



## Staff Report

May 6, 2024 Council Workshop Meeting

Parks & Open Space Management Plan – Project Update

Presenter: Trang Lam, Parks & Recreation Director and Matt Piccone, GreenWorks

Time Estimate: 30 minutes

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**BACKGROUND:** In 2003, the City of Camas completed the "[Policy Guidelines For An Open Space Management Plan](#)" (2003 Plan). The 2003 Plan was intended to set the framework for development of a City's Open Space Management Plan. It identified nine management goals and eight policies to guide open space management. It also identified high-level issues related to land management and trail development in and through open spaces. The 2003 Plan acknowledged additional work was needed – "It should be noted and understood that it is intended that additional information and documents will be added to this Policy guidelines for an Open Space Management Plan in order to make it a fully functional Open Space Plan."

More recently, the City adopted the [Parks, Recreation and Opens Space \(PROS\) Plan](#) (2022). Virtually all respondents (97%) to the [PROS Plan community survey](#), which received nearly 1,400 responses, felt that local parks and recreation opportunities are important or essential to the quality of life in Camas. And the top two community priorities are to '*maintain what we have*' and '*fill gaps and improve trail connections*'. As a result of this community feedback, the PROS Plan and Capital Facilities Plan identified Open Space and Urban Forestry Plans as top priorities for the next 2-3 years.

In response to the priorities set out in the adopted PROS Plan and Capital Facilities Plan (CFP), the City partnered with the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to fund a Parks & Open Space Management Plan (POSMP). In early 2023, the DNR awarded the City a Focused Technical Assistance (FTA) grant. The FTA includes direct technical assistance from DNR staff and a \$75,000 grant, with \$70,000 towards the POSMP work and \$5,000 towards City staff training.

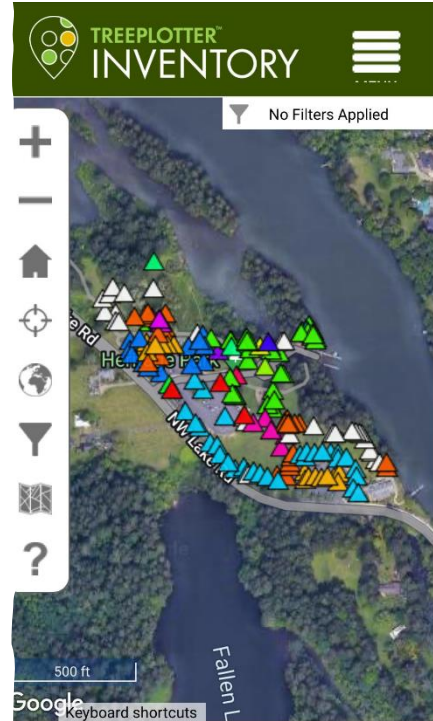
**SUMMARY:** In fall 2023, the project team kicked off the POSMP project. To-date we've completed the following:

- Data Gathering & Assessment: Current operational functions, research best practices, and collect tree canopy and vegetation data.
- [February 28, 2024 Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting](#): A joint discussion with the Commission and the Climate Planning Action Team.
- [April 19, 2024 Project Open House](#): Open house presentation included –

- Project overview and goals
- Tree canopy analysis
- Financial and operational assessment
- A systems approach, valuing nature
- Resource prioritization tool

Attendees of the open house completed tabling exercises to provide input to the Plan. And for those unable to attend, the presentation and tabling exercises, via a survey tool, was open online for two weeks through our [EngageCamas](#) project page.

- April 20, 2024 Community Tree Inventory: The inventory event was held at Heritage Park. The goal was to inventory 150 trees, and we beat that goal with an inventory of 175 trees. The image to the right is of the online database system we used to capture the tree information.



**BENEFITS TO THE COMMUNITY:** This Project meets the following City adopted plans:

Camas 2035 Comprehensive Plan

Citywide Land Use, Natural Environment Goal - LU-1.4.4:

- Develop an interconnected network of parks, trails, and open space to support wildlife corridors and natural resources and enhance the quality of life for Camas residents and visitors.

Natural Environment, Environmental Stewardship Goal – NE-1:

- To preserve Camas’ natural environment by developing a sustainable urban environment and protecting habitat and vegetation corridors.

Natural Environment, Landscape Enhancement & Tree Preservation Goal – NE-4:

- To protect Camas’ native landscape and mature tree cover.

2022 Parks, Recreation and Open Space (PROS) Plan

STEWARDSHIP OF LAND, PARKS & PROGRAMS:

Goal: Improve Asset Management.

- Action: Update levels of service standards and develop a per acre maintenance budget.

- Action: Develop an urban forestry program that articulates long-term strategy for tree protection, urban forestry management and education.
- Action: Develop and implement improved natural area management practices to enhance ecological health and remove invasive plant species

Goal: Continue to preserve, protect and restore natural area corridors, including shorelines.

- Action: Pilot environmental education program.

#### ORGANIZATIONAL EXCELLENCE:

Goal: Encourage staff innovation and creativity.

- Action: Provide professional development opportunities through training and affiliation with NRPA and WRPA, among others.

#### 2022 Camas PROS Plan Capital Facilities Plan

Listed as top priority project in the next 2-3 years

- Open Space Management Plan – Develop Plan
- Urban Forestry Management Plan – Develop Plan