



Staff Report

July 1, 2024 Council Workshop Meeting

Our Camas 2045 Vision Statement

Presenter: Alan Peters, Community Development Director

Time Estimate: 20 minutes

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BACKGROUND: The City of Camas is undertaking a multi-year initiative to update the City's Comprehensive Plan. The *Our Camas 2045* Comprehensive Plan will establish a blueprint to help guide our future through 2045. The plan will also address recent changes to the State of Washington's Growth Management Act related to housing and climate change, while responding to community concerns and desires around growth.

In conjunction with *Our Camas 2045*, the City of Camas is also developing a downtown subarea plan. *Our Downtown Camas 2045* will establish a more detailed vision and action plan to catalyze public and private investment in our historic downtown that preserves and enhances its unique sense of place.

Camas last updated its comprehensive plan 9 years ago. Since then, the City has experienced pronounced growth and development. Today, Camas is a community of 27,420 and is expected to grow to nearly 38,000 by 2045. The purpose of a comprehensive plan update is to reevaluate and update goals and policies in response to community priorities, new state requirements, and changes in existing and future conditions

SUMMARY: The *Our Camas 2045* vision statement will establish a foundation for the development of the overall comprehensive plan, providing a clear direction for the remainder of the plan development process and for the next 20 years in Camas. Throughout the spring of 2024, City staff and the Camas Advisory Committee (CAC) led outreach and engagement efforts to better understand the community's vision and priorities related to the future of Camas. This process touched hundreds of community members and informed the development of the draft vision statement for *Our Camas 2045*.

This outreach effort primarily asked the community to answer two questions:

1. What makes Camas, including our historic downtown, special today? What should we strive to preserve or enhance?
2. What about Camas, including our historic downtown, would you like to change in the future? What can improve?

This vision is written in the present tense, as if describing the city as it exists in 2045. Some aspects of the vision can be found in Camas today, while others represent aspirations.

OUR COMMUNITY

Camas is an inclusive community where residents experience a sense of belonging and connection. Community-wide events foster civic pride, strong bonds among neighbors and a welcoming atmosphere for new residents. Community amenities and recreation facilities throughout Camas promote active lifestyles and social interaction. Camas is renowned for its excellent schools and invests in youth and families through rich library and sports programming. The City promotes a strong culture of public safety, transparent communication, and good governance, allowing residents to thrive in their neighborhoods and engage in decision-making that shapes their community.

OUR ENVIRONMENT

Camas embraces its connection to nature and enjoys a wealth of outdoor recreational opportunities. Access to forests, clean water, parks, and trails is foundational to Camas' quality of life. The community shares a deep reverence for Camas' beauty, scenery, and tranquility, and is committed to preserving and enhancing its natural resources and tree canopy. Through proactive planning, the City mitigates the effects of changing climate conditions and natural hazards, ensuring a resilient community for generations to come.

OUR NEIGHBORHOODS

Camas embraces its small-town feel while responsibly managing growth, ensuring a prosperous and livable future for all. Camas provides a variety of housing options that meet the needs of all residents, while ensuring the town's charm and livability are sustained. Camas is home to a thriving economy and diverse businesses, affording residents ample employment opportunities and access to high wage jobs. Neighborhood commercial hubs connect residents to daily services and amenities through a network of sidewalks and bike lanes, improving access and connectivity.

OUR DOWNTOWN

Charming, vibrant, and walkable, Downtown Camas is the city's living room. Downtown's history is complemented by new businesses and inclusive housing options. Expansion, resiliency and a dynamic economic landscape are critical to its success. Downtown Camas anchors the community while fostering a culture of pride, support, and connection.

RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommends that Council adopt the *Our Camas 2045 Vision Statement* by resolution at the July 15, 2024 Council Regular Meeting.