



Summary of Public Outreach January 6, 2014

As a community, we are preparing an update of the Camas Comprehensive Plan that directs our city's long-term growth and development. The 2004 Plan helped lead the way for the neighborhoods, schools, parks and downtown that we enjoy today. Camas 2035 is a citywide process to envision our desired future 20 years from now and identify the policies and actions needed to get us there. The Camas 2035 outreach process is designed to meet the following objectives:

- Create a vision that preserves what Camas residents value most about Camas today, while planning for future generations.
- Ensure early and continuous public engagement through a variety of outreach methods.
- Build community support for the 2035 Vision and the subsequent comprehensive plan update.

Over the past six months, under the guidance of the Vision Steering Committee, hundreds of community members have participated in two rounds of Camas 2035 outreach activities. The purpose of the first round was to identify Camas' strengths and understand what residents value about Camas today. Outreach activities included:

- Online questionnaire completed by 417 community members.
- Conversations with key stakeholder groups, including the Camas Youth Advisory Committee (CYAC), Port of Camas/Washougal, Camas Parent Teacher Organization Leaders, Helen Baller Parent Teacher Association and Camas/Washougal Economic Development Association.
- Vision kick-off at Camas Days where community members recorded what they love most about Camas.

The purpose of the second round was to validate the draft vision statement and identify actions needed to achieve the vision. Outreach efforts were targeted to segments of the population that did not show strong participation in the first round, including the southeast quadrant of the city, seniors and youth. A second questionnaire distributed online and in paper form was completed by 177 people.

The following is a summary report of community outreach results. A detailed compilation of comments received throughout the process is available upon request.

ROUND ONE (July – November 2014)

Questionnaire

Who Responded?

While responses are fairly well distributed over various demographics, it is clear that different tools or targeted outreach are needed to reach the under 18 and 55 and older cohorts. Approximately 71% of questionnaire respondents fall between the ages of 35 and 54, significantly higher than the percentage of the population they represent. While it is unlikely that pre-high school youth would respond to this questionnaire, an overall response rate of 1.0% for those 18 and younger leaves room for improvement. Likewise, while rates of internet use are lower for people 65 and older, targeted efforts to reach seniors should be employed.

| Age Group | Response % | 2010 Census |
|---------------|------------|-------------|
| 18 or younger | 1.0% | 33.3%* |
| 19 to 34 | 8.4% | 13.9%** |
| 35 to 44 | 39.8% | 17.3% |
| 45 to 54 | 31.6% | 15.9% |
| 55 to 64 | 15.3% | 10.9% |
| 65 and older | 3.9% | 8.7% |

*Census cohort 19 and younger. **Census cohort 20 to 34

While the majority of respondents are longer-term residents of Camas, more than 41% moved here within the last 10 years. Approximately 8% of respondents work, but do not live in Camas.

| Years Lived in Camas | Response |
|-------------------------|----------|
| 1 or less | 6.8% |
| 2 to 5 | 18.0% |
| 6 to 10 | 16.7% |
| More than 10 | 48.5% |
| I work in Camas | 8.3% |
| I am a visitor to Camas | 1.7% |

Responses have come in from all areas of the city. The highest percentage of responses came from NW Brady Road and NW 18th Ave., NW 38th and NW Parker St., and NW Lake Road and Sierra St. The southeast portion of the City is likely underrepresented so targeted outreach efforts should be employed.

| Closest Intersection to Residence | Response |
|--|----------|
| NW Brady Road and NW 18th Ave. | 17.7% |
| NW Lake Road and Sierra St. | 14.8% |
| NW 38th and NW Parker St. | 14.0% |
| NW Fargo St and NW Logan | 8.6% |
| NE 3rd Ave. and NE Adams | 8.1% |
| NW 18th and Division St | 6.7% |
| NE Everett and 43rd Ave. | 6.7% |
| Leadbetter Road and 232nd Ave. | 4.4% |
| NW Lake Road and NW Friberg-Strunk St. | 2.0% |
| SE 2nd and SE Whitney | 2.0% |
| Not sure/Not applicable | 15.0% |

What did they say?

What do you love/value most about Camas?

The excellent schools and “small town feel” are most often cited as what people value about Camas. Another important feature is the ready access to nature, such as open spaces, parks, trails, the Columbia River and Lacamas Lake. Residents value their neighbors and the broader community and see Camas as a safe, livable place to raise a family. Camasonians also appreciate the Camas downtown, as well as its proximity to Portland.

What are the City's two greatest strengths/assets?

Responses regarding Camas greatest strengths or assets are similar to the responses above. Camas schools are the overwhelming choice as the City's greatest strength, followed by trails, parks, open spaces and nature. The Camas community, downtown, people, and businesses all contribute to an outstanding quality of life.

The following "word clouds" help illustrate responses regarding what people value about Camas and the City's greatest assets.

What we value



Greatest strengths/assets



Rate the importance of goals and aspirations identified in the 2004 Comprehensive Plan.

Camas residents strongly support comprehensive plan goals that promote the City's "small town" atmosphere and vital, stable and livable neighborhoods. The Camas downtown, recreational opportunities and preserving the City's natural assets also receive strong support. Camasians support quality public facilities, a vibrant and diverse economy and robust public participation in land use decisions. Receiving less support are providing a variety of housing types to meet the needs of the community and providing "a safe, balanced and efficient transportation system that supports industrial, commercial and residential uses."

| Goal | Average |
|--|---------|
| Camas' "small town" atmosphere. | 3.68 |
| Vital, stable and livable neighborhoods | 3.64 |
| Downtown as a unique and special place to visit, shop and live | 3.64 |
| Optimal active and passive recreational opportunities for present and future residents | 3.61 |
| Preservation, restoration and improvement of the natural environment | 3.60 |
| Public facilities, services and utilities to ensure the quality of life for current and future community members | 3.42 |
| A strong, vibrant and diverse economy | 3.38 |
| Early and continuous public participation for all community members in the development of land use plans and regulations | 3.35 |
| A variety of housing opportunities to meet the needs of all members of the community | 2.86 |
| A safe, balanced and efficient transportation system that supports industrial, commercial and residential uses | 2.77 |

Highest possible score is 4.0.

What should the City do to make Camas an even better place to live or visit in the future?

Camasonians would like to see new recreational amenities, such as an indoor pool and community center, as well as more parks and trails. New businesses and employment opportunities, and investment in city infrastructure also are important. Camas residents would like to develop or renovate underutilized properties, while preserving those structures with historic value. Less important to residents are pursuing additional entertainment options, cultural activities, gathering places or retail services.

| Priority | Responses | | |
|--|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| | #1 Action | #2 Action | #3 Action |
| Add new recreational amenities (indoor pool, community center, tennis courts) | 72 | 51 | 36 |
| Recruit new businesses for more employment opportunities | 66 | 51 | 42 |
| Invest in infrastructure (roads and bridges, municipal buildings, water and sewer) | 57 | 46 | 43 |
| Add more parks and trails | 59 | 46 | 30 |
| Renovate/develop underutilized properties | 19 | 34 | 54 |
| Preserve historic structures and features | 22 | 31 | 32 |
| Promote cultural and social activities (theater, public art, music in the park) | 20 | 26 | 47 |
| Create a public gathering space (plaza or square) | 21 | 31 | 19 |
| Pursue additional retail services | 14 | 27 | 19 |
| Pursue additional entertainment options | 5 | 9 | 19 |

In what ways are you most likely to participate in the Camas 2035 Vision process?

Going forward, Camas residents are prefer to participate in the 2035 process by completing online questionnaires and staying informed via email or local newspapers. Residents are less likely to participate through groups of which they are a member, social media or public meetings. Most Camasonians prefer not to give public testimony.

| Activity | Response |
|--|----------|
| Complete online questionnaires | 77.1% |
| Stay informed by email | 60.3% |
| Read articles in the Camas Washougal Post Record or The Columbian | 51.7% |
| Participate through groups of which I am a member (e.g., school, church, civic organization) | 38.0% |
| Follow the vision Facebook page | 32.0% |
| Attend public meetings | 30.3% |
| Comment on the vision website | 28.0% |
| Give testimony at public hearings | 8.6% |

Community Conversations

The following is a summary of key comments made during community conversations.

Port of Camas Washougal

Camas' strengths include its location relative to SR 14 and easy access to I-5 and I-205, the School District and sports programs, proximity to rural areas and downtown Portland, and access to recreational and shopping opportunities. The City should continue to be good stewards of the environment while seeking opportunities to ease the development process. More shopping opportunities are needed within Camas to reduce travel.

Camas Parent Teacher Organization Leaders

Camas greatest assets are its schools, sense of community, proximity to Portland and natural areas/views and recreational opportunities. The City should protect trees and open spaces, close the income disparity, update and maintain park facilities and encourage more professional services and specialists.

Camas/Washougal Economic Development Association

Camas' schools, quality of life, parks/trails and housing are its greatest assets. Camas and Washougal are seeking more development-ready sites, such as the Steigerwald Commerce Center, Camas Meadows and North Dwyer Creek Business Park as environmental constraints are present across much of the city in the form of floodplains and steep slopes. The City should seek opportunities to add a variety of housing options to meet the needs of all of its residents.

Hellen Baller Parent Teacher Association

Camas' greatest strengths are its schools, green space and small businesses. The City does an excellent job of providing planning, police and infrastructure services. The mill is another important element of the community. In the future, more transportation and housing options are desired along with recreational opportunities and a community center. Specific goods and services also are needed, such as a bakery, book store and café for parents with young kids.

Camas Youth Advisory Committee (CYAC)

CYAC members believe one of Camas' primary assets is Camas High School, which brings the community together. Downtown is a central gathering place with sufficient retail to serve the community and other amenities, such as the farmers market, library and theater. Students value the city's parks, trails and recreational opportunities as well as easy access to natural features like mountains and beaches. CYAC members also appreciate the nice people and residential neighborhoods that are Camas. Students are concerned about population growth and want to see Camas High School, downtown and a new community center as central gathering places. They are interested in preserving the sense of community and safety Camas enjoys today. CYAC members believe transportation and environmental measures are needed to address traffic congestion and pollution. They anticipate a more diverse population and want to ensure that community members are not divided by socio-economic differences.

ROUND TWO (December 2014 – January 2015)

Questionnaire

Who Responded?

As in the first round, we saw very few survey responses from residents age 34 and younger and none from those under 18. Low turnout may be due in part to the survey being conducted at a time when school was not in session. Targeted efforts to reach seniors were successful as responses from those 65 and older make up 16.6% of the responses, four times the share of round one.

| Age Group | Response % | Round One Response % |
|---------------|------------|----------------------|
| 18 or younger | 0.0% | 1.0% |
| 19 to 34 | 8.0% | 8.4% |
| 35 to 44 | 30.7% | 39.8% |
| 45 to 54 | 30.7% | 31.6% |
| 55 to 64 | 14.1% | 15.3% |
| 65 and older | 16.6% | 3.9% |

*Census cohort 19 and younger. **Census cohort 20 to 34

As in the first survey, more than 56% of respondents have lived in Camas for more than 10 years, while approximately 41% have lived here fewer than 10 years.

| Years Lived in Camas | Response |
|-------------------------|----------|
| 1 or less | 4.0% |
| 2 to 5 | 18.0% |
| 6 to 10 | 20.0% |
| More than 10 | 55.3% |
| I work in Camas | 2.0% |
| I am a visitor to Camas | 0.7% |

Vision Validation

Introduction

In the year 2035, residents of Camas continue to appreciate their community as a safe, welcoming and livable place for people of all ages. Camas maintains its small town character while accommodating current and future residents. Excellent schools, a vibrant downtown and ready access to metropolitan amenities, parks, trails, open space, the Columbia River and Lacamas Lake are enjoyed by all. The Camas Farmer's Market, First Fridays, Camas Days and other community events bring neighbors together.

97.1% of respondents support or strongly support the introduction to the vision statement.

| | Responses | Response % |
|------------------|-----------|------------|
| Do not support | 2 | 1.2% |
| Somewhat support | 3 | 1.8% |
| Support | 36 | 21.1% |
| Strongly support | 130 | 76.0% |
| Total | 171 | 100.0% |

Vital, Stable and Livable Neighborhoods

Camas is a well planned and connected city where residents enjoy pedestrian and bicycle paths between neighborhoods and to downtown. Historic structures are maintained and rehabilitated to accommodate new homes and businesses. There is a wide variety and range of affordable housing for all ages and income levels. Quality public facilities, services and utilities contribute to a high quality of life. Residents enjoy a variety of social and cultural activities to celebrate the city, its history and its people.

91.7% of respondents support or strongly support the statement on vital, stable and livable neighborhoods.

| | Responses | Response % |
|------------------|-----------|------------|
| Do not support | 5 | 2.9% |
| Somewhat support | 9 | 5.3% |
| Support | 58 | 34.1% |
| Strongly support | 98 | 57.6% |
| Total | 170 | 100.0% |

Diversified Economy

Downtown Camas retains its main street atmosphere as a walkable, attractive place to shop, with local businesses and low vacancy rates. The economy has grown to attract manufacturing and high tech companies offering stable employment opportunities and family wage jobs. Camas is a gateway to nature and recreational opportunities, leading to a robust tourism industry.

93.0% of respondents support or strongly support the statement on a diversified economy.

| | Responses | Response % |
|------------------|-----------|------------|
| Do not support | 5 | 2.9% |
| Somewhat support | 7 | 4.1% |
| Support | 53 | 31.2% |
| Strongly support | 105 | 61.8% |
| Total | 170 | 100.0% |

Public Services

Camas continues to have an excellent school system, an asset that draws young families to the community. Students and their families enjoy the city's parks, trails and recreational opportunities, which are well maintained by city employees and volunteers. The library continues its vital role as a community gathering place. Residents of all ages gather at the community center to socialize and enjoy its many amenities. Citizens value the services of well funded police, fire, planning and parks departments.

95.9% of respondents support or strongly support the statement on public services.

| | Responses | Response % |
|------------------|-----------|------------|
| Do not support | 2 | 1.2% |
| Somewhat support | 5 | 2.9% |
| Support | 29 | 17.1% |
| Strongly support | 134 | 78.8% |
| Total | 170 | 100.0% |

Natural Environment

A wildlife corridor enhances the trail system throughout the city and connects to the Columbia River. Lacamas Lake is treasured as a unique resource for recreation. The parks and trails are well maintained and handicap accessible. City policies protect trees and open spaces.

97.4% of respondents support or strongly support the statement on the natural environment.

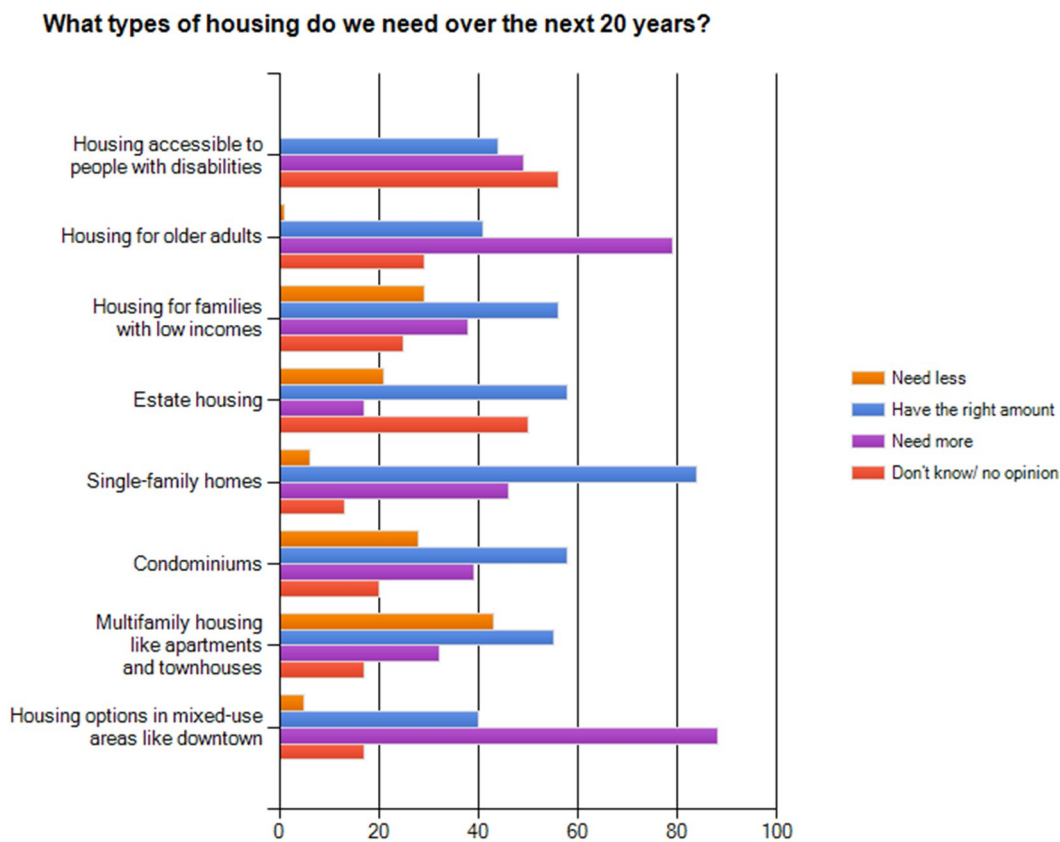
| | Responses | Response % |
|------------------|-----------|------------|
| Do not support | 2 | 1.3% |
| Somewhat support | 2 | 1.3% |
| Support | 19 | 12.0% |
| Strongly support | 135 | 85.4% |
| Total | 158 | 100.0% |

Vision Actions

Housing

What types of housing do we need over the next 20 years?

Respondents indicate that housing options in mixed-use areas like downtown are most needed, followed by housing for older adults and people with disabilities. A majority of respondents feel that the city has the right amount of single-family homes, estate housing, condominiums, housing for families with low incomes and multi-family housing.

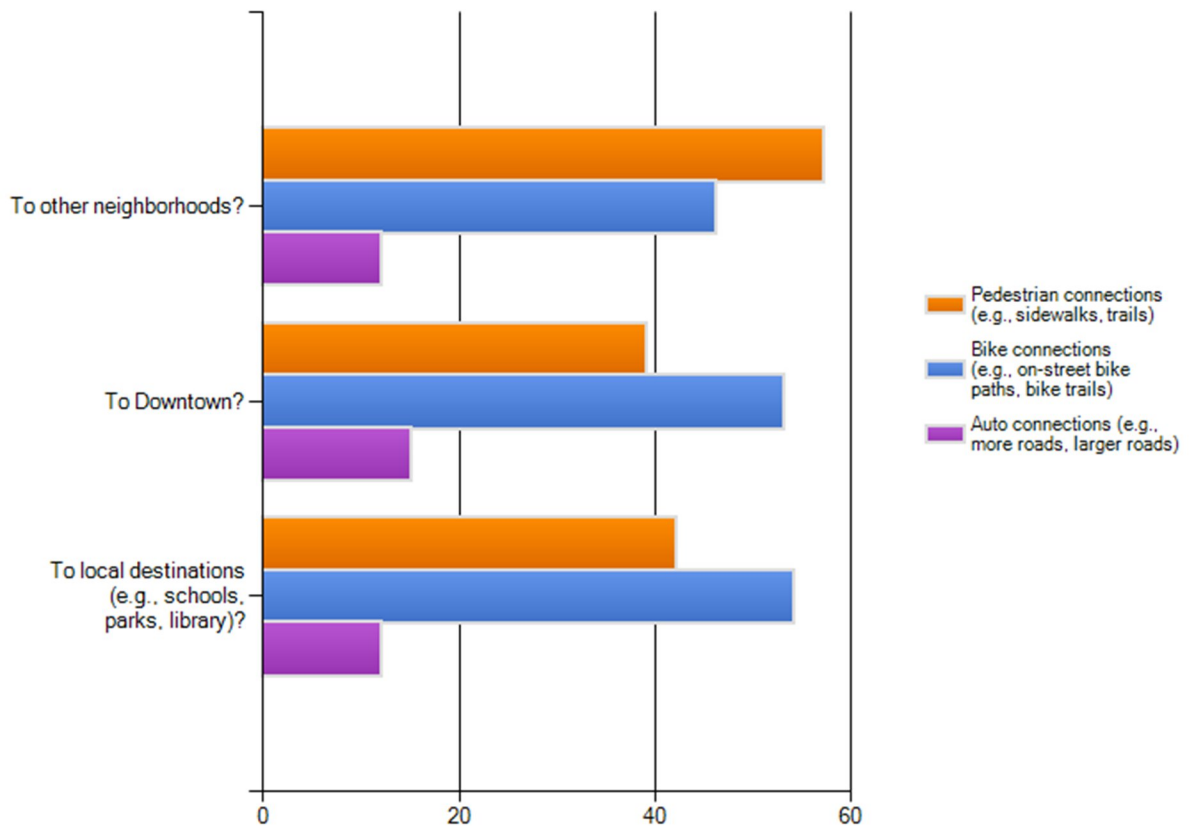


Connections/Transportation

What connections does your neighborhood need over the next 20 years?

Respondents indicate that better pedestrian and bike connections are needed throughout the city, with a focus on pedestrian connections between neighborhoods and bike connections to downtown and local destinations.

What connections does your neighborhood need over the next 20 years? Select all that apply.

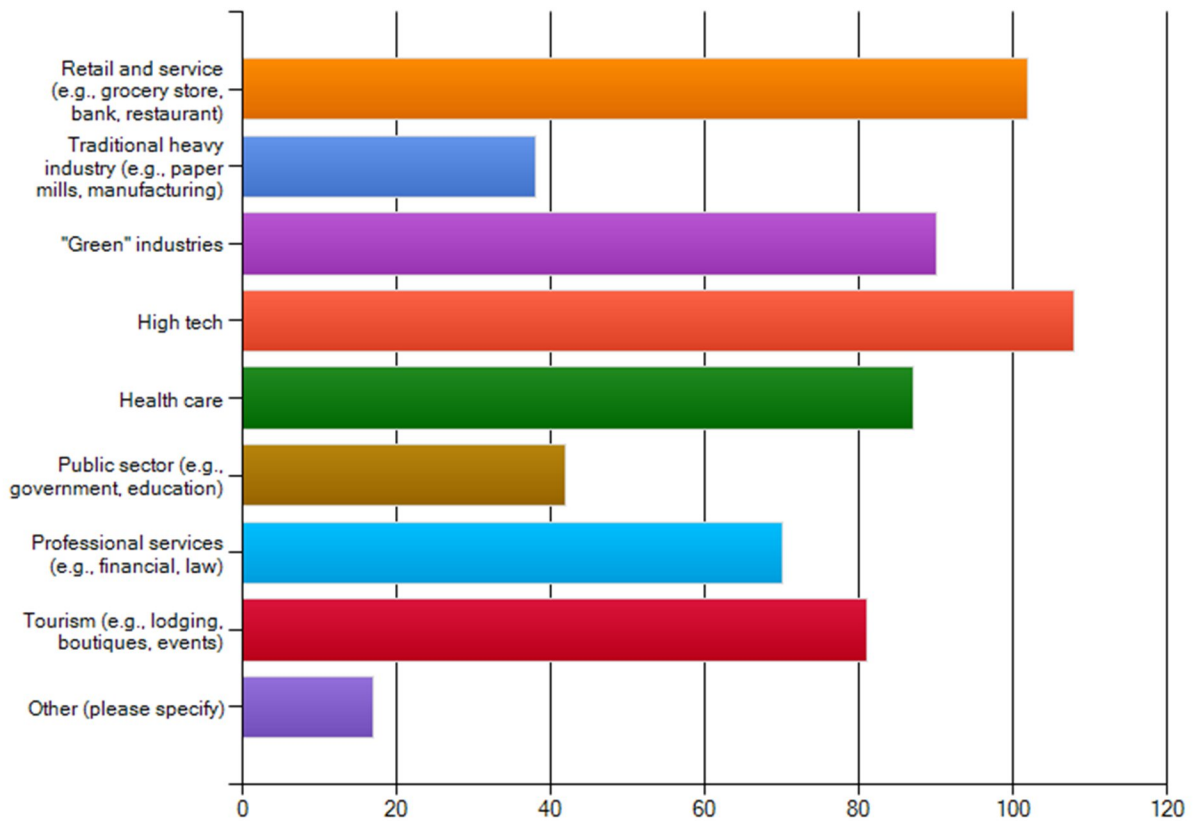


Economy/Jobs

What types of businesses do we need to provide jobs or meet daily needs over the next 20 years?

Respondents desire high tech businesses most, followed by retail and service, "green" industries, health care and tourism. Public sector and traditional heavy industry are least desirable.

What types of businesses do we need to provide jobs or meet daily needs over the next 20 years? Select all that apply.

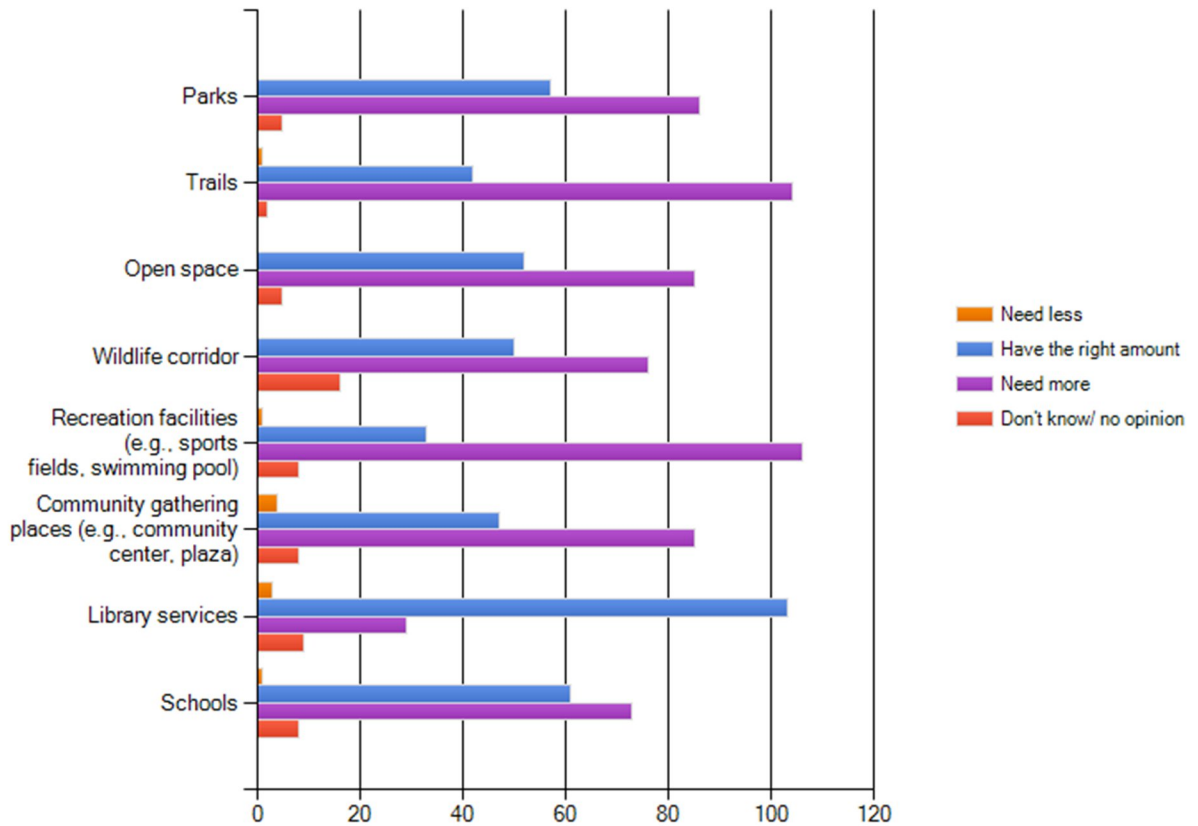


Community Facilities

What additional community facilities do we need over the next 20 years?

A majority of respondents feel that more is needed of all the services listed with the exception of library services.

What additional community facilities do we need over the next 20 years?





Camas Vision Statement (Draft)

The Camas 2035 Vision was developed to guide the goals and policies of the Camas Comprehensive Plan. The Vision is written in the present tense, as if we are describing Camas as it exists in 2035. Some aspects of the vision can be found in Camas today, while others represent aspirations for the future.

Introduction

In the year 2035, residents of Camas continue to appreciate their safe, diverse and welcoming community as a livable place for people of all ages. Camas maintains its small town character while accommodating current and future residents. Camas is well known for its excellent schools, thriving businesses and ready access to metropolitan amenities and natural features. A vibrant downtown and community events and activities bring neighbors together and are enjoyed by all.

Vital, Stable and Livable Neighborhoods

Camas is a well planned and connected city where residents enjoy pedestrian and bicycle paths between neighborhoods and to downtown. Historic structures are maintained and rehabilitated to accommodate new homes and businesses. There is a wide variety and range of affordable housing for all ages and income levels. Quality public facilities, services and utilities contribute to a high quality of life. Residents enjoy a variety of social and cultural activities to celebrate the city, its history and its people.

Diversified Economy

Downtown Camas retains its old town atmosphere as a walkable, attractive place to shop, dine and gather. Housing within the city's core contributes to a town center that supports local businesses. The economy has grown to attract a variety of businesses that offer stable employment opportunities and family wage jobs. Camas is a gateway to nature and recreational opportunities, leading to a robust tourism industry.

Public Services

Camas continues to have an excellent school system, an asset that draws families to the community. Students and their families enjoy the city's parks, trails, community centers and recreational opportunities. The library continues its vital role as a place of learning. Residents value well-funded police, fire and emergency response services. Proficient government agencies maintain existing city assets and coordinate future development.

Natural Environment

Camas appreciates and enhances the quality of its natural environment. A vegetated corridor provides habitat and safe passage for wildlife throughout Camas and to the Columbia River. Lacamas Lake is treasured as a unique and pristine resource. City policies preserve trees and natural areas.



STRATEGIC PLAN

Mission Statement:

“The City of Camas commits to preserving its heritage, sustaining and enhancing a high quality of life for all its citizens and developing the community to meet the challenges of the future.

We take pride in preserving a healthful environment while promoting economic growth.

We encourage citizens to participate in government and community, assisting the City in its efforts to provide quality services consistent with their desires and needs.”

Camas is a great place to
LIVE, WORK, LEARN and PLAY.

616 NE FOURTH AVENUE
CAMAS, WASHINGTON 98607

The Camas WAY

The City of Camas is not separate from the community of Camas. We are a fundamental part of our community. This section highlights what we, the City, do to honor and reinforce that relationship.

OBJECTIVES

- Provide excellent public service to our community.
- Be genuinely responsive to the needs of community members.
- Maintain an exceptionally straightforward permitting process and support applicants in being successful.
- Go over and above what is expected.

ACTION ITEMS

- Work with the community to define “The Camas Way”.
- Provide customer service training to ensure staff provides positive, effective public service.
- Develop an online/mobile application to provide citizens with a direct, easy way to communicate concerns and requests, and develop protocols to ensure responses are timely and helpful.

ONGOING EFFORTS

- Recognize employees who provide excellent service.
- Visit every major employer annually.
-

Camas is a great place to LIVE

The special quality of life in Camas is supported by all aspects of this strategic plan. This section specifically addresses the aspects, such as community life and safety, that are not directly addressed in the Work, Learn and Play goals.

OBJECTIVES

- Maintain the strong sense of community and belonging.
- Ensure residents can live with confidence in their safety and security.
- Strengthen the downtown's role as the heart of the community and a wonderful destination.
- Celebrate and promote community identity through well-attended, fun community events.

ACTION ITEMS

- Install "Welcome to Camas" signs that create inviting gateways.
- Police initiative?
- Fire initiative?
- Work with the community to identify and assist in planning flagship events that business owners and volunteers can eagerly support and that will remain special for the community in both the nature and frequency of the events.
- Improve access to the City's public spaces by providing the ability to discover and reserve any Community Room from one source.
-

ONGOING EFFORTS

- Develop the downtown Capital Investment Program.
- Update the Comprehensive Plan to provide further opportunities for a variety of housing choices in proximity to employment areas.

Camas is a great place to **WORK**

Availability of family-wage jobs and positive work environments are key to the livability of Camas. This section recognizes that the City of Camas has two roles in supporting this goal. One is external: to promote the development of good jobs in the broader community. The other is internal: to ensure the City is a responsible employer.

SUPPORTING EMPLOYERS

OBJECTIVES

- Continue to attract employers who provide good family-wage jobs.
- Invest in infrastructure.
- Continue to improve processes for applicants, helping them be successful – “Get to Yes”.
- Service existing employers.

ACTION ITEMS

- Implement building re-inspection option by allowing building inspectors to do remote inspections through FaceTime or similar software.

ONGOING EFFORTS

- Annually meet with major employers to identify areas where City services can be improved.
- Update Capital Plans to be consistent with economic development priorities.
- Work toward a one-stop-shop for all permitting by locating Planning, Building, Engineering and Fire Marshall services in one location (a new City Hall).
- Identify and pursue funding sources for capital projects consistent with economic development priorities.
- Identify and pursue public and private partners in establishing and maintaining capital improvements.

BEING A GOOD EMPLOYER

OBJECTIVES

- Provide increased training opportunities for employees.
 - Improve open communication with employees and increased collaboration in decision making at all employee levels and across departments.
 - Continue current and establish new employee appreciation and recognition opportunities.
 - Develop a formal City volunteer program to supplement the City workforce.
-

ACTION ITEMS

- Develop City-wide volunteer program including a community outreach aspect.
 - Ensure salaries and benefits provided by the City are competitive and comparable to those of other jurisdictions; gain the assistance of a consultant.
-

ONGOING EFFORTS

- Develop and implement a formal employee training program. Include:
 - Requirements for each position
 - Professional association membership and participation
 - In-house trainers – utilize existing expertise
 - WCIA training opportunities
 - Mandatory management and leadership training
- Establish regular meetings with Joint Labor Management Committees for each union.
- Develop Department Work Plans and written procedures.
- Conduct regular interdepartmental work group meetings to discuss projects and goals the groups have in common.
- Continue annual employee recognition event as well as create smaller, more informal means of meeting with workgroups, finding new ways to increase employee acknowledgement and recognition (i.e. Coffee w/Mayor and City Administrator, work group visits, on-the-spot recognition for good deeds)
- Adjust levels of operations and maintenance budget to match expected levels of service.
- Identify and establish thresholds for administrative approval of change orders, property acquisitions, etc.

Camas is a great place to LEARN

This section outlines how the City of Camas can support life-long learning.

OBJECTIVES

- Maintain and, as Camas grows (most notably in the North Urban Growth Area – NUGA), expand our first-class public library for the Camas community.
- Improve public technologies and accessibility.
- Promote and develop a safe social media environment, advanced web presence and learning tools.
- Foster partnerships with Camas, Washougal and Evergreen School Districts, as well as Educational Service District 112, Clark College and Washington State University Vancouver.

ACTION ITEMS

- Develop a strategic plan for future shared learning facilities, programs and resources with Camas, Washougal and Evergreen School Districts for NUGA and other planned growth.
- Review all public buildings, map locations, and existing or future fiber connectivity; seek out partnerships for the development and expansion of shared internet/Wi-Fi services throughout the community (with schools and public buildings as hubs).
- Partner with local schools and provide incentives for City staff to participate in a Lunch Buddies program, providing mentorship to the community's children.

ONGOING EFFORTS

- Collaborate with local partners on continued education through shared recreation programs, community education services and resources.
- Collaborate and consolidate a joint online reservation/registration community site through partnerships.
- Seek out and develop internship opportunities both internal and external to the City of Camas for community members.
- Continue to support the Farmers Market as a gathering place with opportunities to inform and educate the community about new issues and activities.
-

Camas is a great place to **PLAY**

The trails, parks, sports fields and access to water in Camas are a fundamental part of the city's identity, and are key to this community's exceptional quality of life. This section outlines how the City will care for and provide opportunities to enjoy these resources.

OBJECTIVES

- Support the health and well-being of our citizens and build community spirit by providing quality parks, open space, trail systems, recreation programs and facilities that are inviting and encourage use by Camas' residents, visitors and employees.
- Ensure that Camas continues to thrive, attracting new family-wage jobs and investment by current business due to the quality of life provided by its parks, recreation resources, and open spaces.
- Administer and maintain the parks and recreation system in an efficient and cost-effective manner.

ACTION ITEMS

- Prioritize preservation and maintenance of existing parks in the 2015/16 budget cycle.
- Establish a sustainable funding model for creation of and maintenance of parks and recreation programs.
 - Evaluate creation of a Metropolitan Parks District (MPD).
 - Evaluate use of volunteers, community service workers, AmeriCorps, non-profit sports leagues and other programs to supplement staffing resources.
- Consolidate recreation programs with Camas School District; continue to look for opportunities to expand programs and coordinate on maintenance activities.
- Create the ability to reserve any Community Room from a recreation reservation software.
- Restore Crown Park Pool; develop strategy for long-term operations.
- Increase awareness of City parks and trails network through website improvements and information brochures/maps placed in strategic locations throughout the City.

ONGOING EFFORTS

- Adjust levels of operations and maintenance budget to match expected levels of service.

- Meet quarterly with leads of the local non-profit park user groups (such as Little League Baseball, Babe Ruth Baseball, and Soccer Club) to coordinate field space needs, maintenance activities and other overlapping interests.
- Look for strategic property acquisition opportunities.

The City is **EQUIPPED** to meet these goals in
an **EFFICIENT** and
COST-EFFECTIVE Manner

The manner and means by which people communicate has changed radically over the last decade, and the advances in technology have created more efficient and effective tools and systems available for operations and services. This section outlines what the City can do to apply these tools as we work to achieve the goals described in this plan.

OBJECTIVES

- Develop a strategic plan to integrate and improve processes across departments (written procedures and supporting technologies).
- Enhance and support core systems and core applications – adding new modules or applications where necessary to add efficiencies, accessibility and transparency.
- Provide employees with the technology, tools and training to efficiently and effectively do their work.
- Continue to develop and promote the use of mobile technology for the City fleet in alignment with application deliverables and uses.
- Continue to develop and promote web-based services.

ACTION ITEMS

- Create a long-term technology strategic plan to improve and enhance City systems and major applications – items to include:
 - Strategic plan review with consultant
 - Implementation of a city-wide records management system to comply with the Washington State Records Retention laws and reduce paper products, storage and retention
 - Complete installation of radio reads throughout the community
 - Addition of Springbrook modules:
 - Online code and contact management – public contact module
 - Parking tickets
 - Equipment rental and work order system
 - Animal licensing
 - Human Resources Open Enrollment
 - Public Works Asset Management/Inventory (review Springbrook module database with SQL core system for integration to Springbrook modules)

- Create and maintain a technology repair and replacement plan to capture and dedicate funding for steady reinvestment in the City's technology assets.
- Restructure GIS/CAD design and development services and support.

ONGOING EFFORTS

- Continue to develop the VMware (Virtual Machine) environment and standards for systems and employee desktops, including training and product upgrades.
- Continue to plan for and invest in the City's core network and technologies (phones, voicemail, email, servers, and network infrastructure across departments).
- Support ongoing development of the City's website:
 - Enhance and develop the online presence and services of the City through its website – social media, calendar of events, blogging, forms, applications, e-commerce, etc.
 - Professional Services contracts for enhanced programming – refresh website/add web-based services
 - Assign department responsibility for regular maintenance and updates to content

Discussion Paper

Community Center
Planning Conference
January 16, 2015

Introduction

In 1985, the City purchased the current Community Center as a pilot project that would provide a place where “new” Camas and “old” Camas residents could have a place to come together to socialize, recreate, and continue the sense of one Community. The project proved to be very successful and led to several attempts to build a new and expanded facility.

1993/4 – Camas-Washougal area indoor Swimming Pool and Recreation Center feasibility Study was completed. Recommended a 27,000 sq. ft., \$5.1 million facility with 100% projected cost recovery.

2000/02 – Camas Recreation/Community Center study was completed. It recommended an 81,500 sq. ft., \$18.5 million facility with a projected cost recovery of 87%.

2004/05 – The Camas Learning Village private/public partnership project was proposed. 115,000 sq. ft. facility, (large amount of space dedicated to Gymnastics). Undisclosed financial data.

2006/08 – Camas-Washougal Community Recreation Center Facility Plan completed. Recommended a 54,500 sq. ft., (core space) \$30.7 million facility (included \$1.5 million property acquisition) with a projected cost recovery of 60%.

2010/12 - Community Center Development Committee completed the Camas Community Recreation Center report. Recommended a 49,000 sq. ft., \$24 million facility with a 55% cost recovery.

2014 – Purchase of Lacamas Swim and Sport was proposed. It recommended it be converted into a 41,200 sq. ft. Community Facility. Total cost of \$7.0 million with a 100% cost recovery.

The citizens of Camas continue to express their need and desire to have a Recreation facility with aquatics. 2000, 2007, and 2014 Comprehensive Plan surveys list the project in the top three of the three highest facility needs for the Parks and Recreation system. In the current 2035 visioning process, surveys and workshop sessions support the data collected.

Throughout the 20 year effort with different councils and mayors there seems to be common themes or areas of agreement and key issues to be resolved.

Themes

Several themes or areas of apparent agreement have emerged.

1. *Council Members and the Mayor recognize the need for a new community center and support the City's participation in making it happen.*
2. *Council and the Mayor are committed to working through the issues together to find a way to make a new Community Center a reality.*
3. *Public input on a variety of Community Center elements is important.*
4. *Most Council Members appear comfortable with the current level of general fund subsidy of the Community Center, swimming pool and recreation programs, and support continuing this level (and possibly more to take inflation into account).*
5. *A general consensus appears apparent on maintaining the existing array of services, at a minimum.*
6. *Council Members and the Mayor recognize that we have aging recreation and community facilities that need attention.*

Key Issues to be Resolved

Several key issues need further attention by Council in order to move forward.

1. *Site(s) selection.* Divergent opinions on the most appropriate site for a new community center (include whether to locate services at more than one location). Example: Aquatic component; should we rebuild at Crown Park or combine with larger facility.
2. *Range of services to be offered (duplication of services).* Council Members have expressed different opinions as to how much and what type of services are provided.

Some expressed concern about competing with private sector and duplicating services currently provided and at what level.

3. *Capital expenditure upper limit and preferred funding mechanism.* How much is too much? Bonding impacts on future capital needs. Is this where we want to spend existing authority? Possible new taxing district.
4. *Confidence in operating budget projections.* Several Council Members are concerned with financial projections of operating revenues and expenses. What can be done so Council Members feel confident about the financial information they are given?
5. *Partnership opportunity viability and advisability.* Ensure the most efficient use of public funds, while matching core functions with services provided.
6. *Future of Swimming Pool and Community Center.* Keep and invest in the public swimming pool and Community Center, decommission, or sell asset.
7. *Process, roles, and communication.* If Council is to move forward successfully, it will be important to clarify and reach agreement on who is responsible for making what decisions and their order and timing. Clear lines of communication will need to be established. For example, when and how will Council be kept informed and/or involved?

Conclusion

While there are issues to be resolved and decisions made before the Council can make the Community Center a reality, Council is committed to the community and to making sure that the City continues to offer quality recreation amenities.