



Staff Report

August 16, 2021 Council Workshop Meeting

Parks, Recreation & Open Space (PROS) Plan Update – Project update presentation

Presenter: Trang K. Lam, Parks & Recreation Director

Time Estimate: 30 minutes

Phone	Email
360.817.7037	tlam@cityofcamas.us

BACKGROUND: The City of Camas’s Parks, Recreation and Open Space (PROS) Comprehensive 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).

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 Project is anticipated to be completed with the updated PROS Plan adoption by City Council in early 2022.

SUMMARY: The Project kicked-off in May, implemented in three phases. The Parks and Recreation Commission (P&R Commission) will serve as the Project Advisory Committee (PAC) and will provide regular guidance to the project. City Council, Planning Commission and P&R Commission will meet at important project milestones throughout the project to guide the development of the updated PROS Plan.

Phase 1: Data Gathering and Community Input (Spring/Summer 2021)

- Baseline Analyses and Existing Conditions
- Community Survey
- Stakeholder Discussions
- Community Tabling at community events
- Open House #1

Phase 2: Building the Plan with continued Community Input (Summer/Fall 2021)

- Begin drafting the updated PROS Plan
- Community Tabling at community events
- Open House #2

Phase 3: Plan Adoption (Winter 2021/2022)

- Incorporate public feedback into the final, updated PROS Plan
- Plan approval by City Council

This staff report provides an update of the Project, Phase 1:

- Baseline Analyses and Existing Conditions – The consultant team has completed review of existing plans and studies; and are underway with gathering existing conditions data, including conducting physical assessments of parks, trails and recreational facilities and amenities.
- Community Survey – Over 1300 people participated in the June community survey. On July 28, Staff and Conservation Technix presented the survey results to the PAC. While we plan to share some highlights of the survey at the August 16 Council Workshop, we do not plan to go through every survey question as we did at the PAC meeting. Please take a moment to watch the full community survey presentation and review the PowerPoint presentation on the Project webpage - <https://engagecamas.com/parks-recreation-open-space-comprehensive-plan>.
- Stakeholder Discussions – Conservation Technix completed four stakeholder interviews in June and July. They included a former Mayor, a former Administrator, Camas Downtown Association, and a developer. In addition, three focus group meetings were completed in July. They included a Shared Use Trails Group, Mountain Biking/Pump Track Group, and Sports Fields Group. Two additional groups, other parks jurisdictions and representatives from organizations that work with under-served/under-represented groups, will be completed in August.
- Community Tabling at community events – The first community tabling was on July 31st at Heritage Park. Two additional tabling are schedule for later this month, August 18th Camas Farmer's Market and August 12th Concert in the Park.
- Open House #1 – We've used what we've learned from the community survey and stakeholder discussions to develop questions for our online Open House, held from July 30-August 22. Through this open house, the community can:
 - Learn about the Camas Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan
 - Get an overview of the community survey results
 - Provide feedback through questions and prioritization exercises on what park and recreation programs, services and facilities are important for our community

Please participate in our online open house here:

<https://openhouse.jla.us.com/project/camas-pros-plan-ooH1#>

Get Started: What is the PROS Plan? ▶

Welcome to the Camas Parks, Recreation and Open Space (PROS) Plan Open House!

The City of Camas is home to more than 240 acres of public parkland, 765 acres of open space and many miles of trails. As demand for recreation services and parks grows, we are planning for the future of our parks, programs, and open spaces. Every six years, the city updates its Parks, Recreation and Open Space (PROS) Plan, the city's blueprint for park improvements and recreation programming. An up-to-date PROS Plan also makes the city eligible for state and federal grants.



Background video about the Camas PROS Plan Update.

Figure 1: On-Line Open House Webpage - <https://openhouse.jla.us.com/project/camas-pros-plan-ooH1#>

EQUITY CONSIDERATIONS:

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

To present a Project status report of Phase 1 - data gathering and community input; and to have a high-level discussion with Council to understand how the information staff presented either confirms and/or changes Council's vision, policies and/or priorities for our parks and recreation system. Here are the questions we would like Council's input on –

- With a range of interests competing for attention and resources, what are your top priorities in the next five years?
- What should the City be doing more of? Less of?
- What are the issues or policies that need attention, including consideration for updated/new fee structures and/or tax revenues?

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

Staff presentation will provide highlights of the community survey, stakeholder interviews, and focus group discussions. The full community survey PowerPoint and presentation to the PAC can be found here: <https://engagecamas.com/parks-recreation-open-space-comprehensive-plan>

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

As noted above, the community engagement has included:

- Community Survey
- Stakeholder Interviews

- Focus Group Discussions
- Project tabling at various community events
- Open House

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 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?

N/A

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.

As noted above, Phase 1 of the project included extensive public engagement including a focus group discussion with various organizations that work with under-serve and under-represented groups. The Project will gather and assess current and projected population and demographics; and will approach prioritizing projects and programs for recommendation to the City through an equity lens.

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

Yes. As noted above, Phase 1 includes reviewing existing plans and policies, and gathering baseline data and existing conditions to analyze and provide recommendations in the updated PROS Plan to improve accessibility in our parks system.

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

The City has a number of grant opportunities through the RCO that will be dependent on completion of the updated PROS Plan by the 2022 RCO Grant Cycle. This will require PROS Plan approval through the City's SEPA process and Council no later than March 2022. To meet the grant opportunities timeline, this project schedule will be constrained, and staff will need to work effectively and efficiently with the consultant team to ensure the Project is completed and adopted by City Council in early 2022.

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

The Parks & Recreation Commission is serving as the Project Advisory Committee, and a Technical Advisory Committee has been formed with cross-departmental city staff. In addition, City Council, Planning Commission and P&R Commission will meet at important project milestones throughout the project to guide the development of the updated PROS Plan.

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: The PROS Plan update project is included in the approved 2021-22 Parks & Recreation Department budget.

RECOMMENDATION: N/A