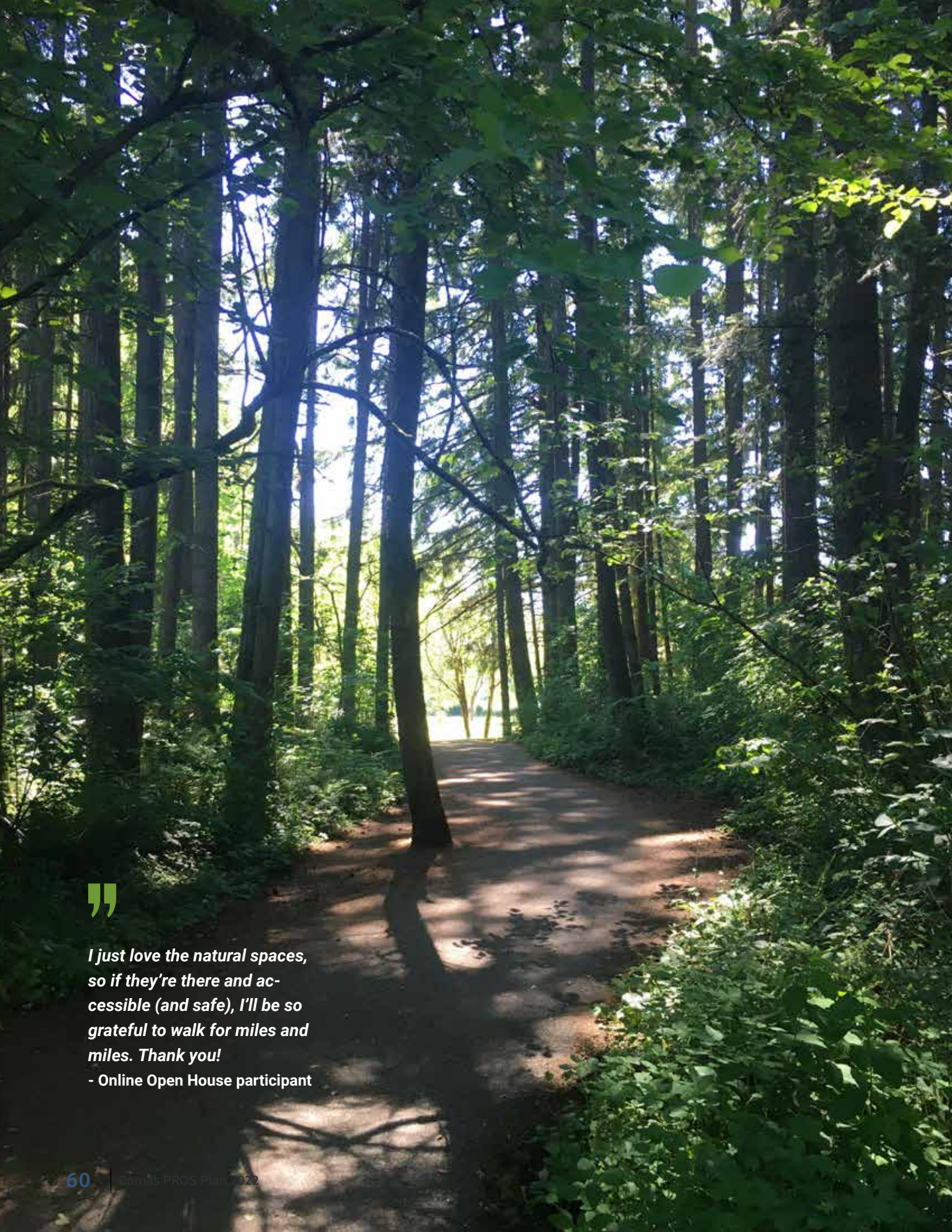
A regional trail system helps knit communities within Clark County together. Public feedback deemed longer trails segments, such as the Lewis and Clark Regional Trail along the Columbia River and a North Shore Lacamas Lake connection important for Camas. The ongoing development of the North Shore Subarea Plan and conceptual trail planning outlined in the North Shores Lacamas lake - A Vision for Conservation and Recreation will guide more specific planning of trails through the North Shore Lacamas Lake area, including completing the loop to Heritage Trail. Future trail connections should link Round Lake to Camp Currie to Green Mountain, in addition to neighborhood and commercial area connections, trailheads, parking and signage.

## Transportation Planning

The City is currently in the process of preparing an updated Transportation System Plan, and a review of existing pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure and discussion of future needs will be included in that plan. The existing conditions memo for the plan noted that paved, shared-use paths exist along portions of NW Parker Street, NW 18th Avenue, Lacamas Lake, Washougal River, and are also scattered throughout the residential neighborhoods. Regarding pedestrian routes and sidewalk coverage, a few areas do not have complete sidewalks, and gaps are most significant in southwest, southeast and northeast Camas.

Additionally, the City of Camas has a number of targeted improvement projects that will help further the alternative transportation options for residents. The City's Six-Year Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) from 2022 to 2027 lists planned road, intersection, sidewalk and bikeway projects. Funding and project partners are identified for each planned improvement project. The TIP includes 15 road projects that include bike lanes that will improve connectivity and rider safety along Camas streets.



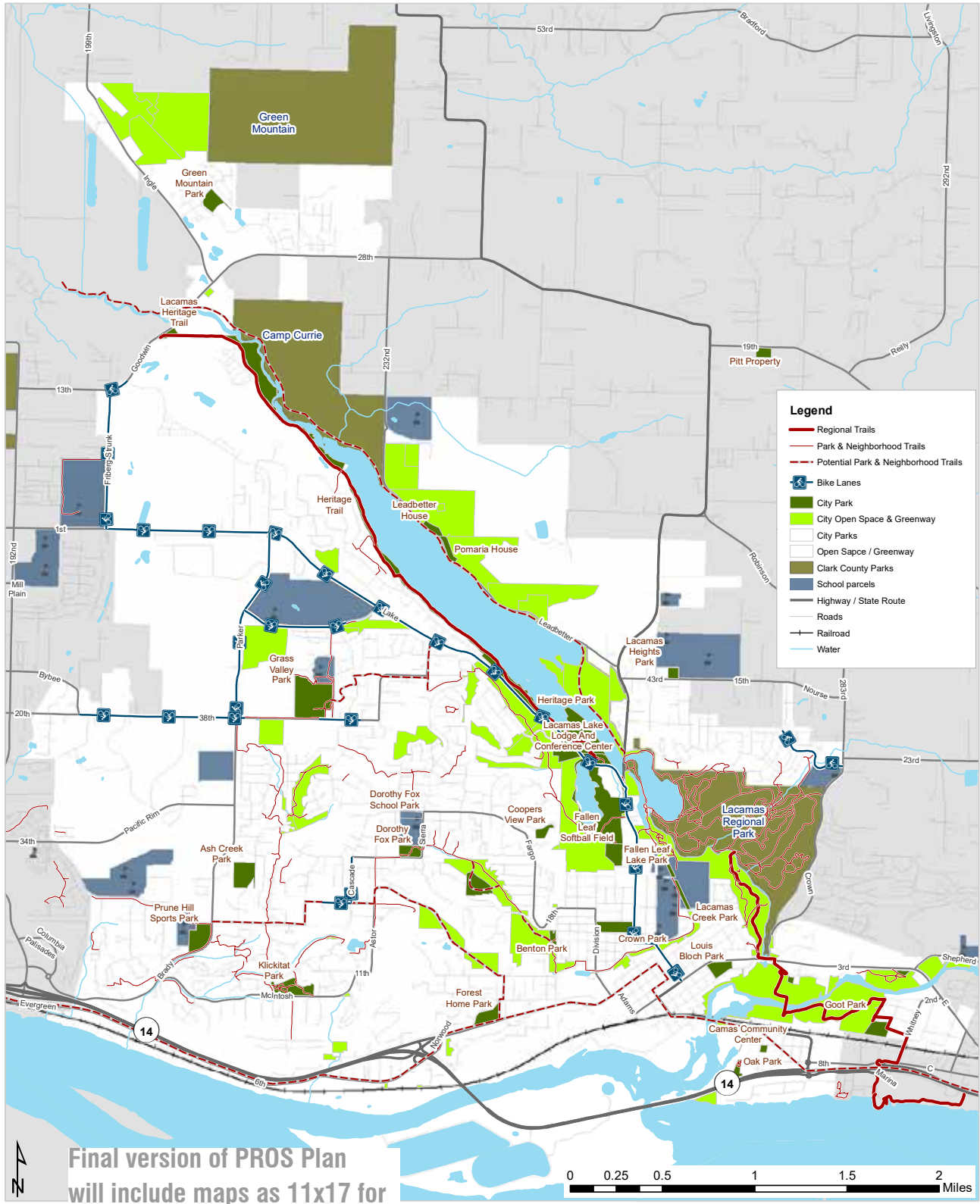


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*I just love the natural spaces, so if they're there and accessible (and safe), I'll be so grateful to walk for miles and miles. Thank you!*

**- Online Open House participant**





Map 8: Potential Trails

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# TRAIL DESIGN CONSIDERATIONS

## Alignment

The future growth of the trail network will need to balance between alignments that are optimal from trail user, trail experience and connectivity perspectives and those that are practical from cost, design and engineering, regulatory and availability perspectives. Future consideration should be given toward finding alignment options that can accommodate different trail use types (i.e., commuter vs. recreational/destination oriented, and ADA accessibility), as well as potentially interim solutions that rely on wider sidewalks to serve trail users or routing that utilizes existing or planned sewer lines or utility corridors. Accommodating alignments for local, neighborhood link trails as connections to regional, shared-used trails or major park trails is important for providing access and reducing the sole reliance on trailheads for providing access to the trail network.

## Access & Trailheads

Safe, convenient entryways to the trail network expand access for users and are a necessary component of a strong, successful system. A trailhead typically includes parking, kiosks and signage and may include site furnishings such as trash receptacles, benches, restrooms, drinking fountains, and bicycle parking. Trailheads may be within public parks and open space or provided via interagency agreements with partner organizations (e.g., county, school district, etc.) to increase use and reduce unnecessary duplication of support facilities. Specific trailhead design and layout should be created as part of planning and design development for individual projects and take into account the intended user groups and unique site conditions. Trail connections and walking or biking linkages also are good access point to designated local and regional trails.

## Trail Development Limitations

One underlying tenet of the recreational trail system is to enable the placement of trails within or close to natural features to provide access to the city's unique landscapes, as well as accommodate outdoor recreational access to creeks, hillsides and waterfront. The future planning and design of trail routes through natural areas should be based on sensitive and low-impact design solutions that

offer controlled access that protects the resource, while providing for a positive experience for trail users. Trail routes should consider intended and unintended impacts to natural areas, such as soil erosion, especially near streams and shorelines. The determination of future trail alignments should place high priority on natural resource and natural hazards planning and protections, in part to meet local land use policies as well as Washington State requirements.

## Ongoing Maintenance

Following trail construction, ongoing trail monitoring and maintenance will keep the trails functioning as designed, while working to protect capital investments in the network. Future trail renovation projects should be included in the Capital Improvement Plans as a means to identify and secure appropriate resources for needed enhancement, such as adding additional capacity to the trail. The City should maintain and expand their connection to and communications with the robust network of local volunteers to provide support as appropriate.

## Trail Signs & Wayfinding

Coordinated signage plays a crucial role in facilitating a successful trail system. A comprehensive and consistent signage system is a critical component for the trail network and is necessary to inform, orient and educate users about the trail system itself, as well as appropriate trail etiquette. Such a system of signs should include trail identification information, orientation markers, safety and regulatory messages and a unifying design identity or element for branding. The following signage types should be considered and consistently implemented throughout the network:

- Directional and regulatory signage
- Trail user etiquette and hierarchy signage
- Continuous route signage for route identification and wayfinding
- Mileage markers or periodic information regarding distance to areas of interest
- Warning signs to caution users of upcoming trail transitions or potential conflicts with motor vehicles
- Interpretive information regarding ecological, historical and cultural features found along and in proximity to the trail
- Add QR codes to signs to provide links to additional information

Also, the installation of kiosks at trailheads is a best practice that should continue and provides important trail information, while reinforcing the visual brand of the Camas trail experience.

## LEVEL OF SERVICE ASSESSMENT

A level of service (LOS) review was conducted in addition to and in support of the gap analysis as a means to understand the distribution of parkland acreage by classification and for a broader measure of how well the City is serving its residents with access to parks, trails and open space. Service standards are the adopted guidelines or benchmarks the City is trying to attain with their park system; the level of service is a snapshot in time of how well the City is meeting its adopted standards.

Many jurisdictions are developing guidelines that are customized to their community and its unique and often changing park and recreation demands, rather than solely applying the historic National Recreation and Park Association’s (NRPA) published park standards that primarily focused on parkland acreage per capita. The use and application of standards continues to evolve and develop diverse approaches. This Plan evaluates the City’s current parkland level of service through a variety of characteristics, including acreage per capita, as a snapshot in time and means to describe the performance of the park system.

Figure 16. Existing & Projected Levels of Service by Park Classification

Type	Current Inventory	Existing Level of Service (2020)	Projected Level of Service (2035)
Regional & Community Park	219.1 acres	8.4 ac./1000	<b>6.4 ac./1000</b>
Neighborhood Park	75.9 acres	2.9 ac./1000	<b>2.2 ac./1000</b>
Special Facility	15.9 acres	0.6 ac./1000	<b>0.5 ac./1000</b>
Trail / Linear Park	61.8 acres	2.4 ac./1000	<b>1.8 ac./1000</b>
Open Space & Greenway	691.5 acres	26.5 ac./1000	<b>20.3 ac./1000</b>
	<b>1,064.1 acres</b>	<b>40.8 ac./1000</b>	<b>31.2 ac./1000</b>

The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) conducts annual surveys to generate a Park Metrics database (formerly known as PRORAGIS) that reflects the current levels of service of park agencies across the country based on a variety of factors: population size, population density, number of full-time equivalent employees, number of park facilities, acres of parkland, and more. The Park Metrics survey data are used to compare different park and recreation providers in widely different communities across the country; however, the Park Metrics database relies on self-reporting by municipalities. Some agencies only include developed, active parks, while others include natural lands with limited or no improvements, amenities or access. The comparative standards in the table below should be viewed with this variability in mind.

A few highlights from the NRPA agency comparison provide perspectives on Camas’ park system. Figure 17 compares jurisdictional populations served by park and recreation agencies against certain performance metrics. The number of residents per park and acres of parkland per 1,000 residents implicate the potential wear and tear on park facilities. Compared with similar population sizes, Camas provides considerably more parkland acreage (40.8 acres, including open space) per 1,000 residents. Comparing just developed park properties, the City has 6.4 acres per 1,000 residents. Looking at the numbers of residents per playground, Camas has more playgrounds (at 1,862 residents per playground) than similar-sized jurisdictions (at 3,157 residents per playground).

Figure 17. Service Levels Comparing Park Metric (NRPA) Data

Metric	Median Value		
	All Agencies	Pop. Range 20-50,000	Camas
Residents per Park	2,281	1,963	1,629
Acres of Parkland per 1,000 population	9.9	9.6	40.8
Miles of Trails *	11	8.5	39.2
Number of Residents per Playground	3,750	3,157	1,862
Number of Residents per Recreation Center**	31,141	25,716	6,516

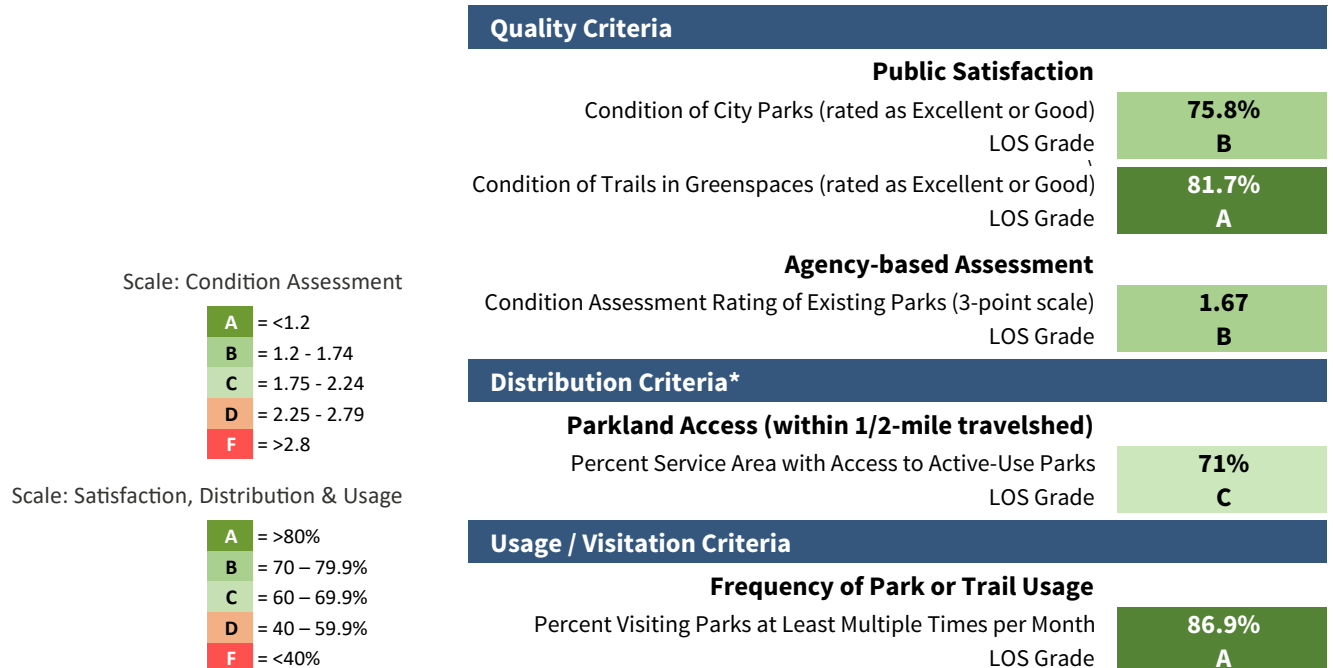
\* Note: Includes trails in County parks

\*\* Note: Assumes 25% of Camas population for Camas Community Center and Lacamas Lake Lodge as neither facilities function as traditional recreation centers

The use of numeric standards is a blunt and limited tool to assess how well the City is delivering park and recreation services, since the numeric values alone neglect any recognition for the quality of the facilities or their distribution (i.e., the ease to which residents have reasonable, proximate access to park sites). While public ownership of a broad range of recreation lands is crucial to the well-being of the city, the simple use of an overall acreage standard does not match with the citizen input received during this planning process. Residents were particularly interested in the availability of trails, water access, and open space within a reasonable distance from their homes.

The City’s park system also was assessed using Washington Recreation and Conservation Office’s (RCO) level of service metrics provided in their planning manual. In reviewing the park system as a whole, Figure 18 illustrates the current levels of service across different performance measurements. From the community survey results, public satisfaction of the facilities and amenities that Camas provides ranked as the strongest indicator for the park system. Future development of Ash Creek Park, Lacamas Heights Park and Ostensen Canyon Neighborhood Park will further improve the distribution rating noted in the figure.

Figure 18. Levels of Service with RCO Metrics (System-wide)



\* Note: The percentage of land area covered by service area walksheds is a proxy for the population within the residential portion of the City.



No numeric standards are recommended or proposed for open spaces. While numerical planning standards are common for helping to determine a desirable number of neighborhood parks per thousand residents, they do not translate easily to open space because of the uniqueness of the land base itself. Rather than being guided by numerical standards for open space, the priority for future open space acquisitions, if any, should be focused toward those lands that expand ownership of adjacent City-owned properties or to ensure sufficient property is available to accommodate public access and future trail connections.

As with roadway system and transportation planning, planning for recreational trails should be geared toward connectivity, rather than mileage. Considering a mileage standard for paths within the Camas park system would provide only an isolated and inadequate assessment of need for the community and its plans for better connectivity, and as such no numeric standards are recommended or proposed for trails. This Plan recommends a connectivity goal that re-states and reinforces the desire to improve overall connections across the City and enhance off-street linkages between parks and major destinations, as feasible.

## Other Considerations

While this Plan uses total parkland acreage and parkland access as primary indicators of parkland need, the City could also consider other factors as its population grows, including:

- Park pressure, or the potential user demand on a park: Residents are most likely to use the park closest to their home. This measure uses GIS analysis to assign all households to their nearest respective park and calculates level of service (in acres of parkland per 1,000 residents) based on the acreage of the park and the number of residents in the 'parkshed'. Areas with lower levels of service are more likely to be underserved by parkland and to see higher degrees of use and wear and tear on park amenities.
- Availability of park amenities: Park systems should include an equitable distribution and quantity of the most common amenities like playgrounds, picnic shelters, sports courts, sports fields and trails to meet local needs and help distribute the potential usage of individual parks. Working to provide well-distributed basic park amenities, while also offering unique outdoor experiences, will result in a varied park system with a range of different recreational opportunities for residents. See Appendix G for considerations.



Credit: Camas Post-Record

## **PARK & TRAIL SYSTEM RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **Acquisitions and Development for Trail Connections**

Additional trail connections are needed, as well as sidewalk and bike lanes improvements, to help link destinations across the community and park system to offer more walkability and promote healthier outdoor lifestyles. Acquisitions of easements, corridors and parcels will be needed to create the comprehensive linkages for Camas' future trail system. The Public Works and Parks and Recreation Departments will need to collaborate on the project planning to ensure the most appropriate links that improve the park and trail system. This should also include coordination with the Transportation System Plan (and subsequent updates), as well as coordination with local subdivision and site development projects.

### **Park Development & Improvement Projects**

The preparation of an updated site master plan for Ash Creek Park and a new site plan for the flat, upper shelf of Ostensen Canyon Park will be beneficial to guide future decision-making and development of those two parks. Once master plans have been adopted, phased park development should be planned as part of the capital facilities program.

Field drainage problems are observed issues at various parks. The City should conduct a city-wide field assessment to create a capital improvement project list and on-going maintenance plan. Ongoing coordination with local leagues and the school district should inform other field improvements, including turfing existing fields, installing lights to expand play seasons and the development of additional fields to accommodate demand.

### **Expanding Recreation Options**

#### **Splash Pads / Spray Parks**

Spray parks are water play features that are very popular and provide a means of integrating aquatics into parks at a relatively low cost. Camas currently does not have a splash pad in the park system,

and strong public support exists for this feature. The City should consider at least one spray park to serve residents as an option for summertime water play that doesn't require lifeguarding. This special use amenity typically is supported by parking and restrooms, since it draws users from a wider area. Any spray park facility should be designed to recycle water, if practical.

#### **Bike Skills**

Engaging older youth, teens, and adults in more intense physical activity within parks requires amenities that support challenging active movement. The City should plan for a pump track and connecting flow track in a visible location that can accommodate parking and can enable a synergy with other park uses. These features would add new challenges for riders and add to the range of outdoor recreational opportunities across older youth and teens.

#### **Alternative Sports**

Providing facilities for alternative or emerging sports, such as skateboarding, BMX, mountain biking, climbing and parkour, can offer residents a more diverse range of recreational experiences, while creating destinations that attract local and regional visitors. Camas currently has an outdoor, concrete skatepark located next to the Washougal River Greenway, and opportunities and facilities for other alternative sports should be considered as new parks, such as Green Mountain, are designed and developed.

#### **All-Inclusive Playgrounds**

Upgrading play areas for ADA-accessibility will be necessary to ensure compliance and universal access; however, providing for ADA-accessibility should not be the City's only goal. As new parks or playground replacements are planned, Camas should consider opportunities for fully-accessible all-inclusive play areas to provide for users of all abilities.

#### **Off-Leash Dog Area**

Walking with a dog is a very popular recreational activity, and off-leash areas have become desired amenities for dog owners living in urban environments who may otherwise have limited opportunities to exercise their pets. Recreational trends and community input indicate an existing

need for an off-leash area. The City of Camas currently does not have an official off-leash dog area; however, the City of Washougal has prioritized implementation of a dog park within the next year with opportunities for Camas residents to use.

Appropriate sites should be safe, not isolated, and noise impacts on neighbors should be considered. Ideally, a dog park would be a component to a larger (future) community park, where infrastructure (e.g., parking, restrooms and garbage collection) exists and supports multiple activities. The development of a dog park may require code revisions, the development of rules and policies, and community support for self-policing for behavioral issues and waste pick-up. Communities throughout the Northwest have relied on grassroots or non-profit organizations, such as DOGPAW, for the ongoing operations and maintenance of such facilities.

### Sport Courts

A limited variety of sport courts exists within Camas. Two tennis courts, three volleyball courts and nine basketball courts are provided at City parks. Tennis court surfacing will require attention in the coming years, and Camas has an opportunity to transition one or both courts to multi-sport use. Camas currently has no outdoor, dedicated pickleball courts available within public parks.

Pickleball continues to rank as one of the fastest -growing sports and has seen significant jumps in participation over the past decade, attracting a wide range of age groups. As an interim step, the City should plan to convert some tennis courts to multi-sport courts through striping and examine the need for additional multi-sport courts in the future.

### Community Gardens

Community gardens provide common space for residents to grow fruits, vegetables and flowers. Gardens have been shown to increase healthy food consumption, while providing opportunities for active living, social interactions and lifelong learning. Community gardens are becoming more popular park amenities in urban environments, where residents may have limited outdoor space. Gardens are also popular with a diverse range of residents. Additional gardens could be sited in community or neighborhood parks or in stand-alone locations with parking and access to water. Due to

limited staffing, the City should continue to seek partnerships for garden management with local community groups.

### Water-oriented Recreation

Camas' location on the Columbia River and with three major lakes provide substantial opportunities for water-based recreation, including both motorized and non-motorized boating, fishing, paddle sports, wildlife watching, and beach activities. The City has made significant investments in waterfront acquisitions and water-oriented infrastructure over past decades, and this infrastructure, which includes docks, ramps and other water access amenities, should continue to be monitored.

Outdoor recreation businesses in the Camas-Washougal community benefit from the close proximity of the rivers, forests and mountains that provide venues for mountain biking, backpacking, rock climbing and similar outdoor activities. The cities of Camas and Washougal should coordinate and partner with local businesses to run classes that provide an introduction to these outdoor sports and broaden the outreach to new participants.

### Acquisitions for a Complete Park System

Camas' park system has been expanding as the City grows and the need for more facilities triggers additions of both parkland and recreational amenities. The City is expected to continue its growth as a desirable place to live and, thus, must press forward to acquire more parkland and develop more amenities within existing parks. The mapping of existing parks within Camas' residential neighborhoods illustrated the need for three more strategically located park sites to ensure reasonable access to walkable parks for the bulk of the community. Acquiring parkland requires a proactive approach and may need to look beyond undeveloped or partially developed properties. In addition to fee-simple purchases, the City should continue to work and coordinate with local residential developers to include public parks in new subdivisions and utilize tools, such as park impact fee credits, to facilitate the process.





## User Conveniences

### Restrooms

Supporting park and trail use through the provision of restrooms is a critical element in any park system. Based on the park site assessments, several parks should have the restrooms replaced or upgraded; and where possible add new permanent bathrooms to parks and trailheads.

### Parking

Camas has several park and trail assets that are heavily used during the summer, especially those that are adjacent to water or have access to water-oriented recreation such as Heritage Park and Heritage Trail. The City should evaluate such locations for parking and transportation constraints and needs and consider improvements to add capacity for heavy seasonal uses.

### Picnic Areas & Shelters

Improving access to existing picnic areas and shelters for ADA compliance should be a core focus. Additionally, the City should assess and consider installation of new picnic shelters by city quadrants. Site master plans for Ash Creek Park and Ostensen Canyon Park should guide the future decisions about the need and location of picnic areas and shelter facilities.

## Wayfinding

The City of Camas can benefit from enhanced wayfinding and signage supporting its overall park and trail system. Opportunities exist to help visitors navigate and inform them about the public spaces they are entering. A good wayfinding system can provide a consistent identity and display valuable and accessible information to orient the user. This guidance system ensures efficient use of the trail, park, or other public space and conveys safety to the user by translating the environment into a known geography. Signs, symbols, mapping, color, and standardized site amenities combined with good design of the physical environment (i.e., trail or park) help the user navigate the space and stay comfortably oriented.

## ADA compliance

Minor improvements to access, such as providing ramped entrances, for site furnishings are necessary to conform to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and ensure universal accessibility. Also, the City should evaluate the play equipment and its signage for code compliance and replace outdated equipment, as appropriate. The Capital Planning section includes a line item for covering small upgrades and improvements to remove barriers and improve universal access. In general, the City should complete a system-wide ADA assessment and make improvements to existing parks as needed to ensure proper maintenance, usability and quality of park features and grounds.

# Open Space & STEWARDSHIP

Camas' open space, greenways and waterways are a critical component of the City's green infrastructure and play critical roles in supporting healthy, well-functioning ecosystems. These many benefits include maintaining and enhancing air and water quality, mitigating impacts of climate change, capturing stormwater runoff, and providing recreational and scenic opportunities to connect with nature that promote physical and mental well-being.

## OPEN SPACE

The Camas community is fortunate to have retained several significant natural areas across the City. Over 700 acres of open space properties and natural lands are either owned or managed by the City, in coordination with the acreage of the developed park areas. These open space properties include forested lands, riparian corridors, wetlands, and steep slopes across 31 different sites. Together, the open space properties around Lacamas Lake comprise the most extensive and contiguous public open spaces, accounting for 49% of the open space in the City. Several other significant natural areas, ranging in size from 11 to 125 acres, also provide substantial forested areas. Smaller open space properties, under 10 acres in size, are distributed across Camas.

The open space classification distinguishes natural lands from parks developed for active recreation and other highly managed landscapes. Open space may refer to public properties that are exclusively natural areas or portions of larger parks that are managed as natural areas. These open space lands are managed to preserve, restore, and conserve ecosystem functions, water quality, native vegetation, and wildlife habitat. Open space properties are undeveloped, primarily left in their natural form, and are managed to retain or enhance natural or







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*Would like to see development of parking, picnic shelters, and water entry to Fallen Leaf Lake on opposite side of Lake Road.*  
- Online Open House participant



scenic resources. However, open space may include trails or interpretive signs, along with modest support amenities such as parking or restrooms. Additionally, some properties that are acquired and held as future, active-use parks are managed as open space until they are developed as parks, which may last five to ten years or even longer from the time of purchase.

Figure 19. City-owned Open Space Areas

Open Space Area	Acreage
<b>Larger Open Space Properties</b>	
Fallen Leaf Open Space	52.30
Forest Home Open Space	19.71
Grass Valley Open Space	11.26
Lacamas Creek Open Space	65.79
Lacamas Lake Open Space	52.41
Lakeridge Open Space	59.49
North Lacamas Lake Open Space	159.91
Ostensen Canyon Greenway	47.70
Prune Hill Open Space	22.96
Skyridge Open Space	29.63
Summit Terrace Open Space	12.34
Washougal River Greenway	124.29
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>657.78</b>
<b>Smaller Open Space Properties</b>	
6th Ave Open Space	0.60
Columbia River Open Space	2.81
Columbia View Terrace Open Space	0.24
Crown Road Open Space	1.37
Goodwin Road Open Space	0.84
Lake Road Open Space	6.99
Meadows Open Space	3.37
Mill Ditch Open Space	9.12
Renaissance Summit Open Space	0.33
Sunningdale Open Space	1.67
Tidland Heights Open Space	1.46
Top Fallen Leaf Open Space	0.41
Triangle Open Space	9.41
View Ridge Open Space	0.33
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>38.95</b>
<b>Undeveloped Park Properties</b>	
Ash Creek Park	9.54
Benton Park	4.77
Green Mountain	114.21
Lacamas Heights Park	2.30
Ostensen Canyon Park	8.23
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>139.05</b>
<b>TOTAL OPEN SPACE</b>	<b>835.78</b>

## Large Open Space Properties

The City manages several other sizable open space properties. At more than 10 acres, significant habitat for wildlife and a quiet experience for park visitors is buffered by nature from the surrounding urban environment. These areas, in addition to the Lacamas Lake and Washougal River Greenway areas, include Ostensen Canyon, Prune Hill, Skyridge, Forest Home, and Grass Valley. These large open space areas contain a variety of distinct habitats, such as wetlands and creeks, adding to the diversity of plant species they host. Some of these open spaces also include developed trail systems, serving as recreation opportunities and valuable pedestrian connections for local streets and neighborhoods.

## Smaller Open Space Properties

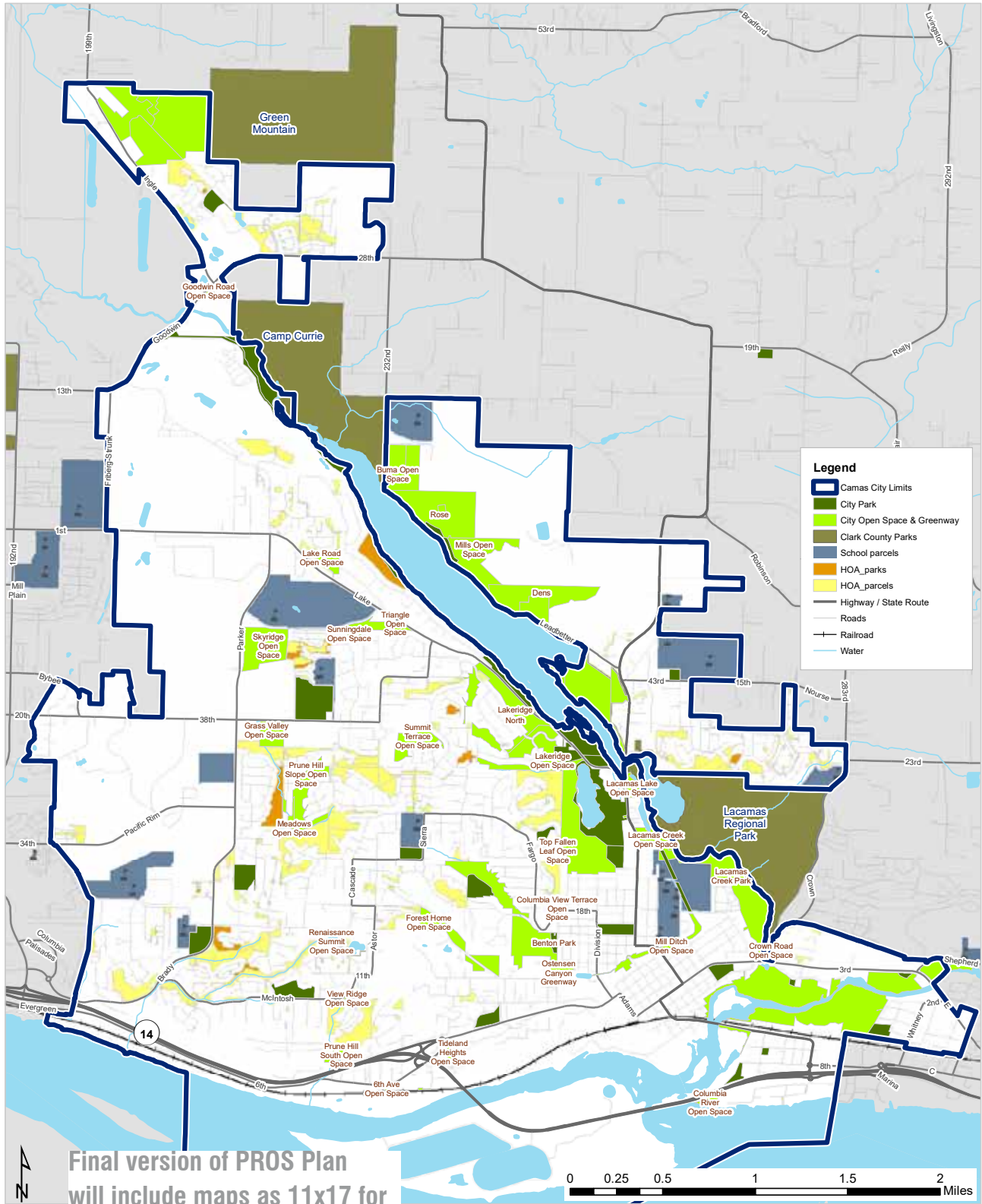
Smaller open space areas, ranging from less than one acre to ten acres, are distributed across the City. Though small, these pockets of natural area serve as refuges for wildlife traveling between larger forested areas, and in some cases, provide meaningful trail connections between adjoining neighborhoods. Several of these areas have no developed trails or site improvements and are managed exclusively as natural area set-asides and to preserve or enhance their ecosystem functions. These include Crown Road Open Space, Lake Road Open Space, Meadows Open Space, Mill Ditch Open Space and Triangle Open Space, among others. Development of these sites for public recreational use, including the construction of trails, may be limited, or restricted by natural characteristics of the land, including steep slopes, wetlands, and other features.

## Other Open Space Properties

Other significant natural open space areas include sites owned by Clark County, such as Lacamas Regional Park and Camp Currie, and a significant collection of privately-held parcels owned by various homeowners' associations throughout the City.

Figure 20. Other Open Space Areas

Non-City Open Space Lands	Acreage
Clark Co	891.10
HOA Parks	43.25
HOA Open Space	341.65
<b>TOTAL NON-CITY OPEN SPACE</b>	<b>1,276.00</b>



Final version of PROS Plan  
will include maps as 11x17 for  
better readability

Map 9: Existing Open Space by Provider

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## LAND CONSERVATION

The City of Camas has demonstrated its commitment to conserving its natural resources within the context of a major metropolitan region. The preservation of the network of open space around Lacamas Lake and the Washougal River Greenway are shining examples of the importance of land conservation to the community. The City has also preserved a variety of public waterfront access and public park amenities along Lacamas Lake and the Washougal River.

Many of the public lands that the City owns and manages host unique, high-value landscapes, such as intact forests, waterfronts, and vistas. These areas are prioritized for conservation, acquisition, and restoration activities to ensure that they continue to thrive and provide their distinct ecosystem functions and benefits. High-quality waterfronts, watercourses, and wetlands are all vital to protecting water quality of these environments and preserving Camas' diversity of habitats. Providing safe public access to and within these areas needs to be carefully balanced with the crucial goal of environmental stewardship and natural habitat protection.

### Waterfronts

Camas' diverse waterfronts present some of its most aesthetic and environmentally important characteristics. With only small exceptions, nearly the entire waterfronts of Lacamas Lake, Round Lake and Fallen Leaf Lake are in public ownership. Water access sites are provided at Heritage Park, Fallen Leaf Lake Park, Lacamas Regional Park and along Leadbetter Road. River access is provided within the Washougal River Greenway, and the Port of Camas-Washougal provides water access to the Columbia River. Through ongoing planning and coordination with Clark County, the City should continue to explore options to expand its waterfront ownership along the Columbia River. The conservation and continued restoration of these open spaces further highlight the conservation values of the Camas community.

## Watercourses

The City's stormwater management area includes three major watersheds: the Columbia River, the Washougal River, and the Lacamas Lake watersheds. The Stormwater Management Program aims to inform and assist in the development of water quality management policies and strategies to protect local waterways, consistent with the state and federal requirements. Watercourses traversing the numerous sub-basins within the three main watersheds are naturally occurring or partially altered streams characterized by perennial or seasonal flows that contribute to water filtration, stormwater buffering, erosion control, and the provision of wildlife habitats. Within City-owned properties, preservation and restoration of the land surrounding watercourses are a priority, ensuring that these areas continue to provide their unique ecosystem services.

### Wetlands & Steep Slopes

The City code also protects and regulates wetlands and steep slopes in Camas. The City's natural open space areas include several wetland areas, including riparian or lakeside wetlands and perched wetlands in upland forest areas. Steep slopes exist throughout the drainage basins and small canyons, such as Ostensen Canyon. These areas continue to be a high priority for protection and restoration efforts. Generally, they represent fragile ecosystems that host unique plant communities and serve as a valuable habitat for many animals, including bird and amphibian populations. These areas should be included in future open space management planning.

### Forest Lands

Healthy and resilient forest lands are crucial for the preservation of Camas' high-value ecosystems. The City is fortunate to have acquired and protected many of the forested hillsides and canyons and open spaces around the three major lakes. Ongoing monitoring and management of these forest lands will be necessary to control impacts to water bodies and water quality, control invasive vegetation, maintain native plant communities and accommodate appropriate recreational access and usage.

## LAND ACQUISITION

Conservation may also take the form of acquiring important lands that contribute to the ecological health of Camas' forests, wetlands, and watercourses. For many years, the City has partnered and planned with Clark County on the Legacy Lands Program to secure such lands adjacent to the North Shore of Lacamas Lake.

The 2021 update to the Clark County Natural Areas Acquisition Plan provides a vision for preserving and enhancing a system of natural lands that includes greenways, habitat, farm, and forest resource lands. The plan provides a regional perspective, identifying specific acquisition opportunities, as well as accommodates future opportunities for park development, trail creation, and restoration. Within Camas, this county-wide plan continues to identify high-value conservation lands along the Columbia River shoreline (including Lady Island) for open space and to accommodate the Lewis and Clark Regional Trail, in addition to lands along Lacamas Creek.

Undeveloped lands or sections of existing properties are often restricted in their potential development by steep slopes, wetlands, or critical areas. These features are often highly valued for habitat conservation. These areas may extend existing natural areas or serve as essential habitat corridors between larger open space lands. Conservation easements and public access easements are tools that could be applied to increase habitat benefits and access across the parks and open space system.

## STEWARDSHIP

With the growth of the open space network, the City has initiated several studies to guide the stewardship and management of these lands, informed by quantitative data and best practices.

### Open Space Studies and Management Plans

#### Lacamas Lake Management Plan

The City has begun a process to develop a Lake Management Plan to outline actions to improve water quality in Lacamas, Fallen Leaf, and Round lakes. The project will address algae blooms, along with other water quality concerns that City Council has identified as a top priority. The planning effort will include water sampling and monitoring to better understand current water quality and to develop potential management strategies to improve the overall health of the lakes.

#### North Shore Subarea Plan

The area north of Lacamas Lake is anticipated to experience substantial growth and redevelopment within the next 20 years, and the City is actively planning the future of the North Shore through an ongoing community process. Current uses are primarily agriculture and single-





family residences, and most of the subarea is in private ownership. Planned transportation infrastructure will improve connectivity and support the employment and retail uses desired in the North Shore area. A large portion of the land in this area is zoned Business Park and Multi-Family, with some Commercial and lower density residential zoning. An eight-point vision statement, adopted by City Council in September 2020, includes as the first two points the intent to preserve the natural beauty of the North Shore and plan for connected greenspace.

1. Preserve the North Shore’s natural beauty and environmental health. Policies, regulations and design rules must protect significant trees, tree groves, and surrounding lakes. Identify and preserve views to the treed hillside and the lake.
2. Plan a network of green spaces and recreational opportunities. Integrate a variety of parks, playgrounds, trails, and open spaces into residential and employment areas throughout the North Shore area. Create a “green corridor” along the lake that completes the Heritage Trail, provides lake access, and buffers the lake from adjacent development.

## System-wide Open Space Management

In 2003, the City prepared Policy Guidelines for an Open Space Management Plan, which was intended to give staff the basis for effective resource management decisions. The plan identified nine management goals and eight policies to guide open space management. The plan identifies high-level issues related to land management and trail development in and through the open space network.

Since 2003, the City’s open space network has grown by over 50% in terms of city-owned acreage, and an updated, more specific and science-oriented open space management and urban forest management plans are required to better guide City staff in the care, maintenance and stewardship of open space and forested lands. In particular, these new plans should reflect the realities of limited program funding and the challenges presented by climate change to include the following considerations:

1. Maintain the functional benefits of open space vegetation.
2. Foster resilient plant communities that can recover from disturbances and adapt to climate change and its impacts, such as forest fires.
3. Implement work based on the value of these functional benefits, the community’s priorities for the open space properties and the condition of the vegetation found there.
4. Maximize the return on available funding through volunteers, matching grants, and donations.



## SUSTAINABLE STEWARDSHIP PRACTICES

The management of landscapes in City parklands, whether formal plantings in developed parks or diverse forest ecosystems in open space areas, requires continual attention and an investment of significant resources to properly steward and maintain the living landscape. Regardless of the use of these landscapes, the desired outcomes are the same – to sustain healthy, thriving plants.

Past practices and traditional horticultural methods to achieve this goal have become less reliable in recent years. Changes to the Pacific Northwest climate have increased summer heat and drought, causing more stress for mature and establishing plants. This change has been accompanied by a shift toward more sustainable landscape maintenance practices, reducing potential impacts on the surrounding environment and its inhabitants.

### Water Conservation

Despite the rainy winters, water is not an unlimited resource in the mid Columbia River valley, and summers are expected to get even hotter and drier as climate change intensifies. It is increasingly likely that not just voluntary, but mandatory, water conservation measures will become necessary on occasion to preserve supplies for the most critical uses, such as domestic consumption.

In landscaped areas where shrubs and trees rely on some summer water, maintenance staff have adjusted the irrigation systems to water before sunrise to reduce water waste and maximize plant uptake. Depending on the landscape, watering also may need to be shifted to a deeper and less frequent watering schedule to reduce evaporation and encourage plants to root more deeply. In addition to reducing irrigation volumes and frequency, the City should consider shifting to planting more drought-tolerant species and schedule the majority of new plant installations in the early part of the rainy season to maximize root growth and establishment before the onset of the dry season.

### Plant Selection

Selecting appropriate plants species for park landscapes is the source of a great deal of discussion, both on the local and regional scale.

While drought-tolerant plants will be better able to establish in the short term, consideration is also given to how well newly established plants will survive in the long term. In recent years, cities across the Pacific Northwest have seen many mature native trees decline and die in recent years, unable to adapt quickly to the increased summer temperatures and lack of summer moisture. Plant selection for tree replacements or renovations that consider the anticipated climate in 10-50 years will be more likely to create resilient, mature landscapes that can better transition to warmer, drier conditions.

In natural areas, generally replanted with trees and shrubs native to the immediate area, staff should begin selecting new plants from seed zones that reflect the greater Portland-Vancouver area's projected climate. This focus on plant provenance (the original geographic source of seed, pollen, or propagule) will allow staff to plant the same native species better adapted to future conditions.

In addition to considering the climate in the selection of plants for developed parks, other factors must also be considered, including the mature size of the tree or shrub, any known pests or diseases that may affect the species, and how a fully developed root system will interact with nearby paved surfaces.

### Invasive Species Management

The control of invasive species is a critical element of the restoration process and essential in maintaining a healthy natural landscape. Many invasive and non-native species exhibit strong adaptability to Pacific Northwest environments and displace native species, especially within the disturbed landscapes proximate to urban development. In relation to the need for an updated open space management plan, the City should expand resources to managing invasive species and enhanced partnerships to help with these efforts. While removal efforts may be ongoing, those sites cleared of invasives will require continuous monitoring and intervention to reduce or limit the re-establishment of the invasive plants. Through proper management of public open spaces and natural areas, the City and its partners can maintain and enhance its open space areas and the critical ecosystem and community benefits they provide.

## Stormwater Management

The Pacific Northwest region is experiencing more severe rainstorms due to climate change, and more of that rain is falling on impervious surfaces: roads, parking lots, and rooftops. This untreated surface water runoff is a source of contamination along the Columbia River, Washougal River, Lacamas Lake, and in other riparian areas, impacting both people and wildlife, especially salmon populations.

State requirements for surface water management are becoming more stringent and costly for both developers and the City. Ongoing updates to and management of the City's NPDES Phase II Permit, Stormwater Design Standards, Stormwater Management Plan, and Stormwater Management Program should be acknowledged in relation to park and open space system management.

Runoff volumes, peak stream flows, and local flooding can be reduced by incorporating trees into stormwater management planning, lessening the need for expensive detention facilities (e.g., catch basins) and the cost of treatment to remove sediment and other pollutants such as lawn chemicals. Green infrastructure is far more cost-effective than grey infrastructure.

Using open space areas and greenspaces to capture stormwater runoff encourages infiltration into the soil, prevents excessive streambed erosion, and reduces sedimentation in major waterways. In addition, a healthy tree canopy increases carbon sequestration potential, encourages local biodiversity, and enhances overall environmental resilience by reducing heat island effects and offering cooler, shaded air.





## CHAPTER 7

# Recreation & EVENTS



*...my top priority “Outdoor adventure summer camps, including archery...” I would be very interested in these types of activities/camps not only for children and youth, but adults as well. I would love to participate in all of the activities that were listed, not only to learn more but also to meet more people in the community.*

- Online Open House participant



The recreation facilities and services available within Camas are a major community asset and support the physical, mental and social health of community members. Recreation services are available through a range of public and private recreation, health and fitness providers and facilities. The City currently provides nearly all of its programming through partnerships and program contractors and does not provide a full suite of ‘traditional’ recreation offerings, such as fitness and aquatics, due to limited facility space and staffing.

## RECREATION MACROTRENDS

The following national and state data highlights some of the current trends in recreation and may frame future considerations in Camas’ recreation programs. Additional trend data are provided in Appendix E.

- Nationwide, eighty-two percent of U.S. adults believe that parks and recreation are essential. <sup>(1)</sup>
- Seventy-seven percent of survey respondents indicate that having a high-quality

park, playground, public open space or recreation center nearby is an important factor in deciding where they want to live. <sup>(1)</sup>

- Nearly all (93%) park and recreation agencies provide recreation programs and services. The top five most commonly offered programs include holiday or other special events (65%), educational programs (59%), group exercise (59%), fitness programs (58%), and day or summer camps (57%). <sup>(2)</sup>
- Youth aged 6 to 17 were active outside far less in 2019 than in previous years – the average



number of outings per child dropped 15% between 2012 and 2019. <sup>(4)</sup>

- Adults over the age of 65 showed significant change in inactivity rates in the six year period between 2014 and 2019, decreasing 6.8%. The rise in popularity of low impact exercise like aquatic exercise, swimming for fitness, yoga, and barre could be attributing to the decline of inactivity in this older age group. <sup>(5)</sup>
- Nearly all park and recreation providers in the U.S. experienced a decline in revenue in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. As early as May 2020, most providers had to close facilities temporarily in accordance with health and safety directives. Nearly half had also furloughed or laid off staff due to the funding and facility impacts of the pandemic. <sup>(3)</sup>

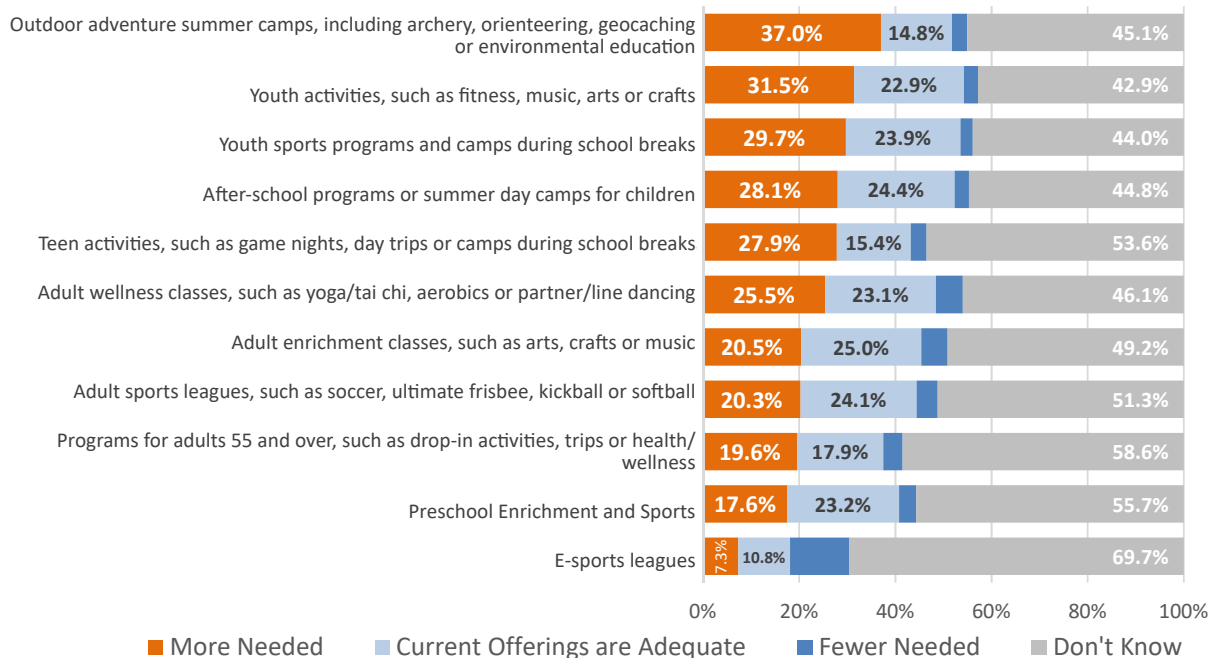
**Sources:**

- (1) American Engagement with Parks Survey
- (2) 2020 NRPA Agency Performance Review
- (3) 2020 State of the Industry Report
- (4) 2020 Outdoor Participation Report
- (5) 2020 Sport & Fitness Industry Association Sports, Fitness, And Leisure Activities Topline Participation Report

## LOCAL PERSPECTIVES

The community survey conducted as part of this PROS Plan update asked respondents which types of recreation programs, classes and activities they would like to see more of. Notably, approximately half of respondents indicated that they did not know whether current offerings were adequate or not. Of those who expressed an opinion, more than half felt the City needed more outdoor adventure summer camps, teen activities, adult wellness classes and programs for adults over 55. Respondents under 34 years of age were more likely to feel the City needs more adult sports leagues, youth camps and after-school programs, preschool activities, and E-sports leagues.

Figure 21. Adequacy of Current Recreation Options



Additional insight was gleaned from the online open house, which asked participants to prioritize the list of recreation programs and activities that ranked strongly from the above community survey. The top three recreation program priorities were noted as the following:

- (1) After-school programs or summer day camps for children
- (2) Outdoor adventure summer camps, including archery, orienteering, geocaching or environmental education
- (3) Youth sports programs and camps during school breaks

The online open house also included a question about community events. Participants were asked to rate the priority (high, medium or low) from a list of ten program options. The top three event priorities were noted as the following:

- (1) Hometown Holidays
- (2) Movies in the Park
- (3) Concerts in the Park

## RECREATION PROGRAMS

Interest in the City providing recreation programs appears to be strong; however, the number and types of activities the City can offer is very limited due to the lack of staffing and indoor facility capacity. The City should consider incremental growth in recreation programs and initially focus on facilitating programs via contract vendors who provide their own staff and/or focusing on those programs that are not currently offered by local or regional providers.

### Programming Classifications

Recreation program offerings can be classified and segmented into general program categories to assist in the planning and provision of programs and activities. The following general program categories have been applied to a review of programs offered by the City to illustrate the range and variety of program options:

- Education – Language programs, tutoring, science (STEM) classes, computer, financial planning, and CPR/AED/First Aid
- Fitness – Group fitness classes, personal training, education, and nutrition

- Outdoor Recreation – Environmental education, hiking, camping, kayaking, and other activities
- Sports – Team and individual sports including camps, clinics and tournaments, as well as adventure/non-traditional sports
- Seniors – Programs and services that are dedicated to serving the needs of seniors
- Special Events – City wide special events that are conducted throughout the year
- Teens - Programs and services that are focused on serving the needs of teens. This can include all of the activity areas noted above (except seniors)
- Youth – Before and after school programs, summer/school break camps, and preschool

Figure 22 highlights the major areas of focus for current Camas recreation programs, segmented by general program classification and age group. The programs noted are based on a review of program offerings for 2018-2021, that were provided by the Department.



Figure 22. Existing City Programs by Classification

Area	Focus	Programs
Sports	Youth Sports	Sports Camps, Soccer, Skyhawks Sports Camps, Co-ed Flag Football
	Adult Sports	Adult Co-ed Softball, Men's Softball
Fitness / Wellness	Youth	Fencing, Kung Fu, Fitness Classes, Tiny Tots Tumbling
	Adult	Fitness Classes, Yoga, Tai Chi, Women's Self Defense, Barre
Youth		Spring Kids Camp, Preschool, Preschool Summer Camp, Brickzone Summer Camp, School Break Camps
Teens		Camtown Art Show, plus Sports & Fitness (see above)
Education	Youth	CPR/AED/First Aid. Busy Bee Preschool
	Adult	CPR/AED/First Aid
Specialty / General Interest	Youth	Music Together, Craft Workshops, Family Paint Night
	Adult	Craft Workshops, Family Paint Night
Special Events		Easter Egg Hunt, Camtown Youth Festival, Movies in the Park, Summer Concerts, Family Fun Fridays, Hometown Holidays
Outdoor Recreation	Youth	Spring Adventure Camp
	Adult	N/A
Seniors		Fitness Classes, Tai Chi, Self-Defense, Cultural Bus Tours, Casino Tours

### Programs Available by Age Groups

Below is listed the general program categories that are available for different age groups. Full dots represent categories where Camas has an established set of programs, and hollow dots represent categories where Camas currently provides some program options and is working to grow the programming.

Figure 23. Segmentation of City Programs by Age Group

Program Category	Preschool	Youth	Teen	Adults	Senior
Education	●		◉	◉	◉
Fitness		●	◉	●	●
Outdoor Recreation		●			
Seniors					●
Special Events	●	●	●	●	●
Sports	●	●	●	◉	◉
Teens			●		
Youth		●			



For the programs it provides, Camas serves all of the major age groups to a degree. Education and Outdoor Recreation have very limited programs in place and should be supplemented as staff and resources allow. Education programs could include language programs, tutoring, science (STEM) classes, computer classes and financial planning. Outdoor recreation programs could occur at many of the local parks and include environmental education, birding, hiking, camping, kayaking and other activities.

As shown in the community survey conducted as part of this Plan, the Camas community considers youth programs to be a high priority for City recreation services. More than three in ten survey respondents indicated that there were not enough youth activities, such as fitness, music, arts or crafts (31.5%) and outdoor adventure summer camps, including archery, orienteering, geocaching or environmental education (37%). To address community needs and demand, the City should explore how to provide adequate resources to expand and diversify its youth programs to meet the growing need for engaging, affordable, safe options for children and teens. The City should continue to work with the school district, community partners, recreation providers, and sports organizations to explore facility options and availability. In utilizing existing parks and outdoor resources during the summer months, the City should explore specialized outdoor youth camps focusing on hiking, climbing or orienteering, as well as expand and strengthen its Adventure Camp program.

If opportunities are created for additional indoor or classroom space, the City should consider whether to expand the quantity and breadth of youth and adult programs offered. In particular, the City should consider health and fitness classes, additional team sports programs, classes in alternative sports, art and music classes, and educational programs, such as language, and personal and home improvement. Because recreational programming can be influenced by national and regional trends, staff must stay abreast of current trends and continue to evaluate and adjust program offerings within its contractor-reliant service model and if indoor program space becomes available.

The City also should continue to coordinate with the school district and explore options to partner with the district for the use of school facilities (e.g.,

gymnasiums and classrooms) as space for expanded program options, especially during non-school summer months. Such an option would require the loosening of COVID restrictions, as the school district has stopped allowing outside organizations to use their spaces for activities.

Regarding programs for adults over 55, the depth and breadth of programming for seniors may need to increase or be adjusted as the overall population ages, with a greater emphasis on the wide-ranging needs and expectations of the Baby Boomer generation. As noted in the Community Profile chapter, Camas has a slightly higher median age than the county and state, and nearly one-quarter of the city population is 55 years of age and over. Today's seniors are generally more active than previous generations and would benefit from a diverse array of recreational and educational programs that promote active, healthy lifestyles. The City will likely see an increased demand for programs offered on evenings and weekends, as older community members maintain employment or volunteer activities later in life.

Additionally, the following program categories are not provided due to the limited nature of the City's facilities and staffing capacity to support these programs:

- Aquatics – Learn to swim classes, aqua exercise classes, competitive swimming/diving, SCUBA, and other programs (synchro, water polo, etc.).
- Cultural Arts – Performing arts classes, visual arts classes, music/video production and arts events.
- Self-Directed – This includes the opportunities for individuals to recreate on their own. This can include activities such as open gym, use of weight/cardio space, and lap/recreational swimming.
- Special Needs – Programs for the physically and mentally impaired, as well as inclusion programs.
- Social Services – This can include nutrition and feeding programs, job training, life skills training, childcare and other activities, such as health screenings.

## RECREATION FACILITIES

### Camas Community Center

The Camas Community Center is a historic school building located south of the Washougal River and downtown Camas, in the Oak Park neighborhood. The center is used for community meeting and private event space, recreation programs, senior activities, as well as storage for non-profit partners, special event and recreation program supplies. The facility has limited function due to its small size, limited amenities, location, and inability to expand. Built in 1915, the Center was not designed for recreation programming and does not have a full-size gym. In the future, if a new recreation center is approved, the City should reexamine the use of the existing community center to avoid duplication of services.

### Lacamas Lake Lodge

The Lacamas Lake Lodge is located adjacent to Heritage Park on Lake Road, along Lacamas Lake. Located on the site formerly occupied by the Camas Moose Lodge, the new building provides community meeting and event space, adult and youth recreation programs, as well as improved access to Lacamas Lake and public parking. This facility is intentionally designed for multiple uses but is especially well suited to rent for events. The City should continue to program this facility to support recreation programs, but in a manner balanced with rental use of the facility, which provides the greatest revenue to support this facility and other City services.

### Private Fitness

Several private fitness and aquatic clubs are located in or near Camas. These facilities vary in their offerings and clientele, and their strength in the marketplace is an indicator that the wider Camas-Washougal community seeks out and has a need for fitness-related activities and programs.

### School District Facilities

In addition to school gymnasiums and sport fields, the Camas School District also operates the Jack, Will and Rob Center. The facility was opened in 2002 and run as a Boys & Girl Club until 2017. At that time, the Camas School District assumed operations.

The center provides after-school programs, classes and rentals, and the facility offers a gym, classroom space, art room, computer lab and Family Community Resource Center.

### Future Recreation & Aquatic Center

In 2019, Camas voters rejected a \$78 million bond to build a community recreation and aquatics center with a recreation pool and competitive pool, in addition to sport field improvements. Although the outcome of that vote was clear, the outreach conducted through this planning effort indicates that many in the Camas community still have interest in an aquatics facility and indoor recreation space.

Traditional guidelines from the National Recreation and Parks Association for service demand for recreation centers are based on a population benchmark, with the idea that one recreation center could be supported by a population of 40,000. With the City's current population and projected growth, the City should continue to explore the potential to site and finance an indoor facility and continue the dialogue with the community about what could be included in a new facility, its projected costs, and the community willingness to support such an endeavor – at a scale that would be supported by voters. Partnerships will be necessary to offset development and operational costs of a community recreation center, so the City should continue discussions with local agency partners (e.g., City of Washougal, Camas School District) and with operators (e.g., YMCA) to explore options for the development and operations of a future center.

## SPECIAL EVENTS

The main recreation program area that is directly offered by Camas Parks and Recreation is special events, which include the following (pre-COVID):

- Easter Day Egg Hunt
- Camtown Youth Festival
- S'more Stories Under the Stars
- Concerts in the Park
- Camas Days Kids Parade
- Family Fun Fridays
- Movies in the Park
- Family Halloween Night
- Hometown Holidays

Community and special events should continue to be an area of emphasis. Special events draw communities together, attract visitors from outside the community, and are popular with residents. However, due to resource requirements of coordinating special events, the overall growth in the number of events should be carefully managed. This will ensure the City can adequately invest in its overall recreational offerings and maintain high-quality special events. Other community groups should be encouraged to be the primary funders and organizers of as many community-wide events as possible. If the City decides to offer more events, it should obtain sponsorships to offset costs and develop a series of seasonal activities.

## PROGRAM ENHANCEMENT & DEVELOPMENT

Staff should periodically review data from the following sources to determine community needs for programs and services:

- Historical registration trends/success of current programs and services
- Surveys and questionnaires
- Washington SCORP and national trend data
- Suggestions provided by current instructors and current employees
- Suggestions submitted by prospective instructors/employees

Staff should continue to evaluate and assess the City’s program offerings and prioritize future programs based on a mix of criteria that include:

- Current or potential importance for community-wide or broad individual benefit
- Community needs or deficiencies
- Potential for increased participation
- Revenue potential, affordability and accessibility

With the City of Washougal’s interest in expanding recreation options, the City of Camas should directly coordinate and plan with Washougal staff to provide a balanced suite of programs in a complementary manner. This should be in parallel with the development of Camas’ programming philosophy to detail how the City will deliver recreation programs and services in the future, which also is framed by the availability of flexible, indoor space for programs and classes. As part of the programming philosophy, the City must determine what programs and services will be offered directly by recreation staff and which will be contracted to other individuals or organizations. The City’s current model of utilizing program contractors could be expanded or supplemented as indoor space is available via arrangements with the school district and/or the construction of a larger recreation center that can accommodate fitness, athletics and classes.

Before determining which programs and services to contract or have provided by others, an assessment of the specific pros and cons of such a move needs to be completed. A major aspect of this analysis should be to determine the financial impacts and





quality of the services that will be provided. Key questions to be asked include:

- Is this program offer consistent with community wants and needs?
- Do we have the facility capacity to provide the program? If not, can we partner with someone who has the space?
- Will this be the most cost-effective method to obtain the program, service or function?
- Does the Department have the knowledge, equipment, staffing resources and systems to provide the program, service or function?
- Are there other more qualified organizations that should provide the program, service or function? Will the quality of the program, service or function suffer if it is contracted to other organizations?
- Is the program, service or function only available from a contract provider?
- Are the safety and liability risks too high to provide the program or service in house/
- How will we effectively and efficiently market this program?

to ensure that there is a broad base of inclusive programming options available. This will require strong communications with other providers to determine roles, tracking of programs offered and number of participants, plus actively promoting the availability of services. Strong marketing efforts will be needed to inform and promote the recreation programs that are available and should focus on the following areas:

- Website enhancement to better promote programs and services
- The development of an updated program catalog, circulated multiple times a year
- Promotion of program registration options
- Programs and services offered by other providers
- Using appropriate communication channels to effectively market to various demographic segments.
- Cross marketing and/or promotional opportunities with other organizations such as the Camas School District, Camas Library, Meals on Wheels, Camas-Washougal Rotary and others.

There must be a strong recognition of the different demographic markets that have to be served. The youth, senior and family populations in the area should be specifically addressed, as should the different ethnic groups. Cross marketing programs with the school district and using social media to highlight programs by target audience also should be employed.

## COMMUNICATIONS & MARKETING

As staffing and resources allow, the City should take a stronger role in coordinating and delivering recreation programs and services in the community



CHAPTER 8

The City of Camas aims to provide a quality park, recreation, natural open space, and trail system that is efficient to administer and cost-effective to maintain. The previous 2014 PROS Plan outlined a set of objectives for operations and maintenance to help achieve this goal. These included staff training, updated equipment, the exploration of additional resources through alternative staffing, a volunteer coordinator position and the investment in preventative maintenance and upgrades to park facilities to maximize long-term benefits. Camas has since purchased larger mowing equipment, added two FTE positions in the fiscal 2019/20 period and added a playground inspection program with funding for playground equipment repair. This park management effort is ongoing as resources are available but further progress



*Near-term – increase field capacity by improving field quality.*  
- Stakeholder Focus Group participant

# Operations & MAINTENANCE





is needed. Park Operations staff have demonstrated their dedication to keeping parks functioning while the parkland system, city population, and park use has been expanding rapidly.

This chapter will provide data and assessments to help identify existing resource gaps and explore opportunities that may improve the capacity of park operations and maintenance.

## BACKGROUND

The City of Camas has doubled its population since 2000 and has been very successful at implementing its plans for acquiring and preserving open space in the face of development pressures. The City has worked diligently to create its open space network with a connecting system of trails around Lacamas Lake and linked to regional trails. In the last decade alone the City has added over 316 acres of open space and over 146 acres for future parks. The ten years of successful acquisitions increased the 2010 park system size by over 75%.



Figure 24. Camas Parklands Acquisitions since 2010

Year	Acquisition Acreage		
	Park	Open Space	Total
2011	7.02	4.92	<b>11.93</b>
2012		48.92	<b>48.92</b>
2013		23.59	<b>23.59</b>
2014		5.82	<b>5.82</b>
2015	25.12		<b>25.12</b>
2016			<b>0</b>
2017			<b>0</b>
2018		75.57	<b>75.57</b>
2019		37.99	<b>37.99</b>
2020	58.55	119.66	<b>178.22</b>
2021	55.65		<b>55.65</b>
<b>Subtotals</b>	<b>146.34</b>	<b>316.47</b>	
<b>Total Acquisitions since 2010</b>			<b>462.81</b>



While the park system in Camas increased by over 462 acres, the park maintenance staffing remained at the same equivalent employee level. There is some degree of maintenance outsourcing that accomplishes tree pruning or removal and invasive weed control.

Figure 25. Camas Park Maintenance Staffing Levels from 2010-2020

Metrics	2010 Actual	2020 Budget	2020 Actual
Parks Maintenance Expenditures	\$842,449	\$1,284,856	\$1,246,099
Parks Maintenance Staffing (FTEs)*	7.3	7.3	*

\* No seasonal workers were hired in 2020 due to COVID  
2010 FTE's combined full-time and seasonal equivalents

In 2010, park maintenance was conducted by 5.3 full-time employees (FTE) and two FTE equivalents for summer seasonal work. Having added two FTEs in 2019, park maintenance was executed by 7.3 FTEs with two additional seasonal positions. In 2020, no seasonal workers were hired due to COVID restrictions. While the park maintenance budgetary

expenditures increased by about 48%, the actual personnel level was similar to 2010. Those budget increases were mainly from normal inflation, additional playground repair/maintenance, and cost of living adjustments. Clearly, the operational resources have not kept up with the increase in the park system.

### National Park and Recreation Agency Comparisons

The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) 2020 Agency Performance Review provides some park metrics that offer perspectives on the Camas park system. Selected findings from their benchmarking tool illustrate some disparities with park acreage, population size and Park Operations staffing levels.

Figure 26. NRPA Agency Performance Comparisons with Camas' City-owned Park Facilities

Metric	All Agencies	Pop. 20,000-49,999	Camas
Number of Parks	20	-	<b>18</b>
Park Acres	437.1	-	<b>240</b>
Parks & Open Space Facilities (# sites)	27	-	<b>70</b>
Parks, Open Space & Non-Parks Acres	530	-	<b>1,064</b>
Residents per Park	2,281	1,963	<b>1,448</b>
Park Acres per 1,000 Residents	9.9	9.6	<b>40.8</b>
Trail Miles	11	8.5	<b>18.7</b>

The City of Camas, with 1,064 acres of parks and natural areas, has more than double the acreage of parks and open space than the median park and recreation agency (at 530 acres). That acreage comparison uses only city-owned parklands excluding the parklands owned by Clark County. The City also manages much more than the median trail mileage as typical agencies across the country. For Camas residents, these additional park facilities help improve the quality of life. However, the existing park operations staffing level does not provide enough resources to oversee, monitor or steward this extent of open space and natural parkland. A review of additional NRPA metrics provides further comparison with other agencies and jurisdictions of similar size. The number of park FTE positions relative to the population size for most park and recreation providers is 8.9 FTEs per 1,000. The Camas park and recreation system has 0.4 FTEs per 1,000 population; the number of FTEs is considerably lower. The operating expenditures per capita is much lower than comparable cities.

Figure 27. NRPA Agency Performance Metrics Comparisons – Park & Recreation Staffing

Metric	All Agencies	Pop. 20,000-49,999	Camas 2020
Park & Rec FTEs*	41.9	27.3	<b>11.1</b>
P&R FTEs per 1,000 Residents	8.1	8.9	<b>0.4</b>
Annual Operating Expenditures	\$4,342,495	\$2,885,847	<b>\$1,771,272</b>
Operating Expenditures per Capita	\$81.19	\$95.34	<b>\$67.96</b>
Operating Expenditures per Park Acre	\$7,160	\$8,522	<b>\$1,665</b>

\*No seasonal FTEs for Camas in 2020 due to COVID

The comparison with NRPA metrics predicts the need for additional staffing resources to effectively manage the extensive system of parklands owned by the City. As the City continues to work to fill in the gaps in its open space network and to further develop its comprehensive trail system, park operations will need to be expanded to meet the need for more active stewardship and care.

Additional agency performance review findings are located in the 2020 NRPA Agency Performance Review summary in Appendix E.

## Washington Cities Park and Recreation Provider Comparisons

Park and recreation operations can be highly variable, particularly at different population sizes and residential densities. A more refined comparison of park metrics was prepared using several cities in western Washington with population sizes within range of the population size of Camas. This comparison used budgetary and staffing numbers from 2018 to avoid the highly variable impacts from the COVID-19 shutdown and ensuing restrictions.

Figure 28.. Comparable Washington Cities' Park & Recreation Performance Measures

Performance Measure	City of Camas	City Park Providers				Park District Providers	
		Port Angeles	Maple Valley	Mercer Island	Mountlake Terrace	Si View	PenMet
Population	26,065	19,960	28,013	25,748	21,286	25,410	37,485
P&R total spending (2018)	\$1,020,000	\$3,462,300	\$2,525,940	\$5,209,047	\$3,623,851	\$7,645,050	\$14,567,517
Spending per resident (2018)	\$39.13	\$173.46	\$90.17	\$202.31	\$170.25	\$300.87	\$388.62
Operating Budget (2018)	\$2,050,000	\$3,356,600	\$2,525,940	\$5,864,507	\$3,623,851	\$5,042,038	\$6,297,517
Operating per Resident	\$78.65	\$168.17	\$90.17	\$227.77	\$170.25	\$198.43	\$168.00
Annual Capital Spending (2018)	-	\$1,024,000	\$8,100,000	\$3,154,753	-	\$1,460,952	\$8,270,000
Capital Spending per Resident	N/A	\$51.30	\$289.15	\$122.52	-	\$57.50	\$220.62
Park & Rec FTE (2018)	5.25	25.6	11.75	29.75	44	14.5	22.3
Seasonal FTE positions	3.75	7.6	(combined)	(combined)	(combined)	-	(combined)
P&R FTEs per 10,000 Residents	3.45	16.6	4.2	2.6	2.1	5.8	4.6
Total Developed Parks (acres)	240	270	320	259.9	269	46	266.1
Park acres per 1,000 Residents	9.2	13.5	6.9	10.1	12.6	1.8	7.1
Total Parks & Natural Areas (ac.)	1064	270	370.8	479	269.0	890	570.9
Parkland acres per 1,000 Residents	40.8	13.5	13.2	18.6	12.6	35.0	15.2
Parkland acres per P&R FTE	118.2	8.1	31.6	16.1	6.1	61.4	25.6
Population Density (people/sq. mi.)	1,853	1,865	4,669	4,036	5,243	941	742
Park Facilities	18	23	9	52	15	65	19
Trails (miles)	18.7	8.5	3	24.9	-	-	1.6

Note: 2018 budget numbers were used for the provider comparison to avoid the highly variable budget impacts from COVID.

In reviewing the comparisons, a few observations about the Camas system stand out.

- Overall spending per resident for park and recreation services was considerably lower for Camas (\$39.13 per resident). The average across the other comparable cities was \$220.95 per resident.
- Also, Camas parks and recreation budget allocated the equivalent of \$78.75 per resident compared with an average \$170.46 per resident for the other cities.
- Overall, Camas had more total park and open space acres per 1,000 population (40.8 per 1,000)

than the comparable agencies. However, when comparing staffing for that larger parkland system, Camas measured at 118.2 parkland acres per FTE significantly higher than the averaged 24.8 parkland acres per FTE of other comparable cities.

This comparison indicates some off-balance traits for Park Operations charged with stewardship of the entire Camas park system.



## OPEN SPACE MANAGEMENT

The City provides conserved public lands and undeveloped parklands temporarily held as greenspace totaling over 830 acres. Recent additions of Green Mountain and properties in the north Lacamas Lake area have helped create a significant network of contiguous natural areas with high ecosystem value. Park Operations currently manage to accomplish field mowing in open space lands such as Goot power lines, Ostensen Canyon, etc. and have performed annual invasive species spraying in areas identified by the County Weed Management Board in the spring.

However, the capacity of the Park Operations staffing has not kept up with the more extensive need for open space management that may involve proactive hazard tree removal, vegetation monitoring, invasive plant control and addressing any ecological restoration needs. The open space network has grown by over 50% in terms of City-owned acreage since 2000.

With the growth of its open space network, the City has responsibilities for extensive conserved landscapes and has conducted several studies to guide the stewardship and management of these lands.

To highlight the intended need for open space management, past planning efforts have been summarized below.

The 2003 City of Camas Policy Guidelines for an Open Space Management Plan established the overall policies to guide the management of both public and private property within the Open Space Network. The Open Space Network was identified and mapped as part of the 2000 Parks & Open Space Comprehensive Plan. The Policy Guidelines document was intended to set the direction of open space planning and to provide staff with the foundation for effective resource management decisions. The Management Goals for open space policy included nine directives that coordinated best management practices in natural areas and funding for an open space management program by the City. The Parks and Recreation Department was designated with the responsibility for administration, management and maintenance of the open space network. Trails are considered to be an integral part of the open space network. The

Parks and Recreation Department is designated with the responsibility for trail safety and security, inspection and monitoring, and maintenance.

The 2014 PROS Plan included Design and Development Guidelines for the City's Natural Open Space Areas that recognized natural areas should be protected for their environmental value with only limited improvements for passive recreation where appropriate. The guidelines encouraged public use of the natural open space through trails, viewpoints and other features while ensuring protection of ecologically sensitive areas. A minimum of park features were cited for improving natural open space including trails and site furnishing such as benches, picnic tables, bike racks, trash receptacles, and signs. The guidelines suggest additional park features for consideration such as parking, restrooms, picnic shelters, gathering spaces (for education), interpretive exhibits, trailhead or entry kiosks, and restoration areas.

The Legacy Lands Master Plan – 2020 Draft Design Report, was the culmination of a consensus-building process for guiding the future development of the north shore of Lacamas Lake. The City had secured significant lands intended for shoreline protection, conservation and recreation. The Legacy Lands Master Plan built on the concepts that were put forth in the 2016 North Shore Lacamas Lake Vision Plan whose guiding principles included recreational trails with connections to the regional trail network, active recreational facilities, native habitats, and preserving key visual landmarks along the shore. Acknowledging future population growth and development pressures, the City is undergoing the North Shore Subarea Plan that encompasses 800 acres north of Lacamas Lake, and will incorporate the concepts developed in the draft Legacy Lands Master Plan.

None of the above planning efforts addressed the predictable need for more maintenance staffing or the necessary increased funding for management and maintenance.

## TRAIL MAINTENANCE

Camas' trail network provides tremendous value to its residents and visitors with walking and biking infrastructure for healthy outdoor recreation and connections to destinations across the city. With limited Park Operations staffing, trail maintenance, upkeep and capital repairs will fall behind or be deferred on a recreational asset that receives continual, daily use. Park Operations are currently able to manage brush clearing on significant trail on the Washougal River Greenway and Heritage Trails. Trail resurfacing is scheduled when pathway tread conditions deteriorate. Other maintenance activities tend to be triggered by public comments or complaints.

The planned expansion of Camas' trail network along the north shore of Lacamas Lake, Mill Ditch and connecting to Green Mountain will add miles of public shared-use trails. To ensure safe and beautiful trails, park operations estimates one FTE to maintain trails, at .04 FTE per trail mile. The current level of service for trail maintenance is estimated at .02 FTEs/mile. As miles of trail are added, additional FTE resources should be increased concurrently.

To help convey the importance of trail upkeep, parks operations may want to consider adding one or two trail counters along the busier trail sections. Measuring the trail use can help communicate how many people are affected daily by the trail conditions. A record of trail use can also help when providing quantifiable data for grant support or submittals.

## SPORT FIELD MAINTENANCE

Camas has sport fields in ten of its park facilities. Some of its sport fields receive extensive maintenance and care through partnering sports organizations (such as Little League) while other fields may only receive mowing, annual weed control and litter control. In parks where local sports organizations are not providing added level of care, Camas should address deficiencies to ensure that access and equity for sports facilities is maintained across the city. Additional maintenance on these sport fields calls for turf maintenance, including over seeding, fertilization, and top dressing; athletic field fence maintenance, including backstops and fence perimeters; and goal post maintenance.

## PARK FACILITIES MAINTENANCE

Park maintenance staffing has been stretched to care for the City's aging park facilities, while the system continues to expand to meet the increased park use. Additional attention needs to be given to bolster existing general park maintenance tasks: playgrounds inspections, maintenance and repairs, and noxious and invasive weed control. Updating the older park amenities can help lighten the load on needed repairs and ongoing maintenance tasks, but as newly developed parks are added to the system, additional operational and maintenance resources will be necessary to ensure those park assets are managed for safe and enjoyable public use and longevity. Park Operations has not been able to proactively perform tree assessments within parks to ensure proper care of its tree canopy resource or to mitigate for potential tree hazards. Additionally, Park Operations is tasked with managing and maintaining the Camas Cemetery.

## ASSET MANAGEMENT

The NRPA has developed a quality risk assessment tool called "Park Check" to provide an analysis of an agency's risk profile. The online tool uses a series of questions to explore the likelihood of problems due to lack of resources available over time. The Park Check risk assessment tool rates your responses to these questions to determine if your agency's ability to deliver quality park and recreation amenities and services to all members of your community in the future is at "low," "moderate" or "high" risk. The online tool generates a customized report that could help department's further articulate their needs for dedicated and reliable funding and local support.

More specifically, the conditions assessment conducted in this PROS planning process reveals a number of areas where more attention is needed to physical amenities with park facilities. Whether the need to repair site furnishings, reduce ADA barriers, or correct deficiencies is identified, the conditions assessment should be used to help improve public safety in the parks and reduce public risk.

As an example, playgrounds across the city are in different stages of their life cycles. Some play equipment has aged beyond its life expectancy and may not meet current safety standards.

While the city has started regular scheduled safety inspections, additional funding needs to be evaluated to ensure timely repair or replacement of play equipment. In addition, the inspection report could include assessment of the likelihood and consequence, in terms of financial, community and environmental impact, of the future failure of its assets, such as shelters and other structures. Such an assessment can provide key information for the strategic prioritization of limited resources toward those assets whose failure would have the greatest negative impact on the Camas community.

As an element of Park Operations, the management of physical assets requires proactive planning for capture cost efficiencies. Tracking repairs, maintenance tasks, routine operations and seasonal work can help predict the needs for future labor resources as the system grows. The 2014 PROS Plan recommended developing a detailed list of the assets at each park facility site and evaluating asset conditions annually. Such a tracking schedule would create a framework for long-term management of the Camas park system. Detailed inventories with conditions tracking will inform replacement needs, monitor safe use, and assist in assigning maintenance frequency.

Most built park amenities have limited lifespans. Buildings, play equipment, pavement, etc. can be tracked from installation dates. As repairs are needed, those assets can have predictable replacement dates that are added to the capital facilities program. Life-cycle planning can help avoid extra time spent repairing outdated amenities and foster more cost effective labor resource use.

Following on a program of asset management tracking and life-cycle planning, a regular capital repair program should proactively address minor repairs and help extend the life of some amenities. The delay of small repairs can lead to more frequent maintenance that could be avoided. When existing staffing is stretched to its limit, park agencies must rely more heavily on outside contractors for implementing even the small capital repair projects. Without adequate staffing, a backlog of needed maintenance and repairs usually exists. With a sufficient skilled labor force, the City can capitalize on using existing staff resources to complete the smaller capital repair projects during off-season capacity.

## Americans with Disabilities Act Compliance

The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability. Titles II and III of the ADA require, among other things, that newly constructed and altered state and local government facilities, places of public accommodation, and commercial facilities be readily accessible to, and usable by, individuals with disabilities. Recreation facilities, such as play areas, are among the types of facilities covered by Titles II and III of the ADA.

The U.S. Department of Justice 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design provide guidelines that are intended to address design conditions to ensure that barriers or obstacles blocking outdoor recreation facilities are prevented or removed, such that all park patrons have reasonable access to site amenities. As older facilities are in the process of renovations and replacements and new facilities are added to the system, Camas will need to ensure compliance with ADA accessibility requirements.

## Invasive Species Management

The control of invasive species is a critical element in the stewardship of open space lands to ensure their continued conservation values and ecosystem services. An active invasive species control program is also necessary to ensure that the City is meeting the requirements of RCW 7.10 Noxious Weed regulations. This may involve direct control measures for known and identified noxious weed problems, pre-construction prevention of noxious weed spreading, and evaluating new parkland or conservation land noxious weed coverage. Clark County's Vegetation Management Division currently handles some of the invasive weed control for the Camas park system but more work needs to be accomplished to effectively meet the regulations. Camas should consider hiring and training its own staff to perform an invasive weed control program for all its park and open space lands.



### In-House vs. Outside Contractors

Park and recreation agencies throughout the country should continually weigh the costs of service provision through internal staffing versus external contracts. Full-time staffing weighed against seasonal resources should explore the off-season workload, training time for new part-time seasonal employees, the availability of seasonal labor, and the specialized skill sets for some types of operations. One-time projects and specialized repairs and renovations may require outside contractors while some park agencies have enough trained in-house staff to accomplish smaller capital projects.



### STAFFING NEEDS

The assessments and comparisons of park operations staffing have indicated the need for a stronger labor force for maintaining Camas’ parks and open space/natural lands. The 2014 PROS Plan recommended adding specialized trail position, an urban forester or arborist, and a natural resource specialist to the operations team to build the level of expertise needed to effectively manage the existing natural resources owned by the City. Since the 2014 PROS Plan, several additional open space properties have been acquired, increasing the natural lands owned by the City from 440 to 691 acres.

For the Clark County park system that includes extensive natural areas, regional parks, community and neighborhood parks, many years of tracking maintenance tasks and labor expenditures produced some five-year averages for the amount of labor required to adequately care for its park system.

Figure 29. Performance Metrics for Clark County Parks Maintenance

Predictive Labor Staffing Needs	Total Park Acres	Labor Hours/Acre	Total Labor Hours	FTE # (1,820/yr)
Neighborhood Parks	75.9	152	11,536.8	6.3
Community Parks	67.7	111	7,514.7	4.1
Regional Parks	151.4	98	14,837.2	8.2
Open Space/Natural Areas	691.5	21	14,521.5	8.0

Using those metrics can help predict the potential park maintenance staffing needs for the Camas park system as it ramps up its stewardship of natural areas and adds new developed parks.

Figure 30. Predictive Staffing Levels for Camas Park System

<b>Annual Labor Expenditures per Acre</b>	<b>5-yr Average</b>
Greenspace Labor Hours per Acre	21
Neighborhood Parks Labor Hours per Acre	152
Community Parks Labor Hours per Acre	111
Regional Parks Labor Hours per Acre	98

The table in Figure 30 (above) uses acreage that includes both developed and undeveloped parkland acreage. If only the currently developed park acreage was calculated in this staffing prediction and included special facilities sites, the 240 acres of developed facilities (not including trails or open space) would suggest the need for 15 full-time equivalent employees, double the size of the current staff level. Staffing resources are needed to implement the updating and renovations for older parks, to provide maintenance for expanded trail connections and to steward its hard-earned open space lands. Camas should be prepared to support its park system with adequate operations and maintenance staffing to ensure protecting and preserving the value of its outdoor assets now and in the future.

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CHAPTER 9

# Goals & OBJECTIVES



*Add interpretive cultural and historical information to the parks or trails to honor local heritage. Highlight tribal history. This information can draw people into a park, and it helps teach kids. Provide signage in a blind/deaf-friendly way.*

- Stakeholder Focus Group participant



The goals and objectives described in this chapter define the recreation and park services that Camas aims to provide. These goals and objectives were derived from input received throughout the planning process, from City staff, the Parks and Recreation Commission, City Council and community members.

The Growth Management Act (GMA) adopted by the Washington State Legislature in 1990 provided a foundation for land use planning in selected cities and counties throughout the state,

including Clark County and the City of Camas. The GMA's purpose is to help communities manage efficiently with the challenges of growth to ensure their long-term sustainability and high quality of life. It identifies 14 planning goals to guide the development of comprehensive plans and development regulations (codified in Chapter 36.70A of the Revised Code of Washington). Four of these goals directly affect the development and implementation of this plan.

- “Encourage the retention of open space and development of recreational opportunities,

conserve fish and wildlife habitat, increase access to natural resource lands and water, and develop parks.” RCW 36.70A.020(9)

- “Protect the environment and enhance the state’s high quality of life, including air and water quality, and the availability of water.” RCW 36.70A.020(10)
- “Identify and encourage the preservation of lands, sites, and structures, that have historical or archaeological significance.” RCW 36.70A.020(13)
- “Carry-out the goals of the Shoreline Management Act





Credit: Camas Post-Record

with regards to shorelines and critical areas.” RCW 36.70A.020(14)

Furthermore, the Camas Comprehensive Plan, the previous park system plan and county-wide planning policies provide a framework for this PROS Plan.

The following goals matrix is structured by functional areas and thematic goals, as follows:

#### Functional Areas

- Administrative
- Projects & Programs
- Policy

#### Goal Themes

- Welcoming For All
- Stewardship of Land, Parks & Programs
- Plan for & Fill Known System Gaps
- Organizational Excellence

Goals are stated within each thematic area and associated to the functional areas. Under each goal, action item(s) will be listed.

A goal is a general statement that describes the overarching direction for the park and recreation system. Action items are more specific and describe an outcome or a means to achieve the stated goals. Near-term recommendations are specific and measurable actions or projects intended to implement and achieve the goals, and will be contained within the Needs Assessment and Capital Planning chapters of the PROS Plan.

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## WELCOMING FOR ALL



## STEWARDSHIP OF LAND, PARKS & PROGRAMS



## PLAN FOR & FILL KNOWN SYSTEM GAPS



## ORGANIZATIONAL EXCELLENCE

### PROJECTS & PROGRAMS

#### Actively communicate and improve outreach and marketing to increase participation.

- Promote and increase participation in youth and senior scholarships.
- Keep park and trail facilities map updated.
- Pursue opportunities for alternative outreach and education to diverse groups, such as piloting youth parks stewardship programs and active communication through faith groups and non-profit organizations that work with people of color and underserved communities.
- Pursue partnership opportunities with health care organizations to promote active recreation and wellness activities and events.

#### Opportunities for dogs to recreate with their human family.

- Partner with non-profits for more pet and animal and animal friendly events.
- Explore a partnership with DOGPAW to develop and manage off leash areas.

#### Increase capacity for sports field users.

- Explore opportunities through joint use agreements with school districts to use existing fields or interim use of other lands.
- Enable an effective scheduling system.
- Implement creative design options, such as multi-use fields, upgrade field turf surfacing, and/or install lights.

#### Improve Asset Management.

- Improve the asset management system; to include parks facilities and amenities assets along with tree and plant assets.
- Update levels of service standards and develop a per acre maintenance budget.
- Develop an urban forestry program that articulates long-term strategy for tree protection, urban forestry management and education.
- Develop and implement improved natural area management practices to enhance ecological health and remove invasive plant species.
- Continue to build on playground equipment inspection program, prioritizing removal and replacement of unsafe/hazardous equipment and plan for a cycle of replacement based on equipment age and anticipated useful life.

#### Enhance parks and trails amenities.

- Refresh existing legacy parks with new features to reflect current community desires, such as Crown Park.
- Prioritize permanent bathrooms at neighborhood parks and trailheads.
- Increase portable restrooms when permanent bathrooms are unavailable during the summer.
- Provide additional picnic shelters, tables and benches.
- Maximize the multiple-use aspects of critical areas, stormwater detention ponds, etc. with addition of public trails or viewing access and education of ecological value of the area.

#### Design new parks, trails and amenities with environment, safety and accessibility in mind.

- Design and maintain parks and facilities to offer universal accessibility for residents of all physical abilities, skill levels and age; at a minimal in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Standards for Accessible Design.
- Identify and grow trail segments and trailhead amenities that can accommodate residents of all physical abilities.
- Standardize and install a more complete wayfinding and signage system.
- Incorporate sustainable development and low impact design practices into the design, planning and rehabilitation of new and existing parks, trails and facilities.

#### Enhance outdoor recreation opportunities.

- Identify and prioritize the acquisition of parklands based on factors such as contribution to level of service, connectivity, preservation and scenic or recreational opportunities for residents.
- Develop park master plans that reflect local needs, community input, recreation and conservation goals; with consideration for financial resources and availability of similar amenities/facilities within the city and region.
- Prioritize implementation of existing master plans with consideration for service gap delivery and available financial resources.
- Add new unique park amenities to the system such as nature play area, a splash pad, a bike skills pump track, and all-inclusive playgrounds.

#### Partner with Developers to fill parks and trails gaps.

- Actively pursue trail connections via rights-of-way or easements.
- Continue and maintain Parks & Recreation review and comment on private development proposals that includes park and trail siting and design.
- Partner with developer to create robust public engagement process for park and trail design projects within the development project site intended to be transferred to the city.

Continued...

#### Continue building strong partnerships.

- Collaborate with local arts organizations, business, education institutions, other non-profits and jurisdictions to deliver on recreational programs and community events.
- 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 programming and maintenance.



## PLAN FOR & FILL KNOWN SYSTEM GAPS

Continued...

#### Partner with neighboring jurisdictions to fill regional trail network gaps.

- Work with Clark County, City of Washougal, City of Vancouver and Port of Camas-Washougal to align trail connectivity priorities.
- Coordinate and connect the City's pedestrian and bicycle system with the Clark County regional system of on-street and off-street trails. Promote water access and safety.
- Collaborate with other agencies regionally in developing and operating parks and/or programs that access our bodies of water.
- Promote water safety through educational and marketing program in partnership with County and School Districts.
- Evaluate the north shores city-owned Legacy Lands properties to expand trails and water access points around Lacamas Lake.



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## WELCOMING FOR ALL



## STEWARDSHIP OF LAND, PARKS & PROGRAMS



## PLAN FOR & FILL KNOWN SYSTEM GAPS



## ORGANIZATIONAL EXCELLENCE

### ADMINISTRATIVE

#### Regularly review and renew recreational classes for all ages, interest and abilities.

- Provide annual recreational program summary to Parks & Recreation Commission for review and input.
- Pilot new classes each year that reflects current market trends and community desires.
- Provide Summer free pop-up classes to promote recreational programs.

#### Continue to host events and provide community spaces that bring people together.

- Continue to partner to implement legacy events.
- Have intentional engagement with diverse community groups to create and partner on new diverse events.
- Expand locally sourced food options at parks and events.

#### Maintain Parks and Facilities.

- Standardize park furnishings and amenities (trash cans, tables, benches, fencing, etc.) to reduce inventory and replacement costs and improve appearance.
- Continue growing volunteer parks enhancement and beautification program.

#### Continue to preserve, protect and restore natural area corridors, include shorelines.

- Strengthen partnerships with public agencies, tribes, and private partners to facilitate greenway corridor connectivity.
- Continue to support and actively participate in shoreline and/or bodies of water conservation and restoration projects lead by other city departments, agencies and/or non-profits.
- Pilot environmental education program.
- Add educational interpretive signage to natural areas, shorelines and trails.

#### Evaluate user satisfaction and use.

- Implement periodic surveys to gauge user satisfaction, program initiatives and statistical use of parks, facilities and programs, including trail counts.

#### Promote and support Parks & Recreation Commission.

- Promote P&R Commission meetings as forum to discuss parks and recreation topics.
- Provide more training and resources to build parks and recreation knowledge base within Commission members.

#### Encourage staff innovation and creativity.

- Provide professional development opportunities through training and affiliation with NRPA and WRPA, among others.
- Provide opportunities to explore and implement pilot programs.

### POLICY

#### Enhance our parks and recreation system to make it more welcoming and accessible.

- Develop Diversity/Equity/Inclusion policy that removes accessibility barriers (socio-economic, language, physical, geographic, transportation) to programs, parks and trails, and in alignment with City vision and policies.

#### Better understand funding gaps and funding alternatives.

- Develop and implement a cost recovery policy that provides for an equitable fee structure for park facilities and recreation programs, with high-community benefit programs and event funded appropriately to ensure accessibility for all residents.
- Periodically revise the park impact fee methodology and rates to accurately reflect changes in level of service standards and/or the costs of expanding the park infrastructure to accommodate population growth.
- Review and update the adopted six-year Parks Capital Facilities Plan (CFP) every two years to remain current with local recreational interests and account for the capital needs of the parks and recreation system.
- Pursue alternative funding options and dedicated revenues, including engaging and exploring with the City of Washougal a feasibility study to assess the potential of establishing a regional financing tool for recreation service.

#### Provide equitable access to parks and open space system.

- Prioritize park and trail development in areas where service gaps exist (e.g., where households are more than 1/2-mile from a developed park, open space or trail) and in areas of the City facing population growth and residential and commercial development.
- Evaluate and update design and development standards for parks and recreation amenities within private development to promote and achieve equitable levels of service and provide amenities that are complementary to the city park.

#### Expand recreational services.

- Re-examine the opportunity for new recreational center with aquatics facility, taking into consideration financial feasibility and partnership opportunities.

#### Coordinate collaborative discussions on policy matters.

- Bring together Parks and Recreation Commission, City Council, and other standing City boards, such as the Planning Commission, to discuss policy matters pertaining to recreational resources, opportunities and funding.

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*I would very much like to see a renewed look at the existing skatepark facility, as well as the adjoining parking lot and water access. I believe significant improvements could be made (i.e. lighting and clean up), as well as design changes to the actual skatepark. All of which leads to ensuring this site promotes inclusion for kids of all ages and experience levels as well as safety. Overall promoting a more family friendly environment.*

- Online Open House participant



# Capital Planning & Implementation

## KEY PROJECT RECOMMENDATIONS

The following is a summary of key project recommendations which will require commitment from the City and its residents for the continued support of a healthy park and recreation system that preserves and enhances the safety, livability, and character of the community.

### Trail Connections

Trail connections, including sidewalk and bike lane improvements, are needed to help link destinations across the community. Acquire easements, corridors and parcels to create the comprehensive linkages for Camas' future trail system. Develop larger trails desired by the community, such as North Shores of Lacamas, Mill Ditch, Lewis & Clark. Coordinate with the Transportation System Plan (and subsequent updates), as well as coordinate with local subdivision and site development projects.

### Park Design & Planning

Prepare an updated site master plan for Ash Creek Park and a new site plan for the flat, upper shelf of Ostensen Canyon Park. As development and maintenance funding allow, prepare site plans for Lacamas Heights, Green Mountain and Benton Park.

### Sport Field Improvements

Conduct a city-wide assessment of sport fields to plan for drainage improvements and other field improvements, including turfing existing fields, installing lights to expand play seasons, and the development of additional fields to accommodate demand.







## Splash Pads / Spray Parks

Install at least one spray park to serve residents as an option for summertime water play in a park that provides parking and restrooms.



## Bike Skills & Mountain Bike Trails

Plan for a pump track and connecting flow track in a visible location that can accommodate parking and can enable a synergy with other park uses. Pursue options for mountain bike trails during the planning for the new Green Mountain property.



## Skate Park Upgrade

Upgrade and enhance the existing concrete skatepark to improve the design and flow, as well as improve adjoining recreational amenities such as access to the Washougal River.



## All-Inclusive Playgrounds

Develop fully-accessible, all-inclusive play areas as new parks are built or playground upgrades occur to provide for users of all abilities.



## Off-Leash Dog Area

Coordinate with the City of Washougal on off-leash dog park planning for the potential of a joint use facility for Camas residents to use.



## Sport Courts

Convert existing tennis courts to multi-sport courts through striping and examine the need for additional multi-sport courts in the future.

## Community Gardens

Partner with local community groups for the installation of community gardens in community or neighborhood parks or in stand-alone locations with parking and access to water.

## Acquisitions to Fill Park System Gaps

Acquire strategically located sites for future parks to ensure reasonable access to walkable parks. Coordinate with local residential developers to include public parks in new subdivisions and utilize tools, such as park impact fee credits, to facilitate the process.

## Universal Accessibility

Complete a system-wide ADA assessment and make improvements to existing parks as needed to offer universal accessibility of park features and grounds.

## Water Access

Improve shoreline and water access for motorized and non-motorized launches, including user conveniences such as restroom facilities and parking.

## Recreation Programming

Continue to foster agreements or partnerships with programming partners and contract vendors for providing recreation services. Coordinate and partner with the City of Washougal on programming options. Explore new pilot programs, and partner where possible, to broaden the portfolio of offerings to youth. Explore options for access to additional flexible indoor recreation space to accommodate programs, classes and fitness.

## North Shore Subarea Plan

Maintain strong role in planning for future parks and trails along the North Shore.

## Open Space Management Plan

Prepare an updated, science-oriented open space management plan to guide City staff in the care, maintenance and stewardship of open space, as well as forecast maintenance needs and staffing resources.

## Urban Forestry Management Plan

Prepare an urban forestry management plan to examine the health and coverage of the urban forest, define maintenance and operations strategies, and respond to the challenges of climate change, as well as other environmental and fiscal factors on long-term tree health and forest resiliency.

## Wayfinding & Signage

Continue to implement a wayfinding program that includes both visual graphic standards. Colors, sign types, and information can help users navigate the outdoor recreation experiences offered by the City.

## Communications

Maintain the website for easy-to-access park system maps, trail maps and an up-to-date listing of park sites and amenities to enhance the experience of the on-the-go user. Continue to promote via social media and highlight events, volunteer opportunities and parks and trails to visit. Utilize QR codes or comparable technology on signage as a means to share with or receive information from visitors about maintenance, restoration or monitoring data. Utilize the network of partners to help disseminate information on parks and recreational programs and events.



## IMPLEMENTATION TOOLS

A number of strategies exist to enhance and expand park and recreation service delivery for the City of Camas; however, clear decisions must be made in an environment of competing interests and limited resources. A strong community will is necessary to bring many of the projects listed in this Plan to life, and the Camas City Council has demonstrated its willingness in the past to support parks and recreation, legacy land acquisitions and a high quality of life.

The recommendations for park and recreation services noted in this Plan may trigger the need for funding beyond current allocations and for additional staffing, operations and maintenance responsibilities. Given that the operating and capital budget of the Parks and Recreation Department is finite, additional resources may be needed to leverage, supplement and support the implementation of proposed objectives, programs and projects. While grants and other efficiencies may help, these alone will not be enough to realize many ideas and projects noted in this Plan. The following recommendations and strategies are presented to offer near-term direction to realize these projects and as a means to continue dialogue between City leadership, local residents and partners. The tools presented only capture development of the capital improvements and not the long-term operations of the new assets.

Additionally, a review of potential implementation tools is included as Appendix F, which addresses local financing, federal and state grant and conservation programs, acquisition methods and others.

### Enhanced Local Funding

According to the city budget, Camas maintains reserve debt capacity for local bonds and voter approved debt. The city's non-voted general obligation debt is under its debt capacity limit of \$41 million for non-voted debt. Community conversations regarding the potential to develop a recreation center with aquatics and/or bundle several projects from the Capital Improvements Plan warrant a review of debt implications and operating costs for the City, along with the need to conduct polling of voter support for such projects.

## Park Impact Fees & Real Estate Excise Tax

Park Impact Fees (PIF) are imposed on new development to meet the increased demand for parks resulting from the new growth. PIF can only be used for parkland acquisition, planning and/or development. They cannot be used for operations and maintenance of parks and facilities. The City of Camas currently assesses impact fees, but the City should review its PIF ordinance and update the methodology and rate structure, as appropriate, to be best positioned to obtain future acquisition and development financing from the planned growth of the community. The City should prioritize the usage of PIF to secure new park properties and finance park or trail development consistent with the priorities within this Plan.

The City currently imposes both of the quarter percent excise taxes on real estate, known as REET 1 and REET 2. The REET must be spent on capital projects listed in the City's capital facilities plan element of their comprehensive plan. Eligible project types include planning, construction, reconstruction, repair, rehabilitation or improvement of parks, recreational facilities and trails. Acquisition of land for parks is not a permitted use of REET 2. REET is used for other City projects, such as facility construction and public works projects, and may be used to make loan and debt service payments on permissible projects. Through annual budgeting and with discussions with City Council, the Parks and Recreation Department should seek access to REET funds and use the capital facilities plan to compile compelling projects to enhance service delivery of the amenities the community has provided voice to.

## Conservation Futures & Legacy Lands Program

Clark County assesses the maximum allowable excise of \$0.0625 per \$1,000 assessed value to fund the Conservation Futures program and provides cities a venue to access these funds through a local grant process. The City should continue to submit applications for support in financing the acquisition of additional natural areas identified in the most recent Legacy Lands Program Natural Areas Acquisition Plan to facilitate the protection of these lands and enable improved linkages to expand the trail network.



## Parkland Donations & Dedications

Parkland donations from private individuals or conservation organizations could occur to complement the acquisition of park and open space lands across the City and urban growth boundary. Gift deeds or bequests from philanthropic-minded landowners could allow for lands to come into City ownership upon the death of the owner or as a tax-deductible charitable donation. Also, parkland dedication by a developer could occur in exchange for Park Impact Fees or as part of a planned development where public open space is a key design for the layout and marketing of a new residential project. Any potential dedication should be vetted by the Department to ensure that such land is located in an area of need or can expand an existing City property and can be developed with site amenities appropriate for the projected use of the property.

## Grants & Appropriations

Several state and federal grant programs are available on a competitive basis, including WWRP, ALEA, and LWCF. Pursuing grants is not a panacea for park system funding, since grants are both competitive and often require a significant percentage of local funds to match the request to the granting agency, which depending on the grant program can be as much as 50% of the total project budget. Camas should continue to leverage its local resources to the greatest extent by pursuing grants independently and in cooperation with other local partners.

Appropriations from state or federal sources, though rare, can supplement projects with partial funding. State and federal funding allocations are particularly relevant on regional transportation projects, and the likelihood for appropriations could be increased if multiple partners are collaborating on projects.

## Internal Project Coordination & Collaboration

Internal coordination with the Public Works and Community Development Departments can increase the potential of discrete actions toward the implementation of the proposed trail and path network, which relies heavily on street right-of-way enhancements, and in the review of development applications with consideration toward potential

parkland acquisition areas, planned path corridors and the need for easement or set-aside requests. However, to more fully expand the extent of the park system and recreation programs, additional partnerships and collaborations should be sought.

## Public-Private Partnerships

Public-private partnerships are increasingly necessary for local agencies to leverage their limited resources in providing park and recreation services to the community. Corporate sponsorships, health organization grants, conservation stewardship programs and non-profit organizations are just a few examples of partnerships where collaboration provides value to both partners. The City has a variety of existing agency and community-based organization partners and should continue to explore additional and expanded partnerships to help implement these Plan recommendations.

## Volunteer & Community-based Action

Volunteers and community groups already contribute to the improvement of park and recreation services in Camas. Volunteer projects include park clean-up days, invasive plant removal, tree planting and community event support, among others. Camas should maintain and update a revolving list of potential small works or volunteer-appropriate projects for the website, while also reaching out to civic groups and the high school to encourage student projects. While supporting organized groups and community-minded individuals continues to add value to the Camas park and recreation system, volunteer coordination requires a substantial amount of staff time, and additional resources may be necessary to more fully take advantage of the community's willingness to support park and recreation efforts.

## Metropolitan Park District

Metropolitan park districts (MPD) may be formed for the purposes of management, control, improvement, maintenance and acquisition of parks, parkways and boulevards. Several years ago, the City started a preliminary look at a metropolitan park district as a tool for Camas Parks and Recreation. The City should continue to evaluate the potential of an MPD along with other implementation tools as part of a long-term funding strategy.

## Other Implementation Tools

Appendix F identifies other implementation tools, such as voter-approved funding, grants and acquisition tactics, that the City could utilize to further the implementation of the projects noted in the Potential Projects List.

## CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PLAN

The following Capital Improvements Plan (CIP) identifies the park, trail and facility projects considered for the next six to twenty years, along with brief project descriptions. The majority of these projects entail the maintenance, acquisition and development of parks, recreational amenities and trails. Based on survey results and other feedback, Camas residents have indicated an interest in park facility upgrades and enhanced trail connections as priorities, and the Capital Improvements Plan is reflective of that desire.

# Camas PROS Plan

## 2022 Capital Projects List (20-year)

DRAFT

Project Type	Site	Project	Current Cost
A	Trail Corridors	Acquisition to link corridors	\$2,500,000
D	Crown Park	Park development per site master plan	\$6,200,000
P	Open Space Management Plan	Develop Plan	\$200,000
P	Urban Forestry Management Plan	Develop Plan	\$150,000
P/D	System-wide	Trails & Trailheads - planning and development	\$1,800,000
D	T-3 Trail - East segment of N. Shore Trail	Development of trail	\$350,000
P/D	Closing the Loop - Heritage and N. Shore trails	Planning and development	\$1,500,000
P	Mill Ditch Trail	Trail corridor access point & stairway planning	\$225,000
R	System-wide	Minor repair/replacement (parks amenities) projects	\$250,000
D	Forest Home Park	Picnic shelter, drainage, building replacement & minor upgrades	\$300,000
P	Skate Park	Phase I - Redesign and construct skate park	\$250,000
D	3rd Ave. Trailhead	Trailhead development	\$700,000
P	Legacy Lands - Phase I, site master plan	Using existing draft Vision Plan, phased approach to Master Planning. This would be Phase I.	\$200,000
D	Legacy Lands - Phase I, implementation	Phase I Implementation - interim use, trails, trailhead, boat ramp, parking, Rose facility, Leadbetter facility	\$4,000,000
D	Mill Ditch Trail	Shared-use trail development	\$3,500,000
D	Skate Park	Phase II - Water access, trail and parking improvements	\$2,000,000
D	Bike pump track	Install bike pump track at selected site	\$350,000
D	Dog Park	Install dog park at selected site	\$125,000
D	All-inclusive playground	Install all-inclusive playground at selected site	\$600,000
P/R	System-wide	ADA compliance projects: facilities, pathway & amenities	\$200,000
P	System-wide	Sports Field - assessment of existing fields & planning for system gaps	\$100,000
R	Fallen Leaf Softball Field	Field improvements, new fence, infield dirt/grading, etc.	\$200,000
P	Green Mountain property	Site master plan	\$250,000
P/D	System-wide	Wayfinding and Park Signage program	\$150,000
R	Heritage Park	Modify dock, staging to separate non-motorized launches and Gate access control upgrades	\$125,000
R	System-wide	Playground replacements	\$1,000,000
R	Dorothy Fox Park	Sport field drainage/renovations	\$150,000
R	Grass Valley Park	Sport field drainage/renovations	\$150,000
D	Green Mountain property	Park development (Phase 1 trails)	\$1,500,000
R/D	Heritage Park	Picnic shelter installation & minor upgrades	\$280,000
R	Prune Hill Sports Park	Sport field drainage/renovations	\$150,000
R	Heritage Park	Install additional parking	\$250,000
D	Prune Hill Sports Park	Picnic shelter installation & minor upgrades	\$200,000
P/D	Sports Complex *	Site selection, site master plan, implementation	\$20,000,000
P	Ash Creek Park	Site master plan	\$90,000
D	Goot Park	Picnic shelter installation, replace bleachers & minor upgrades	\$150,000
D	Louis Block Park	Upgrade baseball facilities (fencing, restroom, concession, etc.)	\$750,000
P	Ostensen Canyon Park	Site master plan	\$100,000
P/D	Leadbetter House redevelopment	Full feasibility analysis and redevelopment	\$2,000,000
D	Community garden support	New garden to fill gap in the system	\$50,000
P	Lacamas Heights Park	Site master plan	\$75,000
D	Oak Park	Restroom installation & minor site upgrades	\$400,000
A	Neighborhood park	Acquisition to address distribution gap (Area A, 2-3 ac.)	\$4,500,000
A	Neighborhood park	Acquisition to address distribution gap (Area B, 2-3 ac.)	\$4,000,000
P/D	Camas Community Center *	Feasibility analysis and redevelopment	\$10,000,000
R	Heritage Park	Upgrade playground & restroom	\$450,000
R	Grass Valley Park	Replace playground	\$250,000
D	Ash Creek Park	Park development per site master plan	\$2,200,000
A	Neighborhood park	Acquisition to address distribution gap (Area C, 2-4 ac.)	\$3,500,000
D	Fallen Leaf Lake Park	Park development per site master plan	\$2,600,000
D	Lacamas Heights Park	Park development per site master plan	\$1,000,000
D	Ostensen Canyon Park	Park development per site master plan	\$3,000,000
P	Goot Park - area under powerline	Site master plan and development	\$1,750,000
P/D	Recreation/Aquatic Center *	Site selection, master plan & implementation	\$43,000,000
P/D	Public Plaza	Master Planning and development	\$1,000,000

**Total Estimated Project Costs \$130,770,000**

### Project Type

- A Acquisition
- P Master planning
- D Development - new
- R Replacement/Upgrade

### NOTES:

This list identifies planning-level cost estimates and does not assume the value of volunteer or other non-City

Detailed costing may be necessary for projects noted.

Legacy Lands and Green Mountain projects will have additional phase in the future (i.e. 20+ years).

This list is not an official budget and intended as a guiding document for City staff in the preparation of departmental budgets. The Parks & Recreation Commission will review the CIP as part of the biennial budget process to provide updated recommendations to City Council.

\*Additional public and policy discussion needed to refine project

Items highlighted in green are top priority for the next 2-3 years

Items highlighted in blue being high priority as opportunities arises.



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# Appendix A

## Survey Summary

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**To:** Trang Lam, Parks & Recreation Director  
**From:** Steve Duh, Conservation Technix, Inc.  
**Date:** July 19, 2021  
**Re:** **City of Camas Park, Recreation & Open Space Plan**  
 Community Survey Summary Results

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Conservation Technix is pleased to present the results of a survey of the general population of the City of Camas that assesses residents' recreational needs and priorities.

## KEY FINDINGS

Camas residents strongly value their parks and recreation facilities.

Nearly all respondents (97%) think parks and recreation are important or essential to quality of life in Camas. Very few, less than 4%, feel they are useful, but not necessary, or not important at all.

Residents visit frequently and are generally very satisfied with existing parks, trails and recreation facilities and programs.

Respondents visit the city's parks, trails, and recreation facilities frequently – most at least once a week – often for fitness or exercise, to walk or run, or to relax. Respondents are less likely to have participated in the City's recreation programs, classes, and camps, with less than one in four households participating in 2019. Those who had participated were most likely to have participated in youth-oriented classes and camps.

Overall, respondents feel that the City's parks and trails are in good condition. Not all respondents are familiar enough with Lacamas Lake Lodge & Conference Center and the Fallen Leaf Park Shelter, but those who are feel they are in very good condition. However, nearly six in ten respondents who rated the Camas Community Center responded that it is only in fair to good condition, signaling a potential need for maintenance and improvements at this facility.

Respondents generally feel the City has sufficient parks, water access, community events, and other recreation opportunities. The notable exception is trails, which 44% of respondents would like to see expanded. Most expressed a preference for more unpaved trails in natural areas over other trail types.

While residents prioritize maintaining existing parks and facilities, they are generally supportive of improving the City's park and recreation system as well.

When asked to rank their priorities for future City investment, respondents prioritized maintain existing parks, expanding trails, and building new parks. More than three in four respondents are very or somewhat supportive of the City adding walking trails, updated and accessible playgrounds, and more picnic shelters to the existing park system. A majority of respondents are also supportive of developing more biking trails, splash pads, off leash dog areas, pools or aquatic centers, tennis or pickleball courts, a new community center, disc golf course, and basketball courts.



As a whole, respondents are most supportive of raising revenue through reservation fees for rentals of part facilities, rather than through parking passes or raising taxes. Again, developing trails is a notable exception, where nearly six in ten respondents were willing to pay additional taxes to support improvements. Younger respondents and respondents with children at home are generally more supportive of expanding the City’s park, trail, and recreation system and of increasing taxes or other revenue sources to support system expansion.

## SURVEY METHODOLOGY

In close collaboration with City of Camas staff and the Parks and Recreation Commission, Conservation Technix developed the 17-question survey that was estimated to take less than ten minutes to complete.

The City mailed 2,500 surveys to randomly chosen households in Camas on May 29, 2021, of which 509 surveys were completed and returned. Online versions of the survey in English and Spanish were posted to the City’s website on June 4, 2021. An additional 874 surveys in English and two in Spanish were completed from the general, community-wide online surveys. In all, 1,385 surveys were completed.

Information about the survey was provided on the City’s website and on the EngageCamas site for the PROS Plan project. It was promoted via multiple social media postings, city email blasts and an email blast through Camas school district mailing list. Print copies were made available at the Camas library and the Camas School District Family Community Resource Center Also, flyers with QR codes were placed at numerous parks and local businesses. The survey was closed on July 2, 2021, and data were compiled and reviewed.

Although households were randomly chosen to receive the mail survey, respondents were not necessarily representative of all City residents. However, age group segmentation shows general alignment with current Census data. The table below shows the age demographics for the mail and online surveys, as well as comparative percentages for Camas’ population.

Age group	Survey Respondents			Camas population	
	Mail	Online-only	Combined	All	Over 20
Under 20	<1%	<1%	<1%	31%	--
20 to 34	7%	9%	8%	12%	17%
35 to 44	25%	36%	32%	16%	23%
45 to 54	25%	31%	28%	19%	27%
55 to 64	17%	13%	15%	11%	16%
65 to 74	18%	8%	12%	9%	12%
75 and older	8%	2%	4%	3%	5%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

This report includes findings of community opinions based principally on mailed survey responses. Each section also notes key differences between different demographic groups and among responses to the online-only survey, where applicable. Percentages in the report may not add up to 100% due to rounding.

DETAILED FINDINGS

Value and use of parks and recreation

How much do residents value parks and recreation?

Virtually all respondents (97%) feel that local parks, recreation opportunities are important or essential to the quality of life in Camas. More than eight in ten respondents feel that they are essential; while an additional 16% believe that they are important to quality of life, but not essential. Less than 1% of respondents believe parks are “Useful, but not important”.

1. When you think about the things that contribute to the quality of life in Camas, would you say that public parks and recreation opportunities are...

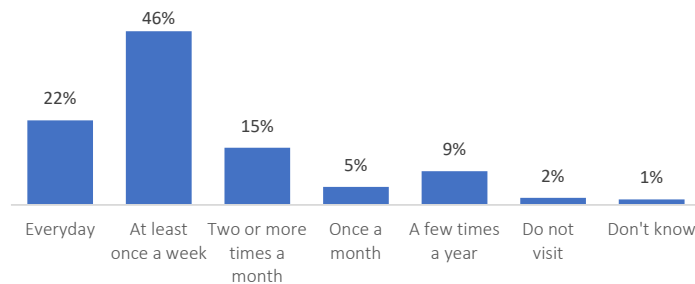
Response options	Mail	Online-only	
Essential to the quality of life here	81%	97%	88%
Important, but not really necessary	16%		11%
Useful, but not important	3%		<1%
Not important or don't know	1%		<1%

Though respondents of all ages value parks and recreation, younger respondents were significantly more likely to deem them essential to quality of life. Respondents with children at home, as well as those who responded to the online survey, also valued parks and recreation even more strongly than the general population.

How often do residents use Camas’ parks, trails, recreation facilities, and natural areas?

Respondents were asked how often they, or members of their household, visited a City of Camas park, trail, recreation facility, or natural area (prior to the COVID-19 pandemic). Respondents tend to visit frequently, with more than two in three visiting at least once a week (68%) and another 20% visiting one to three times per month. Only 9% of respondents visit just a few times per year. Very few (2%) did not visit a park at all.

3. Prior to the COVID-19 quarantine, how often did you visit or use Camas’ parks, trails, recreation facilities, or natural areas?



While younger respondents visit the City’s parks, trails, and natural areas more frequently than older respondents, over half of respondents over 75 years old still visit at least once a week. Those in households with children also visit significantly more frequently than those without children, with participation increasing in correspondence with the number of children in the home. Respondents who live in the southwest portion of the city are less likely than respondents elsewhere to use parks and recreation facilities frequently. Online-only survey respondents tend to visit at similar frequencies as mail survey respondents.

Why do residents visit parks, trails and recreation facilities?

Respondents visit local parks and recreation facilities for a variety of reasons. The most popular activities are walking or running (80%), followed by fitness and exercise (70%), and relaxation (56%). More than three in ten respondents visited to walk their dog (40%), view wildlife (36%), visit a playground (33%), ride their bike (33%) or attend a family gathering or picnic (30%). Between 15% and 30% of respondents visit parks for non-motorized boating, like canoeing or kayaking, to attend a community event or concert, play on a sports field, swim, or use an outdoor sports court. Less than one in six respondents visit fish, participate in a recreation program, use a motorized boat, or play disc golf.

With a few exceptions, respondents who responded to the online-only survey were more likely to visit recreation facilities and parks for each reason listed than mail respondents were.

4. Prior to the COVID-19 Pandemic, what would you say are the main reasons you visited Camas recreation facilities, parks or open spaces in the past year?

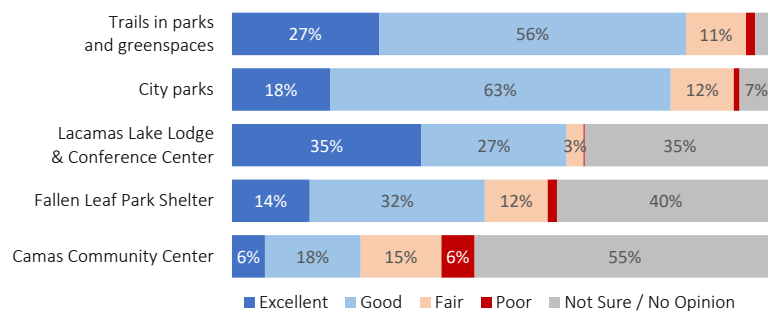
Reason	Mail	Online
Walking or running	80%	79%
Fitness / exercise	70%	73%
Relaxation	56%	54%
Dog walking	40%	45%
Wildlife viewing	36%	35%
Playgrounds	33%	47%
Bike riding	33%	44%
Family gatherings / picnics	30%	38%
Boating – non-motorized	28%	34%
Community events / concerts	23%	32%
Sport fields	21%	35%
Swimming	18%	24%
Outdoor sport courts	17%	20%
Fishing	13%	13%
Recreation program, class, or camp	10%	21%
Boating – motorized	9%	7%
Frisbee or disc golf	5%	8%

Respondents under 44 years of age are more likely than other groups to visit for community events, playgrounds and recreation programs. Respondents over 65 are more likely than younger respondents to visit to view wildlife. Some activities, including fitness and exercise, family gatherings, walking or running, and relaxation are similarly popular with all age groups. Respondents with children in their home are more likely to visit for playgrounds, recreation programs, sports fields, swimming, and family gatherings, than respondents without children who are more likely to visit to view wildlife.

How would residents rate the condition of Camas’ parks and recreation facilities?

Respondents were asked to rate the condition of a variety of park and recreation facilities on a scale from poor to excellent. Respondents gave overwhelming high marks to the condition of the City’s trails in parks and greenspaces and the parks themselves.

5. How would you rate the condition of the following parks or recreation facilities?



Overall, the Lacamas Lake Lodge & Conference Center received the highest condition ratings, with 95% of respondents who provided a ranking rating it as excellent or good. About 40% of respondents did not rate the condition of the Fallen Leaf Park Shelter – of those who did, nearly eighty percent rated its condition as either



excellent or good. The Camas Community Center received the lowest ratings, with 58% of respondents rating its condition as fair or poor (excluding those who responded not sure/no opinion). Notably, more than half of respondents were unsure and may have not visited this facility recently.

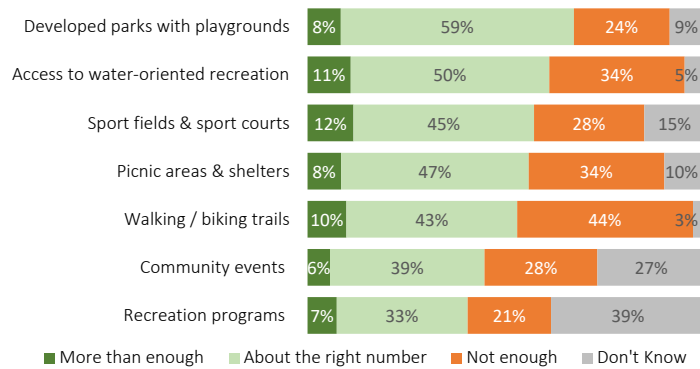
There were no significant variations in how respondents rated the condition of parks and facilities based on age, number of children in the home, or location of residence.

Does the number of existing park and recreation amenities meet residents’ needs?

Respondents generally feel that the City already provides enough, or more than enough, of all of the amenities listed.

If respondents who answered “Don’t Know” are excluded from the results, 46% of respondents believe there are not enough walking and biking trails. Between 33% and 39% of respondents who rated the options believe that there is not enough access to water-oriented recreation, picnic areas, sports fields and courts, community events, and developed parks.

2. When it comes to amenities provided by the City of Camas for meeting your needs for parks, trails and recreation facilities, would you say there are...



Younger respondents – those under 44 – were more likely than older respondents to feel there were not enough developed parks with playgrounds, picnic areas, recreation programs, and community events. Respondents between 55 and 64 years of age were far more likely than respondents of other ages to want more walking and biking trails in Camas. Respondents with children in their home are more likely than those without to believe there are not enough of every listed amenity except walking and biking trails. Respondents who live in southwest Camas (Council Ward 3) were more likely than respondents of other areas to feel there are not enough walking and biking trails.

## Parks

### What park improvements would Camas residents like to see?

More than three in four respondents are very or somewhat supportive of adding walking trails (87%), updated (75%) and accessible (75%) playground features, and more picnic shelters (74%) to the City’s existing parks.

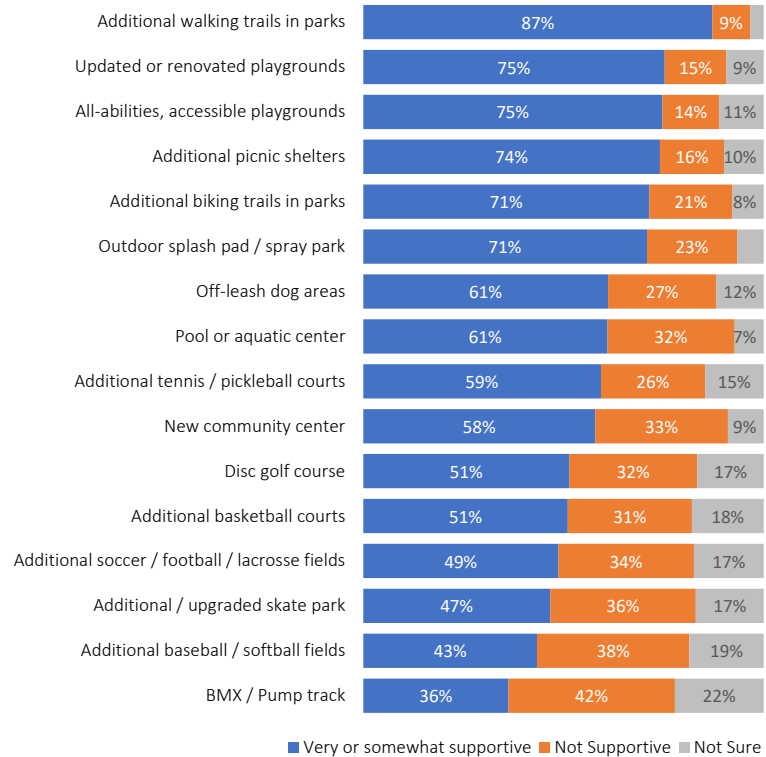
A majority of respondents are also supportive of developing more biking trails, splash pads, off leash dog areas, pools or aquatic centers, tennis or pickleball courts, a new community center, disc golf course, and basketball courts.

Less than half of respondents were supportive of adding more basketball courts, sports fields, skate parks, and BMX or pump tracks.

Respondents under 45 years old were more likely than older respondents to support every improvement listed in the survey.

Respondents with children in their household were more supportive of city investment in playgrounds (including accessible playgrounds), sports fields and courts, community and aquatic centers, outdoor splash pads, BMX/bike skills courses, skate parks, and disc golf courses than those without children.

6. The following list includes park amenities that the City of Camas could consider adding to the park system. Please indicate whether you would be very supportive, somewhat supportive, not sure, or not supportive of each.



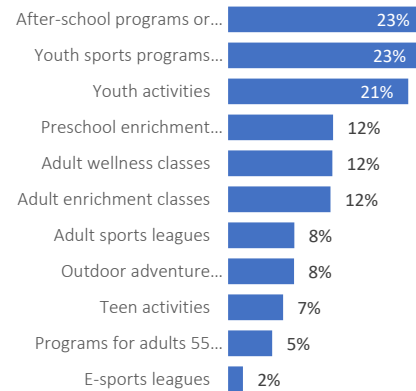
## Recreation programs

### What recreation programs have residents participated in?

Less than one in four respondents who took the mailed survey have participated in the City’s recreation programs. Of the listed activities, the greatest number of respondents had participated in after-school programs or summer camps for children (23%), youth sports programs (23%), and youth activities (21%). In general, respondents were less likely to have participated in activities for teens, adults, and older adults.

Members of households of younger respondents (under age 44) were more likely to have participated in youth-oriented programming, while those of older respondents were more likely to have participated in adult programs and classes. Respondents with children in their home were significantly more likely to have participated in youth-oriented programs and camps than those without.

8. Please indicate if your household used each of the listed recreation program types in 2019 (pre-COVID-19).



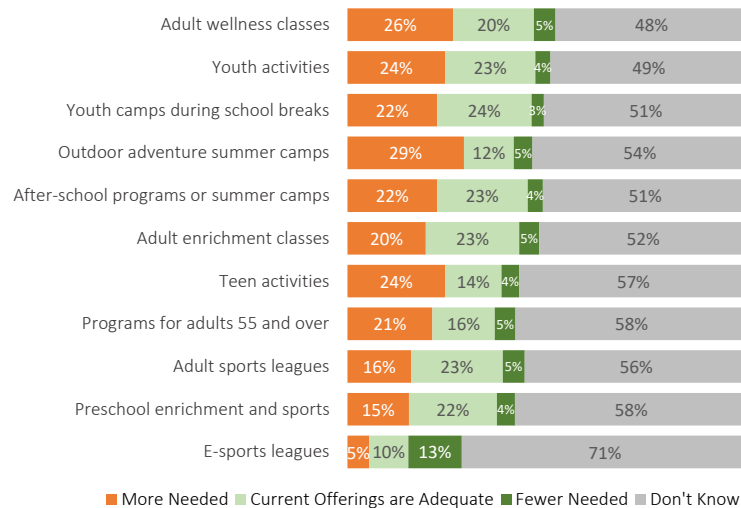
### What recreation options do residents have a need for?

The survey asked respondents which types of recreation programs, classes, and activities they would like to see more of. Notably, approximately half of respondents responded that they did not know whether current offerings are adequate or not. Of those who expressed an opinion, more than half felt the City needed more outdoor adventure summer camps, teen activities, adult wellness classes, and programs for adults over 55.

Respondents under 34 years of age were more likely than older respondents to feel the City needs more adult sports

leagues, youth camps and after-school programs, pre-school activities, and E-sports leagues. Adults over 55 had the greatest unmet needs for classes and programs specific to people over 55. Respondents of all ages expressed similar levels of need for adult enrichment and wellness classes. Households with children were more likely than those without to feel like their need for youth activities were not well met. In general, respondents of southwest Camas (Ward 3) were more likely than respondents of other areas to feel that current offerings are adequate or more than enough.

9. Please indicate whether you think there should be more less of each of the listed program types.



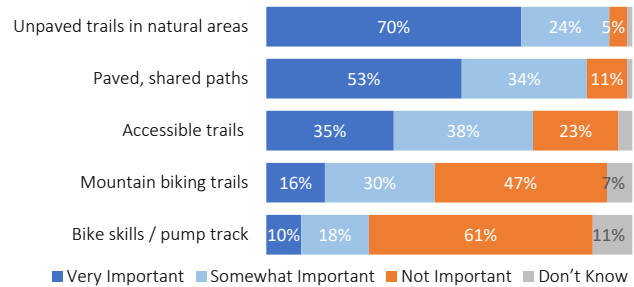


## Trails

### What trail types do residents think are important?

Of various types of trails, respondents overwhelmingly rate unpaved trails in natural areas as important – 94% believe they are very or somewhat important. Majorities of respondents also feel paved, shared use paths for pedestrians and cyclists (87%) and accessible trails (73%) are at least somewhat important. Respondents are less likely to feel mountain biking trails (46%) and bike skills / pump tracks (28%) are important. In general, the importance of each type of trail decreased with the age of respondent. However, similar percentages of adults in each age group from 35 to 64 considered mountain biking trails to be very or somewhat important, with slightly stronger levels of importance noted by respondents between 45 and 64. There were no significant differences in importance based on where respondents live or whether they have children at home.

10. Please rate how important each trail type or amenity is to your household.



## Investment and revenue priorities

### What recreation and park investments would residents prioritize?

Respondents were asked to rank a list of potential recreation, park, and open space investments. Generally, respondents to both the mail and online survey ranked maintaining existing parks, expanding trail opportunities, building new parks, and acquiring land for future parks as their top priorities. Respondents ranked offering building a new community or aquatic center and expanding program offerings as their lowest priorities in both the mail and online surveys.

Respondents of different ages prioritized the investment options similarly, with the exception of building a new community or aquatic center, which was a higher priority for significantly more younger respondents. Respondents with children in their home tended to rate building a new community or aquatic center higher than those without children in the home, who were more likely to rate expanding trail opportunities as a high priority. Respondents did not vary significant in their priorities depending on which part of the city they live in.

8. For the following list, indicate how you would rank the priority for each.

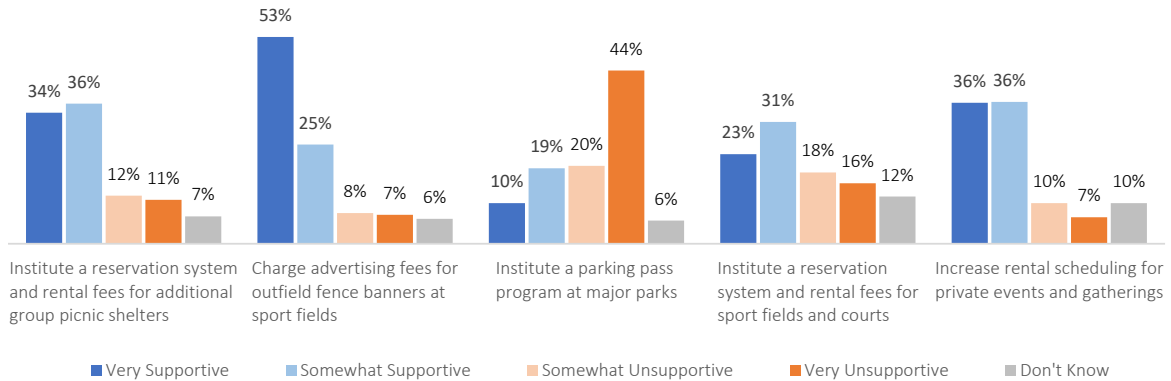
	Mail	Online
<b>Highest</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Focusing on existing parks &amp; delayed maintenance</li> <li>Expanding trail opportunities</li> <li>Building new parks on undeveloped, city parkland</li> <li>Acquiring land for future parks</li> <li>Building a new community center or aquatic center</li> <li>Expanding recreation classes &amp; camps</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Focusing on existing parks &amp; delayed maintenance</li> <li>Building new parks on undeveloped, city parkland</li> <li>Expanding trail opportunities</li> <li>Acquiring land for future parks</li> <li>Building a new community center or aquatic center</li> <li>Expanding recreation classes &amp; camps</li> </ul>
<b>Lowest</b>		

What revenue generating options would residents support?

The survey asked respondents whether they would support various revenue generating options. Large majorities of respondents were either very or somewhat supportive of a) charging advertising fees for outfield fence banners at sports fields (88%), b) increasing rental scheduling for private events and gatherings (72%), and instituting a reservation system and rental fees for additional group picnic shelters (70%). A slight majority (54%) were supportive of instituting a reservation and fee program for sports fields and courts. Significantly fewer respondents (29%) were supportive of implementing a parking pass program at major City parks.

There were no consistent, significant differences in support for revenue generating options across respondents of various ages or between respondents with children at home and those without.

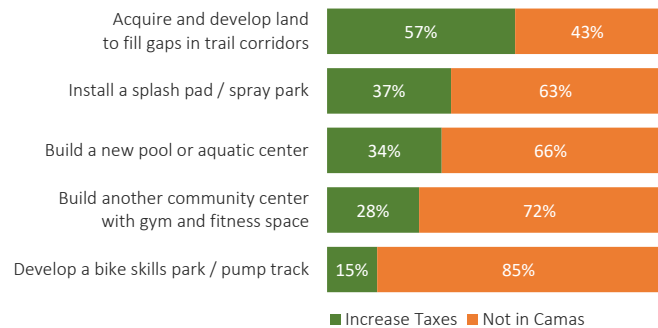
11. The Parks & Recreation Department has limited budget to deliver parks and recreational services, and the City is exploring options to enhance revenue generation to support the delivery of services. How would you rate your level of support for each of the following options?



Are residents willing to support increased taxes to fund new amenities and experiences?

Respondents with children at home were significantly more likely than those without to support increasing taxes for all improvements other than expanding trails (which received similarly high support levels). However, building a community or aquatic center was the only option for which more than half of respondents with children supported raising taxes. Respondents under 44 years of age were significantly more likely than older respondents to support raising taxes to fund a new pool or aquatic center or to install splash pads. There were no significant differences based on respondents' location of residence.

12. There may be some park and recreation experiences that are limited or not available in Camas but are available in neighboring communities. If it came down to a choice between increasing taxes to develop that facility in Camas versus not having that in Camas, which would you choose?



## Communication preferences

### How do residents want to hear about Camas' parks, programs, and events?

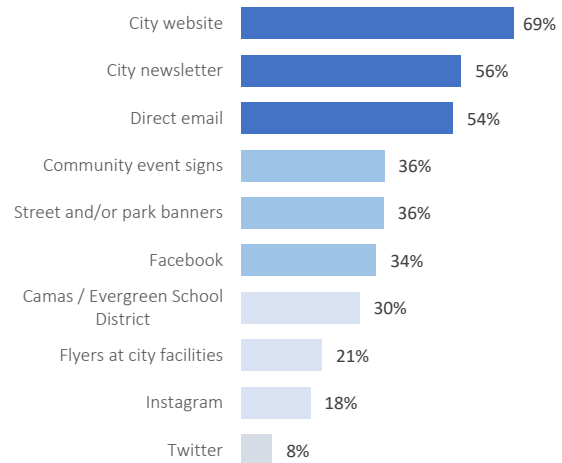
More than two-thirds of respondents would prefer to learn about City parks, programs, and events through the City's website. The City newsletter and direct email are also popular communication options, preferred by 56% and 54% of respondents respectively. These sources were popular with respondents to both the mail and online-only surveys and with respondents of all ages.

About a third of resident preferred to learn about City offerings through various types of promotional signs, including community event signs (36%), street or park banners (36%), and flyers at City facilities (21%). Thirty percent of respondents would like to hear about programs and events through local school districts.

Fewer than about one in three respondents would like to hear about park and recreation opportunities through social media (Facebook (34%), Instagram (18%), and Twitter (8%)). However, social media – especially Facebook and Instagram – is a significantly more popular source of information for respondents under 44 years of age. Respondents who responded to the online-only survey were also significantly more likely to prefer social media sources – 61% prefer Facebook, 29% Instagram, and 13% Instagram.

Respondents with children at home were significantly more likely to prefer receiving information through the school district than those without. There were no significant differences in communication preferences between respondents living in different areas of the city.

13. Please check ALL the ways you would prefer to learn about Camas' parks, programs, and events.



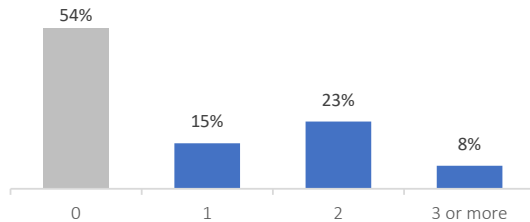


## Demographics

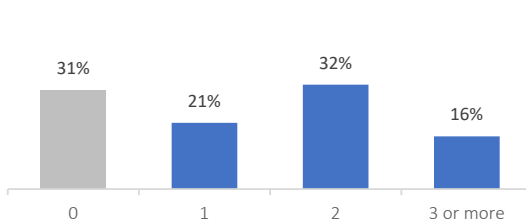
### Number of children in household

The majority (54%) of respondents to the mail survey live in households with no children under 18, while about just under half live in a household with either one (15%), two (23%), or three or more (8%) children. Online-only survey respondents were significantly more likely to live in households with children than respondents to the mail survey – nearly 70% had children in the home.

Mail survey responses



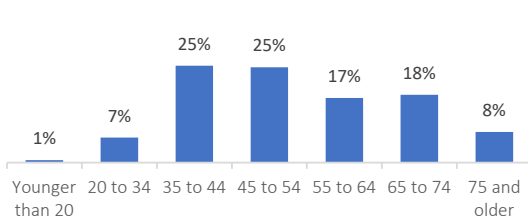
Online-only survey responses



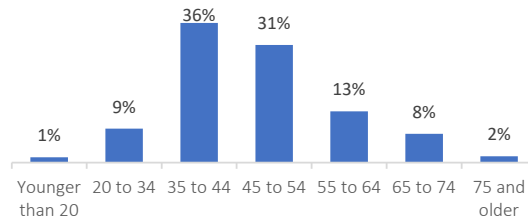
### Age

Approximately half of respondents to the mail survey were between the ages of 35 and 54. Another 35% were between 55 and 74, while 8% were older than 75 years. Fewer than 8% of respondents were less than 35 years old. The online-only survey tended to be younger than those who responded to the mail survey – 10% were under 35 years old, 67% were between 35 and 54 years, and only 23% were over 55.

Mail survey responses



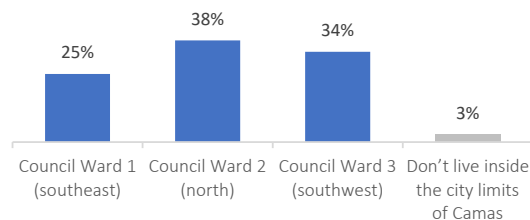
Online-only survey responses



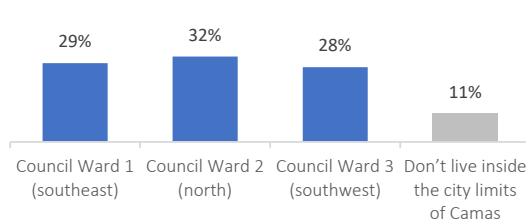
### Location of residence

Respondents were relatively evenly distributed throughout the City of Camas. Thirty-eight percent live in Council Ward 2 (north Camas), 34% live in Ward 3 (southwest), and 25% live in Ward 1 (southeast). The mail survey garnered a few responses (3%) from people who live outside the City of Camas, however all live within the 98607 zip code. Respondents to the online survey were similarly distributed across the city, with slightly higher representation of residents in Ward 1. However, a larger portion (11%) of online-only respondents do not live in the city.

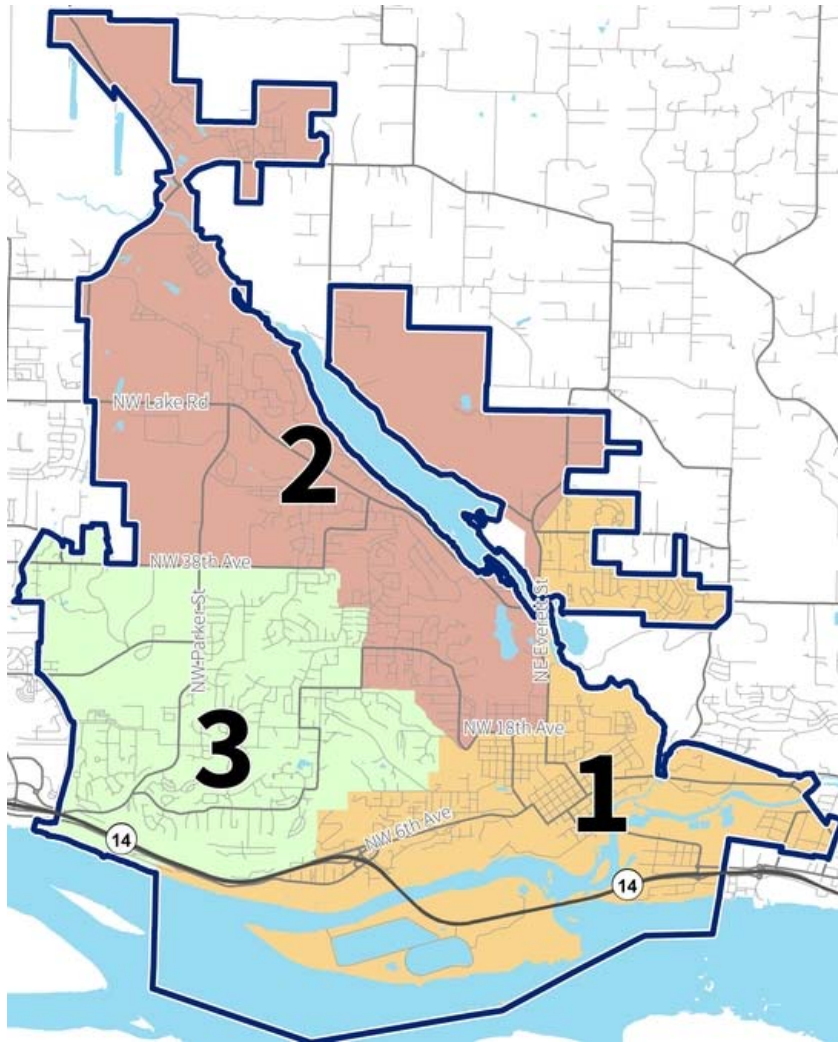
Mail survey responses



Online-only survey responses



Location Map



ATTACHMENT 1. SURVEY INSTRUMENT



Community Survey on Parks and Recreation

Dear Camas Resident:

The City of Camas is beginning a community-led process to update its citywide Recreation, Parks and Open Space Plan (PROS Plan, for short). We need your help to determine how to prioritize projects and what we should focus on to keep our parks and programs thriving for the next 6-10 years. As an initial step, the City is conducting this short survey to assess the community's recreation needs. We understand that COVID-19 has impacted your ability to participate in programs and visit parks this year. We ask that you consider needs for the future as you evaluate recreation amenities. Your opinions are important to the City.



The survey has 16 questions and will only take a few minutes to complete. Use the QR code to take this survey online at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CamasPROS>

1. When you think about what contributes to the quality of life in Camas, would you say that public parks and recreation opportunities are... ( CHECK ONE OPTION )

- Essential to the quality of life here
- Important, but not really essential
- Useful, but not necessary
- Not Important
- Don't know

2. When it comes to amenities provided by the City of Camas for meeting your needs for parks, trails and recreation facilities, would you say there are... ( CHECK ONLY ONE BOX IN EACH ROW )

	More than Enough	About the Right Amount	Not Enough	Don't Know
Developed parks with playgrounds	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Walking / biking trails	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sport fields & sport courts	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Picnic areas & shelters	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Access to water-oriented recreation (lakes, rivers)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Recreation programs (camps & classes)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Community events (such as the Movies in the Park)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

3. Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, how often did you visit or use Camas parks, trails, recreation facilities or natural areas?

- Everyday
- At least once a week
- Two or more times a month
- About once a month
- A few times over the year
- Do not visit facilities / parks / open spaces
- Don't know

4. Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, what would you say are the main reasons your household visited Camas parks, recreation facilities or open spaces in the past year? ( CHECK ALL THAT APPLY )

- Fitness / Exercise
- Dog walking
- Playgrounds
- Walking or running
- Bike riding
- Family gatherings / picnicking
- Community events / concerts
- Recreation program, class or camp
- Sport fields
- Outdoor sport courts
- Wildlife viewing
- Fishing
- Swimming
- Boating - Non-motorized / Hand-carry (canoeing, kayaking)
- Boating - Motor / trailered
- Frisbee or disc golf
- Relaxation
- N/A - I didn't use any Camas facilities
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**Save a stamp! Use the QR code and take this survey online:**  
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CamasPROS>  
 Or send it back in the enclosed Return-Reply envelope provided. **Thank you in advance for participating!**



**5. How would you rate the condition of each of the following parks or recreation facilities?**

	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Not Sure / No Opinion
City parks	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Trails in parks and greenspaces	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fallen Leaf Park Shelter	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Camas Community Center	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lacamas Lake Lodge & Conference Center	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**6. The following list includes park amenities that the City could consider adding to the park system. Please indicate whether you would be very supportive, somewhat supportive, not sure, or not supportive of each.**

	Very Supportive	Somewhat Supportive	Not Supportive	Not Sure
Additional picnic areas & shelters for group gatherings	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Updated or renovated playgrounds at existing parks	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
All-abilities, accessible playground equipment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Additional walking trails in parks	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Additional biking trails in parks	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pool or aquatic center	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Outdoor splash pad / water spray park	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
New Community Center with indoor gymnasium & space for classes	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Off-leash dog areas (dog parks)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Additional sport fields for soccer, football & lacrosse	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Additional sport fields for baseball / softball	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Additional basketball courts	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Additional tennis / pickleball courts	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BMX / Pump track	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Additional / upgraded skate park	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Disc golf course	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**7. For the following list, indicate how you would rank the priority for each (1st priority is highest and 6th priority is lowest). Mark each ranking number only once.**

	Select each priority <b>ONLY ONCE</b> .						Don't know / No opinion
	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	
Acquiring additional land for future parks	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Building new parks on undeveloped, city-owned parkland	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Building a new community center or aquatic center	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Focusing on existing park facilities & delayed maintenance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Expanding trail opportunities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Expanding recreation classes & camps	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>





Community Survey on Park & Recreation Preferences

8. Please indicate if your household has participated or used each of the listed recreation program types in 2019 (pre COVID-19) AND indicate if there should be more or less of each available.

	Have you participated/ used in 2019 (pre-COVID)?		Do you think there should be more or less of this type of activity or program available?			
	Yes	No	More Needed	Current Offerings are Adequate	Fewer Needed	Don't Know
Adult enrichment classes, such as arts, crafts or music	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Adult wellness classes, such as yoga/tai chi, aerobics or partner/line dancing	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Adult sports leagues, such as soccer, ultimate frisbee, kickball or softball	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Programs for adults 55 and over, such as drop-in activities, trips or health/wellness	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
After-school programs or summer day camps for children	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Youth sports programs and camps during school breaks	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Youth activities, such as fitness, music, arts or crafts	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Preschool Enrichment and Sports	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Teen activities, such as game nights, day trips or camps during school breaks	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Outdoor adventure summer camps, including archery, orienteering, geocaching or environmental education	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
E-sports leagues	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

9. Please rate how important each trail type or amenity is to your household.

	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not Important	Don't Know
Paved, shared paths for pedestrians and cyclists	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Unpaved trails in natural areas	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Accessible trails without steep slopes for users of all abilities (strollers, wheelchairs, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mountain biking trails	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bike skills / pump track	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

10. The Parks & Recreation Department has limited budget to deliver parks and recreational services, and the City is exploring options to enhance revenue generation to support the delivery of services. How would you rate your level of support for each of the following options?

	Very Supportive	Somewhat Supportive	Somewhat Unsupportive	Very Unsupportive	Don't Know
Install and institute a reservation system and rental fees for additional group picnic shelters	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Charge advertising fees for the installation of outfield fence banners at sport fields	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Institute a parking pass program at major parks	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Institute a reservation system and rental fees for sport fields and courts	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Increase rental scheduling for private events and gatherings	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

11. There may be some park and recreation experiences that are limited or not available in Camas but are available in neighboring communities. If it came down to a choice between increasing taxes to develop that facility in Camas versus not having that in Camas, which would you choose?

	Increase Taxes	Not in Camas
Install a splash pad / spray park	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Build a new pool or aquatic center	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Acquire and develop land to fill gaps in trail corridors	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Build another community center with gymnasium and fitness space	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Develop a bike skills park / pump track	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

12. Please check ALL the ways you would prefer to learn about Camas's parks, programs and events.

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> City website                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Direct email               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> City newsletter                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Community event signs      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Facebook                          | <input type="checkbox"/> Flyers at city facilities  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Twitter                           | <input type="checkbox"/> Street and/or park banners |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Instagram                         | <input type="checkbox"/> None of these              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Camas / Evergreen School District | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____               |

The following questions help us understand whether we have a cross-section of the community responding to this survey. It's important that you provide a response to each question.

13. How many children under age 18 live in your household?

- |                            |                                    |
|----------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 0 | <input type="checkbox"/> 2         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 or more |

14. What is your age?

- |  |                                       |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Younger than 20 | <input type="checkbox"/> 55 to 64     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 20 to 34        | <input type="checkbox"/> 65 and 74    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 35 to 44        | <input type="checkbox"/> 75 and older |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 45 to 54        |                                       |

15. In which section of Camas do you live?

- ( 1 ) Council Ward 1 - southeast Camas
- ( 2 ) Council Ward 2 - north Camas
- ( 3 ) Council Ward 3 - southwest Camas
- Don't live inside the city limits of Camas

16. If you don't live in Camas, what is your zip code? \_\_\_\_\_



**Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey!**

Your input will help guide the development of the Camas Parks, Recreation & Open Space Plan.

Save a stamp! Take this survey online with the QR code or at: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CamasPROS>

Learn more about Camas parks, trail and programs and stay informed about the Parks, Recreation & Open Space Plan process at [www.cityofcamas.us](http://www.cityofcamas.us)



The City of Camas is using the services of a consultant team who specializes in park and recreation planning.

Please return your completed survey in the enclosed Return-Reply Envelope addressed to:

Conservation Technix Inc.  
PO Box 12736  
Portland, OR 97212

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## ATTACHMENT 2. OPEN-ENDED RESPONSES

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Question 4. Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, what would you say are the main reasons your household visited Camas parks, recreation facilities, or natural areas in the past year? (open-ended “other” responses)

---

### Mail

- The parks are why I moved here
- Photography
- Cemetery - pry of Parks responsibility
- Meeting a friend or getting out of the house
- DOG PARK PLEASE!!!!
- Miss public swim pool
- Kayaking, paddle boarding
- Too much noise, dangerous bikes, boats disruptive
- We moved here during the pandemic
- Kites
- Just moved here
- Internet access and restrooms
- Hiking Lacamas park
- Getting out of yard work!!!
- Overall enjoyment of nature in its natural state on maintained trails
- Visit my wife's cemetery plot
- We moved to Camas during the pandemic.
- Skatepark
- Moved here during PHE
- Photography
- Hiking
- Skateboarding

### Online

- Bike Riding
- Bird watching
- Did not live in Camas
- Didn't live here prior to COVID
- Disc Golf
- Gather with friends
- Horseback riding
- I moved here during the pandemic, so the question doesn't really apply to me, but I'm utilizing many of these now and have been since arriving.
- I moved to Camas during COVID.
- Lacamas Lake is toxic and should be cleaned and filtered, currently unsafe
- Mental health / forest bathing

- Mental health, community health
- Mountain biking
- Mountain biking
- Moved here during COVID
- Moving to Camas during COVID
- Nature immersion
- Paddle boarding
- Photos
- Pickleball at Crown Park!!!
- pump track and dirt jumps
- Relaxing
- Scouts
- Skateboarding
- Skatepark
- sketching
- Soaking up nature
- SUP
- To be outside for no reason
- To practice disc golf throws!
- Turf the baseball fields. For how much u make it taxes stop wasting money and invest in the youth or I'll move to Ridgefield
- Visiting with out-of-town guests
- We just moved here last June during the pandemic.
- We just moved to Camas in July 2020, so we didn't have experiences before the pandemic.
- We need an off-leash dog park
- We recently moved here during the pandemic.
- Would have gone to pool if still had one

---

Question 13. Please check ALL the ways you would prefer to learn about Camas' parks, programs and events. (open-ended "other" responses)

---

#### Mail

- Advertising/information around downtown Camas
- Camas Post Recorder
- Direct mail
- Direct mail - USPS
- Direct mailing
- Direct mailing once or more per year
- Do not know
- Don't care. Any.
- Email/mailers
- Google or ask Siri
- Mail



- Mailed brochure of schedule
- Newspaper
- Newspaper - Columbian
- Next Door
- NextDoor app
- Nextdoor
- NextDoor app
- NextDoor app
- Send with water bill
- The Columbian
- USPS
- Word of mouth

#### Online

- “Opt-In” texts with links to website with the relevant information
- All
- Believe Street and park banners are currently prohibited by city ordinance.
- Camas and Columbian Newspapers
- Camas Library
- Camas Washougal Post Record, Nextdoor
- City App with updated info
- Email
- Emails through the Camas schools are a great way to advertise events.
- Everything you can think of
- I believe a community / city announcement board in DT Camas would be good.
- Insert with city water bill
- Newspaper
- Next door app
- Nextdoor
- Nextdoor
- NextDoor
- post on nextdoor riverview
- Push Notifications Text
- Send links w/ event info via text
- text
- Text and/or mobile app
- The Columbian and Post Record Newspaper
- This seems the only place where I can say that I am supportive of a Firstenberg style aquatic center, but at \$70 million.
- Turf the baseball/softball fields, maintain the parks and put in a pump track for the youth. Ur taxes are already higher than any other city in SW Washington. Our community is pissed off with the waste of funds our leaders have shown and not using that money to enrich our quality of life.



# Appendix B

## Online Open House Summary



# **CAMAS PROS PLAN UPDATE**

## **SUMMER 2021 PUBLIC OUTREACH SUMMARY**

Prepared for:

City of Camas

Prepared by:

JLA Public Involvement, Inc.

**August 2021**

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## INTRODUCTION

The City of Camas conducted outreach between July 29 and August 22, 2021 to share information about the Camas Parks, Recreation and Open Space (PROS) Plan Update with the public and solicit input about which park and recreation programs, services and facilities are important to them. Feedback received through this outreach period will help the city build the draft PROS Plan, which will be shared in late fall through a second round of outreach.

## OVERALL PARTICIPATION AND NOTIFICATION

To gather feedback to inform the PROS Plan update, the project team developed an **online open house**, **online interactive map**, and held **three (3) tabling events** in Camas to build project awareness and solicit feedback.

Overall, **we reached approximately 131 people**, with 74 participating in the online open house, approximately 50 visiting with the team at tabling events, and 7 people contributing to the interactive map.

Community members were informed about the online open house and tabling events through the following:

- Social media posts to the City of Camas Facebook page and Twitter account
- Social media posts to the Camas Parks & Recreation Facebook page
- Posts on the project Engage Camas page
- Emails sent to the Parks and Recreation distribution list
- Media release
- Announcements at Council and Parks & Recreation Commission public meetings
- Announcements at Stakeholder Focus Group meetings

## FEEDBACK SUMMARY

### OPEN HOUSE QUESTIONS

This section summarizes the feedback received through the online open house.

### ONLINE OPEN HOUSE RESPONSES

Online open house participants were given the opportunity to respond to a series of questions about park and recreation programs, services, and facilities. Feedback is summarized below.

*Note: Unless otherwise stated, the percentages listed in the analysis of each question take into consideration the number of participants who responded to the question, not the total number of people who participated in the online open house.*

**1. What are you most looking forward to doing again in City parks and facilities as COVID-19 restrictions are lifted? (Select all that apply.)**

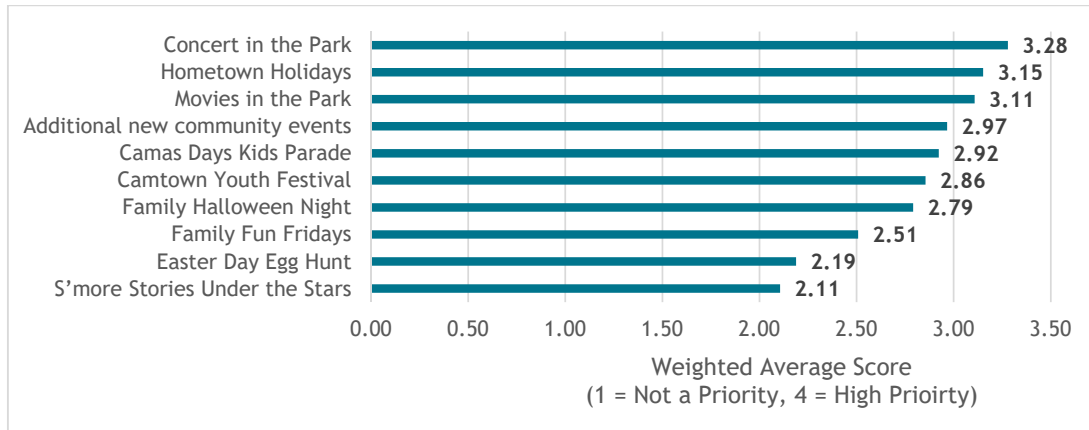
As COVID-19 restrictions are lifted, participants are most looking forward to spending time with friends/family outdoors, relaxing at a park or on a trail, and exercising and fitness.

For those who selected “Other,” kayaking, floating on the river, swimming, and taking children to the playgrounds was mentioned. Someone mentioned splash pads at Crown Park and that bathrooms are needed. Please see [Appendix A](#) to read the individual, unedited comments.

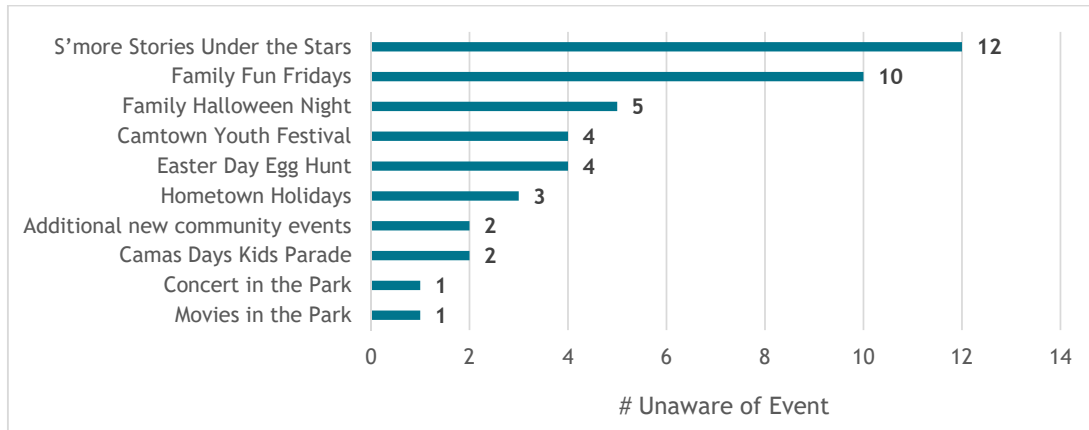


**2. The City of Camas offers or supports many community events throughout the year that are free to the public but utilize city staff resources and funding. Below is a list of Camas community events that are currently offered. For each event, indicate whether you think it is a High Priority, a Medium Priority, a Low Priority, or Not a Priority for your household.**

“Concert in the park” scored the highest, indicating it was a high priority for respondents. This was followed by “Hometown Holidays” and “Movies in the Park.” Respondents indicated that “S’more Stories Under the Stars” was the lowest priority community event.

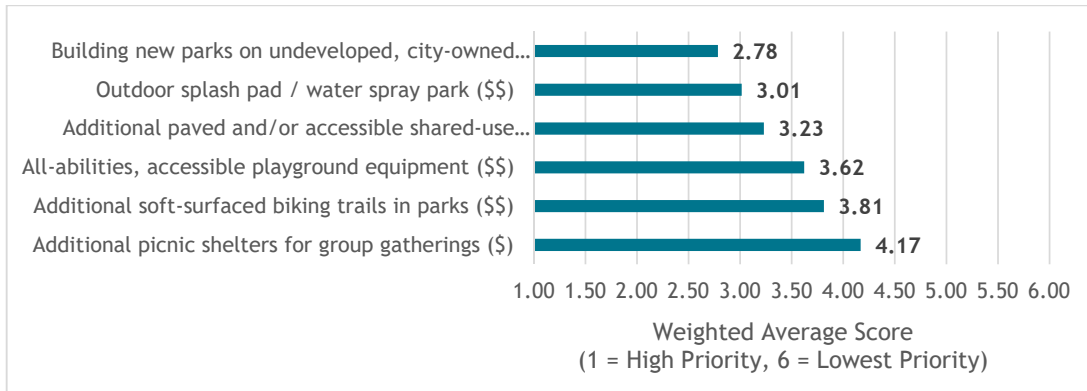


12 respondents indicated that they were unaware of S'more Stories Under the Stars, 10 were unaware of Family Fun Fridays, and 5 were unaware of Family Halloween Night.



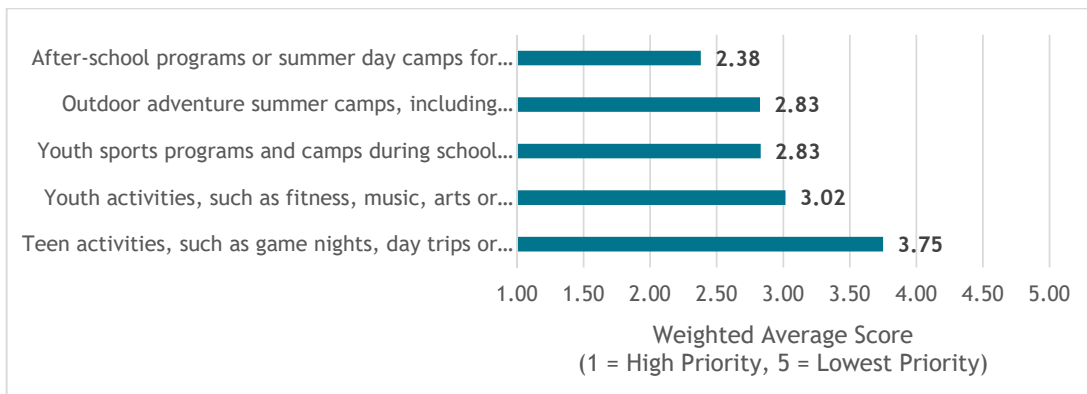
3. The spring 2021 community survey identified six priorities for the park system. For the following list of park system priorities, indicate how you would rank the priority for each (first (1) priority is highest and sixth (6) priority is lowest). Cost estimates are shown as \$ (somewhat expensive), \$\$ (moderately expensive) or \$\$\$ (expensive).

Respondents ranked “Building new parks on undeveloped, city-owned parkland (\$\$\$)” highest, followed by “Outdoor splash pad / water spray park (\$\$).” Respondents ranked “Additional picnic shelters for group gatherings (\$)” the lowest.



**4. The spring 2021 community survey identified five priorities for recreation programs and activities. For the following list of recreation programs and activities, indicate how you would rank the priority for each (first (1) priority is highest and fifth (5) priority is lowest).**

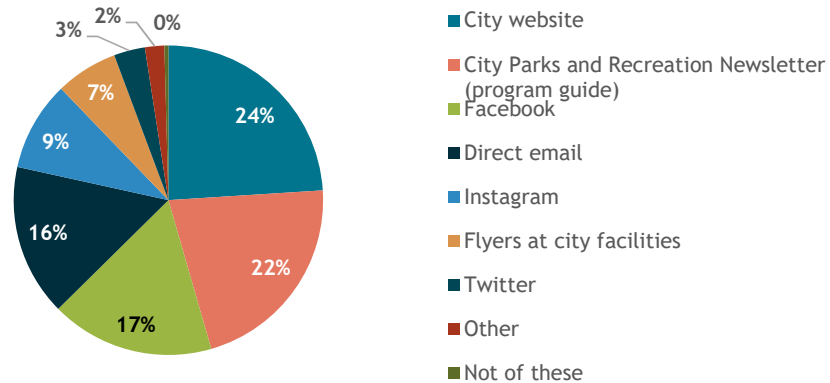
Respondents ranked **“After-school programs or summer day camps for children” highest**, followed by “Youth sports programs and camps during school breaks” and “Outdoor adventure summer camps, including archery, orienteering, geocaching or environmental education.” Respondents ranked “Teen activities, such as game nights, day trips or camps during school breaks” the lowest.



**5. Please check ALL the ways you would like to get information about Camas’ recreation programs and activities.**

Most people would like to get information about Camas’ recreation programs and activities through the **city’s website and/or through the City Parks and Recreation Newsletter.**

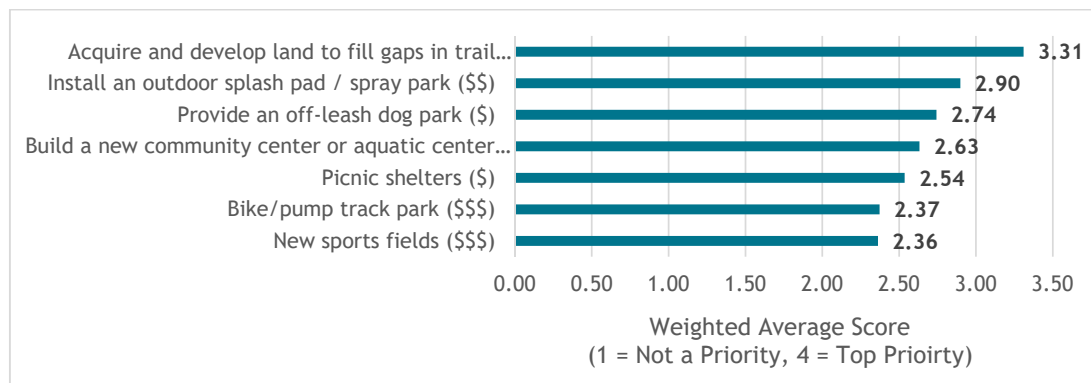




For those who indicated “Other,” text messaging, events on Facebook, Camas Library, and Nextdoor were mentioned as ways people like would to get information

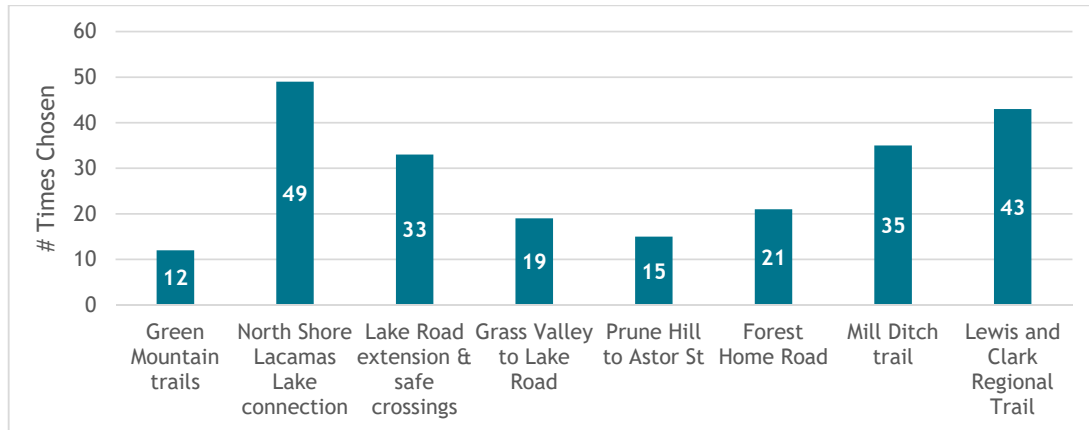
6. The following list of new facilities/amenities may be considered in the new PROS Plan. For each item, please tell us if it should be a top priority, a high priority, a low priority or not a priority at all. Cost estimates are shown as \$ (somewhat expensive), \$\$ (moderately expensive), \$\$\$ (expensive) or \$\$\$\$ (very expensive).

“Acquire and develop land to fill gaps in trail corridors (\$\$)” scored the highest, indicating it was a high priority for respondents. This was followed by “Install an outdoor splash pad / spray park (\$\$)” and “Provide an off-leash dog park (\$)”.



7. Thinking about trails and paths, which potential trail connections are the highest priority for your household? (Select up to 4.)

Respondents chose the **North Shore Lacamas Lake connection the most (49 times)**, followed closely by Lewis and Clark Regional Trail, chosen 43 times, indicating that these two trails were highest priority for households. Green Mountain trails was chosen the least.



**8. Please share any additional needs for park and recreation improvements, programs or activities that you think are important and relevant to the growth of our community for the next five years.**

36 people left feedback in this open text box. Below are some common themes found for those who responded. Please see [Appendix A](#) to read the individual, unedited comments.

- 7 said that maintenance of existing parks needs to be a priority.
- 5 said they would like to see more water features, such as pools and splash pads, at parks.
- 6 said they want expanded bicycle facilities.
- 6 said there is a need for an accessible and safe system of interconnected trails.
- 4 said they want more and improved/expanded sports fields and courts.
- 2 said the restrooms at Crown Park need to be improved.

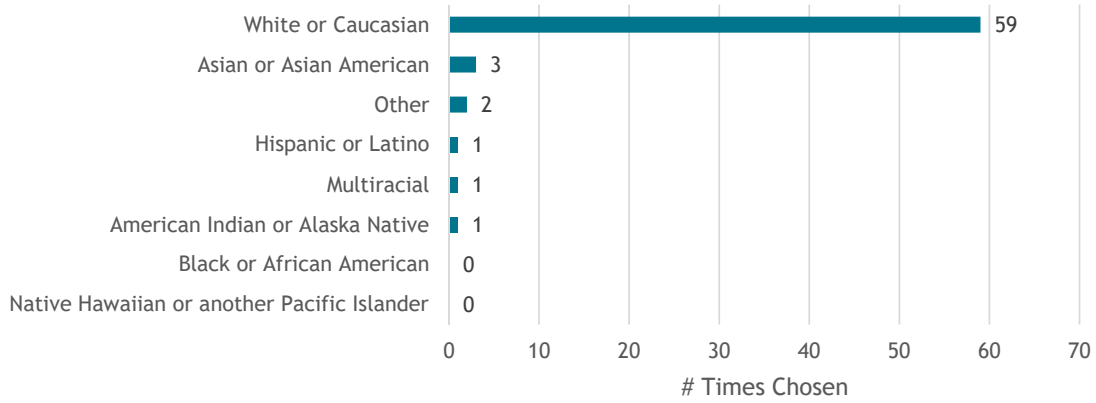
**DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION**

Participants from the online open house were asked a series of optional demographic questions.

*Note: Unless otherwise stated, the percentages listed in the analysis of each question take into consideration the number of participants who responded to the question, not the total number of people who participated in the online open house.*

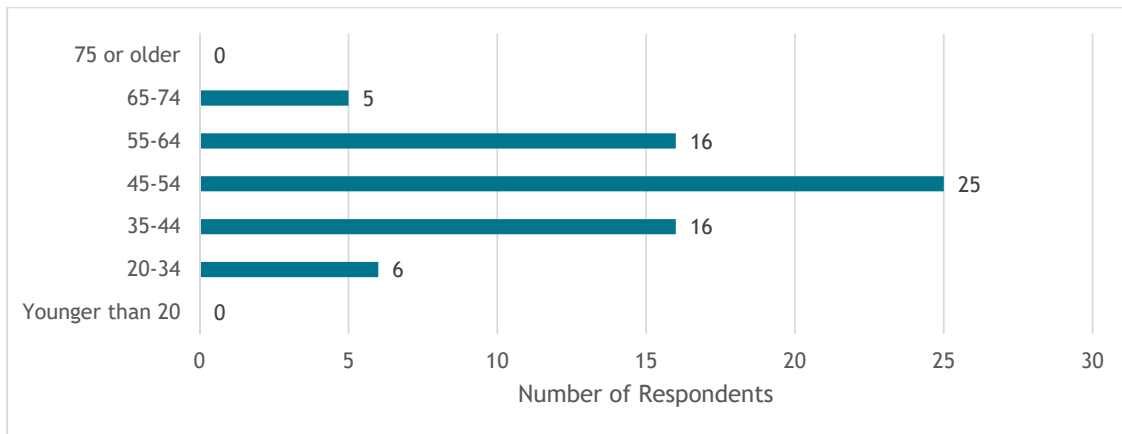
**Racial or Ethnic Identity**

The majority of participants identify as white (88%). The second largest group of participants selected Asian or Asian American (4%).



**Age**

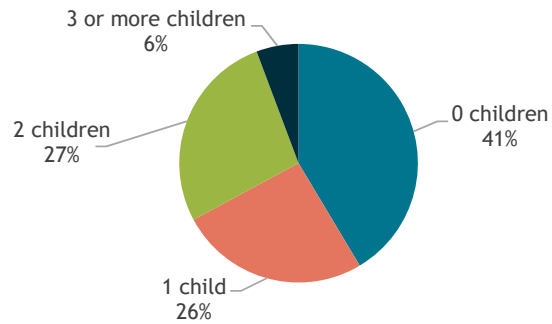
Of those that responded, the **largest group of participants were between the ages of 45 – 54 (37%)**. The second largest groups were between the ages of 55 – 64 (24%) and 35-44 (24%)



**Number of children in household**

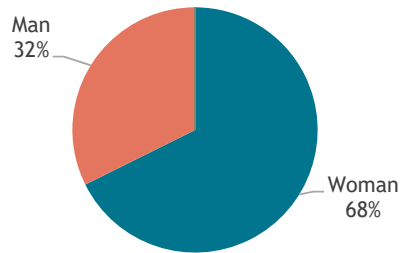
The majority of participants **(41%) indicated they had no children under the age of 18 living in their household**. This was followed by a little more than a quarter (27%) having two children

and 26% having one child.



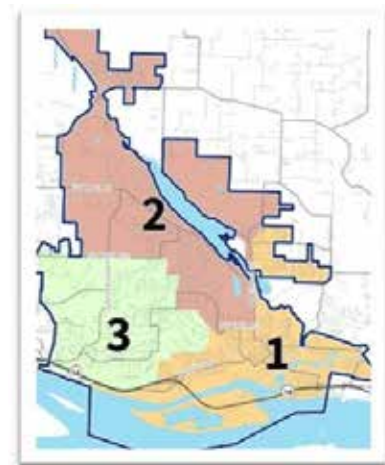
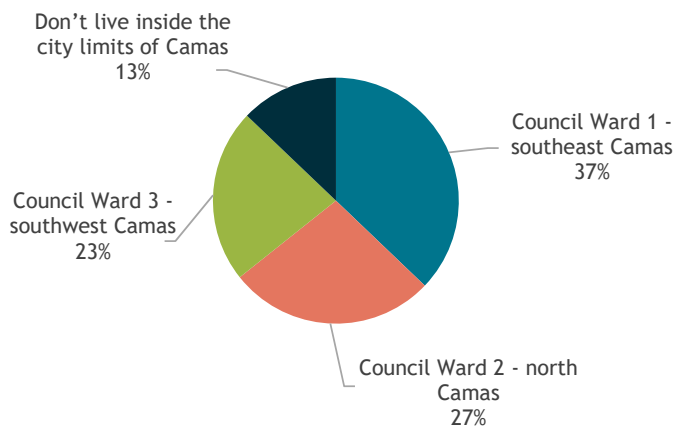
### Gender

The majority of participants (68%) identified as women, while 32% identified as men. No one identified as transgender, non-binary, genderqueer, or third gender.



### Primary Residence

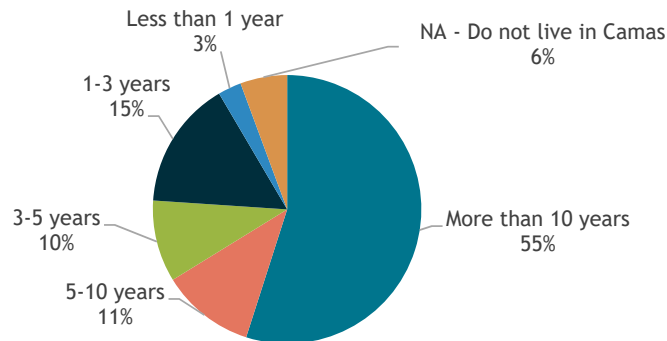
**Most respondents (37%) indicated that they live in Council Ward 1 – southeast Camas.** About a quarter of respondents live in Council Ward 2 and a quarter also live in Council Ward 3.





### Time living in Camas

**Most respondents, 55%, have lived in Camas for over 10 years.** This was followed by 15% of respondents saying they have lived in Camas for 1-3 years.



## TABLING EVENTS FEEDBACK SUMMARY

This section summarizes the feedback received at the three (3) tabling events held in July and August to build awareness of the PROS Plan Update and share information about the project. Approximately 50 people were engaged at these events. Tabling was held at the following times and places:

- July 31<sup>st</sup> at Heritage Park from 10a-12p and 1-2p
- August 17<sup>th</sup> at Concert in the Park from 6:30-8:30p
- August 18 at Camas Farmer's Market from 3-7p

Below is a summary of the feedback we received organized by common theme:

- **Heritage Park and Surrounding Lakes:**
  - o **Trail signage is needed** at Heritage Park and Lacamas Lake; topographic maps may be helpful
  - o **More outreach, promotion and notification** are needed about the annual Drawdown Event
  - o Someone asked **if the lakes are stocked with fish** or if the fish are being studied
  - o People expressed **concern about algal blooms** at the lakes
  - o Desire for **more tree protection policies**
  - o **Recycling bins** are needed
  - o Desire for **more educational and interpretive offerings and facilities**
  - o **More lake access and beaches** needed
  - o **Parking at the lakes is an issue.** A few people mentioned that parking could be added on the north side of Lacamas Lake

- Concern about **filtration at Lacamas Lake**
- Concern about **erosion and wear-and-tear to trails around Round Lake** due to bikes
- Someone mentioned that **Lacamas Creek Trail is blocked**
- Consider **cutting back foliage in Lacamas Lake** sooner
- **Fallen Leaf Lake is peaceful**, but sometimes it is easy to get lost
- **Crown Park:**
  - People like that **Crown Park is clean and quiet** – it is the heart of the neighborhood
  - Desire for **restrooms and sprinklers/splash pad**
- **Parks and Recreation in Camas:**
  - Desire for **more facilities to serve people in Camas** (i.e., parks, trails for bicyclists and pedestrians, etc.)
  - Would like to see **better bike connections** from downtown waterfront area to Crown Park
  - Need **more promotion for Concert in the Park** events
- **Other:**
  - People expressed **concern about population growth** in Camas, as well as **increased traffic** – especially when thinking about development in North Shore area
  - Someone mentioned that people are having **survey fatigue** and would have liked to have seen open text questions on the Spring PROS Plan survey
  - Someone mentioned that a **Parks and Recreation QR code** from a month ago is not working
  - There was some **confusion about the summer online open house** – some people thought it was the same as the spring survey

People were able to share on a map the places they like to visit and areas that need improvement. They are as follows:

- **Places people like to visit** (indicated by green dot):
  - o Lacamas Lake
  - o Heritage Park
  - o Fallen Leaf Lake
  - o Lacamas Regional Park
  - o Lacamas Creek Park
  - o Washougal River Greenway
- **Places needing improvement** (indicated by red dot):
  - o Open space area on lower end of Lacamas Lake
  - o Area between Lacamas Lake and Round Lake
  - o Forest Home Park



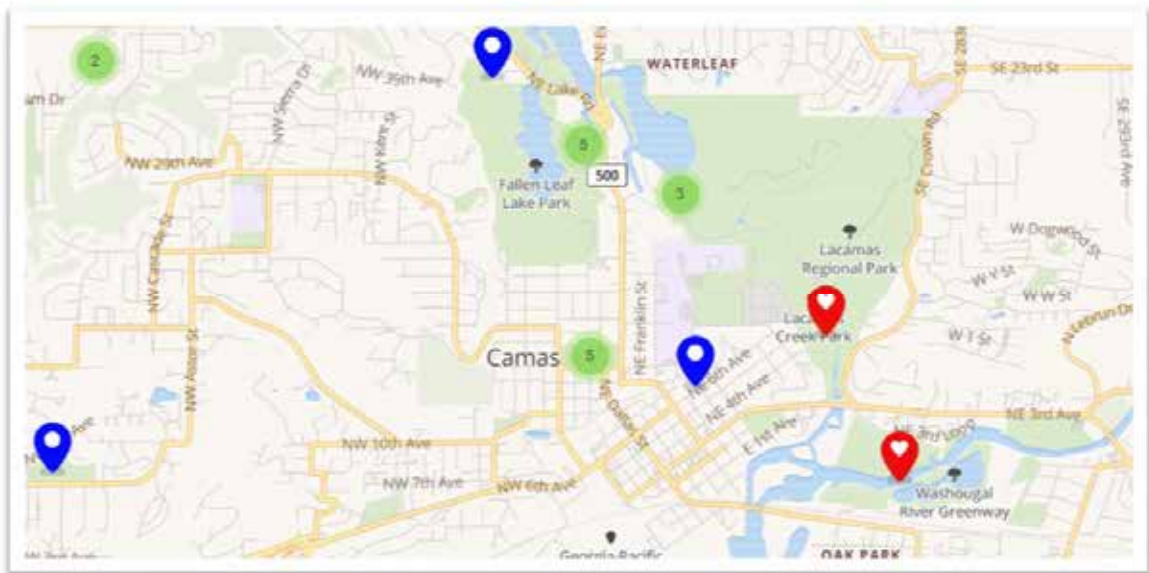
## INTERACTIVE MAP

On the Engage Camas project page, the public was given the opportunity to share which parks, trails, and open spaces they currently visit in Camas (denoted by a red heart pin); where they think improvements need to be made (denoted by a blue pin); and what new things they would like to see offered in Camas' park system (denoted by a yellow star pin). **11 unique users** submitted a total of **22 comments**. Below is a summary of their comments:

- **Places people currently visit:** Fallen Leaf Lake, Washougal River Greenway, Lake to Lake Trail, Lacamas Lake
- **Improvements needed:**
  - o **Lake to Lake Trail:** Replace the broken fences and add danger signs around cliffs on both sides of the river, place more trashcans along the trail, replace maps
  - o **Mill Ditch Trail:** Fill in Mill Ditch and make it a large accessible walking path
  - o **Grass Valley Park:** Play equipment is in disrepair and needs to be replaced
  - o **Lacamas Lake Dam:** Extend the fence for safety
  - o **Klickitat Park:** Landscaping and removal of dead trees
  - o **Roof cleaning and painting** of buildings near Fallen Leaf Lake and Lacamas Lake
  - o **Parking on the north side** of Lacamas Lake needed

- Someone indicated there are **overgrown brambles** behind houses on NW 31<sup>st</sup> Ave and NW Dahlia Dr
- **Ideas for new park offerings:**
  - **Crown Park:** New/updated programming to tie in with programs/activities to be offered at new Garfield Performing Arts Center, splash pad or kids pool, new restroom
  - **Fallen Leaf Lake:** Splash pad or community fountain, parking lot and picnic tables; retaining walls and a sort of "art walk" fencing could highlight local artistry and sculptures.
- **Other:** Someone was concerned about the Sierra/43rd Street corridor and that because of increased traffic, it needs improvement

Please see [Appendix B](#) for more details about the comments as well as the specific addresses of the locations or places participants submitted comments about. It may be helpful to view the comments in context with the location they were placed. The issues map and comments are viewable at this link: <https://engagecamass.com/parks-recreation-open-space-comprehensive-plan/maps/camas-park-system-interactive-map>





# APPENDICES

## APPENDIX A: ONLINE OPEN HOUSE OPEN TEXT QUESTIONS

Below are the unedited comments respondents submitted for the open text questions in the open house.

### **QUESTION 1: What are you most looking forward to doing again in City parks and facilities as COVID-19 restrictions are lifted? (Select all that apply.)**

Those who chose “Other,” wrote the following in the open text box:

- Kayaking on the lakes
- River Access for inner tubing
- Skatepark
- Swimming
- Taking child to playgrounds
- Using the splash pad at Crown Park that replaced the pool you tore down. Oh, that's right, you haven't fulfilled that promise yet. And the new bathrooms at Crown Park are wonderful 😊.

### **QUESTION 5: Please check ALL the ways you would like to get information about Camas' recreation programs and activities.**

Those who chose “Other,” wrote the following in the open text box:

- Camas Library
- Events Page on Facebook so I can simply add it to my google calendar with ease. Also include link to register there.
- NextDoor
- text
- text

### **QUESTION 8: Please share any additional needs for park and recreation improvements, programs or activities that you think are important and relevant to the growth of our community for the next five years.**

- Algae bloom control at Lacamas Lake

- Crown Park is in dire need to be updated to make the playgrounds safe for children. The community was promised a splash pad when the pool was removed.
- I think providing a walking path from Green Mountain to the Heritage Trail is imperative. I don't know why this wasn't insisted upon during annexation and development approval.
- The current parks are a mess. Weeds are so bad at some parks that you can't even sit on the grass or put a baby on it. The small park area on NW 8th, really?? Weeds up to my knees and so brown. No reason for this. Hire some new employees instead of office workers and suits.
- I'd like to see the existing parks better maintained. I live near Klikitat Park and have had to comment several times over the past several years about how poorly the park is cared for. Oversight is needed apparently. New neighborhoods should be required to have natural green space. Camas has needed sports fields and practice fields for over a decade. Consider turfing existing fields for improved playability ie. GV ball park is almost never game-ready (picture of it on city website is not a real representation.) Better and more access points to put kayaks, canoes, etc. into Lacamas and Round Lakes. Make known how residents can donate or buy new sports equipment/uniforms, etc. for kids who need it. Trail connections are super important with the increased road traffic.
- The city buys LaCamas Swim and Sport and makes it into a Camas recreation center. The loss of crown park pool means no public pools in Camas. Parks department works to get public support to build an aquatics center with a pool that local swim teams can rent and use. Less emphasis on the splash pads, pools get more use by a range of age groups."
- #1 Lighted pickleball courts. #2 Soccer fields/basketball courts #3 Walking trails  
Pickleball, pickleball, pickleball
- Would like to see development of parking, picnic shelters, and water entry to fallen leaf lake on opposite side off Lake Road.
- Bike safety improvements between north end of Heritage trail and Green Mountain and North Shore Lacamas Connection. That segment of road is very dangerous for bikes and there are no alternate routes.
- We are in desperate need of additional sports fields and a multi use complex. Other cities seem to be way ahead with their facilities vs Camas
- Hi there! I would love recycling options at our parks and promote leave nothing behind. Education about recycling. Also, more education about our native trees, how trees provide oxygen etc., mainly environmental education. Signs and interactive "stations" for this. Educating how we can all make a difference to keep and maintain our natural beauty.

- Please add to the high priority, 2 way Bike paths off the freeway to share with Joggers path along SR500 from downtown all the way to Fern Prairie Market and up or down Lake Road. Huge safety issue!
- Most wanted: Car-free , soft-surfaced walking/running trails
- More adult sports options please!! Would love to see volleyball or a tennis league offered
- Both Forest Home Road and Leadbetter Road have tremendous recreational potential as multi-use roads but current traffic speeds are just too dangerous. Please consider lowering and enforcing traffic speeds on these roads so walkers and bikers can also enjoy the routes. Thanks!
- Sidewalks that connect our neighborhoods and get us to the paths and the trails should be a priority. There are many areas in our city that we cannot access because the sidewalks end.
- Maybe a few trash receptacles on the trails for dog poop bags. Bags are all over the trail.
- Number 1 priority is restrooms - Crown Park, trail heads and open space. This is a public health issue. Life stage definitely affects my priorities. When my kids were young activities such as the Easter Egg Hunt and Boo Bash were important as was safe, accessible and fun playground equipment. Without children in our household, I'm more interested in trails, both walking and biking.
- Please limit horsepower (speed) of boats allowed on Lacamas Lake to reduce/eliminate dangerous wakes and ensure safety of fishing boats, canoes, kayakers and swimmers. Thank you.
- I previously submitted a review on making current renewal or repairs to the current skatepark facility and would be thrilled to have that issue become a part of the discussion. Having past engaged, in discussions with the skatepark committee for tualatin hills park and recreation as well as assisting in maintenance and promotion of a popular indoor skatepark facility in portland. I would very much like to see a renewed look at the existing skatepark facility off of 3rd avenue as well as the adjoining parking lot and water access. I believe significant improvements could be made i.e. lighting and clean up as well as design changes to the actual skatepark. All of which leads to ensuring this site promotes inclusion for kids of all ages and experience levels as well as safety. Overall promoting a more family friendly environment.
- Improvements made on the existing skate park, utilizing someone with actual skatepark design knowledge or experience. Re-designing or rebuilding of the skatepark. Possibly building an all new skatepark with a bike/pump track next to it. The facility could offer a recreational area for kids of all ages to enjoy and stay out of trouble. However the current facility does not meet all levels of experience and is designed poorly, it has resulted in users bringing in outside equipment in order to make it somewhat usable. Also cleaning up the area around it i.e. the parking lot and water access/trails as well as

adding lighting for the park and parking lot would add safety and promote a more family friendly atmosphere.

- We would like to see a pool in Camas again, but perhaps not on the scale of a full aquatic center.
- I walk and bike the Mill Dutch trail regularly and am wondering what is going to happen with the stagnant water in the ditch. It's turning into a mosquito farm. Is the city going to do something with it such as flush it out or fill it in?
- I have been wondering why the play areas aren't covered. Children could play on rainy days and hot days
- The little green space on NW 8th is disgusting. It needs to be taken care. Kids want to play there and the weeds have taken over the grass. City really needs to wake up and take care of what we it has before it adds more to the list. Can't go to any park and put a toddler or crawler down to play in the grass, to many weeds.
- What would be most beneficial is a network of \*connected\* bike paths and hiking trails not a series of separate, non-contiguous trails, in order to provide safe and extensive opportunities for families and people of all ages. In particular new bike patgs should be integrated with the side walk NOT the road as this is much safer, particularly for children, and will encourage more use by families and bike commuting.
- Exercise equipment in select parks -- pull-up and dip bars, etc.
- It would be great if you could adjust the Camas rules regarding new housing developments to require more green space and/or trails for each large development. This way the city of Camas isn't competing with developers to purchase land for parks and other recreational activities. Allow the developer to buy the land and then require that they build the park you wanted!
- Maintenance on some city-owned trials is non-existent. Vegetation, especially blackberries, hang over the trail in many areas. Some of the trails are so steep in sections that they are pretty much non-usable, especially when it is wet or icy. The city-owned so-called "natural" area and collection pond north of Knapp Street in Parker Estates had maintenance delayed so long that many of the trees have died and beavers moved in further making a mess of the whole thing (project is currently in process to hopefully mitigate). I wish there were more safe places to ride bicycles (road bikes, not mountain or off-road) and that the trail system was more continuous. Ash Creek Park was promised to be developed MANY years ago and nothing has been done with it yet. Parker Estates (where I live) would appreciate it. I would like city staff to walk the full distance of all the trails in the area to get a good understanding of what it is like to live in the neighborhoods and walk them.
- No need for a million dollar pool, just build a splash pad or fountains with wading pools. Keep is accessible and add more parking. Better fishing opportunities on lacamas lake would be good.



- We need to see bathroom facilities in our parks. Crown Park is a beautiful park with ugly dirty porta potties. It's kind of sad. Also since The pool was destroyed CrownmPark has big wide open areas that aren't used for anything.
- I just wish so badly we could have an outdoor pool again! It made Camas so unique and we used it all summer long! I don't understand the cost issue when it comes to an outdoor pool. If you can build an aquatic center, why not an outdoor pool? I will forever be sad that the outdoor pool was taken away. It was a yearly tradition in our family and made Camas unique. It seems like all the fun things for kids are being taken away!!!!
- I love the walking trails through the natural areas SO MUCH!! Would love to have more of them connected. However, would also love to know that they are safe since I'm a woman walking a medium-size, cuddly-looking dog. The recent attack near Round Lake has me avoiding the trails right now. Are there regulations about camping in the local parks, or any way to help our law enforcement actually do the enforcing (they can't do anything about someone breaking a law if the law doesn't exist)? Official programs and organized events aren't particularly useful to me. I just love the natural spaces, so if they're there and accessible (and safe), I'll be so grateful to walk for miles and miles. Thank you!
- I put as my top priority "Outdoor adventure summer camps, including archery..." I would be very interested in these types of activities/camps not only for children and youth, but adults as well. I am a single adult in Camas, and would love to participate in all of the activities that were listed under that option, not only to learn more but also to meet more people in the community. I would love to support the city in creating such programs for kids and adults as well, I'm assuming we have a lot of untapped talent here, i.e. I'm an Herbalist/Botanist/Teacher who already does plant walks, I would be happy to volunteer for the city in putting together some sort of program/activity around that with our trails and greenspaces.
- Need to provide facilities for additional outdoor activities that create community connection and activity. With the number of sporting families Camas lacks facilities that other communities provide.
- Water quality improvements at all of our local lakes/rivers. Also, would like to ensure we don't see homeless camps springing up in our parks/shared forest lands.

## APPENDIX B: INTERACTIVE MAP COMMENTS

Below are the unedited comments respondents submitted in the issues map, grouped by address.

Category	Comment	Address
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Place I visit now	A trash can at the waterfall would be really wonderful please.	1644 Northeast 5th Court, Camas, Washington 98607, United States
Place I visit now	Love the accessible trail with benches for our elderly family members to rest during their walks, and viewing the wildlife here throughout the seasons	1906 Northeast 3rd Loop, Camas, Washington 98607, United States
Place I visit now	We love the solitude of Fallen Leaf and are here almost daily.	2911 Northeast Everett Street, Camas, Washington 98607, United States
Place I visit now	Great place to hike or trail run	Round Lake Loop Trail, Camas, Washington 98607, United States
Place I visit now	Love the lake for open swimming and kayaking. It's peaceful	2911 Northeast Everett Street, Camas, Washington 98607, United States
Needs improvement	Trash cans next to the map signs would be really wonderful. Additionally, all the maps need to be redone (they've been peeled away).	2700 Northeast Everett Street, Camas, Washington 98607, United States
Needs improvement	Replace the broken fences and add danger signs around cliffs on both sides of the river.	Camas School District #117, 841 NE 22nd Ave, Camas, Washington 98607, United States
Needs improvement	At one point (2-3 years ago) Jerry Atkinson had shown us a concept for filling in the Mill Ditch and making it a large accessible walking path through the town to the trails. Would love to see that happen, or at the very least, clean the mill ditch.	935 Northeast 6th Avenue, Camas, Washington 98607, United States

Needs improvement	Used to take the kids here frequently. Would love to still, but the play equipment is in disrepair. Swings broke a while ago and still aren't replaced. When a bench near the play area was wrecked years back it took months for it to be replaced. The large slide has been broken for over a year and the receiving pole dangerously stuck out where kids run without removal. It gets a ton of use - an upgrade and better maintenance is a must.	2949 Northwest 38th Avenue, Camas, Washington 98607, United States
Needs improvement	I get nervous with small children on the sides of the dam particularly one end that has only half the fence covering the drop	2828 Northeast Everett Street, Camas, Washington 98607, United States
Needs improvement	Multiple trees are dead, pruning of shrubs is half done, mulch needed in landscaping areas, general weed management	824 Northwest Klickitat Street, Camas, Washington 98607, United States
Needs improvement	Roof cleaning and painting of building is needed	2911 Northeast Everett Street, Camas, Washington 98607, United States
Needs improvement	Roof cleaning is needed	Round Lake Loop Trail, Camas, Washington 98607, United States
Idea for something new	Please add a splash pad to Crown Park (similar to beautiful, architecturally-designed Jamison Park splash pad in Pearl District in Portland) which will be a wonderful activity for kids/families	126 Northeast 15th Avenue, Camas, Washington 98607, United States
Idea for something new	Consider new/updated Crown Park programming to tie in with programs/activities to be offered at new Garfield Performing Arts Center -- 2 blocks away, such as regional Art Fair similar to nationally-known Salem Art Fair (Oregon), family	1437 Northeast Everett Street, Camas, Washington 98607, United States

	athletic event similar to Pole Pedal Paddle (Bend, OR), etc. which would boost local economy, increase tourism, and highlight our "Crown Jewel" of a park!	
Idea for something new	A water feature for the kids- pool or splash pad. Something safe and fun for all ages.	Camas Municipal Pool, 120 Northeast 17th Avenue, Camas, Washington 98607, United States
Needs improvement	Adding a splash pad or community fountain, parking lot and picnic tables could be a nice addition to Fallen Leaf Lake area for the community. Retaining walls and a sort of "art walk" fencing could highlight local artistry and sculptures.	252 Northwest Lake Road, Camas, Washington 98607, United States
Needs improvement	This Sierra/43rd Street corridor needs speed improvements. With the addition of 7% growth in traffic (prior to new homes being actually completed), the daily traffic including large earth moving vehicles and construction vehicles has dangerously increased speed down this TWENTY FIVE MPH corridor.	1642 Northwest 43rd Avenue, Camas, Washington 98607, United States
Idea for something new	Splash pad would be great	120 Northeast 17th Avenue, Camas, Washington 98607, United States
Needs improvement	Parking at Heritage Park and Round Lake always fill up quickly. Making the north side of the lake more of an attractive destination (with parking) could help distribute the congestion	811 Southeast Leadbetter Road, Camas, Washington 98607, United States
Needs improvement	Brambles overgrowing the path	3105 Northwest 31st Avenue, Camas, Washington 98607, United States



Needs improvement	Needs a nice restroom. A splash park would be nice here since they removed our pool.	120 Northeast 17th Avenue, Camas, Washington 98607, United States
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# Appendix C

## Stakeholder Summaries



## STAKEHOLDER DISCUSSION NOTES

<b>Project Name:</b>	Camas PROS Plan Update	<b>Project No.:</b>	Proj-# 21-135PLN
<b>Location:</b>	Zoom Video Conference	<b>Interview Date:</b>	July 9, 2021
<b>Notes by:</b>	Steve Duh, Conservation Technix	<b>Time:</b>	3:30 pm
<b>Participant:</b>	Annette Anderson, Camas Lacrosse		Jeff Immel, Camas Little League
	Karen Gibson, Camas Lacrosse		Trang Lam, Camas Parks & Recreation
	Nick Kralj, Camas Little League		Steve Duh, Conservation Technix
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Stakeholder Group Discussion with Field Sport Associations</b>		

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### PURPOSE

To discuss current interests and future needs addressing sport field improvements and capacity. The meeting took place on July 9, 2021, via a Zoom video conference from 3:30 – 5:00 pm.

### DISCUSSION

The discussion began with brief introductions and an overview of the City's PROS Plan update process. A set of questions were used to initiate the discussion and explore ideas about field usage, capacity, maintenance and potentially needed improvements to local sport fields.

#### Lacrosse Comments

- Lacrosse can only use school-owned facilities due to need for larger field and fencing to manage errant balls. It has been a challenge using Camas School District (CSD) facilities, and the league can't use fields until 5 or 5:30p, which is difficult for elementary and middle school age players
- Prune Hill is the only other field, but it is on a first come, first served arrangement.
- School field have maintenance and quality issues; there are a lot of mole/gopher holes
- Lacrosse is at capacity for the fields it uses. There is competition for field space with soccer (which has every school field booked, except Cardon). If Lacrosse had more field access, then it could accommodate more teams and more localized competition (instead of competing against Portland, Hood River, etc.). All games are on turf fields. The season is in the spring – generally March through June

#### Little League Comments

- Little league uses a mix of city fields and rents fields from CSD. Little League has a use rights agreement with City for Forest Home Park, which is used primarily for games. Softball is exclusively at Doc Harris. Lower divisions use Doc Harris and Woodburn. Younger players use Crown Park, Goot and Klickitat.

## Interview Notes (continued)

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### Other Comments

- CSD is starting middle school soccer and spring football. These will impact field availability.
- Within Camas, there are only two turf fields, and both are at CSD. High school sports get priority use, and CSD charges a lot for field rental (\$100/hr.). Little League pays CSD \$15,000 annually for field rentals.
- Soccer mostly uses Doc Harris, with Woodburn as an alternative
- CYSF (fall) plays at Sky Ridge, upper and lower
- Pop Warner practices at Prune Hill; they would like more field space and turf
- Babe Ruth is exclusively at Louis Bloch, but the league seems to be diminishing and numbers are down

### Sport Field Needs

- Near-term – increase field capacity by improving field quality
- Prune Hill is turfed for baseball and football. The baseball infield is in rough shape and is weedy
- Prune Hill has infrastructure (bleachers, fencing, parking, restroom), so improve the function of the field
- Adding lights adds capacity, and there are few neighbors near Prune Hill who might be impacted
- The property across the street from Prune Hill is for sale again. Maybe consider this as an expansion site to accommodate a complex
- Grass Valley and Prune Hill are weedy. City could do weed mitigation to improve field grass quality
- Drainage issues at Grass Valley (doesn't dry out until June) and Forest Home (outfield is wet)
- The irrigation system at Forest Home Park is aging – leaks, broken sprinkler heads, etc.
- Fallen Leaf Park could be utilized for more capacity as a single event space. Parking is limited and a challenge, but it has lights and restroom
- The leagues need to work with school district to build out other CSD property

### Collaboration with City

- Communication with City for Little League has been tremendous. Dennis Ryan has helped with weed control, plugging the outfield, fertilizing and providing dumpster use
- Little League volunteers add a lot of value by improving field conditions
- Leagues can support field improvements and development with fundraisers, grant support and sweat equity
- The field turf program offered as part of the pool levy was rejected, but it could have made improvements to Prune Hill, Dorothy Fox and Forest Home
- Sport leagues are volunteer organizations and have transient membership. Is there a role for the city in helping with continuity of leadership – maybe a leadership forum. Continuity of leadership could help develop a more collective voice across sports

Other Feedback: Annette and Nick provided written comments via email to the discussion questions. These are attached on the following pages.

-- End of Notes --



**City of Camas**  
**Parks, Recreation & Open Space Plan Update**  
 Camas Parks and Recreation

July 9, 2021  
 Sport Fields Group – 3:30 p.m.  
**Discussion Questions**

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*The following are intended to spark group discussion and interaction; questions posed/ topics addressed might not follow as shown.*

**Introductions & Background**

- Brief overview of PROS Plan & process  
**Camas Lacrosse - 7/6/21 by Annette Anderson Youth Girls VP**

**Group Discussion Questions**

- What has been the trend in participation by your league/sport over the past 3 years? (i.e., trending up/down; number of participants by age group/gender) **Trending up. K-12 girls and boys. 2019 - 280 2020 - 410 2021- 201**
- What sport recreation opportunities are missing? What facilities do you see as the most needed in the community? **Turfed fields.**
- Discuss coordination between leagues (overlapping calendars, multi-use fields, seasonality, etc). Do you have any concerns about availability and scheduling? Would a coordinated annual booking system, with a nominal fee help? **Our concerns have been with the High School kicking us off the only turf fields in the city. The youth have no other options. Also with only being able to use school run fields we are not allowed to use them until 5:30 at night which causes problems with booking so many teams and also with the younger elementary players. If they were city run fields we could have the elementary kids start practices after school gets out at 2:30.**
- Besides Camas Parks & Rec fields, what other fields does your group/organization use? **The school district. ZAC, Doc Harris, Cardon.**
- What does your organization see as the key priorities for the city's system of parks and sport fields? **Short term capacity increase - turf at Prune Hill, Grass Valley, Dorothy Fox. Long term - new complex**
- Jump forward 5 years and imagine Camas in 2026. Please share your vision for one stand-out project completed to improve the parks system and/or local sport facilities.  
**2 turf fields at Prune Hill**
- How is field maintenance? Are there ways to improve this, especially through partnerships?  
**We have been maintaining Prune Hill, ZAC, and Doc Harris E & F fields filling the mole holes multiple times a year. If the dirt/sand was provided that would be nice.**
- With the understanding that the PROS Plan will help guide the City's investments and use of resources for the next 6 years; in your opinion, where should the City focus resources and energy in the next 5 years? **Getting fields turfed so that we can be competitive with the teams in Portland and Vancouver.**
- What contribution, collaboration, and responsibilities can your organization bring to the future implementation of the City's public park and recreation system? Are there opportunities for more collaborative projects between the leagues and City? **We could help provide funding through fundraising activities and sponsorships for the turf fields.**

**Additional Information Request** (not for group conversation – [please email feedback](#))

- Describe the current state and quality of City of Camas-managed athletic fields and sport courts (quantity, quality, geographic distribution, etc.) **The quantity is good, quality is lacking in turf (all of our games in Vancouver and Portland are played on turf, their players practice on turf. Our players practice on grass and it is a hard transition for them during game days because the ball bounces different and is harder to pickup.). Geographic distribution is good.**
- How is the geographic distribution of fields / courts? Are they well distributed? Where are more needed? **Yes well distributed.**

**City of Camas**  
**Parks, Recreation & Open Space Plan Update**  
 Camas Parks and Recreation

July 9, 2021  
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**Discussion Questions**

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*The following are intended to spark group discussion and interaction; questions posed/topics addressed might not follow as shown.*

**Introductions & Background**

- Brief overview of PROS Plan & process

**Camas Little League Responses - 7/5/2021 by Nick Kralj, president**

**Group Discussion Questions**

- What has been the trend in participation by your league/sport over the past 3 years? (i.e., trending up/down; number of participants by age group/gender)  
**Trending steady; 2020 = 483 participants, 2019 = 513 participants, 2018 = 476 participants**  
**Boys and girls baseball and softball ages 5-13 (could be thru 15 soon)**
- What sport recreation opportunities are missing? What facilities do you see as the most needed in the community?  
**Field capacity is and will be the primary issue. Under-utilization of existing space due to weather or infrastructure issues. Growing community will make it even harder. Could be solved in some cases with turf and lights and other infrastructure like ADA dugouts and bathrooms, and drainage**
- Discuss coordination between leagues (overlapping calendars, multi-use fields, seasonality, etc). Do you have any concerns about availability and scheduling? Would a coordinated annual booking system, with a nominal fee help?  
**We feel the above would create more opportunities for all leagues. For instance, Fallen Leaf turfed could be used for football, lacrosse and soccer offseason, and with turf and lights, even during season with proper scheduling**
- Besides Camas Parks & Rec fields, what other fields does your group/organization use?  
**Camas school district rental Doc, other leagues fields, such as Schmid and others in Washougal**
- What does your organization see as the key priorities for the city's system of parks and sport fields?  
**Short term capacity increase - turf, lights at key facilities that are not optimized, such as Prune Hill, Fallen Leaf, Grass Valley, Dorothy Fox, and Goot Park. Long term - new complex**
- Jump forward 5 years and imagine Camas in 2026. Please share your vision for one stand-out project completed to improve the parks system and/or local sport facilities.  
**Turf and lights added to parks facilities to increase time available/not waste existing space**
- How is field maintenance? Are there ways to improve this, especially through partnerships?  
**This is good. We utilize our field rights usage agreement to maintain fields with support from Camas**
- With the understanding that the PROS Plan will help guide the City's investments and use of resources for the next 6 years; in your opinion, where should the City focus resources and energy in the next 5 years?  
**We appreciate our relationship with Parks and Rec today. Creating more capacity for our growing community. With more people coming, the fields are close to maxed in their current state. New opportunities will be needed**
- What contribution, collaboration, and responsibilities can your organization bring to the future implementation of the City's public park and recreation system? Are there opportunities for more collaborative projects between the leagues and City?  
**We can provide seed funding to contribute to grants for lights and turf. Our membership base is passionate and ready to help support. We can also reach out to business community partners as we**
- Are there other organizations/individuals that the City could bring to the table as partners?  
**Yes, we can work with other business organizations to provide loan, donations and other financial support. We have run this exercise before and would be able to leverage our network.**

**Additional Information Request** (not for group conversation – [please email feedback](#))

- Describe the current state and quality of City of Camas-managed athletic fields and sport courts (quantity, quality, geographic distribution, etc.) **See below\*\***
- How is the geographic distribution of fields / courts? Are they well distributed? Where are more needed?  
Distribution is reasonably good. We have land/parks that are nicely spread out; however, we cannot use them fully due to poor drainage, poor maintenance, lack of infrastructure such as lights, dugouts, restrooms, etc.  
Long-term, we feel that a new complex would benefit Camas the most, as it has the ability to generate rental income as well as provide tourism revenue to the local area from tournaments.

\*\* Forest Home Park - 2 baseball fields with lights. Needed: ADA dugouts, bathrooms, and pathing, as well as outfield drainage and turf. Already has lights.

\*\* Prune Hill - excellent setting, however, hardly used due to exceptionally poor drainage and no lights. Turf and lights needed. Dugouts and storage are needed as well

\*\* Fallen Leaf - excellent facility, but limited parking and poor drainage. Not really available until late June/early July which is too late. Our spring season is primary and is late Feb thru July. Turf recommended.

\*\* Grass Valley Park - limited parking and poor drainage. Not really available until late June/early July which is too late for baseball/softball.

\*\* Goot Park - limited parking and poor drainage. Not really available until late June/early July which is too late for baseball/softball

\*\* Dorothy Fox - no infrastructure available. Need to build out.

\*\* Other practice fields used include today Klickitat Park, Crown Park, Doc A, B, C, Liberty





## STAKEHOLDER DISCUSSION NOTES

**Project Name:** Camas PROS Plan Update **Project No.:** Proj-# 21-135PLN  
**Location:** Zoom Video Conference **Interview Date:** July 6, 2021 **Time:** 8:00 am  
**Notes by:** Steve Duh, Conservation Technix  
**Participant:**

Patty Barnard, Mountain bike advocate	Katy Daane, Parks & Recreation Commissioner
Jeff Cary, Camas Bikes	David Dewey, Parks & Recreation Commissioner
Jeremy Mores, Evergreen Mountain Bike Alliance	Trang Lam, Camas Parks & Recreation
Ross Swanson, Portland Parks & Recreation	Steve Duh, Conservation Technix

**Subject:** **Stakeholder Group Discussion on Mountain Biking & Pump Track Interests**

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### PURPOSE

To discuss current trends, interests and future needs addressing mountain biking and skills development. The meeting took place on July 6, 2021, via a Zoom video conference from 8:00 – 9:30 am.

### DISCUSSION

The discussion began with brief introductions and an overview of the City's PROS Plan update process. A set of questions were used to initiate the discussion. Ross Swanson from Portland Parks and Recreation was invited to share information about Gateway Green to offer context about design, development and management considerations. The remainder of the session focused on local interests for trail and biking facilities.

#### Overview of Gateway Green in Portland

- Ross provided an overview of the Gateway Green project and some lessons learned. The 24-acre site lies between TriMet and railroad property. It is a bike to and walk to site only. It has 70-80' of vertical drop and offers good length on laps. It was built in three phases, in part to see how people use the site. The city legitimized the park with restrooms and designed it as a four-hour experience.
- It provides for a range of users: dirt jumpers & BMX, mountain bikers, skaters and runners
- Cross country runners use the site; it is a compatible use
- Pump track is paved and designed/built by Velos

#### Tips:

- Don't assume your rider base is just 24-35 year old white men.
- Gather data to prove users
- Consider other features (Gateway Green added nature play area) to give parents an opportunity to play with one kid while the other rides

## Interview Notes (continued)

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- Re-frame the perceptions about users: everyone wants to progress and get better; most are willing to help each other

### Comments on Camas' Parks and Trails System

- Camas has great trails
- Current usage is outgrowing Lacamas Park
- Heritage Trail is a way to get to Lacamas Park for mountain bikers; trail usage on Heritage Trail is heavy
- Fallen Leaf Lake offers more advanced options for mountain bikers
- New neighborhoods northeast of lake attract residents with interests in trails and mountain biking; however, since COVID, there is more trail usage overall
- Need to have trails built by experienced trail builders and in places sanctioned for trails. Installation of rogue trails by people cutting/digging routes is a problem the City is trying to address.
- There is a need for places for kids to practice on stryders/skoots
- There is a need for a pump track and more mountain bike trails
- Camas has become more of a destination and will continue as new trails are added.
- Have the information to keep people in town and as part of the circuit of regional tourism

### Usage & Potential

- COVID has super-charged trends: more usage on trails, wider age distribution of riders, wider age groups
- Consider dedicated infrastructure, directional trails and signage for mountain bikers.
- Green Mountain has potential and could use lower slope area for bike park/skills – perimeter could be for climbing trail and multi-use trail
- New trails are being installed on Larch Mountain / Livingstone
- Consider 'competition-ready' facilities, whether mountain bike trail or pump track or both; people will travel for different experiences. Have a destination bike park with a 'race worthy' track. Design it large to avoid user conflicts. Promote the city/region as a destination and tap into tax and tourism revenue
- Hub-type trail system – how do we find places to build or connect to grow the system over time
- Lake Oswego is building a hub and starting with a network of one trail. It will be a catalyst project to hold the growing system together

### Connections to Consider

- Have a network of trails connecting all parts of town. Include a network of flat dirt trails as a great start. Kids can build confidence with beginner mountain bike rides – provide a place for youth to go (i.e., lighted pump track)
- Make connections in areas near Everett and Everett to Leadbetter
- Mill Ditch could act as a longer, linear ribbon
- Make connections along the north side of Lacamas Lake
- Improve road crossings and safety between Fallen Leaf Lake and Lacamas Park

## Interview Notes (continued)

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### Future Investments

- Pump track with lights, parking and restroom, signage/maps, app coordination so people know what to expect
- Have (city) staff who knows community, culture and mountain biking; utilize consultant teams to guide growth and development of a trail system or biking facility
- Use sustainable trail design principles (i.e., 5-7% grade slopes with switchbacks)
- Know the stumbling blocks and how to overcome, especially related to regulations, development codes and local leadership.
- Environmental overlays (development code, zoning, SEPA) – educate regulators
- Be aware of the potential neighbors to act as NIMBYs
- Policymaker rides and outings to buoy interest and build relationships/support

### Other examples noted

- Hood River, OR
- Duthie Hills (Issaquah), WA
- Valmont, CO
- Whistler / BC
- Bentonville, AR
- Bend, OR
- Klamath Falls, OR
- Tiger Mountain (Issaquah/Maple Valley area), WA

-- End of Notes --



## STAKEHOLDER DISCUSSION NOTES

**Project Name:** Camas PROS Plan Update **Project No.:** Proj-# 21-135PLN  
**Location:** Zoom Video Conference **Interview Date:** July 7, 2021 **Time:** 12:00 pm  
**Notes by:** Steve Duh, Conservation Technix  
**Participant:** Cassi Marshall, Ivy League Janet Nenadic, All Weather Walkers  
Duff Linde, Evergreen Mountain Bike Alliance Ryan Bridges Golb, Intern with WTA  
Lyndee Cunningham, local volunteer Trang Lam, Camas Parks & Recreation  
Steve Duh, Conservation Technix

**Subject: Stakeholder Group Discussion with Bike and Pedestrian Interests**

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### PURPOSE

To discuss current interests and future needs addressing bicycle and pedestrian facilities and trails. The meeting took place on July 7, 2021, via a Zoom video conference from noon – 1:30 pm.

### DISCUSSION

The discussion began with brief introductions and an overview of the City's PROS Plan update process. A set of questions were used to initiate the discussion and explore ideas about bicycle and pedestrian trail needs.

#### Initial Comments

- The City has great trails and has done a great job building trails for the community
- Quality of life in Camas is good because of trails
- There are concerns about growth and expansion - houses getting closer together. With population growth and more people on the trails, what can the city do to expand use and access to trails?
- There is some confusion of who maintains/owns the different trails (i.e., city/county)
- Love the Trails to Tables challenge
- Connectivity is important; complete loops and circuits. Connect to Washougal, to the Port and to levee trail. Educate Camas residents about the trail linkages
- Link neighborhoods to downtown via ped/bike friendly routes;
- Develop the Mill Ditch alignment; it's ripe for something amazing. In the short-term, start with basic use and pathway. In long-term, build a shared-use trail
- Create stronger linkages between Camas and Washougal, via Oak Park or Goot Park or WRG
- In the North Shore and around the lake trail, that loop will require work for water crossings, safe street crossings and road segment closures to make it work in the long-term



## **Interview Notes (continued)**

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- The regional Lewis & Clark Trail from refuge to refuge is not well known to the group, but they noted interest and support.

### Conflicts

- Users are generally getting along and sharing trails; conflicts are limited and sharing trails is better than it has been in recent years
- Sometimes walkers are intimidated by bikers
- Since COVID, usage on trails has increased, but there has been a low number of conflicts
- Conflict issues are a two-way street. Some walkers have earplugs and dogs and are not paying attention to the surroundings
- Heritage Trail is getting crowded, especially with families and groups of riders. The trail is undersized. If Lake Road had better bike lanes, that might alleviate some of the demand from Heritage Trail. Some users are starting to avoid Heritage Trail due to overuse.
- One spillover trail is Lacamas Creek, but there is simply more trail usage on all the trails. Ostensen Canyon is also underutilized. If improved, this trail could make for better connections to neighborhoods near downtown

### Amenities

- Provide restrooms at trailheads. For organized walking groups, they tend to plan the routes to have a restroom at a mid-point during their walks.
- All Weather Walkers prefer paved or gravel trails
- Trails with views should be a priority

### Hierarchy

- Should single track trails be shared or not. One-way routes, like Red Tape Trail, is one approach to managing users and flow. Larch Mountain has all shared use trails, and most are 'green' and 'blue' trails
- Family rides – Little Washougal River Greenway Trail – gets washed out each year. The city has changed the design and improved, so it has been recently fixed
- Waterfront Trail (Port) and Dike Trail (Refuge) are not in the Camas system, but these are great destinations to link to
- Improve sidewalks and wayfinding for connections from Prune Hill to downtown. Maybe improved connectivity will reduce parking demand at parks. Sidewalk network is an important part of the overall trail network. Work to fill gaps
- Forest Home Park – Forest Home Road might make for a good connection.

### Collaborations

- The Evergreen Mountain Bike Alliance will continue to be involved for trail maintenance; will want to stay informed about trail projects
- All Weather Walkers has trail days to encourage people to come out on trails (5K & 10K routes); will help get the word out and make for bigger events

## Interview Notes (continued)

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### Getting youth and next generation involved

- Engage kids at young age with volunteer projects and outings, like Watershed Alliance and trail/beach clean-ups
- Scouts bring packs out for clean-ups and other projects
- Camas has a deep pool of volunteers to call on to help
- High School has a 'green club' and could assist with park/trail care
- Have mini Sunday Parkways (ala Portland) throughout Camas

### Other Feedback (emailed responses)

From Ryan Ojerio, SW Washington Regional Manager, Washington Trails Association

#### **How do you feel the City is doing in meeting the needs for recreational trails and connectivity in its park system?**

I don't think I have enough information to have a solid opinion on this question since I don't live in Camas. My personal experience is limited to using the Lacamas Heritage Trail and the trails at Lacamas Park which I think are really fun to hike run and mountain bike on. I think that a survey of local residents who use the trail system would have a better opinion than mine. We do have WTA members and volunteers who live in Camas, but I haven't talked with them about this question.

#### **What are the gaps, missing links or barriers that need to be addressed? What destinations need to be connected?**

Similar to the first question I think I need more information to have a really solid opinion. I'm assuming that the question pertains to all sorts of parks, trails and places that people living in Camas recreate in regardless of the ultimate land manager (e.g., Camp Bonneville will be a Clark County facility, but I expect it will be a destination for local residents.) My guess is that people experience barriers getting to the Waterfront and eventually when Steigerwald is finished they may want to get down there without having to use the car. Likewise, Green Mountain and perhaps Camp Bonneville to the north seem like good destinations for trail-based recreation. Getting to those places may prove difficult for people who don't have ready access to a car or the physical ability to ride a bike all the way there and have enough energy left over to recreate. Some sort of public transit option would be ideal for a future where personal automobiles are less common than they are today.

There seems to be an unmet demand for trail experiences specific two bicycles I think that the proliferation of user-created routes that were adopted into the Lacamas Park trail system is an example of rapidly changing demographic trends over the past 20 years that outpaced agencies' abilities' to evolve and adapt the trail system accordingly.

At WTA we are generally supportive other user types such as mountain bikes and equestrians more and more we find that people who wreck rate on trails enjoy a variety of modes. leave that working with our partners Hugh create Trail systems that meet a diversity of Interest helps people to find Trail base Recreation experiences matched to their particular interest at that time in their life.

Back in the 80s I was heavily into mountain biking in high school which continued through college. Later on I became passionate about hiking and backpacking. Once I had kids I got really excited about trails where I could take our stroller. I enjoy hiking with my parents and their physical limitations are best served by accessible fails. I'm fortunate at this point in my life that I can enjoy a hard trail run, bombing down a mountain bike downhill trail and spending

## Interview Notes (continued)

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time with my young children and older parents on a quiet path. I think that this whole-life-cycle approach to designing trail systems is the right lens to look at planning processes.

**Are there any conflicts on multi-use trails? Please share some examples. Besides making the trail a single-use trails (i.e., Pedestrian or Bicyclist) what other ideas do you have for reducing these conflicts?**

I think that there are always tensions between users on trails. Rather than focusing on specific examples of conflict I think it makes more sense to seek examples where there are many users on a trail system and the tensions are minimal. In the last few decades, a lot of effort has gone into education and promoting empathy between trail users which is good, but I think more emphasis needs to go into thoughtful system design that provides areas within the trail system where users are more likely to find an experience free from intrusions. An "intrusion" is an interaction with a different trail user that breaks sense of peace or flow or rhythm that takes the person's mind off the enjoyment of the experience.

I think that ski areas are a good example of making the most out of a limited geographic footprint to serve a lot of people. A busy downhill ski area and serves a wide range of physical abilities and people seeking different types of experiences from snowboarding in a terrain park to skiing steep powder in the trees. The design of the system allows people to find activity zones that are matched to their skill and even when it gets crowded, they're sharing those spaces with like-minded people generally traveling at similar speeds. In this way the sense of intrusion is minimized, and the design of the system helps reduce the number of times incompatible uses clash like having the dual slalom dump out into the bunny hill - that would be a very bad idea.

But at ski areas there are also places where everybody shares the same space in relative harmony like on lift lines, in the lodge, or even on those wide cat tracks that people use to get from one place to another. Any trail system needs to have segments that are shared use. Some facilities like bathrooms in parking lots that are shared best parts of the trail system or people in or immersed in their particular activity might be designed for that particular activity and that particular speed; these are directional to avoid head-to-head encounters which are particularly intrusive.

I think that single use designations are useful tool, but I also think you can get a lot of use segregation with thoughtful design that nudges people into trail segments where they want to be, and they will naturally congregate with other people doing the same type of activity.

**What does you and/or your organization see as the key priorities for the city's local trail system?**

One of our focal areas is providing natural surface trail experiences that connect people with nature in their neighborhood. this could include regional parks that someone might take a bus to or ride their bike to, essentially, it's trying to lower the barriers for everyone to have access to healthy physical activities.

Jump forward 5 years and imagine Camas in 2026. Please share your vision for one stand-out project or connection completed to improve the city's trail system.

5 years goes pretty fast when it comes to planning trails at least that's been my experience! there are probably several other projects that other folks would know more about but there is an area adjacent to Round Lake that used to have a user created BMX track could be developed in a thoughtful way to provide trail recreation and environmental protection.

**With the understanding that the PROS Plan will help guide the City's investments and use of resources for the next 6 years; in your opinion, where should the City focus resources and energy in the next 5 years?**

## Interview Notes (continued)

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I find our organization can work more efficiently if we have good relationships and open lines of communication with agencies and other trail user groups sometimes this coordination is driven by the land manager but often due to lack of capacity is informal and based on relationships between trail user groups that evolve organically. Perhaps a good goal for the city would be to figure out how to tap into the different volunteer organizations that could help with maintenance and new construction in the future.

**What contribution, collaboration and responsibilities can your organization bring to the future implementation of your vision for the City's trail system? Are there other organizations/individuals that the City could bring to the table as partners?**

We've done new trail design, construction and do lots of maintenance work throughout Clark County and the state. Depending on the project and how it aligns with our focal areas we could become heavily engaged or act more as advisor; it all depends on what elements come out of the planning process.

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From Jean M. Avery, Vancouver, WA

Heart-felt thanks to Camas for the excellent park system (close to me in East Vancouver). I especially enjoy:

- Round Lake
- Fallen Leaf Lake
- Lacamas Heritage Trail

Overall, I think the parks, trails, and restrooms are in excellent condition. The concerns I have probably relate more to the nature of society, rather than to any improvements that Camas can make, per se.

My thoughts:

1. When the Camas lilies bloom, please mark off the trails (as was done at the end of this season). The fragile blooms got stepped on, with the increased foot traffic.
2. Consider closing off informal side trails, which trample fragile vegetation.
3. Similarly, clarify which trails are for walkers only, without bikers. (I think you do this.)
4. Please provide more trash containers and more dog poop bags. (Unfortunately, folks don't always pick up after themselves.)
5. I'm not a dog owner, but I believe there is a leash law. I'm not sure how that can be enforced. (I see MANY more dogs in recent months, and quite a few off-leash.)
- 6.. As you know, there is some graffiti (mostly under the bridge). Does it last if the graffiti is painted over? Maybe this could be a service project for a civic group?
7. There's a lot of invasive ivy. Bravo to the Ivy League for removing some of it. But the job is a huge one.
- 8.The recent news article about the assault near Round Lake was very disturbing. I don't know what can be done. It may come down to individual vigilance.
9. I have not yet seen overnight campers around Round Lake or Fallen Leaf Lake. I hope it stays that way.
10. If things reach the point where "monitors" are needed, here's an idea from the Hoyt arboretum: They have volunteers who walk the trails, direct folks, identify trees, and (yes) pick up trash.
11. I did not realize that Fallen Leaf Lake park can be closed for private events. If so, I hope the revenue collected outweighs the inconvenience to the public.

My requests:



## Interview Notes (continued)

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1. In the past, I attended a civic meeting regarding the North Shore of Lacamas Lake. Please limit the amount of tree removal. (It still is a jolt to me when I see the houses on the edge of the Round Lake trails. Do we have to have more houses so close to the park??)
2. The new turnaround at the foot of 1st Ave. (before Everett) is VERY confusing. (I've heard this from other folks as well.)

Thank you for requesting public input.

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From Lyndee Cunningham (to Cassi Marshall and forwarded to Trang Lam)

Cassi, I asked a lot of people of varying ages about current and future state of our Camas parks and trails. Some of them had done the survey, but most had not heard of it. A few found it on "Next Door" site. I wish we'd all remember to check out the Parks Dept website more often.

Some common consensus follows:

- Everyone mentions more and expansive trails and connecting all possible ones.
- All want a trail around Lacamas Lake some day.
- Some are afraid there will soon be charges for parking at parks and trails. Everyone prefers to pay more taxes to compensate.
- Too many are confused by the new roundabout.

The Osprey Walking Group input:

- Asking about new property north of Lacamas and hope it will be connected easily to Lacamas Park trails. Also, asking about trail east of Steigerwald continuing farther east.
- Reporting dangers of loose gravel on down slopes of Service roads. Two of their group fell last rainy season when the gullies and rivulets formed, and gravel became loosened. Suggested scraping of those downhill slopes.
- No one enforcing leash law and poop bags not being picked up. One person leaving her bag trailside informed Osprey gal that because bag was biodegradable it was okay. False information. I know that the bag may be, but feces is not. Watershed Alliance informed us volunteers that feces and cigarette butts are the worst toxins for fish and wildlife in waterways.
- Would like to use the ditch more if filled in and looking more appealing.
- Will there be a trail someday around Fallen Leaf Lake?
- Worried about the browning of our trees. Will it become as bad as on Oregon side of river? One gal would like to start a campaign called Save Our Trees before it is too late.
- All are still angry that Crown Park pool is gone. Would like to pay more taxes to get it back.
- They all love and respect the quality of our parks and trails and seem genuinely grateful for them. All are aware of maintaining that same quality with a growing population, yet change is inevitable.



## STAKEHOLDER DISCUSSION NOTES

**Project Name:** Camas PROS Plan /Vancouver PROS Plan **Project No.:** Proj-# 21-135PLN  
**Location:** Zoom Video Conference **Interview Date:** September 16, 2021 **Time:** 10:30 am  
**Notes by:** Laura Hoggatt, City of Vancouver  
Steve Duh, Conservation Technix  
**Participant:** Jenna Kay, Clark County Community Planning / Commission on Aging Gigi Olguin, Hispanic Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce of SW Washington  
Rebecca Royce, Clark County Community Services / Community Development Block Grant Trang Lam, City of Camas, Parks and Recreation Director  
Scott McCallum, Superintendent at Washington State School for the Blind Laura Hoggatt, City of Vancouver Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Planner  
Terese Rognmo, Director of the SW Washington Center of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Steve Duh, Conservation Technix  
**Subject:** **Stakeholder Group Discussion on Under-Represented Voices**

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### PURPOSE

To discuss current interests and future needs addressing community members of traditionally under-represented voices. The meeting took place on September 16, 2021, via a Zoom video conference from 10:30 am – noon.

### DISCUSSION

The discussion began with brief introductions and an overview of the PROS Plan updates for Camas and Vancouver. A set of questions were used to initiate the group discussion.

Trang Lam, City of Camas Parks and Recreation Director, provided an overview of their PROS Plan update, noting that it began in the spring of this year. The PROS Plan will cover the six-year period from 2022-2028 and provide a decision-making framework to steward and build upon a park, trail and recreation system that serves and enhances our community's health and quality of life – now and into the future.

Laura Hoggatt provided a brief overview of the City of Vancouver, Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Comprehensive Plan update and stressed that the plan fundamentally is based on community engagement. A variety of methods were used for public involvement that include two surveys, in-person community outreach at multiple locations, stakeholder group discussions, and information dispersion through multiple resources.

## **Interview Notes (continued)**

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Steve Duh, Conservation Technix, provided additional background for the purpose of the comprehensive plan framework and noted that the adoption and certification of the plan for each city fulfills the requirements of the State of Washington Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) for grant funding eligibility.

### Introductions:

- Gigi Olguin is a Business Development Coordinator for the Hispanic Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce in the Clark County area. She works with Hispanic community members to develop a business plan, provides support through business coaching, connects them to resources and additional services.
- Scott McCallum is the Superintendent for WA State School for the Blind, serves on multiple boards and commissions, including the State of WA Commission for blind children. He currently lives in the Salmon Creek area.
- Terese Rogmo is the Director for the SW Washington Center for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. She is currently responsible for three regions that includes Clark County, Cowlitz County and the Yakima area. The center was established in 1993 and located in Vancouver, Washington. The center provides advocacy, assistance for basic needs, training services, referrals, advocacy workshops and general support. Their mission is to improve and enhance the lives of deaf and hard of hearing community members in the southwestern Washington region.
- Rebecca Royce, Clark County Community Services oversees the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program for affordable housing and community development. She also oversees programs for the community action program. There is a requirement to complete a comprehensive community assessment. The most recent report is available at: <https://clark.wa.gov/community-services/community-action>
- Jenna Kay is a Land Use Planner for Clark County Community Planning. She also provides support for the Commission on Aging. Part of her participation role in the conversation will center on advocacy for the goals and objectives of the Commission.

### Comments on Improving Access to Recreational Opportunities

- Connect directly with blind and low vision people. Some resources include the National Federation for the Blind and the Washington Council for the Blind and Low Vision People.
- Conduct an accessibility audit of the website and signage. Communications and signage need to be accessible.
  - Partner with people who have expertise in varying abilities and pay them for their time.
  - Provide signage in braille.
  - Use simple language.
  - Easier fonts that can be accessed in braille are important.
  - Dark backgrounds with yellow/gold colored text are helpful.
  - Pictures in signage are sometimes distracting; they are difficult to read linguistically.
- The Commission on Aging has talked about universal design going beyond ADA accessibility. For instance, benches with back areas to rest. Utilize an audit of current amenities to help move toward universal design.
- Walking trails are very popular for aging. Many are mobility device (e.g., walkers, scooters) friendly, and others are not.
- Access to bathrooms and water (fountains) is important for all users.

## Interview Notes (continued)

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- Parks provide multi-generational spaces, and the placement of amenities (such as benches or picnic tables near playgrounds) should be accommodated.
- For those who are struggling financially, accessing parking and having to pay to park are barriers.
- It would be beneficial to provide free parking passes for low income where fees are required. Consider creating options for income-qualified users for free parking or nearby parking in neighborhoods. Also, consider public transportation access and overlay transit route maps with park planning and design.
- It would be nice if the parks had a visual identifier in the park or along a trail, like a map or wayfinding signs that are visually accessible and for the user to know 'you are here'.
- Another thing to consider is disaster events (e.g., flood, wind, ice). How is the park system going to notify people at the park that something is happening if they are blind or hearing impaired? Some ideas could include a flashing light for hearing impaired, a loudspeaker and clear messaging to get people to safety.
- For some in the Latinx community, they don't consider hiking as something to do. The trail areas do not feel welcoming, there are concerns there may not be any phone reception, and the signs are only in English and English units (miles only, instead of miles plus kilometers).
- Many families enjoy picnic shelters and large gatherings in the parks; however, the fees that are added are often intimidating, such as a pinata fee. Re-branding fees as clean-up fees is a better direction.
- There are Hispanic business owners who would like to opportunities to provide pop-up vendors booths at games and events to sell their food or commercial goods. The process to get a permit or who to contact is challenging. Opportunities could be shared with community members to participate at events besides the Farmer's Market.
- Consider paying community members as consultants for advice for development and design. A list of vendors to assist could be developed, and then continue to add folks to the list. If this approach is used, consider what kind of insurance or licensing might be needed. Get help from community-based groups to build up the roster or list.

### Age groups or communities needing more focus

- Provide opportunities for a wide range of users that are inter-generational and inter-cultural, so the design does not silo people by age.
- Restrooms should be gender-inclusive and not binary. Gender specific bathrooms are not good for the LGBTQ community.
- Restrooms with baby changing stations should always be provided.

### Other barriers to address

- Not everyone knows what is available.
- Make sure communications are provided in the top languages, such as Russian, Vietnamese and Pacific Island languages.
- Schools are trusted resources, use trusted community-based organizations to build trust for both culture and community.
- If tapping into local residents as support for outreach or translations, do not expect them to do this for free. Provide a fee for the service; compensate people for the experience they bring to the community.



## **Interview Notes (continued)**

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- The association for blind athletes a great resource. The athletes have provided tandem bike rides for individuals who would otherwise never get to have the experience of riding a bicycle. The program is run by a person who is low vision. They have also conducted hikes and kayak/paddleboard experiences.
- Larger parks are well advertised. More information is needed to help people be aware of all of the parks. A key or legend of what is available at each location and other information would also be helpful.
- There is wonderful new signage in Vancouver for the Waterfront park. There is little signage for neighborhood parks.
- In terms of access to parks, there is a lack of sidewalks to get to a park to walk or roll, and many are not located near public transit etc.
- The Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) can help with funding to build or improve sidewalks in low-income neighborhoods.

### Future Investments

- Add interpretive cultural and historical information to the parks or trails to honor local heritage. Highlight tribal history. This information can draw people into a park, and it helps teach kids. This is very important to tribal members. Provide signage in a blind/deaf-friendly way.
- Expand access for transportation. A shuttle bus could be considered to get people to Vancouver Lake, Frenchman's Bar or other regional parks.
- The Hispanic Chamber of Commerce has clients that would like an opportunity to set up a booth for soccer or other events. Is there a way to help provide support or do something in the future? For example, during a Sunday league championship there are clients who would like to set up a booth for a couple of hours. This is common in the communities where they used to live.
- The COVID pandemic has left us to reimagine what life could be like in the future. For the aging community we are considering how future of programming might need to look different. If recreation programs and senior centers were the only socializing people utilized before the pandemic, how are they doing now? What can we do to make it better?
- The old papermill sight could be used for a venue that might provide indoor and outdoor amenities. Expand the site to provide a great variety of opportunities that brings the whole community together. The old Torpedo Factory in Alexandria, VA was repurposed as an Arts Center, this could provide some ideas.
- If there was a web page that would provide more history, please include video with captions.

### Elements to prioritize to advance diversity, equity and inclusion in the park and open space system

- Hire diverse staff and appoint diverse commissions/advisory boards. Provide support, such as a stipend, childcare, free parking, transportation if needed, etc. Don't make it a burden.
- Make sure to provide communication access for any kind of meetings, such as live captioning. This includes having back up plans in place.
- Make sure you provide the opportunity and hear from the voices of diverse individuals. Talk to the people who are experiencing challenges.
- Go beyond just the requirements for ADA per code. We can all do much better and make our parks and recreation spaces accessible for all.

## Interview Notes (continued)

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### Other Feedback (emailed response)

*From Yasmina Aknin, Clark County Chronic Disease Prevention Team Input*

**A wide array of amenities exists today – from sport fields and courts, to aquatics, to walking/running trails, to playgrounds, to lake and river water access. What recreation opportunities are missing or should be improved to meet the needs of the group(s) you regularly work with and/or support? For example, what is missing and needs to be addressed.**

- More public pools needed.
- Extend and expand paved trails for multi-use (example: extend Round Lake pavement)
- Ensure and expand recreation equipment for children living with disabilities
- Improve lighting and other safety features to existing trails (i.e., Burnt Bridge Trail)
- Add more parks (even small ones) or nature spaces in low-income areas
- Add pump station/repair station near recreation water areas for paddle boarders
- Ensure all parks have picnic/gathering places (ideally near play structures, etc.)
- Ensure access to clean bathrooms at all parks, even small ones or porta-potty service during Summer

At recreation centers:

- Affordable childcare services on a regular basis/schedule.
- Breastfeeding/breast-pumping clean, safe spaces and/or family “rooms” for changing diapers/ breastfeeding
- Information about parks/park amenities in different languages
- Bilingual staff
- Grants for children’s memberships
- Add a private shower section for respect to some cultures/families

**What age groups or communities need more focus in general?**

- Community members that don’t speak English
- People with disabilities (including youth)
- Seniors
- Low-income communities
- BIPOC
- Teens (offer varied sport opportunities at parks- pickle ball, tennis, skateboarding, etc.)
- New moms/parents (fitness classes/support groups like lactation support, post-partum blues, play groups)

**Jump forward 5 years and imagine Vancouver and Camas in 2026. Please share your vision for one stand-out project/amenity to be completed or initiative started to improve access to the park and recreation system.**

- Big Dream: add at least two recreation centers in priority areas (low-income areas) with full amenities that are welcoming to all.
- Realistic Dream 1#: Make Burnt Creek Trail more inviting with enhanced safety features, improved signage in multi-language (graffiti free) and other improvements to increase use/value to community
- Realistic Dream #2: Add water fixture and restroom to the Evergreen Park on the Fourth Plain corridor/add camera surveillance system

## Interview Notes (continued)

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**What, if any, barriers do you see or face in accessing either city's park and recreation systems? (e.g., physical access, safety, cultural concerns, communications/information)**

- Reduce parking fees
- Make recreation memberships more accessible via multi-lingual applications, promotional materials, diverse staff, etc.
- Some community members may not feel welcome, work to make recreation systems/parks more inviting to diverse cultures/BIPOC communities
- Language/multiple language spoken and offered
- Increase connectivity of trails/transportation systems
- Increase access to off-leash dog parks with walking areas
- Multi-use areas (i.e., play structures next to soccer areas, etc.)

**How would you suggest increasing awareness about parks, trails or recreation programs within your community?**

- Promote recreation opportunities in multiple languages
- Host Open Houses with multi-cultural activities (pinata-making, etc.)
- "If You Build It, They Will Come" (Washington County does a great job of building inviting spaces and collaborating with schools/youth programs to promote them)
- Create culturally specific trail groups so community members feel safer exploring new trails/being out in nature (i.e., not alone)
- Host walking events for older adults (partner with senior centers/AAA/independent living centers)
- Host day trips to fun places/trails, rivers in our county i.e., Salmon related activities, nature conservancy related, etc. select days for different language hosts/guides

**What should the City of Vancouver and the City of Camas prioritize in order to advance diversity, equity and inclusion in its parks and facilities?**

- There are significant language barriers. More bilingual staff and multi-lingual signage, promotional materials and forms in multiple language needed at recreation facilities/centers. Translated signs on trails.
- Increase safety -lighting, visibility (open-spaces)
- Add parks/recreation areas in areas of density that are easily accessibility
- Reduce barriers to accessing fee-based programs, streamline application processes and eligibility for paid programming
- Promote services in diverse areas

**What contribution or collaboration can you or your organization bring to the advancement of inclusion in either city's park system?**

- CCPH shares the vision of encouraging people being active (indoor and outdoors) and could assist with community engagement.

*-- End of Notes --*

## STAKEHOLDER DISCUSSION NOTES

**Project Name:** Camas PROS Plan Update **Project No.:** Proj-# 21-135PLN  
**Location:** Zoom Video Conference **Interview Date:** August 11, 2021 **Time:** 10:30 am  
**Notes by:** Steve Duh, Conservation Technix  
**Participant:** Monica Tubberville, City of Vancouver Sadie Prodanovich, Port of Camas-Wahougal  
Michelle Wright, City of Washougal Trang Lam, Camas Parks & Recreation  
Kevin Tyler, Clark County Steve Duh, Conservation Technix

**Subject:** **Stakeholder Group Discussion with Parks & Recreation Agencies**

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### PURPOSE

To discuss current park system planning issues and explore opportunities for future partnership or collaboration efforts. The meeting took place on August 11, 2021, via a Zoom video conference from 10:30am to noon.

### DISCUSSION

The discussion began with brief introductions and an overview of the City's PROS Plan update process.

#### Past Collaborations with Camas

- Clark County worked with the city on past Legacy Land acquisitions around Lacamas Lake and leveraged Conservation Futures dollars to secure some fantastic property, such as CJ Dens. The County has also participated in visioning exercises for planning the Lacamas Lake north shore area.
- The Port coordinated with Camas and Washougal on the wayfinding system.
- Vancouver appreciated Camas' support for the Joint Agency Review for the Lewis and Clark Regional Trail. The city also coordinated with Camas on a code amendment to extend service limits/areas related to park impact fees. Vancouver has also coordinated with Camas on land acquisitions.

#### Initial Comments on Park System

- The city's focus around Lacamas Lake has been exemplary. The collection of properties is becoming a regional park in a bigger fashion
- Continue to explore grant pursuits that serve Camas and neighboring jurisdictions
- Camas has done a great job land banking for open space and recreation. Some properties are developed, but there exists more opportunities for trail connections
- The city should also spread park development around the city and not place all of its focus around the lakes



## **Interview Notes (continued)**

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- Washougal is just starting recreation programming and is looking for partners, especially with regard to access to fields and facilities for future program offerings. For example, Washougal doesn't have a full court basketball court in its system, so it is looking for partners with facilities available for use.
- Communications – consideration should be given to a joint publication serving a wider area of the county. Monica referenced that a joint park and trail map was compiled about 4-5 years ago, and it should be updated. Washougal commented that for partnership project(s), coordinate to bring each jurisdiction's Parks Board/Commission along so that project funding can be prioritized similarly in each jurisdiction.

### Future Needs

Comments that are not site specific are needs that are also generally needed in other jurisdictions.

- With its waterfront development, the Port has had a lot of requests for pickleball
- A recreation center for indoor programming is a need and should be reconsidered at a lower cost point
- Green Mountain is underutilized, and more emphasis should be placed on access, trails and viewpoints. Trails should be multi-use, as well as consider equestrian use. It could function a bit like Whipple Creek Park and would attract folks for vistas and wildlife.
- Reservable space for gatherings, parties and picnics.
- Clean and safe spaces – address encampment encroachments
- Playgrounds with universal accessibility
- Access to water in some form – during high heat periods, the waterfronts are overrun. Consider a splash pad as an alternative. Access to rivers and lakes is a big draw for users from across the region – including from Multnomah County
- Opportunity for Camas & Washougal to partner on dog park

### Coordination with School Districts

- Be cautious developing city amenities on land owned by the school district. In Vancouver, there has been some push back on utilizing school sites for community needs.
- If possible, pursue joint use or maintenance agreements and develop relationships with the local principals to have conversations specific to each school site.
- As the school districts have staff who oversee sport field and facility rentals, the city should also have a staff person who is responsible for coordinating and programming city sport fields and assets.

### Other Comments

- Vancouver is working with County GIS to develop a DEI mapping tool that also includes finer grain details about the park system, such as the quality of amenities, and not just whether a site is developed or undeveloped.
- Camas and Vancouver staff suggested the potential to partner on a stakeholder session to engage underrepresented community groups/members
- The group also agreed on the value of sharing contact information for stakeholders, including tribal contacts

-- End of Notes --



## STAKEHOLDER DISCUSSION NOTES

**Project Name:** Camas PROS Plan Update **Project No.:** Proj-# 21-135PLN  
**Location:** Teleconference **Interview Date:** June 28, 2021 **Time:** 10:00 am  
**Notes by:** Steve Duh, Conservation Technix  
**Participant:** Nan Henriksen, former Mayor Steve Duh, Conservation Technix

**Subject:** **Stakeholder Interview with Nan Henriksen**

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### PURPOSE

To discuss current interests and future needs for parks, recreation and trails in Camas with a former mayor. The meeting took place on June 28, 2021, via a Zoom teleconference from 10:00 – 10:40 am.

### DISCUSSION

The discussion began with brief introductions and an overview of the City's PROS Plan update process. A set of questions were used to initiate the discussion and explore ideas about enhancements or improvements to the city's park, recreation and open space system.

#### Background

- Value the abundance of parks, open space and trails
- In the 1980s, the City of Camas set out a new vision for itself, knowing that the mill was not going to be sustained. The immediate concerns were on replacing the economic drivers of the city, but, as mayor, Nan also aimed to maintain focus on 'softer' things, such as parks and open space, related to the city's quality of life. At the time, Crown Zellerbach represented about 80% of the tax base of the city.
- In the '80s and '90s, the City was blessed with a high ratio of parklands to population, and her goal was to maintain a high ratio into the future. She worked with community members to position the city for a \$1 million bond to acquire parks and open space. Bond funds were leveraged with donations to acquire some of the lands along the Washougal River.
- She convinced City Council to hire a City Administrator (Lloyd Halverson), and he maintained a focus on securing additional lands for the community.

## Interview Notes (continued)

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### Facility Improvements & Ideas

- Connectivity of trails relies on development occurring. The City may need to think through the issue of timing and connections more, since development happens in a haphazard manner.
- With Trang, the focus should be to secure connectivity of trails where development hasn't occurred yet.
- The City has great trails now, but many of them go nowhere. Connectivity for wildlife is also important.
- There should be easy access for and use of parks and trails by people who have disabilities or physical limitations. ADA improvements and universal access are important, so are benches along trails.
- The City should get an off-leash area established and consider working with Washougal to make it happen. Do a joint project.
- On a pool and community center, the focus should be on a more modest pool project. The City needs to keep the project going, but some trust has been lost with the community after the most recent attempt for voter approval.
- Parks and Recreation can be a bit of a bastard child regarding the city budget. Staff have done wonderfully putting on events. The City should work out an arrangement with Camas Community Education to offer more programs. Find ways to augment and coordinate.
- Would like to see more programs designed for those with physical disabilities – whether through old age or other health issues (e.g., seated exercises, stretching or 'walks for walkers')
- On the whole, Parks and Recreation has done a great job with what they have had

### Focus areas

- Finish planning and then implement a splash pad at Crown Park
- Develop an off-leash area
- Develop a modest pool and community center
- Trail connectivity

### Other Comments

- Keep a focus on 'old' Camas for improvements and enhancements to parks and amenities. Development regulations that are in place will ensure newly developed areas have parks and open spaces.
- Kids at Oak Park and other older areas need to see upgrades and improved access close-in to Camas downtown. The City should aim to provide similar opportunities as those who live in new areas up on the hill.
- Offer programs in Spanish if possible and coordinate with Washougal to make it happen

-- End of Notes --



## STAKEHOLDER DISCUSSION NOTES

**Project Name:** Camas PROS Plan Update **Project No.:** Proj-# 21-135PLN  
**Location:** Telephone call **Interview Date:** June 18, 2021 **Time:** 1:00 pm  
**Notes by:** Steve Duh, Conservation Technix  
**Participant:** Lloyd Halverson, former city administrator Steve Duh, Conservation Technix

**Subject:** Stakeholder Interview with Lloyd Halverson

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### PURPOSE

To discuss current interests and future needs for parks, open space and trails in Camas with a former city administrator. The meeting took place on June 18, 2021 via a telephone call from 1:00 – 1:40 pm.

### DISCUSSION

The discussion began with brief introductions and an overview of the City's PROS Plan update process. A set of questions were used to initiate the discussion and explore ideas about enhancements or improvements to the city's park and open space system.

#### Background Comments

- PROS Plan is a guide and vision for the city, and it will unlock resources.
- The parks and open space part of the PROS Plan and park system is about public space, and public space builds community (meeting people on trails, being in parks)
- City has done a great job with downtown, open spaces, trails and parks.
- Lloyd is a strong proponent of acquire now and develop later mantra. Plan for the next 10-15 years for open space – define what is needed and what gaps exist. Then, pursue purchases with help of dedications, donations, grants and partnerships. For the PROS Plan, a special emphasis should be on identifying the missing pieces in the open space system. The parks and open space elements of the plan should be opportunistic and seize opportunities as they arise or are created.

#### Future Improvements & Opportunities

- Ostenson Canyon to Dorothy Fox Park – has missing link. Also connect to Drake St Park. Use sidewalk and acquire additional lands to make trail linkage happen.
- The former GPO site (Benton triangle) will have reclamation costs, but it could be used to link a looped trail to Lacamas Park



## **Interview Notes (continued)**

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- On recreation, volunteer groups have been exceptionally strong in Camas for youth sports, along with private groups filling a need, such as gymnastics through Vega??
- Downtown events have been the shining star and have help build place together.
- Local taxpayers have financed significant amounts of public land, and too much is locked up to keep the public out. Coordinate more with the school district to explore how to let more people use school district lands and facilities. That would be a great step.
- Trang is dynamic and has the energetic drive to gets plan done. Amazing things will happen, and the community and Council will support it.
- The future is bright.

-- End of Notes --



## STAKEHOLDER DISCUSSION NOTES

**Project Name:** Camas PROS Plan Update **Project No.:** Proj-# 21-135PLN  
**Location:** Teleconference **Interview Date:** June 18, 2021 **Time:** 10:00 am  
**Notes by:** Steve Duh, Conservation Technix  
**Participant:** Carrie Schulstad, Downtown Camas Association Steve Duh, Conservation Technix  
**Subject:** **Stakeholder Interview with Downtown Camas Association**

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### PURPOSE

To discuss current interests and future needs for parks, recreation and trails in Camas with a representative of the local downtown business association. The meeting took place on June 18, 2021 via a Zoom teleconference from 10:00 – 11:10 am.

### DISCUSSION

The discussion began with brief introductions and an overview of the City's PROS Plan update process. A set of questions were used to initiate the discussion and explore ideas about enhancements or improvements to the city's park and open space system.

#### Background

- The Downtown Camas Association (DCA) is a Main Street program and has been established for 15 years. In the early 2000s, several local business owners worked with a city committee to do visioning for the Camas downtown. Events and activities were planned and added, and the 1<sup>st</sup> Fridays has been ongoing since 2005. During the 2008-2009 recession, the City decided it could no longer support the downtown, and the association found organizational support and resources via the Main Streets program.
- The DCA supports numerous events, including 1<sup>st</sup> Fridays and the passport program, to promote downtown businesses. The refurbished downtown hotel and improvements to the Port waterfront continue to attract visitors to Camas.

#### Coordination with City

- The City Parks & Recreation Department partnered with the Camas School District for a socially distanced holiday event in 2020 during the pandemic. It included a passport, story walks and displays in downtown.

## Interview Notes (continued)

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- In discussions with Trang, the idea of connecting ‘urban and nature’ surfaced, which could be a way to encourage and link restaurant visits with exploring the trail network – especially trails close to downtown. Trails to Tables was conceived as a five hike passport with five restaurant visits for a pint glass give-away and entry into a raffle for a gift card.
- Another idea is to work with the city for a joint community calendar for the website, so more people can see all of the activities available in Camas.
- The City’s acquisition of the Mill Ditch property will create a wide, walking/biking trail to connect downtown to the lakes. It would go by the Performing Art Center and connects businesses, the arts and recreation.
- Downtown is like a park, and the city has made investments over time, with tree plantings in the 1960s and landscaping in the 1990s. Planters on 3rd Avenue are not irrigated, and the city should find resources to care for the past investments.

### Facility Improvements & Ideas

- Directional signage and wayfinding to direct people to downtown from the lakes and associated trails.
- Include brochure holders for maps and trail brochures
- A pool and community center that is affordable for Camas could bring people together. Maybe a seasonal, covered outdoor pool could suffice, instead of a large aquatic center. The city should look at the GP property as a potential site. It doesn’t require a lot of clean-up, and it is close to downtown.
- According to DCA surveys, other local interests include a bowling alley, rock wall for climbing and splash pad.
- Emphasizing the trail system could be a communications piece, with signage to support a mural tour, bronze bird art or connections to other trails.
- Camas has a history of providing top tier sports through the school district, but there needs to be more accommodation for community recreation sports for all, not just elite players.
- Explore collaborations with the library and Journey for additional studios or classes (i.e., jazz, dance, art)
- Consider food carts or concessions at Heritage Park, especially since it is a popular venue for paddle boarding and kayak launching.

### Other Comments

- See Fort Collins CO as an example of an extended downtown promenade that integrates art, fountains, recreation, plaza/stage space to restaurants and shops along the way.

*-- End of Notes --*



## STAKEHOLDER DISCUSSION NOTES

**Project Name:** Camas PROS Plan Update **Project No.:** Proj-# 21-135PLN  
**Location:** Teleconference **Interview Date:** June 30, 2021 **Time:** 12:00 pm  
**Notes by:** Steve Duh, Conservation Technix  
**Participant:** Kurt Stonex, Olson Engineering Steve Duh, Conservation Technix

**Subject:** **Stakeholder Interview with Development Community Representative**

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### PURPOSE

To discuss coordination and future needs for parks, open space and trails in Camas with a representative of the local residential development community. The meeting took place on June 30, 2021, via a Zoom teleconference from 12:00 – 12:45 pm.

### DISCUSSION

The discussion began with brief introductions and an overview of the City's PROS Plan update process. A set of questions were used to initiate the discussion and explore ideas about enhancements or improvements to the city's park and open space system.

#### Background & Opening Comments

- Camas has been very aggressive in acquiring parks and open space property during the time Lloyd Halverson was city administrator.
- With its older regulations, the city used to require 30% set-aside for open space. The City was sued and lost. The Planned Unit Development regulations still require land dedication.
- Camas staff have been good with coordinating with and negotiating with developers for layout and design to accommodate set-asides and the use of PIF payments and credits. Developers are generally willing to provide parks with their projects, since the City is willing to use cash and credits and have the developer build the requested parks and trails. Staff have been very flexible and good to work with, and the CIP has accommodated that flexibility.

#### Recreation-related Improvements Seen as Positive for Developers

- Trails
- Critical area set asides / open space
- Small neighborhood parks and pocket parks



## Interview Notes (continued)

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### Facility Improvements & Ideas

- Green Mountain will be hard to develop. It could have trails, and there is a flatter area on top that might work for picnic area and viewpoint. Depending on access and need, the site might be good for an outdoor education center or nature park. More extensive mountain biking trails might work as well.
- In the Lacamas Lake area, trails are critical to connect the north side of the lake to Green Mountain and to downtown.
- Looking out 50 years, the City should consider what to do with the GP site on the Columbia River.

### Coordinating with Developers

- Ridgefield example, staff worked through development agreement and used PIF credits and outright purchase to secure land from developer (required some, credited some and bought some to compile a larger site that was desired). Deer Creek subdivision and Grass Valley were put together in a similar manner.
- Regarding PIF, the development community is resigned to the fact that they will pay impact fees, and most are fine with building parks or trails as part of a project and getting PIF credit. It's important for the public to know that PIF is passed through to the buyer as part of the cost of the home.
- Going forward, City staff should continue working with the same attitude of 'working together' with the development community as a partner. Continue to have flexibility with the CIP and adjust project cost allocations as appropriate with the projects considered and negotiated with developers.

-- End of Notes --



# Appendix D

## Site Observations





## ASH CREEK PARK

9.5 acres (acquired: 2000)

Neighborhood /Undeveloped

### Capital Improvement & Planning Opportunities:

- This site is a wooded natural area. There is a fenced in storm facility on the site. On street parking is available and there is pedestrian access.
- The natural area has potential to be an amenity in the park with trails and interpretive signs. This undeveloped site is in the middle of a neighborhood and would be a good location for a small play area and shelter.

### Maintenance Considerations:

- Manage as Open Space until developed.
- The site is very wet, especially on the south and west sides.
- Currently, no public access is provided.

### Amenities:

- Wooded natural area



# BAZ RIVERFRONT PARK

0.79 acres (acquired: 1989)

Special Facility

## Capital Improvement & Planning Opportunities:

- Opportunity for park master plan process to define site and connect to the river.
- Add interpretive signs.
- Add ADA accommodations for parking and paths to picnic table and trail.

## Maintenance Considerations:

- Manage as Open Space with an added emphasis on weed/invasive plant management.

## Amenities:

- Limited on street parking along road shoulder
- Picnic table
- Access to Washougal River Greenway Trail
- Narrow deer paths to waterfront
- Fishing
- Swimming
- Natural areas
- Scenic views of the Washougal River





## BENTON PARK

4.8 acres (acquired: 1988, 2004)

Neighborhood

### Capital Improvement & Planning Opportunities:

- Improve pedestrian connection from Couch Street to asphalt path.
- Add more walking paths and trails with interpretive signs and rest areas.
- Add benches or tables along asphalt path.
- Standardize site furnishings to match other parks.

### Maintenance Considerations:

- Most of the park is wooded area with a trail. Maintain trail surface.
- Enhance natural areas and remove invasive weeds.
- Add additional gravel and compact trail to provide a firm surface that is ADA accessible. Remove drops and elevation changes between the trail and the sidewalk and concrete table pads to provide a smooth transition.

### Amenities:

- Earthen/Gravel trail
- Asphalt path
- Tables
- Passive lawn
- Community garden (partner managed)
- Natural areas
- View of creek



# COOPERS VIEW PARK

2.5 acres (acquired: 2007)

Neighborhood

## Capital Improvement & Planning Opportunities:

- Consider adding a restroom and drinking fountain.
- Install dog waste station.
- Add accessible routes to existing picnic tables and enlarge pads to provide accessible clearance around table.
- Currently there are not accessible routes around the tables under the shelter for accessibility. Remove some of tables to provide more space and allow better circulation & accessibility.
- Install a ramp into play area with a slide.

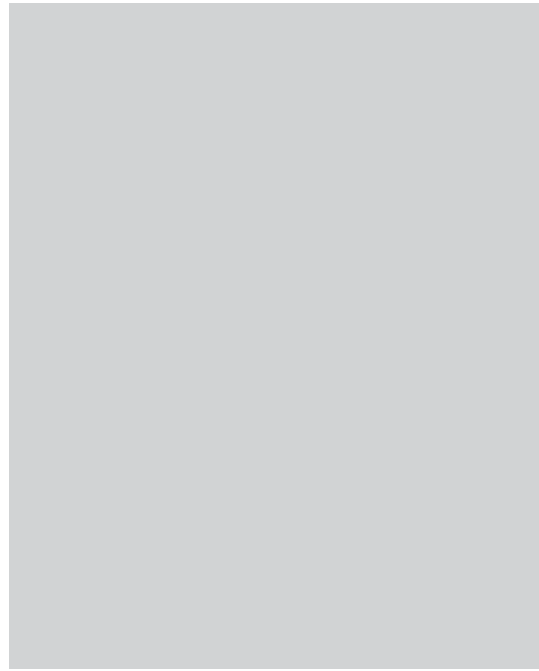
## Maintenance Considerations:

- Annual evaluation and supplement of playground safety surface.
- Standardize furnishings.

## Amenities:

- On street parking
- Picnic tables with built in checkerboard
- Bike racks
- Bench
- Asphalt path
- Playground age 2-5 years old with nature play area
- Slide
- Trash receptacle
- Passive/active lawn





## CROWN PARK

7.1 acres (acquired: 1987)

Community

### Capital Improvement & Planning Opportunities:

- Implement site master plan.

### Maintenance Considerations:

- Address drainage problems in T-ball field and around shelter.
- Repair/re-surface tennis court.
- Repair asphalt paths.
- Annual evaluation and supplement of playground safety surface.
- Standardize furnishings.

### Amenities:

- Off street parking
- Park building
- Picnic tables
- Benches
- Tennis courts with storage unit for pickleball nets
- Trash receptacles
- Trash dumpster
- Water spigot
- Playground 1 (Swing set and play equipment)
- Playground 2 (Age 5-12, Slide and play equipment)
- Playground 3 (Age 2-5, Swings and play equipment)
- Double sided wall ball court
- Carousel play equipment
- Lending library
- 20x20 shelter with lighting and electrical outlet
- T-ball field
- Passive/active lawn
- Volleyball court
- Horseshoe Pits with fence
- Porta putties



# DOROTHY FOX PARK

4.8 acres (acquired: 1986, 1989)

Neighborhood

## Capital Improvement & Planning Opportunities:

- ADA improvements: playground ramp, pathway to tables, companion seating.

## Maintenance Considerations:

- Replace faded on-leash sign.
- Annual evaluation and supplement of playground safety surface.
- Lawn and pathway repairs.
- Standardize furnishings.

## Amenities:

- Interior parking
- Trash receptacles
- Restroom with storage chase
- Gear storage box
- Soccer field with goals
- Playground, age 2-5
- Benches
- Picnic table
- ½ basketball court
- Open lawn areas
- Storm water swale/facility





# FALLEN LEAF LAKE PARK

32.9 acres (acquired: 2011)

Regional

## Capital Improvement & Planning Opportunities:

- Implement park master plan.
- Remove volleyball nets.
- ADA improvements: accessible route to lawn, install ADA accessible tables.
- Consider a nature play area for this park.

## Maintenance Considerations:

- Clear vegetation around picnic tables along waterfront.
- Cleanup shelter.
- Inspect and repair roof.
- Repair tables.
- The ramp connection the gravel parking area to the shelter has a 1-2" lip, repair to remove lip and provide ADA access from parking lot to shelter.

## Amenities:

- Off street gravel parking (inside gate)
- Informal gravel parking for day use parking (outside gate)
- RV host site
- Rough lawn/game area
- Lawn along lake
- Volleyball
- Tables
- Benches
- Large shelter with moveable tables (sinks, preparation tables, lights and power outlets)
- Restroom in shelter
- Trails
- Trash receptacles
- Trash dumpster



# FOREST HOME PARK

5.3 acres (acquired: 1987)

Neighborhood

## Capital Improvement & Planning Opportunities:

- Add accessible routes to existing picnic tables, playgrounds and baseball fields and provide accessible clearance around amenities.
- Provide a drinking fountain and shelter.
- Provide additional ADA Parking spaces.
- Replace picnic tables with accessible models.
- Provide bike racks.
- Add other baseball amenities.
- Consider replacing wood bleachers with metal for easier maintenance.

## Maintenance Considerations:

- Annual evaluation and supplement of playground safety surface.
- Pathway repairs.
- Standardize furnishings.

## Amenities:

- Off street parking
- Trash receptacles
- Trash dumpster
- Picnic tables
- Baseball fields with dugouts, backstops, commentator boxes and bleachers
- Playground 1 (age 2-12)
- Playground 2 (age 2-5)
- Bench
- Passive/active lawn
- ½ Basketball court (no striping)
- Dog waste stations
- Concession building
- Maintenance building
- Porta potty





## GOOT PARK

17.0 acres (acquired: 1987, 2006)

Neighborhood

### Capital Improvement & Planning Opportunities:

- Repair or replace bleachers.
- Replace picnic tables with accessible models.
- The natural area has potential to be an amenity in the park with trails and interpretive signs.
- Add accessible routes to existing picnic tables and enlarge pads to provide accessible clearance around table.
- Consider adding a shelter to this site.

### Maintenance Considerations:

- Remove graffiti from maintenance structures.
- Repaint rusted play equipment.
- Annual evaluation and supplement of playground safety surface.
- Remove weeds in paved areas, shrub beds and lawn.
- Striping at basketball court is worn, restripe basketball court.
- Standardize furnishings.

### Amenities:

- Off street parking
- ½ Basketball court
- Maintenance building
- Restroom
- Picnic tables
- Benches
- Bike rack
- Trash receptacles
- Soccer field with goals
- Baseball field with backstop and bleachers
- Wayfinding signs
- Passive/active lawn
- Dog waste station
- Drinking fountain
- Lending library
- Playground 1 (age 2-12, Swings and play equipment)
- Playground 2 (1 piece of play equipment)
- Water spigot
- Natural area



# GRASS VALLEY PARK

24.9 acres (acquired: 1999, 2006)

Community

## Capital Improvement & Planning Opportunities:

- Add accessible routes to existing picnic tables and enlarge pads to provide accessible clearance around table.
- Currently there are not accessible routes around the tables under the shelter for accessibility. Remove some of tables to provide more space and allow better circulation & accessibility.
- The natural area has potential to be an amenity in the park with trails and interpretive signs.
- ADA improvements: accessible routes to tables, drinking fountain and trash grills, install playground ramp, provide companion seating.

## Maintenance Considerations:

- Replace the missing restroom signs.
- Repair/re-surface tennis court.
- Remove weeds in paved areas, shrub beds and lawn.
- There are drainage problems in softball field that need to be resolved.
- Lawn has damage from gophers, control gopher population and repair lawn.
- There are minor cracks in paths that need repair.
- Vegetation is encroaching onto asphalt path, clear vegetation.
- Annual evaluation and supplement of playground safety surface.
- There is missing playground equipment, either repair or remove.
- Standardize furnishings.

## Amenities:

- Off street parking
- Memorial brick pavers
- Picnic tables
- Bike rack
- BBQ grill
- Restrooms w/storage chase
- Drinking fountains
- Trash receptacles
- Tennis courts with practice wall and fence
- 1/2 Basketball court
- Softball field w/ backstop
- Playground ages 2-12
- 35'x45' Shelter with lighting and electrical outlets
- 12'x20' Shelter
- Asphalt loop path
- Signed natural areas





# GREEN MOUNTAIN PARK

4.6 acres (acquired: ----)

Neighborhood

## Capital Improvement & Planning Opportunities:

- ADA improvements: accessible route to picnic tables, provide companion seating.

## Maintenance Considerations:

- Replace the missing volleyball net.
- Remove weeds in lawn area and reseed bare spots.
- There are drainage problems in lawn area that need to be resolved.
- Annual evaluation and supplement of playground safety surface.
- Standardize furnishings.

## Amenities:

- On street parking
- Restroom building
- Picnic tables
- Bike racks
- Benches
- Drinking fountains
- Full basketball court with striping
- Volleyball court
- 20'x20' Picnic shelter
- Playground age 2-12 years old
- Asphalt paths
- Trash receptacles
- Passive/active lawn
- Dog waste station



# HERITAGE PARK

26.9 acres (acquired: 1993)

Community

## Capital Improvement & Planning Opportunities:

- Gate access control improvements.
- Separate motorized & non-motorized launching.
- Opportunity for bird watching and interpretive signage. These could be combined with rest areas along the Lacamas/Heritage trail.
- Improve waterfront/fishing.
- Consider a large shelter for bigger groups.
- ADA improvements: signs for ADA parking stalls, provide access to grills.

## Maintenance Considerations:

- Remove weeds in paved areas, shrub beds and lawn.
- Pathway repair.
- Enhance natural areas and remove invasive weeds.
- Standardize furnishings.

## Amenities:

- Off street parking
- Lacamas/Heritage Trail (asphalt or crushed rock)
- Mowed meadows
- Benches along trail
- Views of lake
- Watercraft rentals (kayaks, standup paddle boards)
- Asphalt paths
- Restroom with drinking fountain
- Playground age 2-5
- Grills
- Boat ramp with floating docks and staging area
- Fishing/waterfront area
- Trash dumpster





# KLICKITAT PARK

9.4 acres (acquired: 2001)

Neighborhood

## Capital Improvement & Planning Opportunities:

- The natural area has potential to be an amenity in the park with trails and interpretive signs.
- ADA improvements: accessible routes to tables and benches, provide alternate route to viewing area, provide accessible routes to the play areas.

## Maintenance Considerations:

- Remove weeds in shrub areas and lawn and play areas
- Annual evaluation and supplement of playground safety surface.
- Control gopher population and repair lawn.
- Replace broken table.
- Clear storm grates.
- Add mulch to plant beds and redefine edges.
- Pathway repair and clearing.
- Add restroom signs.
- Remove tennis backboard.
- Replace unhealthy/failing trees.
- Re-stripe basketball court.
- Replace missing signs.
- Standardize furnishings.

## Amenities:

- Interior parking
- Trash dumpster
- Drinking fountain
- Bike rack
- ½ basketball court w/ ¾ fence and wall ball
- Dog waste dispenser
- Play area 1 w/ swings
- Play area 2 age 2-12
- Trash receptacles



# LACAMAS HEIGHTS PARK

2.3 acres (acquired: 2006)

Neighborhood /Undeveloped

## Capital Improvement & Planning Opportunities:

- The location is in the middle of a neighborhood and adjacent to Camas High School. Existing pedestrian access is easy and the high school parking lot is close enough that it could be used for parking during off school hours.
- About half of this site is covered in mature trees with lawn cover. There are gentle slopes throughout site. The Butler reservoir facility is located on the adjacent parcel to the west, with a fence around it.
- A playground, basketball court, picnic tables, shelter, walking paths should be considered for future development. This site might be a good location for a future dog park.

## Maintenance Considerations:

- Manage as Open Space until developed.

## Amenities:

- Trash receptacles
- Bike rack
- Picnic tables
- Bench
- Parking
- Playground
- Baseball/softball field
- Portable toilet





# LACAMAS LAKE LODGE & CONFERENCE CENTER

4.3 acres (acquired: 2000)

Regional

## Capital Improvement & Planning Opportunities:

- None noted.

## Maintenance Considerations:

- Enhance natural areas and remove invasive weeds.
- Manage and cleanup goose waste.

## Amenities:

- Off street parking
- Passive lawn
- Trash receptacles
- Recycling receptacle
- Conference center building
- Patio with view of lake
- Access to pier
- Connecting path to heritage park



# LOUIS BLOCH PARK

4.9 acres (acquired: 1987)

Neighborhood

## Capital Improvement & Planning Opportunities:

- Future park site planning to determine potential new amenities.
- ADA improvements: accessible routes to picnic tables, enlarge pads to provide accessible clearance, provide paved access to playgrounds.
- Consider adding another drinking fountain.
- Replace picnic tables in baseball area.

## Maintenance Considerations:

- Restripe parking spaces.
- Control gopher population and repair lawn.
- Remove weeds in paved areas, shrub beds and lawn.
- Re-stripe basketball court and repair pavement.
- Annual evaluation and supplement of playground safety surface.
- Standardize furnishings.

## Amenities:

- Off street parking
- Fenced in baseball field with backstop, bullpens
- Picnic tables
- Benches
- Concession building
- Commemorative plinth
- Restroom in baseball area
- Restroom in park
- Maintenance building
- Commentators building
- Lending library
- Playground 1 (swings)
- Playground 2
- Trash receptacles
- Recycling receptacles
- Trash dumpster
- Drinking fountain
- Dog waste station
- Bleachers
- ½ Basketball court
- Wayfinding signs
- Passive/active lawn





# OAK PARK

2.5 acres (acquired: 1995)

Neighborhood

## Capital Improvement & Planning Opportunities:

- Replace porta potty with a permanent restroom.
- Consider a shelter and picnic area.
- ADA improvements: accessible routes to tables, basketball court and trash grills, provide playground ramp.

## Maintenance Considerations:

- Remove weeds in paved areas, shrub beds and lawn.
- Annual evaluation and supplement of playground safety surface.
- Clean moss from asphalt path.

## Amenities:

- On street parking
- Playground age 2-5
- Picnic tables
- Benches
- Grill
- Passive/active lawn
- ½ Basketball court
- Porta potty



# OSTENSON CANYON PARK

8.2 acres (acquired: 2013)

Neighborhood

## Capital Improvement & Planning Opportunities:

- Conduct park site master plan process to guide development of open, upper shelf as neighborhood park.

## Maintenance Considerations:

- Manage as Open Space until developed.

## Amenities:

- Trash receptacles
- Bike rack
- Picnic tables
- Bench
- Parking
- Playground
- Baseball/softball field
- Portable toilet





## PRUNE HILL SPORTS PARK

8.8 acres (acquired: 1997)

Community

### Capital Improvement & Planning Opportunities:

- The natural area has potential to be an amenity in the park with trails and interpretive signs.
- Add benches, tables and consider a small shelter.
- Add more shade trees near playground, behind bleachers and dugouts and along perimeter of sports fields.
- Stripe basketball courts and install a perimeter fence.
- Install a ramp into playground to provide an ADA accessible route. Sidewalk is sunken next to curb, repair to provide an accessible route into the playground.

### Maintenance Considerations:

- Remove weeds in paved areas, shrub beds and lawn.
- Repair drainage problems in baseball field.
- Replace ball fence on east side of park.
- Control gopher population and repair lawn.
- Pathway repair.
- Annual evaluation and supplement of playground safety surface.
- Standardize furnishings.

### Amenities:

- Shared off street parking with school
- Free library box
- 2 trash receptacles
- Ramp into park
- Asphalt paths with loop path
- Multisport fields with permanent and moveable soccer goals
- Baseball field with backstop, bleachers and storage bin
- Playground age 2-12
- ½ Basketball courts with no striping
- Storage bin near soccer fields
- Natural area next to fields with radio tower and access drive
- Passive/active lawn



## SANDY SWIMMING HOLE

1.4 acres (joint property with Washougal)

Special Facility

### Capital Improvement & Planning Opportunities:

- Parking improvements and expansion.

### Maintenance Considerations:

- This swimming hole is very popular. The beach access and experience looked great, but the minimal parking was a major limitation.
- No ADA accessible route to beach.

### Amenities:

- 17 – standard stalls
- 1ADA stall (not on designated accessible route, not compliant, not properly signed)
- 6 Movable Recycling and Trash Receptacles
- Paved Overlook/Deck area with 2-picnic tables and 1 – bench
- Identification sign
- Various regulatory signs.





# SKATE PARK

0.9 acres (acquired: 1987)

Special Facility

## Capital Improvement & Planning Opportunities:

- Redesign/add to skate park.
- Add permanent restroom, drinking fountain and shelter with lawn area.
- Existing parking lot is large, if it isn't fully utilized part of the parking lot could be repurposed for shelter, lawn area and day use activities.
- Enhance river access and provide more beach area.
- Replace picnic tables and benches.
- ADA improvements: accessible routes to existing picnic tables, replace ADA parking signs, provide companion space.

## Maintenance Considerations:

- Restripe parking lot to identify parking stalls and drive aisle.
- Repair cracks or replace skate park.
- Enhance natural areas and remove invasive plant species..
- Standardize furnishings.

## Amenities:

- Skate park
- Off street parking
- Trash receptacles
- Picnic tables
- Porta potty
- Benches
- Natural area with river access
- Trails
- Boat launch ramp



# Appendix E

## Recreation Trends



The following summaries from recognized park and recreation resources provide background on national, state and local park and recreation trends. Examining current recreation trends may guide potential park and recreation improvements and opportunities to enhance programs and services.

## 2020 NRPA AGENCY PERFORMANCE REVIEW

The 2020 National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) *Agency Performance Review* summarizes the key findings from their Park Metrics benchmarking tool and is intended to assist park and recreation professionals in effectively managing and planning their operating resources and capital facilities. The report offers a comprehensive collection of park- and recreation-related benchmarks and insights to inform professionals, key stakeholders, and the public about the state of the park and recreation industry. The 2020 NRPA Agency Performance Review contains data from 1,053 unique park and recreation agencies across the United States as reported between 2017 and 2019.

### Key Findings and Characteristics

Park facilities and operations vary greatly across the nation. The typical agency participating in the NRPA park metric survey serves a jurisdiction of approximately 42,500 people, but population size varies widely across all responding jurisdictions. The typical park and recreation agency has jurisdiction over 20 parks comprising over 430 acres. Park facilities also have a range of service levels in terms of acres of parkland per population and residents per park. These metrics are categorized by the agency’s population size.

### Park Facilities

Nearly all (96%) park and recreation agencies operate parks and related facilities. The typical park and recreation agency has:

- One park for every 2,281 residents
- 9.9 acres of park land for every 1,000 residents in its jurisdiction
- 11 miles of trails for walking, hiking, running and/or biking

Figure E1. Median Residents per Park Based On Population Size

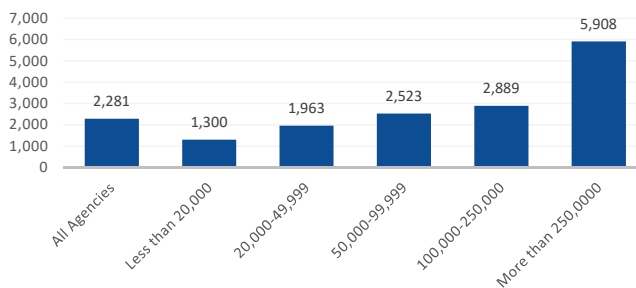
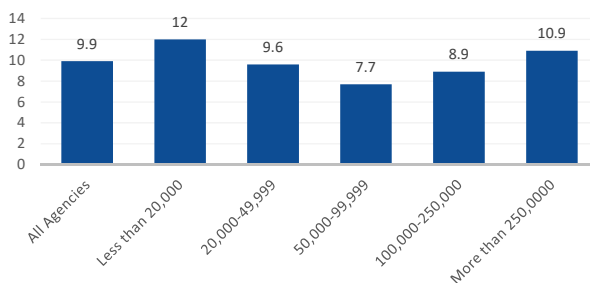


Figure E2. Acres of Parkland per 1,000 Residents based on Population Size

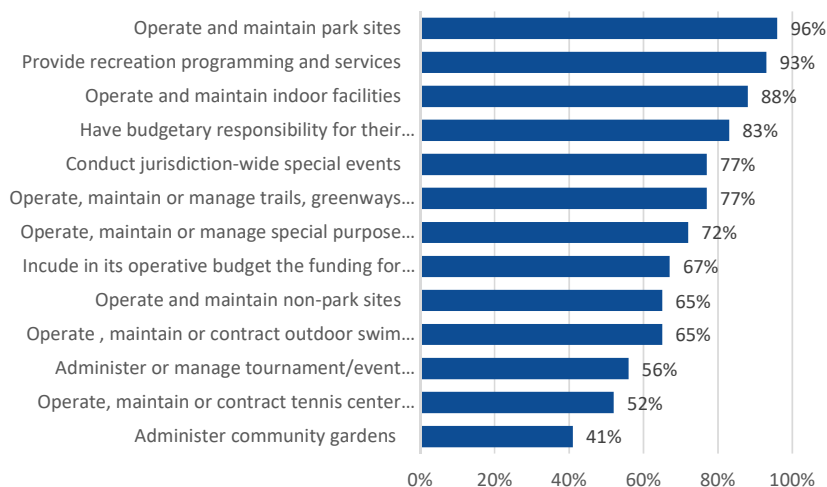


A large majority of park and recreation agencies provide playgrounds (93.9%) and basketball courts (86.5%) in their portfolio of outdoor assets. Most agencies offer community and/or recreation centers (60%) while two in five offer senior centers.

The typical park and recreation agency that manages or maintains trails for walking, hiking, running and/or biking has 11.0 miles of trails. Agencies serving more than 250,000 residents have a median of 84.5 miles of trails under their care.

Park and recreation agencies often take on responsibilities beyond their core functions of operating parks and providing recreational programs. Other responsibilities may include tourist attractions, golf courses, outdoor amphitheaters, indoor swim facilities, farmer’s markets, indoor sports complexes, campgrounds, performing arts centers, stadiums/arenas/racetracks, fairgrounds and/or marinas.

Figure E3. Key Responsibilities of Park and Recreation Agencies



## Programming

Nearly all (93%) of park and recreation agencies provide recreation programs and services. More than eight in ten agencies provide themed special events (88%), team sports (87%), social recreation events (87%), youth summer camps (83%), fitness enhancement classes (82%), and health and wellness education (81%).

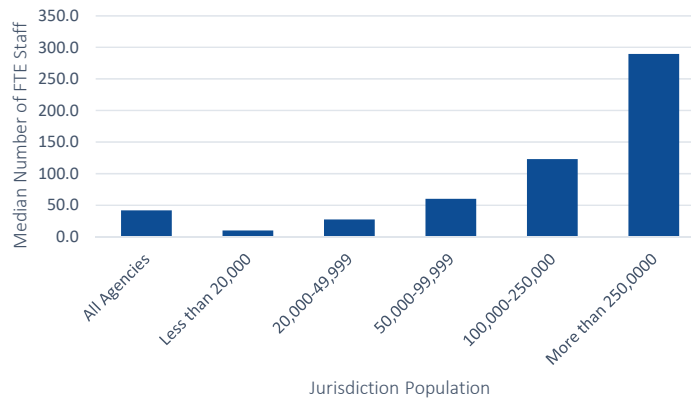
## Staffing

Park and recreation employees are responsible for operations and maintenance, programming and administration. The typical park and recreation agency has:

- 41.9 full-time equivalent staff (FTEs) on payroll
- 8.1 FTEs on staff for every 10,000 residents in its jurisdiction

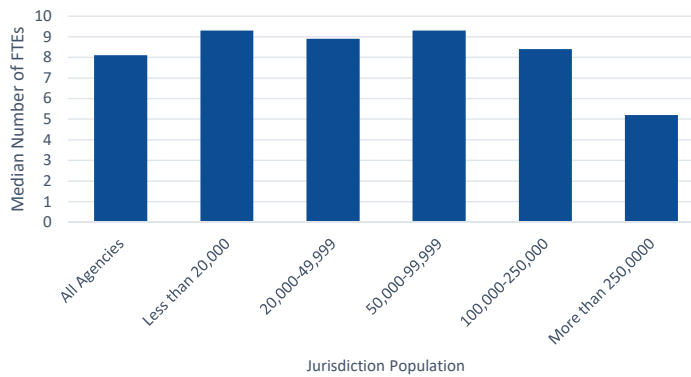
Median FTE counts also positively correlate with the number of acres maintained, the number of parks maintained, operating expenditures, and the population served. For example, agencies that serve populations between 20,000 and 49,999 residents employ an average of 27.3 FTE, while agencies that serve 50,000 to 99,000 people employ an average of 60 FTE.

Figure E4. Park and Recreation Agency Staffing: Full-Time Equivalents (By Jurisdiction Population)



Another way of comparing agency staffing across different park and recreation agencies examines number of staff per 10,000 residents. These comparative numbers hold fairly steady across population sizes with the median for all agencies at 8.1 FTEs.

Figure E5. Park and Recreation Agency FTEs Per 10,000 Residents



## Capital and Operating Expenses

For capital expenses, the typical park agency:

- Dedicates about 55% to renovation projects and 32% to new development projects.
- Plans to spend about \$5,000,000 million on capital expenditures over the next five years.

For operations, the typical park agency spends:

- \$4.3 million per year on total operating expenses
- \$7,000 on annual operating expenses per acre of park and non-park sites managed by the agency
- \$81.00 on annual operating expenses per capita
- \$97,000 in annual operating expenditures per employee
- 54% of the annual operating budget on personnel costs, 38% on operating expenses, and 5% on capital expenses not included in the agency’s capital improvement plan (CIP)
- 44% of its operating budget on park management and maintenance, 43% on recreation, and 13% on other activities

## 2020 STATE OF THE INDUSTRY REPORT

Recreation Management magazine's *2020 Report on the State of the Managed Recreation Industry* summarizes the opinions and information provided by a wide range of professionals (with an average 22.3 years of experience) working in the recreation, sports, and fitness industry. Given the emerging COVID-19 pandemic, Recreation Management also conducted a supplemental survey in May 2020 to learn about both the impacts to the industry and what mitigation steps organizations were taking in response.

### Partnerships

The 2020 report indicated that most (89%) recreation, sports, and fitness facility owners form partnerships with other organizations as a means of expanding their reach, offering additional programming opportunities or as a way to share resources and increase funding. Local schools are shown as the most common partner (64%) for all facility types. Youth-serving organizations (Ys, JCC, Boys & Girls Clubs) and park and recreation organizations were the most likely to report that they had partnered with outside organizations, at 100% and 95% respectively.

### Revenue Outlook

In January 2020, half of respondents expected revenues to increase in both 2020 and 2021. Survey respondents from urban communities are more optimistic about revenue increases as compared to rural respondents.

In last year's report, parks respondents had reported increases in their average operating expenditures with operating costs that grew by 14% between fiscal year 2018 and 2019. Respondents generally expected their operating expenses to continue to increase between 2019 and 2021, with camps expecting a 10% increase, recreation centers at 8%, and parks at 6%.

Relative to costs and revenues, few facilities covered by the survey reported that they cover more than 75% of their operating costs via revenue. The percentage recovered varied with type of organization with the average percentage of costs recovered for all respondents hovering near 50% and private for-profit organizations achieving the highest cost recovery rates. For parks, the cost recovery rate remained steady at 44%.

Over the past decades, public park and recreation departments and districts have faced a growing expectation that facilities can be run like businesses. Many local facilities are expected to recover much of their operating costs via revenues. While this is the business model of for-profit facilities like health clubs, it is a relatively recent development for publicly owned facilities, which have typically been subsidized via tax dollars and other funding sources. Most recreation providers (81%) have been taking actions to reduce expenditures. Cost recovery actions typically involve reduction in expenses with improving energy efficiency as the most common action (51% of respondents). Increased fees and staffing cost reductions and putting off construction or renovation plans were reported as other common methods for reducing operating costs.

As of May 2020, nearly 90% of respondents anticipated that total revenues would decline in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Most anticipated a revenue drop of 30-50%, though one in seven expected a decline of more than 50%. In general, respondents are split on when they expect that revenues will begin to recover – 44% believe revenues will begin to rebound in 2021 while 40% expect further revenue declines.

### Facility Use

The majority of respondents reported an increase in use of their recreational facilities as of January 2020. Looking forward, more than half of respondents (53%), including 60-65% of park and recreation centers, were expecting to see further increases in the number of people using their facilities over the next two years.



In 2020, 22% of respondents said they were planning to add more staff at their facilities, 75% were planning to maintain existing staffing levels, and 3% were planning to reduce staffing. The May 2020 survey found, however, that nearly half of responding organizations had laid off or furloughed staff due to the impacts of COVID-19 and nearly two-thirds had suspended hiring plans.

## Facilities and Improvements

Over the past seven years, the percentage of respondents who indicate that they have plans for construction, whether new facilities or additions or renovations to their existing facilities, has grown steadily, from 62.7 percent in 2013 to 72.9 percent in 2020. Construction budgets have also risen. The average amount respondents were planning to spend on their construction plans was up 10.8% in 2020, after an 18.4% increase in 2019. On average, respondents to the 2020 survey were planning to spend \$5.6 million on construction.

A majority of park department respondents (54%) reported plans to add features at their facilities and were also the most likely to be planning to construct new facilities in the next three years (39%).

The top 10 planned features for all facility types include:

1. Splash play areas (25.4% of those with plans to add features were planning to add splash play)
2. Playgrounds (20.3%)
3. Park shelters (17.3%)
4. Dog parks (17.1%)
5. Park restrooms (16.1%)
6. Synthetic turf sports fields (14.8%)
7. Walking and hiking trails (14.8%)
8. Fitness trails and outdoor fitness equipment (14.8%)
9. Disc golf courses (12.9%)
10. Outdoor sports courts (11.3%)

The COVID-19 pandemic is having a significant impact on construction plans. As of May 2020, over one-third (34%) of respondents had put construction on hold due to the impacts of the pandemic, rising costs, and supply shortages.

## Programming

Nearly all respondents (97%) offer programming of some kind. The top 10 most commonly offered programs include: holiday events and other special events (provided by 65.3% of respondents); educational programs (59%); group exercise programs (58.8%); fitness programs (57.6%); day camps and summer camps (57.3%); youth sports teams (55.2%); mind-body balance programs such as yoga and tai chi (51.2%); adult sports teams (46%); arts and crafts programs (45.8%); and programs for active older adults (45.4%).

Respondents from community centers, parks and health clubs were the most likely to report that they had plans to add programs at their facilities over the next few years. The ten most commonly planned program additions were:

1. Fitness programs (24% of those who have plans to add programs)
2. Group exercise programs (22.4%)
3. Teen programs (22%)
4. Environmental education (21.8%)
5. Day camps and summer camps (20.9%)

6. Mind-body balance programs (20.5%)
7. Programs for active older adults (18.1%)
8. Special needs programs (17.9%)
9. Holidays and other special events (17.4%)
10. Arts and crafts (17%)

Addressing the COVID-19 pandemic required many respondents to either put programs or services on hold (82%) or cut programs or services entirely (34%). Additionally, many respondents have had to rethink their programming portfolios. Two-thirds of respondents (67%) had added online fitness and wellness programming as of May 2020, 39% were involved in programs to address food insecurity, and one in four was involved in programs to provide educational support to out-of-school children.

## General Challenges

In January 2020, facility managers were asked about the challenges they anticipated impacting their facilities in the future. Generally, overall budgets are the top concern for most respondents including their ability to support equipment and facility maintenance needs (58%) and staffing (54%). Marketing, safety/risk management, and creating new and innovative programming also remain continuing challenges for facility managers. Facility managers also report that environmental and conservation issues (13%) and social equity and access (10%) are posing increasing challenges. However, as of May 2020, many respondents concerns had shifted to addressing the COVID-19 pandemic impacts described in the sections above.

## 2020 OUTDOOR PARTICIPATION REPORT

### Overall Participation

According to the 2020 Outdoor Participation Report, published by the Outdoor Foundation, just over half of Americans ages 6 and older participated in outdoor recreation at least once in 2019, the highest participation rate in five years. This increase was not universal, however, and there was significant variation in participation between age, gender, and racial groups.

Despite the overall increase in the percentage of Americans engaging in outdoor recreation, the total number of recreational outings declined in 2019. Outdoor participants went on a total of 10.9 billion outdoor outings in 2019 – a 12% drop from the 2012 high-water mark of 12.4 billion outings. In addition, the number of outings per participant declined 17% in the past five years, from 85 outings per participant in 2014 to 71 in 2019.

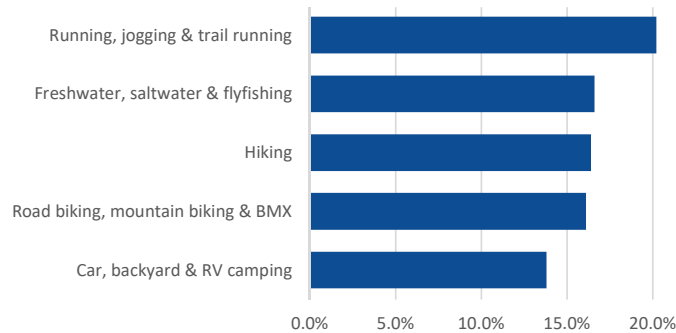
This drop mirrors a decline in the total number of outings per participant. Each year for over a decade, participants have engaged less often in outdoor activities. As a result, the percentage of ‘casual’ participants in outdoor recreation (i.e. those who participate one to 11 times per year) has grown by about 4% over the past 15 years, while the percentage of ‘core’ participants (i.e. weekly participants) has declined.

Figure E6. Frequency of Outdoor Outings: Trending Over Many Years

Frequency of Outdoor Outings	2007	2010	2013	2016	2019
Casual (1 to 11 times)	28.2%	27.9%	28.4%	31.7%	32.6%
Moderate (12 to 51 times)	32.5%	31.8%	33.1%	32.5%	32.6%
Core (52+ times)	39.3%	40.4%	38.5%	35.8%	34.9%

Running, jogging and trail running is the most popular outdoor activity by level of participation, as shown in the chart below, followed by fishing, hiking, biking and camping.

Figure E7. Most Popular Outdoor Activities by Participants, Nationwide



### Youth Participation Declines

The youngest participants, children 6 to 17, were outdoors far less than in previous years. Their average outings fell from a high of 91 in 2012 to just 77 per child in 2019. Youth participation declined across the board in 2019, with the biggest declines seen in girls aged 18 to 24 (-5%) and boys ages 13 to 17 (-4%). Households with children, however, continue to drive growth in participation. Adults with children had much higher outdoor recreation participation rates (57%) than adults without children (44.4%).

### Female Participation Continues to Grow

In 2019, women made up 46% of participants in outdoor recreation while men made up 53.8%, representing the smallest gender gap measured in the report’s history. Women’s participation has increased from 43% of all participants in 2009 to 46% in 2019.

### Diversity Gap Remains

Despite increases in participation, Black/African American and Hispanic Americans continue to be significantly underrepresented in outdoor recreation. Hispanics made up 11.6% of outdoor recreation participants, a 35% shortfall relative to their proportion of the population ages 6 and over (17.9%). Similarly, Black/African Americans represented 12.4% of the U.S. population ages 6 and over in 2019, but just 9.4% of outdoor participants, a 24% participation deficit. Black youth were the least likely to participate in outdoor recreation as compared to Asian, Hispanic, and Caucasian youth – signaling a potential future gap in outdoor participants. However, those Black and Hispanic Americans who do participate in outdoor recreation do so frequently – more often, on average, than members of other racial groups.

In 2019, 62% of Asian Americans participated in outdoor recreation, followed by 53% of White, 48% of Hispanic, and 40% of Black/African Americans.

## Impacts of COVID-19

An August 2020 report from the Outdoor Industry Association indicated that COVID-19 impacted recreation participation in April, May and June as Americans flocked to outdoor recreation amid COVID restrictions. Americans took up new activities in significant numbers with the biggest gains in running, cycling, and hiking given that these activities were widely considered the safest activities during pandemic shutdowns. The hardest hit activity segments during COVID shutdowns were team sports (down 69%) and racquet sports (down 55%). Reviewing just April, May and June 2020, participation rates for day hiking rose more than any other activity, up 8.4%.

## 2020 SPORTS, FITNESS, AND LEISURE ACTIVITIES TOPLINE PARTICIPATION REPORT

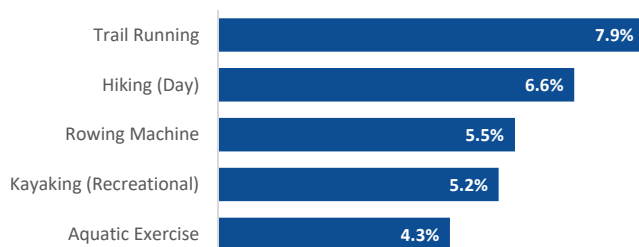
Prepared by a partnership of the Sports and Fitness Industry Association (SFIA) and the Physical Activity Council (PAC), this February 2020 participation report summarizes levels of activity and identifies key trends in sports, fitness, and recreation in the US. The report is based on over 18,000 online interviews of a nationwide sample that provides a high degree of statistical accuracy using strict quotas for gender, age, income, region, and ethnicity. The study looked at 122 different team and individual sports and outdoor activities.

Compared to 2014, eight million more Americans were casually active in 2019 indicating a positive movement toward an increasingly active population. Sports that made great strides in the last six years include trail running, cardio tennis, BMX biking, and day hiking. Over the last year, only 2.1 million additional people reported participating in an activity that raises their heart rate for more than 30 minutes. Participation in active high calorie activities has remained flat for the last four years.

The percentage of people reporting no physical activity during the past year declined to 27% in 2019 - its lowest point in six years – continuing an increasing trend in activity. Rates of inactivity continue to be linked to household income levels, with lower income households having higher rates of inactivity. However, in 2019, households across the income spectrum saw declines in inactivity.

Fitness sports continue to be the most popular activity type for the 5th consecutive year. Other sports activities, including individual sports, racquet sports, and water sports have seen a modest decline in participation since 2018. Team sports experienced a slight increase in participation, driven by the increasing popularity of basketball and outdoor soccer. While racquet sports lost about 2% of participants since 2018, mostly due to declines in squash and badminton participation, the rising popularity of pickleball and cardio tennis may reverse this declining trend.

Figure E8. Total Participation Rate by Activity Category



When asked which activities they aspire to do, all age-groups and income levels tend to show interest in outdoor activities like fishing, camping, hiking, biking, bicycling, and swimming. Younger age groups are more interested in participating in team sports, such as soccer, basketball and volleyball, while older adults are more likely to aspire to individual activities like swimming for fitness, bird/nature viewing, and canoeing.



Physical education (PE) participation shows 96% of 6 to 12-year old youth and 82% of 13-17 year olds participated in PE in 2019. While younger children were more likely to participate in PE, older youth had higher average days of participation. Children were more than twice as likely to be inactive if they did not attend PE. Overall, all ages saw an increase in PE 2019. Participation in PE is thought to lead to an increase of active, healthy lifestyles in adulthood.

Figure E9. Sports with the Highest 5-year Increase in Participation

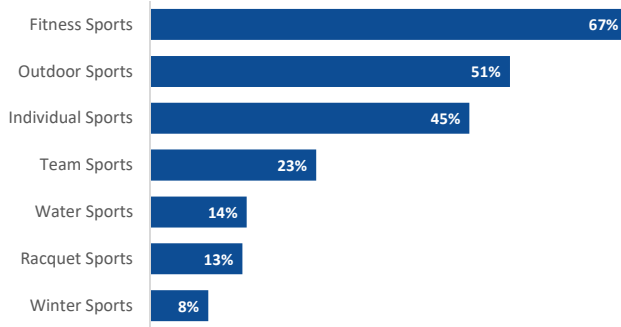
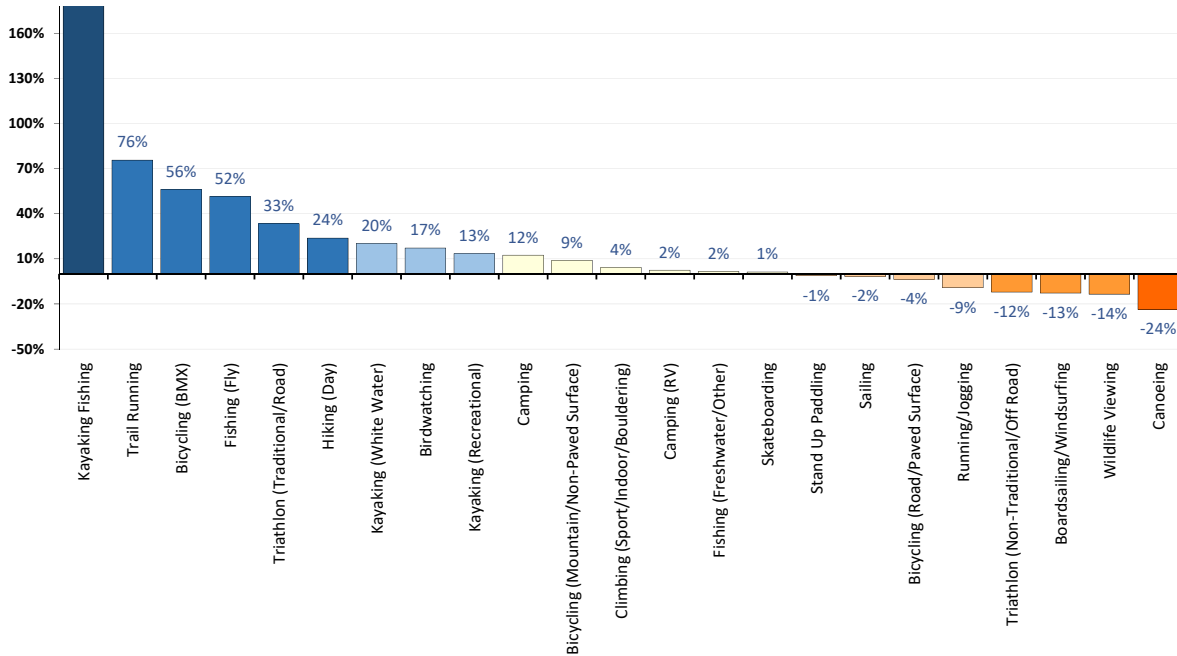


Figure E10. 5-Year Change in Outdoor Sports Participation



## 2020 AMERICANS ENGAGEMENT WITH PARKS SURVEY

This annual study from the National Park and Recreation Association (NRPA) probes Americans’ usage of parks, the key reasons that drive their use, and the greatest challenges preventing greater usage. Each year, the study examines the importance of public parks in Americans’ lives, including how parks compare to other services and offerings of local governments. The survey of 1,000 American adults looks at frequency and drivers of parks/recreation facilities visits and the barriers that prevent greater enjoyment. Survey respondents also indicate the importance of how park and recreation plays in their decisions at the voting booth and their level of support for greater funding.

In 2020, NRPA conducted a shorter-than-typical Engagement survey because of the dynamic nature of life during the COVID-19 pandemic. The 2020 Study focused on the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on park and recreation usage, whether residents see public parks as an essential public service, and whether people vote for political leaders based on their support for park and recreation funding.

Key findings include:

- Eighty-two percent of U.S. adults agree that parks and recreation is essential.
- Seventy-seven percent of survey respondents indicate that having a high-quality park, playground, public open space or recreation center nearby is an important factor in deciding where they want to live.
- U.S. residents visit local park and recreation facilities more than twice a month on average.
- Three in five U.S. residents — more than 190 million people — visited a park, trail, public open space or other recreation facility at least once during the first three months of the pandemic (mid-March through mid-June 2020).

## Impacts of the COVID-19 Pandemic

According to the Americans Engagement with Parks report,

“In many communities across the nation, parks, trails and other public open spaces have been crucial resources available to people seeking a brief respite from the public health crisis. As businesses shut down operations during the spring, many parks and trails remained open, providing people with opportunities to safely enjoy outdoor physical activity with its many attendant physical and mental health benefits. According to NRPA Parks Snapshot Survey data ([nrpa.org/ParksSnapshot](http://nrpa.org/ParksSnapshot)), 83 percent of park and recreation agencies kept some/all of their parks open during the initial wave of COVID-19 infections in April 2020, while 93 percent did the same with some/all of their trail networks.

Consequently, people flocked to their local parks, trails and other public open spaces. Three in five U.S. residents — more than 190 million people — visited a park, trail, public open space or other recreation facility at least once during the first three months of the pandemic — from mid-March through mid-June 2020. Park and recreation usage was particularly strong among GenZers, Millennials, Gen Xers, parents, people who identify as Hispanic/Latinx and those who identify as nonwhite.

As has been the case with virtually every aspect of life, the COVID-19 pandemic has altered the frequency with which most people engage with their local park and recreation amenities. Still, slightly more than half of people have been visiting parks, trails and other public open space amenities as often — if not more often — since the start of the pandemic than they had during the same period in 2019. Twenty-seven percent of U.S. residents report that their use of parks, trails and other public open spaces increased during the first three months of the pandemic relative to the same period in 2019. A quarter of survey respondents indicates their park and recreation usage during the period from mid-March to mid-June 2020 matched that of the same three months in 2019. Forty-eight percent of people report that their usage of parks, trails and public open spaces declined during the early months of the pandemic.”

## WASHINGTON STATE RECREATION AND CONSERVATION PLAN

The 2018-2022 Recreation and Conservation Plan for Washington State provides a strategic direction to help assure the effective and adequate provision of outdoor recreation and conservation to meet the needs of Washington State residents. The plan identifies the following five near and long-term priority areas and establishes specific actions within each priority to help meet the outdoor recreation and conservation needs within the state:

1. Sustain and Grow the Legacy of Parks, Trails, and Conservation Lands
2. Improve Equity of Parks, Trails, and Conservation Lands

3. Meet the Needs of Youth
4. Plan for Culturally Relevant Parks and Trails to Meet Changing Demographics
5. Assert Recreation and Conservation as a Vital Public Service

### Sustain & Grow the Legacy

A wealth of existing recreation and conservation areas and facilities should be kept open, safe, and enjoyable for all. Some modifications to meet the interests of today’s population may be needed at some facilities. Sustaining existing areas while expanding and building new facilities to keep up with a growing population is one of the five priority goals.

### Improve Equity

The National Recreation and Park Association’s position on social equity states:

“Our nation’s public parks and recreation services should be equally accessible and available to all people regardless of income level, ethnicity, gender, ability, or age. Public parks, recreation services and recreation programs including the maintenance, safety, and accessibility of parks and facilities, should be provided on an equitable basis to all citizens of communities served by public agencies.”

The Washington plan restates that equity goal for all its citizens. Improving equity is also a strategy for improving a community’s health. Current statewide participation rates in outdoor activities were surveyed as part of the plan.

Figure E11. Participation Rates for Washington Residents in Outdoor Activities

Participation Rates for Top 12 Categories	
Activity	%
Walking	94%
Nature activities	89%
Leisure activities at parks	82%
Swimming	68%
Sightseeing activities	67%
Hiking	61%
Outdoor sports	48%
Water-based activities (freshwater)	46%
Camping	45%
Trending activities	33%
Snow and ice activities	30%
Bicycling	28%

### Get Youth Outside

Washington State youth participate in outdoor activities to a greater extent than youth nationally. Park and recreation providers are urged to offer a variety of outdoor activities for youth and to support youth programs. Most youth are walking, playing at a park, trying new or trending activities, fishing in freshwater, exploring nature, and riding bikes. Other activities of interest to youth are activities in freshwater such as boating and paddling, fishing in saltwater, target shooting, hiking, outdoor sports, and riding off-road vehicles.

Figure E12. Youth Participation Rates for Washington Residents in Outdoor Activities

Youth Participation Rates	
Activity	%
Walking	88%
Leisure in parks	78%
Trending activities	77%
Fishing in freshwater	77%
Nature-based activities	75%
Bicycling	74%
Freshwater-based activities*	66%
Target shooting	62%
Hiking	57%
Outdoor sports	57%
Off-road vehicle riding	57%
Fishing in saltwater	53%

\*(not swimming)

## Plan for Culturally Relevant Parks and Trails to Meet Changing Demographics

Washington’s population is expected to grow by 2 million people by 2040 leading to more congestion and competition for recreation resources. Between 2010-2040, the percent of people of color are expected to increase from 27 percent to 44 percent. With the cultural change in the population, preferred recreational activities also will change. By 2030, more than one of every five Washingtonians will be 65 years old or older. By 2040, there will be more seniors than youth. Park and recreation providers should be prepared to create new and diverse opportunities and accommodate the active senior population.

## Assert Recreation and Conservation as a Vital Public Service

The plan recognizes that outdoor recreation contributes to a strong economy and is a public investment like other public services and infrastructure. The report cites the Outdoor Industry Association and other economic studies that reinforce the importance of park and recreation services locally, regionally and statewide.

## 2019 SPECIAL REPORT ON PADDLESPO RTS & SAFETY

In 2019, the Outdoor Foundation produced a report focused on paddlesports data based on a participation survey (over 20,000 online interviews with a nationwide sample of individuals and households). In 2018, 22.9 million Americans (approximately 7.4% of the population) participated in paddle sports. This represents an increase of more than 4 million participants since the study began in 2010. Over the last five years, there continues to be an increase in paddlesports popularity among outdoor enthusiasts, with significant portions of the nationwide growth occurring in the Pacific region.

Recreational kayaking continues to grow in popularity but may be driving some of the decline in canoeing. The popularity of stand-up paddling has soared, increasing by 1.5 million participants over the past five years, though it does not have nearly as high a participation rate as either recreational kayaking or canoeing.

Most paddlers are Caucasian, other racial and ethnic groups are largely under-represented. However, Caucasian participation has remained relatively flat while participation by people identifying as Hispanic



or Black/African American has grown by 0.5% to 1% per year since 2013. This growth has led to more than 773,000 new Hispanic paddlers in just six years, signaling the importance and potential of engaging minority groups in paddlesports.

One in eight paddlers have been participating in the sport for 21 years or more. However, many participants – between thirty and sixty percent, depending on the discipline – tried a paddlesport for the first time in 2018. Such high levels of first-time participation may produce longer term growth in paddling, assuming participants continue to enjoy the sport.

Among adult paddlers, most participate for excitement and adventure, for exercise, or to be close to nature. Kayakers, rafters, canoers and stand-up paddlers often enjoy, or would be willing to try, other paddlesports. Many also enjoy similar outdoor “crossover” activities such as hiking, camping, walking, and nature viewing.



# Appendix F

## Implementation Tools

## LOCAL FUNDING OPTIONS

The City of Camas possesses a range of local funding tools that could be accessed for the benefit of growing, developing, and maintaining its parks and recreation facilities and programs. The sources listed below represent potential funding sources, but some also may be dedicated for numerous other local purposes which limit applicability and usage. Therefore, discussions with City leadership are critical to assess the political landscape to modify or expand the use of existing City revenue sources in favor of park and recreation programs.

### Councilmanic Bonds

Councilmanic general obligation bonds may be sold by cities without public vote. The bonds, both principal and interest, are retired with payments from existing city revenue or new general tax revenue, such as additional sales tax or real estate excise tax. The state constitution has set a maximum debt limit for councilmanic bonds of 1½% of the assessed value of taxable property in the city.

### Voted General Obligation Bond

For the purposes of funding capital projects, such as land acquisitions or facility construction, cities and counties have the authority to borrow money by selling bonds. Voter-approved general obligation bonds may be sold only after receiving a 60 percent majority vote at a general or special election. If approved, an excess property tax is levied each year for the life of the bond to pay both principal and interest. The maximum debt limit for voted debt is 2.5% of the assessed value of taxable property in the city. The state constitution (Article VIII, Section 6) limits total combined debt to 5% of the total assessed value of property in the jurisdiction.

### Property Tax Excess Levy – One Year Only

Cities and counties that are levying their statutory maximum rate can ask the voters, at any special election date, to raise their rate for one year (RCW 84.52.052). As this action increases revenue for one-year at a time, it is wise to request this type of funding for one-time uses only. Majority approval by voters is required.

### Regular Property Tax - Lid Lift

Cities are authorized to impose ad valorem taxes upon real and personal property. A city's maximum levy rate for general purposes is \$3.375 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation. Limitations on annual increases in tax collections, coupled with changes in property value, causes levy rates to rise or fall; however, in no case may they rise above statutory limits. Once the rate is established each year, it may not be raised without the approval of a majority of the voters. Receiving voter approval is known as a lid lift. A lid lift may be permanent, or may be for a specific purpose and time period.

A levy lid lift is an instrument for increasing property tax levies for operating and/or capital purposes. Taxing districts with a tax rate that is less than their statutory maximum rate may ask the voters to "lift" the levy lid by increasing the tax rate to some amount equal to or less than their statutory maximum rate. A simple majority vote of citizenry is required.

Cities and counties have two "lift" options available to them: Single-year/basic or Multi-year.

Single-year: The single-year lift does not mean that the lift goes away after one year; it can be for any amount of time, including permanently, unless the proceeds will be used for debt service on bonds, in which case the maximum time period is nine years. Districts may permanently increase the levy but must use language

in the ballot title expressly stating that future levies will increase as allowed by chapter 84.55 RCW. After the initial “lift” in the first year, the district’s levy in future years is subject to the 101 percent lid in chapter 84.55 RCW. This is the maximum amount it can increase without returning to the voters for another lid lift.

The election to implement a single-year lift may take place on any election date listed in RCW 29A.04.321.

Multi-year: The multi-year lift allows the levy lid to be “bumped up” each year for up to a maximum of six years. At the end of the specified period, the levy in the final period may be designated as the basis for the calculation of all future levy increases (in other words, be made permanent) if expressly stated in the ballot title. The levy in future years would then be subject to the 101 percent lid in chapter 84.55 RCW.

In a multi-year lift, the lift for the first year must state the new tax rate for that year. For the ensuing years, the lift may be a dollar amount, a percentage increase tied to an index, or a percentage amount set by some other method. The amounts do not need to be the same for each year. If the amount of the increase for a particular year would require a tax rate that is above the maximum tax rate, the assessor will levy only the maximum amount allowed by law.

The election to implement a multi-year lift must be either the August primary or the November general election.

The single-year lift allows supplanting of expenditures within the lift period; the multi-year lift does not, and the purpose for the lift must be specifically identified in the election materials. For both single- and multi-year lifts, when the lift expires the base for future levies will revert to what the dollar amount would have been if no lift had ever been done.

The total regular levy rate of senior taxing districts (counties and cities) and junior taxing districts (fire districts, library districts, etc.) may not exceed \$5.90/\$1,000 AV. If this limit is exceeded, levies are reduced or eliminated in the following order until the total tax rate is at \$5.90.

- 1st. Parks & Recreation Districts (up to \$0.60)  
Parks & Recreation Service Areas (up to \$0.60)  
Cultural Arts, Stadiums & Convention Districts (up to \$0.25)
- 2nd. Flood Control Zone Districts (up to \$0.50)
- 3rd. Hospital Districts (up to \$0.25)  
Metropolitan Parks Districts (up to \$0.25)  
All other districts not otherwise mentioned
- 4th. Metropolitan Park Districts formed after January 1, 2002 or after (up to \$0.50)
- 5th. Fire Districts (up to \$0.25)
- 6th. Fire Districts (remaining \$0.50)  
Regional Fire Protection Service Authorities (up to \$0.50)  
Library Districts (up to \$0.50)  
Hospital Districts (up to \$0.50)  
Metropolitan Parks Districts formed before January 1, 2002 (up to \$0.50)

## Sales Tax

Paid by the consumer, sales tax is a percentage of the retail price paid for specific classifications of goods and services within the State of Washington.

Governing bodies of cities and counties may impose sales taxes within their boundaries at a rate set by state statute and local ordinances, subject to referendum.



Until the 1990 Legislative Session, the maximum possible total sales tax rate paid by purchasers in cities was 8.1 percent. The 8.1 percent is allocated as follows: State, 6.5 cents on the dollar; counties, 0.15 cents; cities, 0.85 cents; and transit districts, a maximum of 0.6 cents (raised to 0.9 cents in 2000). Since then multiple sales options were authorized. Those applicable to Parks and Recreation include: counties may ask voters to approve a sales tax of up to 0.3 percent, which is shared with cities. At least one-third of the revenue must be used for criminal justice purposes.

Counties and cities may also form public facilities districts, and these districts may ask the voters to approve a sales tax of up to 0.2 percent. The proceeds may be used for financing, designing, acquisition, construction, equipping, operating, maintaining, remodeling, repairing, and re-equipping its public facilities.

Revenue may be used to fund any essential county and municipal service.

If a jurisdiction is going to change a sales tax rate or levy a new sales tax, it must pass an ordinance to that effect and submit it to the Department of Revenue at least 75 days before the effective date. The effective date must be the first day of a quarter: January 1, April 1, July 1 or October 1.

## Business and Occupation Tax

Business and occupation (B&O) taxes are excise taxes levied on different classes of business to raise revenue. Taxes are levied as a percentage of the gross receipts of a business, less some deductions. Businesses are put in different classes such as manufacturing, wholesaling, retailing, and services. Within each class, the rate must be the same, but it may differ among classes. Cities can impose this tax for the first time or raise rates following referendum procedure.

B&O taxes are limited to a maximum tax rate that can be imposed by a city's legislative body at 0.2 percent (0.002), but grandfathered in any higher rates that existed on January 1, 1982. Any city may levy a rate higher than 0.2 percent, if it is approved by a majority of voters (RCW 35.21.711). Beginning January 1, 2008, cities that levy the B&O tax must allow for allocation and apportionment, as set out in RCW 35.102.130.

## Admissions Tax

An admissions tax is a use tax for entertainment. Both cities and counties may impose this tax through legislative action.

Cities and/or counties may levy an admission tax in an amount no greater than five percent of the admission charge, as is authorized by statute (cities: RCW 35.21.280; counties: RCW 35.57.100). This tax can be levied on admission charges (including season tickets) to places such as theaters, dance halls, circuses, clubs that have cover charges, observation towers, stadiums, and any other activity where an admission charge is made to enter the facility.

If a city imposes an admissions tax, the county may not levy a tax within city boundaries.

The statutes provide an exception for admission to elementary or secondary school activities. Generally, certain events sponsored by nonprofits are exempted from the tax; however, this is not a requirement. Counties also exempt any public facility of a public facility district for which admission is imposed. There are no statutory restrictions on the use of revenue.

## Impact Fees

Development impact fees are charges placed on new development in unimproved areas to help pay for various public facilities that serve new development or for other impacts associated with such development. Both cities and counties may impose this tax through legislative action.

Counties that plan under the GMA, and cities, may impose impact fees on residential and commercial development activity to help pay for certain public facility improvements, including parks, open space, and recreation facilities identified in the county's capital facilities plan. The improvements financed from impact fees must be reasonably related to the new development and must reasonably benefit the new development. The fees must be spent or encumbered within ten years of collection. Camas currently assesses a parks impact fee and also utilizes impact fee credits as a tool to work with local developers.

## Real Estate Excise Tax

Excise tax levied on all sales of real estate, measured by the full selling price, including the amount of any liens, mortgages, and other debts given to secure the purchase. Both cities and counties may impose this tax through legislative action.

Counties and cities may levy a quarter percent tax (REET 1); a second quarter percent tax (REET 2) is authorized. First quarter percent REET (REET 1) must be spent on capital projects listed in the city's capital facilities plan element of their comprehensive plan. Capital projects include planning, acquisition, construction, reconstruction, repair, replacement, rehabilitation, or improvement of parks, recreational facilities, and trails.

The second quarter percent REET (REET 2) must also be spent on capital projects, which includes planning, construction, reconstruction, repair, rehabilitation, or improvement of parks. Acquisition of land for parks is not a permitted use of REET 2. Both REET 1 and REET 2 may be used to make loan and debt service payments on projects that are a permitted use of these funds. The City of Camas currently assesses both REETs and uses this funding for a variety of capital project needs.

## Lodging Tax

The lodging tax is a user fee for hotel/motel occupation. Both cities and counties may impose this tax through legislative action.

Cities and/or counties may impose a "basic" two percent tax under RCW 67.28.180 on all charges for furnishing lodging at hotels, motels and similar establishments for a continuous period of less than one month.

This tax is taken as a credit against the 6.5 percent state sales tax, so that the total tax that a patron pays in retail sales tax and hotel-motel tax combined is equal to the retail sales tax in the jurisdiction. In addition, jurisdictions may levy an additional tax of up to two percent, or a total rate of four percent, under RCW 67.28.181(1). This is not credited against the state sales tax. Therefore, if this tax is levied, the total tax on the lodging bill will increase by two percent.

If both a city and the county are levying this tax, the county must allow a credit for any tax levied by a city so that no two taxes are levied on the same taxable event. These revenues must be used solely for paying for tourism promotion and for the acquisition and/or operating of tourism-related facilities. "Tourism" is defined as economic activity resulting from tourists, which may include sales of overnight lodging, meals, tours, gifts, or souvenirs; there is no requirement that a tourist must stay overnight.

## Conservation Futures Tax (Clark County)

The Conservation Futures Tax (CFT) is provided for in Chapter 84.34 of the Revised Code of Washington. Clark County imposes a Conservation Futures levy for the purpose of acquiring open space lands, including green spaces, greenbelts, wildlife habitat and trail rights-of-way proposed for preservation for public use by either the county or the cities within the county. Funds are allocated annually, and cities within the county, citizen groups and citizens may apply for funds through the county's process. The CFT program provides grants

to cities to support open space priorities in local plans and is administered by the County's Legacy Lands Program in the Parks & Lands Division of Public Works.

## FEDERAL & STATE GRANTS AND CONSERVATION PROGRAMS

### RIVERS, TRAILS AND CONSERVATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program, also known as the Rivers & Trails Program or RTCA, is a technical assistance resource for communities administered by the National Park Service and federal government agencies so they can conserve rivers, preserve open space and develop trails and greenways. The RTCA program implements the natural resource conservation and outdoor recreation mission of NPS in communities across America.

### RECREATION AND CONSERVATION OFFICE GRANT PROGRAMS

The Recreation and Conservation Office was created in 1964 as part of the Marine Recreation Land Act. The RCO grants money to state and local agencies, generally on a matching basis, to acquire, develop, and enhance wildlife habitat and outdoor recreation properties. Some money is also distributed for planning grants. RCO grant programs utilize funds from various sources. Historically, these have included the Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund, state bonds, Initiative 215 monies (derived from un-reclaimed marine fuel taxes), off-road vehicle funds, Youth Athletic Facilities Account and the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program.

#### **Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account (ALEA)**

This program, managed through the RCO, provides matching grants to state and local agencies to protect and enhance salmon habitat and to provide public access and recreation opportunities on aquatic lands. In 1998, DNR refocused the ALEA program to emphasize salmon habitat preservation and enhancement. However, the program is still open to traditional water access proposals. Any project must be located on navigable portions of waterways. ALEA funds are derived from the leasing of state-owned aquatic lands and from the sale of harvest rights for shellfish and other aquatic resources.

#### **Washington Wildlife & Recreation Program (WWRP)**

Funding sources managed by the RCO include the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program. The WWRP is divided into Habitat Conservation and Outdoor Recreation Accounts; these are further divided into several project categories. Cities, counties and other local sponsors may apply for funding in urban wildlife habitat, local parks, trails and water access categories. Funds for local agencies are awarded on a matching basis. Grant applications are evaluated once each year, and the State Legislature must authorize funding for the WWRP project lists.

#### **Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)**

The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) provides grants to buy land and develop public outdoor facilities, including parks, trails and wildlife lands. Grant recipients must provide at least 50% matching funds in either cash or in-kind contributions. Grant program revenue is from a portion of Federal revenue derived from sale or lease of off-shore oil and gas resources.

#### **National Recreational Trails Program**

The National Recreational Trails Program (N RTP) provides funds to maintain trails and facilities that provide a backcountry experience for a range of activities including hiking, mountain biking, horseback

riding, motorcycling, and snowmobiling. Eligible projects include the maintenance and re-routing of recreational trails, development of trail-side and trail-head facilities, and operation of environmental education and trail safety programs. A local match of 20% is required. This program is funded through Federal gasoline taxes attributed to recreational non-highway uses.

#### **Youth Athletic Facilities (YAF) Program**

The YAF provides grants to develop, equip, maintain, and improve youth and community athletic facilities. Cities, counties, and qualified non-profit organizations may apply for funding, and grant recipients must provide at least 50% matching funds in either cash or in-kind contributions.

## **OTHER TOOLS & OPTIONS**

### **Metropolitan Park District**

Metropolitan park districts may be formed for the purposes of management, control, improvement, maintenance and acquisition of parks, parkways and boulevards. In addition to acquiring and managing their own lands, metropolitan districts may accept and manage park and recreation lands and equipment turned over by any city within the district or by the county. Formation of a metropolitan park district may be initiated in cities of five thousand population or more by city council ordinance, or by petition, and requires majority approval by voters for creation. Several years ago, the City started a preliminary look at the MPD as a tool for Camas Parks and Recreation. With some existing information, the City could continue evaluation of MPD along with other implementation tools to develop their long-term funding strategy.

### **Park and Recreation District**

Park and recreation districts may be formed for the purposes of providing leisure-time activities and recreation facilities (parks, playgrounds, pools, golf courses, paths, community centers, arboretums, campgrounds, boat launches, etc.) and must be initiated by petition of at least 15% percent of the registered voters within the proposed district. Upon completion of the petition process and review by county commissioners, a proposition for district formation and election of five district commissioners is submitted to the voters of the proposed district at the next general election. Once formed, park and recreation districts retain the authority to propose a regular property tax levy, annual excess property tax levies and general obligation bonds. All three of these funding types require 60% percent voter approval and 40% percent voter turnout. With voter approval, the district may levy a regular property tax not to exceed sixty cents per thousand dollars of assessed value for up to six consecutive years.

### **Park and Recreation Service Area (PRSA)**

A quasi-municipal corporation with independent taxing authority whose purpose is to finance, acquire, construct, improve, maintain or operate any park, senior citizen activities center, zoo, aquarium and/or recreation facilities; and to provide higher level of park service.

### **Sponsorships / Donations / Naming Rights**

Business sponsorships for programs may be available throughout the year. In-kind contributions are often received, including food, door prizes and equipment/material. Naming rights could be considered for substantial gifts and may have time limitations, depending on local policy.



## Interagency Agreements

State law provides for interagency cooperative efforts between units of government. Joint acquisition, development and/or use of park and open space facilities may be provided between Parks, Public Works and utility providers.

## Private Grants, Donations & Gifts

Many trusts and private foundations provide funding for park, recreation and open space projects. Grants from these sources are typically allocated through a competitive application process and vary dramatically in size based on the financial resources and funding criteria of the organization. Philanthropic giving is another source of project funding. Efforts in this area may involve cash gifts and include donations through other mechanisms such as wills or insurance policies. Community fundraising efforts can also support park, recreation or open space facilities and projects.

# ACQUISITION TOOLS & METHODS

## Direct Purchase Methods

### Market Value Purchase

Through a written purchase and sale agreement, the city purchases land at the present market value based on an independent appraisal. Timing, payment of real estate taxes and other contingencies are negotiable.

### Partial Value Purchase (or Bargain Sale)

In a bargain sale, the landowner agrees to sell for less than the property's fair market value. A landowner's decision to proceed with a bargain sale is unique and personal; landowners with a strong sense of civic pride, long community history or concerns about capital gains are possible candidates for this approach. In addition to cash proceeds upon closing, the landowner may be entitled to a charitable income tax deduction based on the difference between the land's fair market value and its sale price.

### Life Estates & Bequests

In the event a landowner wishes to remain on the property for a long period of time or until death, several variations on a sale agreement exist. In a life estate agreement, the landowner may continue to live on the land by donating a remainder interest and retaining a "reserved life estate." Specifically, the landowner donates or sells the property to the city, but reserves the right for the seller or any other named person to continue to live on and use the property. When the owner or other specified person dies or releases his/her life interest, full title and control over the property will be transferred to the city. By donating a remainder interest, the landowner may be eligible for a tax deduction when the gift is made. In a bequest, the landowner designates in a will or trust document that the property is to be transferred to the city upon death. While a life estate offers the city some degree of title control during the life of the landowner, a bequest does not. Unless the intent to bequest is disclosed to and known by the city in advance, no guarantees exist with regard to the condition of the property upon transfer or to any liabilities that may exist.

### Gift Deed

When a landowner wishes to bequeath their property to a public or private entity upon their death, they can record a gift deed with the county assessors office to insure their stated desire to transfer their property to the targeted beneficiary as part of their estate. The recording of the gift deed usually involves the tacit agreement of the receiving party.

### **Option to Purchase Agreement**

This is a binding contract between a landowner and the city that would only apply according to the conditions of the option and limits the seller's power to revoke an offer. Once in place and signed, the Option Agreement may be triggered at a future, specified date or upon the completion of designated conditions. Option Agreements can be made for any time duration and can include all of the language pertinent to closing a property sale.

### **Right of First Refusal**

In this agreement, the landowner grants the city the first chance to purchase the property once the landowner wishes to sell. The agreement does not establish the sale price for the property, and the landowner is free to refuse to sell it for the price offered by the city. This is the weakest form of agreement between an owner and a prospective buyer.

### **Conservation and/or Access Easements**

Through a conservation easement, a landowner voluntarily agrees to sell or donate certain rights associated with his or her property (often the right to subdivide or develop), and a private organization or public agency agrees to hold the right to enforce the landowner's promise not to exercise those rights. In essence, the rights are forfeited and no longer exist. This is a legal agreement between the landowner and the city that permanently limits uses of the land in order to conserve a portion of the property for public use or protection. The landowner still owns the property, but the use of the land is restricted. Conservation easements may result in an income tax deduction and reduced property taxes and estate taxes. Typically, this approach is used to provide trail corridors where only a small portion of the land is needed or for the strategic protection of natural resources and habitat. Through a written purchase and sale agreement, the city purchases land at the present market value based on an independent appraisal. Timing, payment of real estate taxes and other contingencies are negotiable.

### **Park or Open Space Dedication Requirements**

Local governments have the option to require developers to dedicate land for parks under the State Subdivision Law (Ch. 58.17 RCW) and the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) (Ch. 43.21C RCW). Under the subdivision law developers can be required to provide the parks/recreation improvements or pay a fee in lieu of the dedicated land and its improvements. Under the SEPA requirements, land dedication may occur as part of mitigation for a proposed development's impact.

## **Landowner Incentive Measures**

### **Density Bonuses**

Density bonuses are a planning tool used to encourage a variety of public land use objectives, usually in urban areas. They offer the incentive of being able to develop at densities beyond current regulations in one area, in return for concessions in another. Density bonuses are applied to a single parcel or development. An example is allowing developers of multi-family units to build at higher densities if they provide a certain number of low-income units or public open space. For density bonuses to work, market forces must support densities at a higher level than current regulations.

### **Transfer of Development Rights**

The transfer of development rights (TDR) is an incentive-based planning tool that allows land owners to trade the right to develop property to its fullest extent in one area for the right to develop beyond existing regulations in another area. Local governments may establish the specific areas in which development may

be limited or restricted and the areas in which development beyond regulation may be allowed. Usually, but not always, the “sending” and “receiving” property are under common ownership. Some programs allow for different ownership, which, in effect, establishes a market for development rights to be bought and sold.

### **IRC 1031 Exchange**

If the landowner owns business or investment property, an IRC Section 1031 Exchange can facilitate the exchange of like-kind property solely for business or investment purposes. No capital gain or loss is recognized under Internal Revenue Code Section 1031 (see [www.irc.gov](http://www.irc.gov) for more details). This option may be a useful tool in negotiations with an owner of investment property, especially if the tax savings offset to the owner can translate to a sale price discount for the City.

### **Current (Open Space) Use Taxation Programs**

Property owners whose current lands are in open space, agricultural, and/or timber uses may have that land valued at their current use rather than their “highest and best” use assessment. This differential assessed value, allowed under the Washington Open Space Taxation Act (Ch.84.34 RCW) helps to preserve private properties as open space, farm or timber lands. If land is converted to other non-open space uses, the land owner is required to pay the difference between the current use annual taxes and highest/best taxes for the previous seven years. When properties are sold to a local government or conservation organization for land conservation/preservation purposes, the required payment of seven years worth of differential tax rates is waived. The amount of this tax liability can be part of the negotiated land acquisition from private to public or quasi-public conservation purposes. Clark County has a current use taxation program that offer this property tax reduction as an incentive to landowners to voluntarily preserve open space, farmland or forestland on their property.

## **OTHER LAND PROTECTION OPTIONS**

### **Land Trusts & Conservancies**

Land trusts are private non-profit organizations that acquire and protect special open spaces and are traditionally not associated with any government agency. Columbia Land Trust is the regional land trust serving the Camas area, and their efforts have led to the conservation of more than 50,000 acres of forests, shorelines, parks and natural areas in the region. Other national organizations with local representation include the Nature Conservancy, Trust for Public Land and the Wetlands Conservancy.

### **Regulatory Measures**

A variety of regulatory measures are available to local agencies and jurisdictions. Available programs and regulations include: Critical Areas Ordinance, Camas; State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA); Shorelines Management Program; and Hydraulic Code, Washington State Department of Fisheries and Department of Wildlife.

### **Public / Private Utility Corridors**

Utility corridors can be managed to maximize protection or enhancement of open space lands. Utilities maintain corridors for provision of services such as electricity, gas, oil, and rail travel. Some utility companies have cooperated with local governments for development of public programs such as parks and trails within utility corridors.



# Appendix G

## Site Acquisition & Development Guidelines



## ACQUISITION GUIDELINES

Planning and land acquisition for future parks is a recognized component in land use and urban growth management, since the provision of parks and open space is considered essential to the livability of urban areas. For the recreation resource planner, the land acquisition process is an important task for ensuring the availability of future recreation resources for the majority of the community. The established planning goals for a community's comprehensive plan recognize the development of parks and retention of open space with conservation values as a tool for managing the effects of increased density and fostering livability.

### Specific Site Suitability for Developed/Active Parks

While existing neighborhood parks may range from 2.3 to 10 acres in size, some basic location and land characteristics influence how accessible, “developable” and convenient a potential site might be for a future public park. Evaluating a potential land parcel should include consideration of the following property features:

- Access and visibility to the property. An adequate amount of public right-of-way is needed to allow for creating bike/pedestrian pathways, at a minimum, and either on-street parking or a parking lot for park visitors who must drive a vehicle.
- Existing publicly owned lands, easements and right-of-way. Are there existing lands under public ownership that could be converted to public park use? What other public amenities are proximate and complementary to a future park development (e.g., schools, police stations, etc.)?
- Connectivity to trails, schools, parks, neighborhoods and connectivity of the trail links. Connections to and from related land uses can add value to a potential park location.
- Environmental constraints, field assessment (does not include Environmental Assessment level detail), regulatory and permitting requirements and GIS data for critical areas. Sensitive environmental lands should be protected, but often they are not the best sites for development of recreational amenities for public parks. Protected and conserved lands can provide complementary value to public parks, while the public park land can create a buffer for the conserved land.
- Topography. Existing landforms, whether flat or hilly, will influence the park's design and best fit for provision of recreational facilities.
- Technical analysis of park standards and development costs should be evaluated to help provide realistic site development costs. For example, existing road improvements within the public right-of-way or lack of public water and sewer may trigger additional park development costs.

Within identified neighborhoods that may lack or have limited access to public parks, potential properties should be evaluated for suitable site conditions for the development of future recreational amenities and/or access to natural resources and water.

**Neighborhood/Community Park Site Suitability Criteria:**

- Access / visibility
- Parcel size / configuration
- Contiguous public land / connectivity
- Extent of sensitive areas
- Cost factors (acquisition, development & maintenance.)
- Compatibility with surrounding uses
- Vacant land preference

**Trail Site Suitability Criteria:**

- Development feasibility
- Continuity / connectivity (“safe routes”)
- Natural, cultural, historic value
- Public ROW access
- Land costs / value

**Urban Natural Areas Site Suitability Criteria:**

- Ecological, cultural, historic value
- Continuity / connectivity
- Public right of way access
- Development pressure (threat of conversion)
- Acquisition costs, donations, grants, third-party support (i.e., land trusts), etc.

**Site-Specific Concerns**

- Once a targeted park land acquisition has been identified and evaluated with consideration to its potential suitability as a future public park, more specific assessments should be conducted to ensure a measure of known development variables for future park use.
- A boundary survey and review of the title is important to identify an existing encroachments, encumbrances or entitlements that need to be addressed or corrected prior to closing.
- Environmental constraints, such as wetlands, waterways, other sensitive habitats and any associated buffers, should be identified to determine their impact on developable park spaces.
- An environmental site assessment should be conducted to identify environmental conditions that could have resulted from a past release of hazardous substances and determine any potential mitigation requirements to protect public health. Additionally, environmental law typically leaves the burden of responsibility on the property owner, so conducting an environmental site assessment is important to protect the City’s liability.
- An archaeological assessment to review potential cultural resources may also help bring to light future park development costs and variables.
- Any underground tanks, wells, septic systems and existing structures should be evaluated for the need to remove, decommission, or demolish after closing of land sale.
- Preliminary analysis of O&M cost for holding property until development.

## DESIGN STANDARDS FOR ENVIRONMENTAL SITE ASSESSMENT

Considering a current use of a property is typically not sufficient for evaluating potential environmental concerns. For example, a vacant lot may previously have been used for agricultural purposes and may contain pesticide residues in the soil, or a current retail building formerly may have housed an auto repair business with underground tanks. Additionally, properties that are considered low-risk, such as a residence, could have a leaking underground heating oil tank or other concerns. Therefore, conducting an environmental site assessment is an important step in purchasing and managing property.

Prior to purchasing or accepting ownership of a property, the City should conduct an environmental site assessment to determine if contaminated soil, sediment or groundwater could be present. This process typically begins with a Phase I Environmental Site Assessment (ESA) per ASTM E1527-13 to identify environmental conditions or other business risk issues that could impact site development, pose a liability to the City, or present a risk to human health or the environment. Depending on the results of the Phase I ESA, a subsequent Phase II ESA may be warranted to sample and test soil, sediment or groundwater for the presence of contamination.

For property currently owned by the City, conducting an ESA prior to redevelopment can help to identify issues that could affect building design or result in construction delays.

For property that will be leased by the City, conducting a baseline environmental assessment may be warranted to establish initial conditions prior to the City occupying the site.

## PRESERVING FUNDING ELIGIBILITY

Public outdoor park and recreation areas and facilities are eligible for funding assistance through the Washington Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO). Land acquisition projects must be consistent with the outdoor recreation goals and objectives contained in the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) or the recreation elements of local comprehensive plans and local master plans. Acquisition of land and waters for public outdoor recreation areas and facilities, including new areas or additions to existing parks, forests, wildlife areas, open spaces and other similar areas dedicated to outdoor recreation are eligible for assistance through the RCO. To be eligible, the acquisition procedures set forth by the RCO should be closely followed.

## DESIGN & DEVELOPMENT GUIDELINES

With planned park upgrades and the potential for development of park acquisitions, Camas would benefit from park design and facility standards that help unify the system's amenities, operations and maintenance going into the future. Standards can begin with the adoption of typical bench details and expand to incorporate graphic sign styles, materials, colors and specific site furnishings. With the desire for Camas to create a unifying identity and enhance park maintenance efficiencies, guidelines for park standards should be planned, endorsed and implemented.

If the City should annex its urban reserve area, the acquisition and development of additional parks will be necessary. There may be opportunities to partner with residential development projects for providing new parks to be dedicated to the City upon completion. The establishment of park design and development

standards with predetermined requirements for consistency and quality of site amenities would ensure that new parks could readily fit within on-going park operations and maintenance.

All newly developed parks and trails shall adhere to the Final Guidelines for Outdoor Developed Areas as set forth by the United States Access Board.

## Design Standards for Parks

Public park space should be clearly identifiable and provide a safe and secure environment for outdoor recreation and enjoyment. To help communicate the identity, amenities and uses within the park, some unified design standards should be applied. These standards are intended to help with public access, communication of safety and appropriate behaviors, and efficiency in operations and maintenance without creating a park system of identical “cloned” urban parks. Standardizing the designs for park signage, benches, picnic tables, drinking fountains, lighting, bollards, irrigation systems and fencing can allow for easier and less expensive procurement, installation, maintenance and replacement. The visual character of unified park amenities can quickly convey to the park visitor that the space is part of an overall system of public spaces where they are welcome.

While sharing standard site furnishings and signage styles helps unify the system identity, each individual park should have its own unique character. The shape and size of the land, the layout of circulation and location of key features, the styles, types and colors of play equipment, the architecture of restrooms, picnic and other park structures should be specific to that park. Even though each park contains some standardized site furnishings, each park site master plan design should strive to create a sense of place that highlights the character of that park in its local context and for its primary purpose (such as passive park with natural area or active sports-oriented facility).

The following tables highlight the range and considerations of various amenities that may be provided within urban parks (community and neighborhood parks) and can provide guidance for negotiating facility development opportunities in situations when private entities propose park development in-lieu of payment or for other, alternative arrangements, such as density bonuses.

Figure G1. Minimum Site Design Considerations for Neighborhood Parks

Amenity	Considerations - where feasible
Playground	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Minimum of 4,000 sq.ft. play area</li> <li>▪ Equipment should be suitable for and developmentally-appropriate for toddlers and elementary school-aged children</li> <li>▪ Playground should be ADA Accessible and play equipment should be ADA Compliant</li> </ul>
Loop Walking Path	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Minimum 8’ wide</li> <li>▪ ADA-compliant surface to accessible elements (benches, tables, play area)</li> <li>▪ Pathway slope not to exceed 5% grade or no more than 8% for more than 30 lineal feet without switchbacks or railings</li> </ul>
Picnic Tables	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Minimum of 2, Use standard ADA compliant picnic table style</li> </ul>
Drinking Fountain	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Provide ADA-compliant standard fixture. Install water bottle fill station as appropriate</li> </ul>
Benches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Minimum of 2, Use standard ADA compliant bench style</li> </ul>
Open Turf Area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Provide at least 15% of total lawn area with irrigation, preferably adjacent to the play area</li> </ul>
Trees & Landscaping	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Provide shade for portion of playground area</li> <li>▪ New trees and shrubs should be irrigated for a minimum of 2 years until established</li> </ul>
Bicycle Racks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Minimum of 2, with capacity to serve 4 bikes</li> </ul>
Trash Receptacles & Dog Waste Disposal Stations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Minimum of 1</li> </ul>



For community parks, any or all of the following outdoor recreation features should be considered in addition to the same amenities provided in neighborhood parks.

Figure G2. Minimum Site Design Considerations for Community Parks

Amenity	Considerations - where feasible
Parking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Based on types of amenities and their parking quantity requirements</li> <li>Include requisite number of handicapped parking stalls at appropriate locations</li> <li>Consider need for parking provision at multiple access points, where appropriate</li> </ul>
Loop Walking Path	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide a perimeter trail in addition to pathways accessing all major park amenities</li> </ul>
Multiple Access Points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide connectivity to neighborhoods, nearby trails and public rights-of-way</li> </ul>
Restrooms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide ADA-compliant standardized design facilities</li> </ul>
Picnic Shelter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide minimum of 1 group picnic shelter</li> </ul>
Sports fields	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Type and quantity dependent on available space and current public demand for each sport facility. Also depends on proximity to similar amenities within the city and/or region</li> </ul>
Sports courts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Type and quantity dependent on available space and current public demand for each sport facility. Also depends on proximity to similar amenities within the city and/or region</li> </ul>
Tree Canopy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Target a 25-45% tree canopy dependent on other park amenities and feasibility</li> </ul>
Open Grass Area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Open play area with sun exposure</li> <li>Minimum target of 1 acre</li> </ul>
Natural Areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Based on existing and restored environmental characteristics</li> </ul>
Off-leash Dog Area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minimum target of 1 acre</li> <li>Fenced enclosure with double-gate access</li> <li>Provide doggy waste dispenser and trash receptacle at entrance</li> </ul>

Figure G3. Design Considerations for Other Park Amenities

Amenity	Considerations
Picnic Shelter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minimum of 400 sq.ft.</li> </ul>
Sport field	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Practice level for youth soccer, T-ball, baseball and/or softball</li> </ul>
Sport court	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>½ court basketball court</li> </ul>
Tennis court	
Alternative recreation court	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Such as bocce ball, pickleball, horseshoes, lawn bowling</li> </ul>
Skate spot	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>600 to 1,200 sq.ft. with small ramps, bowls or features for beginners</li> </ul>
Disc golf course	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minimum 9 baskets</li> </ul>
Splash pad	
Natural area	
Water feature	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Such as a passive water-based amenity that provides a visual focal point, i.e. fountains, ponds, or waterfalls</li> </ul>
Restroom	
Utilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Automatic Irrigation, Electricity, Water</li> </ul>
Parking	

## Design Standards for Open Space & Natural Areas

Open space and natural areas are primarily intended to conserve places with ecological sensitivity or natural landscape value. Most natural areas have some space where low-impact recreational uses and trails can be accommodated without reducing the environmental integrity of the land or water resource. Since the open space can range from wetlands and riparian corridors to fields and forests, design standards are not applied uniformly across the site. Each natural landscape is treated according to its level of sensitivity, need for conservation/restoration and tolerance for outdoor recreational use. However, where passive recreation opportunities such as trails can be provided, the standardized designs for park benches, picnic tables, signs and other site amenities should be applied.

## Design Standards for Special Use Facilities

Consideration should be given in the design and renovation of any special use facility as to how and how much the site and its amenities should be identifiable within the park system through the application of standardized park signage and site furnishings. For example, a future sport field complex could accommodate some of the standardized park benches, picnic tables and signage, but it would also require its own specialized features, such as bleachers, backstops, field lighting, score boards and other equipment, that are unique to the facility. Each master plan design for new facilities should give careful consideration as to how a unique sense of place and identity is conveyed while still communicating that the facility is part of a system of outdoor recreation accommodation provided by the City of Camas.

## Design Standards for Trails

A successful trail system is integrated with other transportation alternatives to include a range of trail, sidewalk, bike path and connection opportunities designed to the human scale. The typical recreational trail hierarchy is aligned from regional shared-use trails to local neighborhood paths and park trails. Trail systems can also incorporate specially designated trails for single track mountain biking, primitive hiking and equestrian uses.

Designing the actual physical trail starts with overall purpose of the trail, connecting travelers from one location to another (point A to point B) or through a particular environment (loop trail through a park). With a clear purpose for the trail, an appropriate alignment can then be determined to help provide the desired outdoor recreation experience or transportation value. For example, regional multi-use shared trails should be designed to a minimum width of 12 feet. In expanding urban centers, providing a 16-foot trail width can help accommodate significant bike and pedestrian use as the community grows and linkages to public transit enable increased trail usage. The most heavily used urban trails benefit from the installation of permanent pavement to withstand heavy traffic in a variety of weather conditions.

It should be noted that changes in transportation engineering and trail construction methods may warrant the need to update trail design standards over time. Site furnishings along the trail are one method for standardizing trails as part of the outdoor recreation system provided by Camas. The same benches, picnic tables, bollards and other site furnishings used throughout Camas' park system could be installed along its trails to help unify the sense of place, reduce procurement costs and simplify maintenance.

The unifying standard for Camas' trail system can be visually expressed through a designed wayfinding plan. Linked with the park system wayfinding, the trail signage should provide identification, direction, destination, travel information and safety messaging, while clearly reinforcing Camas' sense of place.

Trails should be constructed according to City specifications. It is recommended that trail layout and surfacing materials be approved by the City and meet the following general requirements:

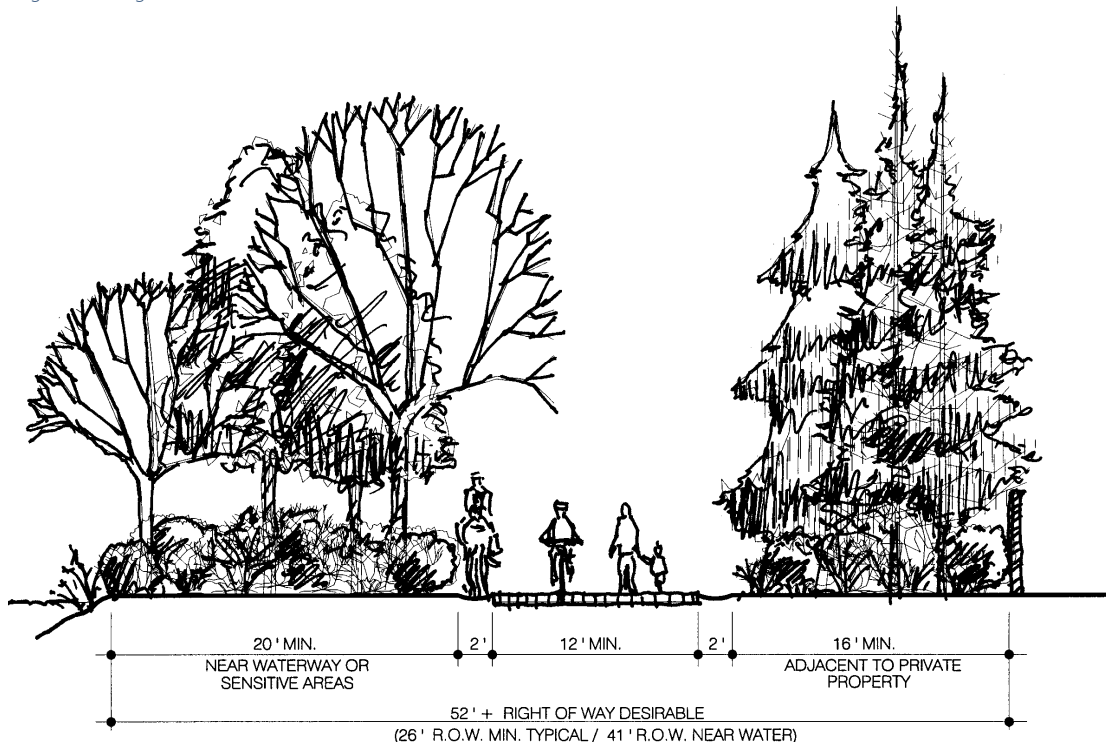
- Surfacing should be appropriate to the location; paved asphalt or concrete is recommended for upland areas, and wood chip, crusher waste or boardwalks are appropriate in lowland, wet or sensitive areas (City codes shall apply)
- Hard-surfaced trails should comply with ADAAG guidelines for slope and cross-slope; soft-surfaced trails should include properly placed and designed water bars or other surface water management techniques to minimize run-off and erosion.
- Entry signage should be provided at trailheads or access points, and boundary signage should be placed, as appropriate, to demarcate sensitive edges or private property boundaries.
- Trash receptacles should be provided at trailheads.

The four classifications of trails include: Regional, Local, Rustic, and Semi-Primitive. A primary distinguishing feature of City-owned trails is that these trails predominantly serve community-wide and regional purposes and receive this level of use. Local and secondary trails generally serve a local scale, at the neighborhood level. Such local and secondary trails will generally be owned and maintained by Homeowners Associations. While Regional and Local trails are designed as multiple use trails, Rustic and Semi-Primitive trails can be designed as single use trails.

### Regional Trail

This trail type is designed to accommodate multiple uses (walking, running, bicycling) and connect to adjoining jurisdictions or destinations. The surfacing should be a minimum of 12 feet wide and be constructed of a hard surface material such as asphalt or concrete. Exceptions to surfacing materials may occur to mitigate impacts to critical or sensitive areas. Equestrian use could be permitted if an additional unpaved shoulder area is provided. The right-of-way required for regional trails should be 26 to 52 feet, depending on their location and surroundings. This type of trail is typically located off roadway surfaces and within its own corridor. A diagram of this trail standard is located in Figure G4.

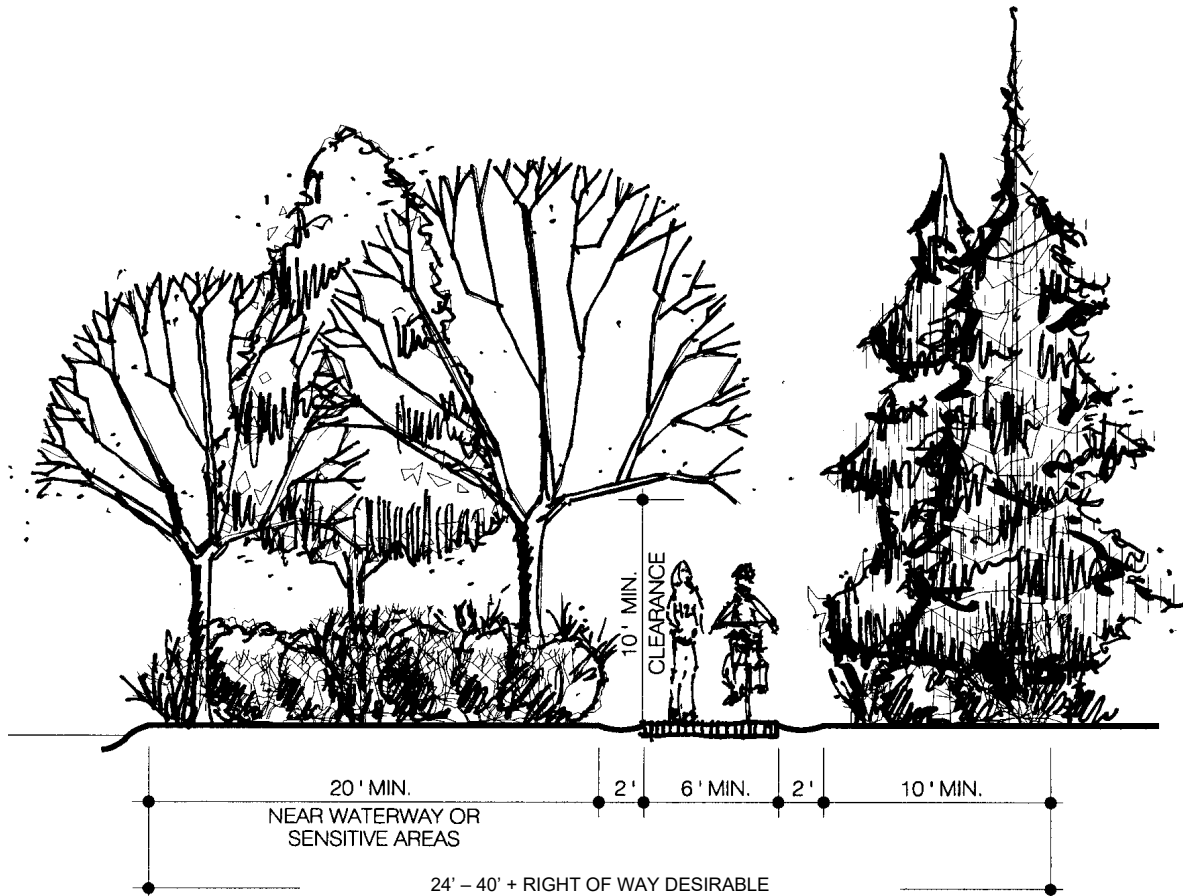
Figure G4. Regional Trail Cross Section



## Local Trail

This trail type is designed to serve the local community and also provide access to the regional trail systems. It should be considered the “backbone” of the city’s trail network. The trail width should range from six to ten feet depending on the use and the terrain involved. It can be designed to accommodate the same uses listed for the regional trail. The surface for this type of trail may be paved or crushed aggregate depending on the use. Exceptions to surfacing materials may occur to mitigate impacts to critical or sensitive areas. The right of way for the local trail can range from 24 feet to 40 feet and can also be located on-road or off-road. Figure G5 is a typical configuration of a local trail.

Figure G5. Local Trail Cross Section

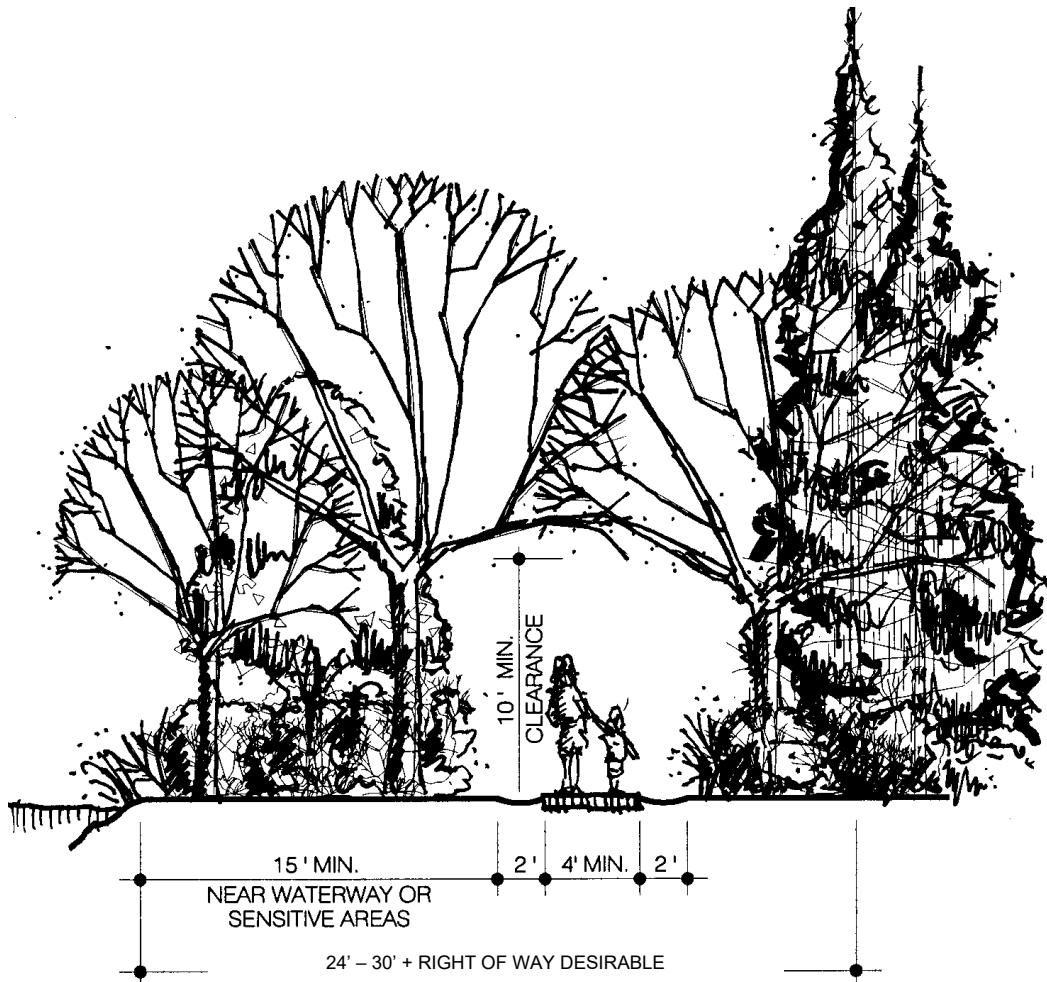


## Rustic Trail

This trail type provides access to local trails, and is more neighborhood-oriented. These trails will act as collectors for neighborhoods or developments and provide links to the community-wide trail system and other adjoining destinations. The rustic trail should be a minimum of four feet wide and be surfaced with stable accessible surfacing. The primary uses of a rustic trail are intended to be walking, bicycling and equestrian. The right-of-way widths desired for the rustic trail can range from 24 feet to 30 feet or more. These trails are always off-road in nature. Figure G6 details this trail classification.



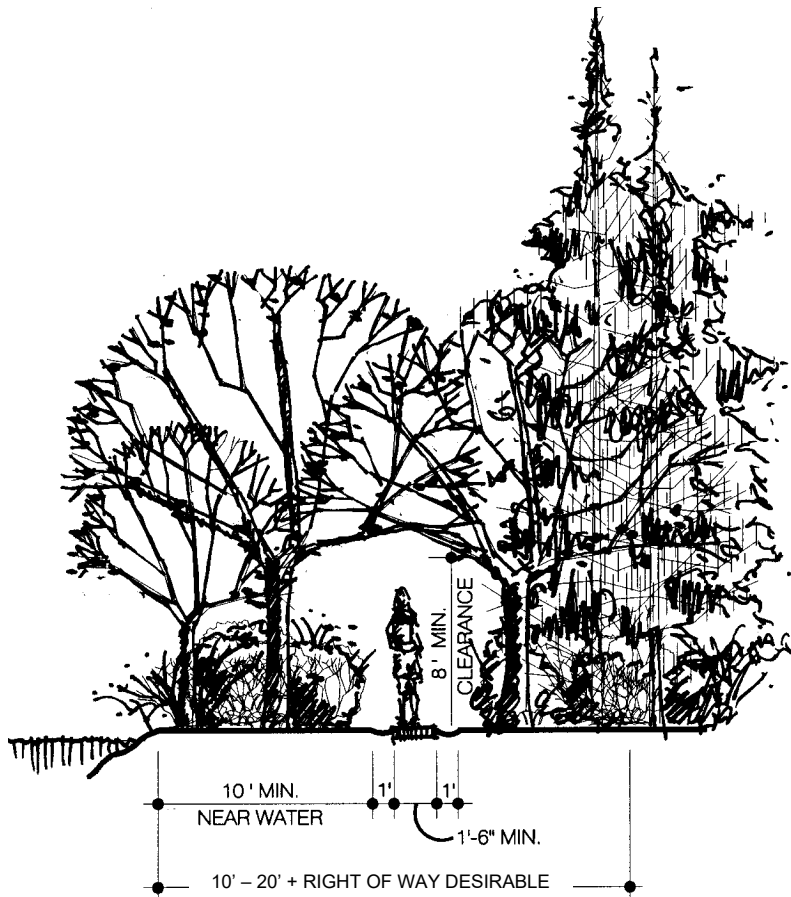
Figure G6. Rustic Trail Cross Section



**Semi-Primitive Trail**

This trail type is more specialized with regard to use, but it is more easily adaptable to the open space areas. It will serve in the more sensitive open space areas located within the city. It is designed to accommodate walkers, hikers, bicyclists, and equestrian users. It is typically two to four feet in width and is made up of compacted earth or other stable surfacing. The right-of-way width can range from ten to 20 feet. Typically, maintenance of these trails is minimal. Figure G7 below details the standards for this trail.

Figure G7. Semi-Primitive Trail Cross Section



## Locating Trails in Sensitive (Critical) Areas

The large number of environmentally sensitive (critical) areas in Camas makes it likely that trails will be developed in some of these areas. The benefits of public access to natural areas (bird watching, nature appreciation, and environmental education) need to be balanced with the impacts of access.

Trails in environmentally sensitive areas will need to be carefully and appropriately located and designed. Exceptions to the trail improvement standards set forth in this Plan may be authorized in sensitive areas consistent with current best practices. This document recommends a thorough review and assessment of existing and proposed trail corridors, and careful placement of trails within sensitive areas to aid in minimizing the impacts. Guidelines for determining the suitability of trail locations in sensitive areas include the following:

- 1) Provide a minimum 20-foot wide vegetated buffer between wetland, sensitive area or water edge and the trail.
- 2) Construct boardwalks, railings, see-through fences and viewpoints to allow visual access to the areas and to keep trail users on the trail and away from the habitat.
- 3) Design wetland crossings for maximum protection of the wetland and locate them in an area suitable for public use.
- 4) Provide adjacent vegetation at access points that is dense enough to discourage off-trail travel. If necessary, install additional thick or thorny vegetation to prevent access.

- 5) Cover earthen based trails with dense turf where it crosses floodplains or other areas subject to periodic flooding to reduce puddling and walkers skirting the area.
- 6) Site trails away from active stream channels to prevent local bank erosion cause by trampling. In streamside locations where access is permitted or encouraged, provide access via boardwalks.
- 7) Locate bridge crossings in locations that will provide minimum impact to the water's edge and habitat while providing a rewarding experience for the trail user.

## CRIME PREVENTION THROUGH ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN (CPTED)

The inventory assessment highlighted an opportunity to consider incorporating crime prevention through environmental design (CPTED) principles to enhance park and trail safety and facilitate the monitoring of park uses and behaviors. CPTED applies four principles that are used to deter criminal behavior in outdoor environments:

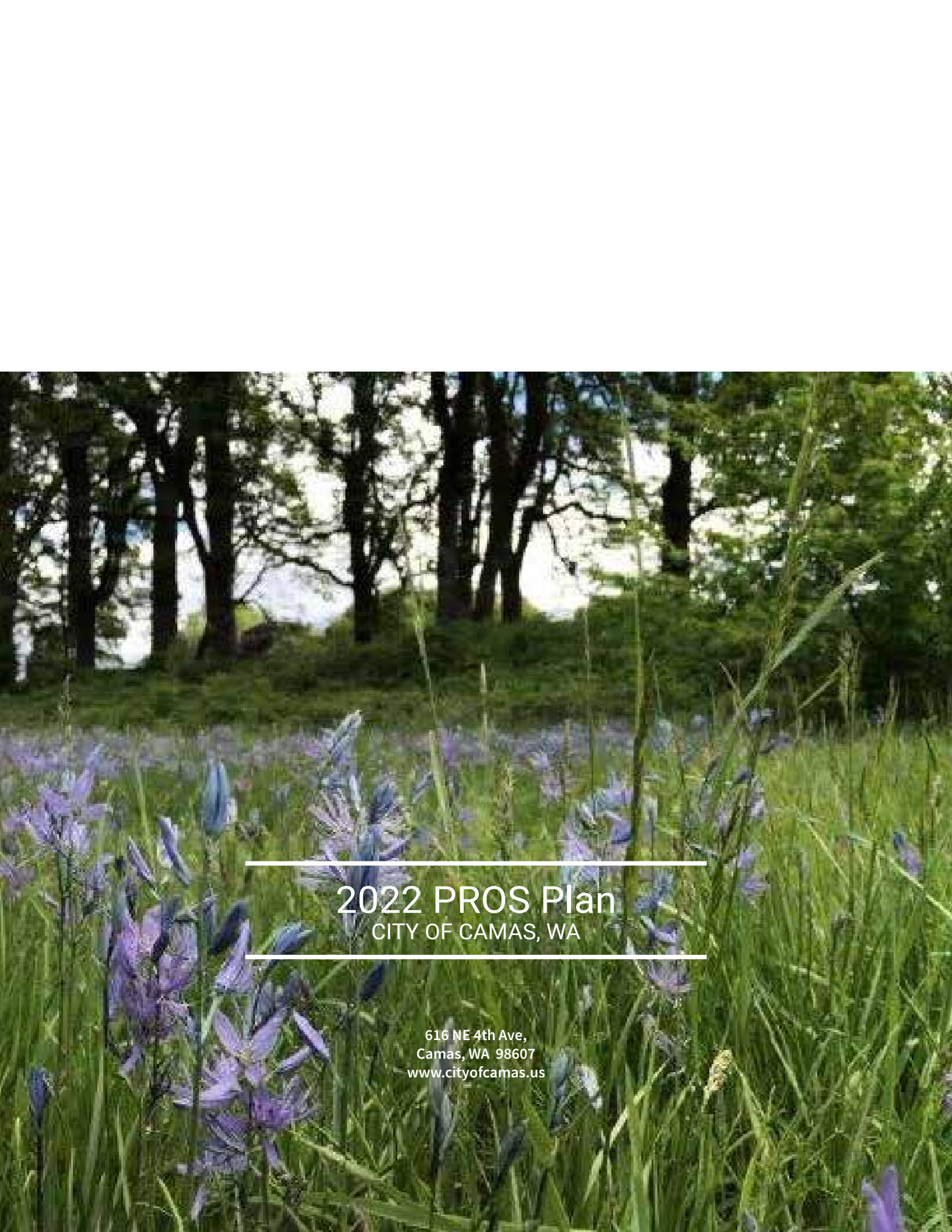
- Natural surveillance
- Natural access control
- Territorial reinforcement
- Maintenance

CPTED natural surveillance (“see and be seen”) asserts that sight lines for better visibility can deter undesirable behavior and increase the perceptions of safety and comfort by park patrons. Lowering understory vegetation or raising lower tree branches through intentional vegetation management can provide more clear lines of sight in and around trails and other areas of use. Providing clear visibility and reducing blind corners can also improve safety by limiting conflicts between different users (e.g. runners, cyclists, dog walkers), where unanticipated encounters may result in crashes or entanglements.

Natural access control in park design is often very subtle. Controlling where vehicles enter and exit park facilities through designed barriers, bollards, boulders, and post and cable fencing can protect park users and minimize park property damage from misguided vehicular traffic. Walkways, lighting, fencing and landscaping provide explicit direction for park users. The flow of users through a park will help decrease the opportunity for crime and improve clarity for the intended park behaviors.

Territorial reinforcement comes through clear demarcation of boundaries. For public parks, those boundaries between public and private lands, safe and unsafe areas, and special use, limited access or reserved sites can be delineated with the appropriate placement of fencing, signs, landscaping or other physical or visual design techniques.

Finally, clearly visible, high-quality maintenance is an important element of CPTED, as well as general public safety. CPTED recognizes the “broken window” theory where neglected and poorly maintained amenities are more attractive targets for vandalism or other criminal activity. Deferred maintenance can also result in park amenities that put users at risk. Broken pavement, worn decking, uneven playing fields and missing play safety surfacing can create injuries. Overall attention to CPTED principles can help ensure safer public park environments.



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# 2022 PROS Plan

CITY OF CAMAS, WA

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