



Staff Report

Month Day, Year Council Workshop Meeting

Draft Parks, Recreation & Open Space (PROS) Plan
 Presenter: Trang K. Lam, Parks & Recreation Director
 Time Estimate: 30 minutes

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BACKGROUND: The City of Camas’s Parks, Recreation and Open Space (PROS) Plan (Plan) was adopted in December 2014 and is updated every six years. This next updated PROS Plan will cover the six-year period from 2022 to 2028; and will serve as a guide for the acquisition, development, and management of the City of Camas system of parks, trails, open space and special facilities. It will also establish the City’s eligibility to apply for grants from a variety of state agencies including the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO).

SUMMARY: In May 2021, the City contracted with Conservation Technix team, including their subconsultants JLA Public Involvement and MacKay Sposito, to work with the Parks and Recreation Department (P&R) to complete the PROS Plan update (the Project). The Parks and Recreation Commission (Commission) serves as the Project Advisory Committee for this Plan update.



Figure 1: PROS Plan update process

At the [August 16, 2021 Council Workshop](#), the project team presented to Council a summary of the public engagement and data gathering that was completed to date, which included –

- Baseline analysis and Existing conditions
- Community Survey – receiving 1,385 community responses

- Stakeholder discussions – included individual interviews (i.e. former Mayor, a former Administrator, Camas Downtown Association, and a developer) and focus group (i.e. a Shared Use Trails Group, Mountain Biking/Pump Track Group, and Sports Fields Group)
- Community tabling at community events
- Engage Camas, online & social media
- Online open house #1 on priorities

Since August, a draft PROS Plan was drafted and reviewed by the Commission, various stakeholders (including City staff) and the community at-large, through a second online open house, to solicit feedback. The draft PROS Plan before you incorporate their feedback.

The Plan includes ten chapters and an appendices section. Here are some highlights from each chapter in the Plan:

Chapter 1 – Introduction

- Our work is guided by Camas Parks & Recreation values:

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

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

- Current challenges in Camas includes impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic; improving equity, inclusivity and accessibility; addressing growth and development; building an asset management program; and enhancing recreational opportunities for active older adults.

Chapter 2 – Community Profile

- Camas has seen over 300% in growth since 1990, and is preparing for continued growth, with a forecasted 2035 population of approximately 34,100.

Chapter 3 – Community Engagement

- A robust and COVID-sensitive outreach approach was implements, which included the following in Figure 2.



Figure 2: Community Engagement process

- Top three priorities that came from the public engagement were: Maintain what we have, Fill gaps and improve trail connections, Develop and improve existing parks

Chapter 4 – Classifications & Inventory

- The City provides over 1,000 acres of public parkland and open spaces in five classifications – Neighborhood Parks, Community Parks, Regional Parks, Special Use Areas, Natural Open Space.
- In addition, the 25 acres of the Camas Cemetery is also in the park portfolio.

Chapter 5 – Parks & Trails

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

Figure 3: Plan, page 65, Figure 17. Service Levels Comparing Park Metric (NRPA) Data

- Per capita, the Camas community enjoys more park land and trail miles than other similarly sized cities as shown in Figure 3.
- Residents enjoy 39.2 miles of trails in Camas, of which the City owns and maintains 11.9 miles.
- Common themes from the community include – high priority for trail connectivity and enhancing linkages; maintenance of existing parks and open space; and upgrade and expand convenience and support amenities such as bathrooms and parking.
- Overview of the condition of existing parks include the following observations – overall, the level of maintenance for developed parks is very good; consider updating Parks Standards for signage and furnishings, including wayfinding for trail system; consider adding destination amenities such as all-inclusive playground and water feature; identify and upgrade ADA deficiencies; opportunity for passive recreation such as wildlife viewing overlooks in partnership with storm facilities; and improvement to managing invasives.

Chapter 6 – Open Space & Stewardship

- Over 700 acres of open space properties and natural lands are owned and managed by the City. In addition, there are over 1,200 acres of open space owned by Clark County and privately held by various homeowners’ associations.

- Camas' open space and greenways are a critical component of the City, and this chapter highlights the following environmental categories for consideration:
 - Land Conservation – Conservation of high-Value Ecosystems, Waterfronts, Watercourses, Wetlands and Steep Slopes, and Forest Lands
 - Land Acquisition – Consider using a lens of conservation, increasing habitat benefits and access to parks and trails to fill the gap as criteria in decision making.
 - Stewardship will require development of System-Wide Open Space Management Plan.
 - Sustainable Stewardship Practices – Water Conservation, Invasive Species Management and Stormwater Management

Chapter 7 – Recreation & Events

- Camas currently provides a wide range of recreational programs. Program enhancements and growth will require additional resources for coordination with partners and building and implementing strong marketing campaign and communication plan that is inclusive and reaches across diverse demographic groups the P&R serves.
- Top three events in Camas are Hometown Holidays, Movies in the Park and Concerts in the Park.
- The Lacamas Lake Lodge, Community Center and Scout Hall accommodates many of our current programs, however, they do not function as a traditional recreation center.
- Traditional standards for service demand for recreation centers are based on a population benchmark, and with the City's current and projected growth, the City should consider having public and policy conversation to explore the potential of a new recreational facilities with aquatics programing, at a scale that would be supported by the voters.

Chapter 8 – Operations & Maintenance

- The City owns and maintains over 1,000 acres of public parkland and open spaces, of which nearly 463 acres were added to the system since 2010.
- 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 number of park full-time employee (FTE) positions relative to the population size for most park and recreation providers is 8.9 FTEs per 1,000 residents. The Camas park and recreation system has 0.4 FTEs per 1,000 population as shared in Figure 4.

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

*No seasonal FTEs for Camas in 2020 due to COVID

Figure 4: Plan, page 91, Figure 27. NRPA Agency Performance Metrics Comparisons – Park & Recreation Staffing

Chapter 9 – Goals & Objectives

- The Goals matrix is structured by functional areas, thematic goals and actions.
 - Functional Areas – Administrative; Projects & Programs; Policy
 - There are 4 Goal Themes, 23 Goals and 62 Actions



Figure 5: Plan, page 101, Goals Matrix

Chapter 10 – Capital Planning & Implementation

- Key project recommendations reflect the community’s desire to maintain what we have, fill gaps and improve trail connections, and develop and improve existing parks.
- The Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) is a 20+ year list of future improvements.
- The Commission will review the CIP list as part of the biennial budget process to provide updated recommendations to City Council.
- 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 the major investments.

EQUITY CONSIDERATIONS:

What are the desired results and outcomes for this agenda item?

Provide Council with a presentation on the draft PROS Plan, discuss any questions Council may have and request adoption of Plan at the March 7, 2022 Council meeting.

What's the data? What does the data tell us?

This Plan was developed with input from the community. As noted in the Summary section above, the project team completed a thorough public engagement process along with comprehensive data gathering. Additionally, the Commission has served as the Project Advisory Committee and provided feedback and direction along the entire process.

How have communities been engaged? Are there opportunities to expand engagement?

The comprehensive public engagement process is outlined in the Summary section above.

Who will benefit from, or be burdened by this agenda item?

The City of Camas, as a whole, will benefit from this project. The updated PROS Plan will serve as a guide and strategic plan for the acquisition, development, and management of the City of Camas system of parks, trails, open space, and special facilities. It will also establish the City's eligibility to apply for grants from a variety of state agencies including the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO).

What are the strategies to mitigate any unintended consequences?

As noted in the Chapter 10, the CIP list is a 20+ year list. Staff will continue to work with the Commission during the biennial budget process to update project and program priorities to recommend to Council.

Does this agenda item have a differential impact on underserved populations, people living with disabilities, and/or communities of color? Please provide available data to illustrate this impact.

This Plan improves accessibility to all users by recommending investments in recreational amenities that offer safe and accessible opportunities such as upgrades ADA deficiencies and addition of an all-inclusive playground.

Will this agenda item improve ADA accessibilities for people with disabilities?

Yes

What potential hurdles exist in implementing this proposal (include both operational and political)?

Project prioritization and funding will be constraints in implementing this Plan. While the City currently has several sources of funding, dedicated, new funding will be required to finance maintenance and operations, upgrades to and growth in the parks system to meet community needs.

How will you ensure accountability, communicate, and evaluate results?

The Commission and Council will continue to guide and direct priorities and funding. Staff will work with the Commission to assess priorities as part of the biennial budget process.

How does this item support a comprehensive plan goal, policy or other adopted resolution?

The updated PROS Plan is part of the City's Comprehensive Plan. The PROS Plan is updated every six years. This next updated PROS Plan will cover the six-year period from 2022 to 2028.

BUDGET IMPACT: N/A

RECOMMENDATION: Staff is proposing to place the final 2022 PROS Plan on the March 7, 2022 Consent Agenda for Council adoption.