

THE CAMAS QUARTERLY



*A CITY OF
CAMAS, WA
PUBLICATION*



Camas Quarterly

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Hello Camas,

Summer in the Pacific Northwest is a beautiful time, and that's especially true here in Camas. This summer will also signify a return to normalcy for the City. As we move out of the COVID pandemic, we eagerly await the arrival of the familiar. One of those familiar activities is recreating in Lacamas, Round and Fallen Leaf lakes. As you may know, our Lake Management Plan is currently in process. This summer you may see boats out testing water samples. For everyone's safety, we ask that you give the boat and the individuals space as they perform this important task. Once collected, this information will provide us with a baseline, so that we can begin to look at ways make the lake water cleaner and healthier for you.

In City leadership news, you have probably heard that we decided to pass on the four individuals we brought to the City for City Administrator interviews. While each candidate had a phenomenal set of skills, none of the candidates were the "right" fit for the City at this time considering its challenges. When it comes to Camas, I'm looking more for a City Manager, rather than a City Administrator. Partly because that's what this City needs to be successful, but also because it would fit with a possible change to Camas' government. I say possible, because ultimately that decision will reside with you, the resident. But please pay attention to the form of government article in this newsletter. This will give you a baseline of information and we'll bring you more information, as we discuss this process more in depth.

As for the City Administrator position, it will remain open, and candidates will be reviewed continuously, as Camas continues to search for the City's next Administrator.



**MAYOR
STEVE HOGAN**

As I mentioned above, this summer will hopefully signal a return to more normal times. We had a phenomenal turnout for our Camtown event, and I want to thank all of you who were a part of that. And I'm excited to say, we'll see the return of Camas Days, Friday July 22, and Saturday, July 23. This should be a great event for the whole family!

Finally, I want to welcome the American Empress Cruise ship to Camas. The ships will visit Camas every other Wednesday and Saturday through the summer. Andrea Mickelson will captain the ship and it just so happens that she is from Clark County. Captain Mickelson told us that she's excited to come back to her "stomping grounds" as a ship captain. In terms of bringing new visitors to the area, Captain Mickelson said, "anything that keeps people on the green side of the state is my favorite! They get the time to soak in the scenery and see why we all love living in this best place in the country in my opinion."

That's my opinion too Captain. Remember to greet these visitors when you see them in town and show them why Camas is the best community in the state of Washington.

Thank you,
Mayor Steve Hogan

THE MANY FORMS OF GOVERNMENT



According to the Municipal Research and Services Center (MRSC), Washington cities and towns are organized under two principal forms of government, sometimes referred to as plans of government: mayor-council and council-manager.

Camas currently works under the mayor-council form, and more specifically, the hybrid city administrator system. MRSC lists the Mayor-council form as the oldest and most common form of government in Washington, including small towns and large cities alike.

In this form of government, a mayor is elected at-large, who serves as the city's chief administrative officer, and a separately elected council (elected either at-large or from districts) serve as the municipality's legislative body. MRSC says that many mayor-council cities have hired professional city administrators, much like Camas. The city administrator is usually a full-time position responsible for many administrative and policy-related duties such as budget preparation, personnel administration, and department supervision.

In fact, Camas is currently in the process of trying to hire the next City Administrator. However, according to Camas Mayor Steve Hogan, the search process provided more questions about whether the City needs a City Administrator or a City Manager.

“There is no single governance structure that guarantees good governance,” said Camas Mayor Steve Hogan. “Because of that, the question really comes down to risk management.”

THE MANY FORMS OF GOVERNMENT

That’s why Hogan is interested in exploring the different forms of governance options and looking into the structures of the governance. As mentioned before, when discussing the City Administrator candidate pool, Hogan mentioned that in his opinion Camas may simply want to have a discussion about the form of government.

According to MRSC, the council-manager form consists of an elected city council (which may be elected at-large or from districts) which is responsible for policymaking, and a professional city manager, appointed by the council, who is responsible for administration. The city manager provides policy advice, directs the daily operations of city government, handles personnel functions (including the power to appoint and remove employees) and is responsible for preparing the city budget.

Under the council-manager statutes, the city council is prohibited from interfering with the manager's administration. The city manager, however, is directly accountable to and can be removed by a majority vote of the council at any time.

Comparison of Mayor-Council vs. Council-Manager

Characteristics	Mayor-Council	Council-Manager
Legislative authority	Council	Council
Executive authority	Elected mayor	Appointed manager
Selection of CEO	Popularly elected	Appointed by council on the basis of experience
Removal of CEO	Recall election	Removed by a majority vote of the council
Tenure of executive	4-year term	Indefinite
Tenure of council	4-year term	4-year term
Appointment of department heads	Mayor (with council confirmation if provided)	Manager (no council confirmation)
Removal of department heads	Mayor	Manager
Veto	Mayor (except for towns)	Manager has no veto
Policy development	Mayor can propose	Manager can recommend
Policy implementation	Mayor	Manager
Underlying principles	Separation of powers; Political leadership; Strong central executive	Separation of politics from administration; Promotes economy and efficiency through professional management; Strong central executive; Follows business model

Provided by MRSC

And while Hogan himself mentioned the council-manager form of government, he knows it all comes down to the citizens.

“As mayor, I’m trying to provide the citizens with the two options available to them in Washington,” Hogan said. “Should the option arise to put this before the community for a vote, I want to make sure we’re having clear discussions about the pros and cons for each,” he said.

However, Hogan is also aware that this might not even make it to the ballot. After all, this isn’t the first time Camas has waded into the form of government discussion.

THE MANY FORMS OF GOVERNMENT

But, as Hogan mentioned, Camas has a history of trying to get ahead of key issues. Whether it's the Economic Diversification strategy put forth by former Mayor Nan Henriksen, that has remained successful to this day; or the plan by former City Administrator Lloyd Halverson to integrate Parks, Trails and Open Space into our community priorities. Either way, Camas has a history of exploring options.

"That's what this really is too," said Hogan. "Before I would even suggest putting something on a ballot, I want to hear from residents on whether there's even a significant amount of them that want to discuss this. Again, we're just looking at options."

Residents can find more information on the State of Washington forms of government at <https://mrsc.org/Home/Explore-Topics/Governance/Forms-of-Government-and-Organization/City-and-Town-Forms-of-Government.aspx>



WHAT IS STORMWATER?

A common term you will hear the City refer to is “stormwater”. We talk about it generally when we speak about the Lake Management Plan, but stormwater is a very important topic that we can all hopefully learn a little more about and how it truly impacts our area. Stormwater is such an important component in the City, that Camas has a designated employee as our Stormwater Engineer. That person is Jackie Caldwell. We sat down with Caldwell for a brief Q and A about stormwater.

Q. First things first, what is Stormwater?

A. Stormwater is any precipitation that falls from the sky, which would include rain, hail and snow.

Q. How does this differ from wastewater?

A. Wastewater is used water, this would include water from bathrooms, kitchens and processed water from businesses. Because wastewater is “used water,” it needs to be treated at a treatment plant. Stormwater, on the other hand, enters a storm drain in various ways like rain from the street or yard runoff. Because of that, it most likely would not be treated before it enters lakes, streams and creeks.

Q. We often mention that it goes directly to our water sources, but does stormwater really flow directly into our lakes etc.?

A. Watersheds are based on topography. So, if you imagine it like a funnel, a watershed is an area of land that collects stormwater and contains a common set of streams and rivers that all drain into a single larger body of water. So yes, stormwater does drain directly into our lakes, streams and creeks.

Q. We know stormwater drains into our water sources, but why is stormwater important for us to monitor?

A. Quite simply, stormwater that is not managed and maintained can lead to pollution, erosion, flooding, and many other environmental and health issues. That’s why we try to raise awareness about the importance of knowing what’s going down the drain.

Q. Is this where the City’s Stormwater Management Action Plan comes into play?

A. Yes, the Stormwater Management Action Plan will help us determine areas in the City that would benefit from retrofits, land management strategies and enhanced maintenance. This is also a requirement of the City’s National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit regulated by Washington State Department of Ecology.

Continued on next page

WHAT IS STORMWATER?

Q. If I'm just an average homeowner, I don't need to worry about stormwater, right?

A. The City is made up of urban areas and suburbs, and each has their own issues with stormwater. As a community, we need to work together to understand how we impact stormwater, and what we can do to help maintain and manage stormwater.

Q. Finally, how can I do my part?

A. There are various ways to help prevent stormwater pollution.

- Keep trash out of the lakes
- Use less pesticides and fertilizer (or none at all!)
- Pick up your pet's waste and throw it away

Visit the <https://www.cityofcamas.us/publicworks/page/you-can-make-difference>



Take the Pledge

You can do your part to help with Stormwater, by taking the the pledge to pick up after your dog!

Did you know that there are more than 1,900 registered dogs in the City of Camas?

Each dog contributes on average $\frac{3}{4}$ pound of poop daily.

Help us protect our health, our pets and our drinking water.

DEPARTMENT UPDATES



**Connie
Urquhart**

Library Director

Summer Reading

June 10 - August 19

It's time for summer reading, and this year we're asking participants to Read Beyond the Beaten Path by engaging in nature-related programs and activities. Badge Books are back, with a paper gameboard and digital app as alternative ways to track reading. There's truly something for every reader!

We've also got terrific raffle prizes lined up for all ages, from art supplies and e-readers to bikes and gift cards.

Our summer reading page has all the info you need at camaspl.org/srp or just scan the QR code with your phone's camera.

We're taking this year's adventurous theme to new heights! Some of the fantastic ways we are collaborating with Mother Nature this year:

- Storytimes in the Park (various locations)
- Rambling Readers Book Club
- Keeping It Clean Upstream (virtual)

DEPT. UPDATES - CONT.

SUMMER READING

Library -

- Plant & Cutting Swap
- Parks & Recreation Trivia Night
- DIY Solar Oven

In addition, we've got the following events lined up at Crown Park: S'More Stories July 29, Mad Science Aug. 8, Jessa Campbell and the Saplings Aug. 16, and a Storywalk the entire month of July.

A special thanks to the Parks & Recreation Department for providing this natural partnership opportunity.

2022

Want to know more?

Download the app called CauseConnect and search for City of Camas, go to volunteer.cityofcamas.us, or simply give us a call at the Library. We love our volunteers!



Volunteering Made Easy

Giving back just got even better. The Camas Library is the first department in the City of Camas, with others to soon follow, to bring you everything you need for volunteering under one roof, website, or app.

Whichever way you prefer to stay informed about volunteer opportunities, check in when you get here, and track your volunteer hours: we've got you covered. If you're new to volunteering, that's easy too - we'll just ask you a few questions when you sign up and you can pick from the list of available options.



Cathy
Huber
Nickerson
Finance Director

The United States Congress approved the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) on March 11, 2021 to provide a \$1.9 trillion package to provide direct relief to states, counties, cities, and towns as well as public utilities, libraries, and transit agencies.

DEPT. UPDATES - CONT.



Finance -

As a community of 50,000 or less, the City of Camas will receive a distribution of these funds over four years from the Washington State Department of Commerce.

Council approved Resolution 21-005 to accept the City of Camas \$6,816,235 allocation of Coronavirus State and Local Relief Funds (CLFRF). The City received the first tranche of \$3,408,118 June 30, 2021 and will receive the last tranche at the end of the month.

These funds can be used:

-To respond to public health emergency caused by COVID-19

-To aid households, small businesses, and nonprofits related to the negative economic impacts of COVID-19

-For premium pay (hazard pay) up to \$13/hour, not to exceed \$25,000 to any individual employee, to eligible government essential workers

-To provide government services to the extent of the reduction in revenue of such cities/counties due to COVID-19 relative to revenues collected in the most recent full fiscal year prior to the emergency (for cities in Washington, the baseline would be the calendar year 2019 budget)

-To make necessary investments in water, sewer, or broadband infrastructure.

The City is in the process of determining the best use of this one-time source of funds. At this time, the City Council allocated \$80,000 to assist families struggling to pay their utility bills and \$1.4 million for cybersecurity and more convenient self-service access to city services with a new computer system.

The Council is working through City priorities and is planning to work with staff and the community in the coming year. The City has until the end of 2024 to spend the \$6.8 million.



Washington State
Department of
Commerce

DEPT. UPDATES - CONT.



Trang
Lam

Parks and
Recreation
Director

CROWN PARK – 30% DESIGN PROCESS UPDATE

Located at 120 NE 17th Ave., Crown park is a 7.3 acre developed park comprised of mature fir trees, a picnic shelter, two play areas with equipment, a basketball half court, two tennis courts and Scout Hall. The 2018 Crown Park Master Plan (Master Plan) serves as a vision of the park for the next generation of users and is used as a framework to guide future funding decisions.

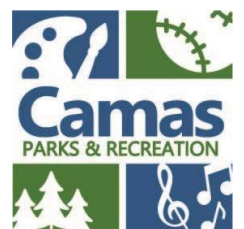
Over a 13-month design process, Crown Park Public Advisory Committee, Technical Advisory Committee, Parks and Recreation Commission and the general public were engaged to provide feedback and direction. On Oct. 24, 2018, the Commission reviewed and recommended the final Master Plan report to City Council for approval. On Nov. 5, 2018, Camas City Council adopted the 2018 Crown Park Master Plan (Master Plan).

Crown Park has a magnificent grove of mature trees consisting of approximately 75 year-old Douglas Firs, Western Red Cedars, Redwoods, Giant Sequoias, Zelkovas, Blue Spruces and a variety of Maples. The Master Plan was designed with an eye for protecting, ensuring no tree removal, and highlighting our tree assets.

Key park features will include:

- Inclusive playground
- Interactive water feature
- Permanent restrooms
- Outdoor amphitheater
- Sports court
- Flexible open lawn
- New ADA accessible pathways
- Access improvements to Scout Hall
- New site furnishings
- Upgraded irrigation system
- Stormwater management gardens and updated plantings

On Feb. 22, 2022, Council approved a 30% design contract. This summer, we'll be working with the Camas community and the Parks & Recreation Commission through public engagement to refine the design of the major park features outlined in the Master Plan.



DEPT. UPDATES - CONT.

Parks and Recreation -

Community Survey

Two surveys, Sport Court and Water Feature & Inclusive Playground Open House, were share with the community via on-line and in-person at the May 17 Open House at Crown Park.

Additional hard copies of the surveys were also available at the Camas Library. The surveys stayed open through May 31.

We are currently compiling all the data and will be sharing a report of the surveys results on Engage Camas.

An inclusive playground goes beyond the minimum level of accessibility in order to create a place where children of all abilities can play together. Outdoor play environments can create opportunities to ensure that people of all ages and abilities can be both physically and socially active through play and recreation, while dramatically and positively impacting children's play experiences.
- PlayCore & Utah State University 2010

WHAT IS
INCLUSIVE
PLAY?

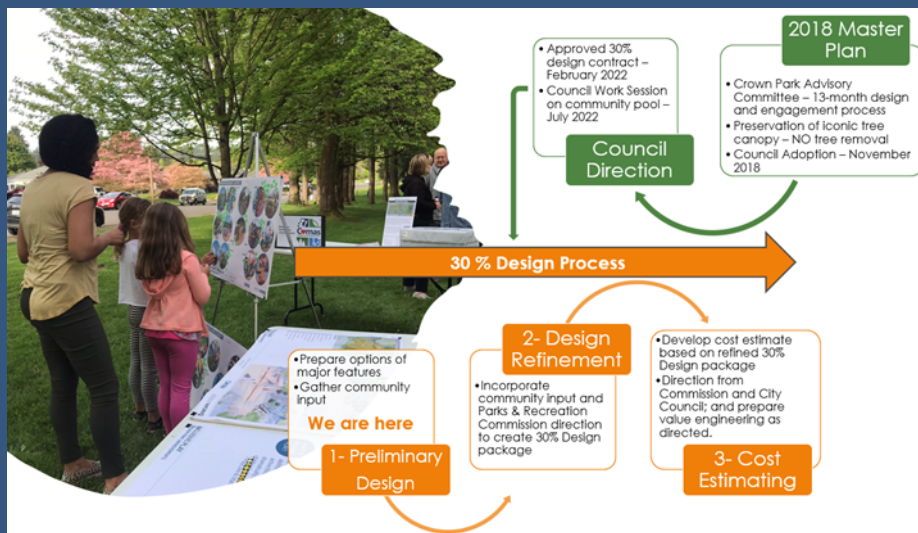
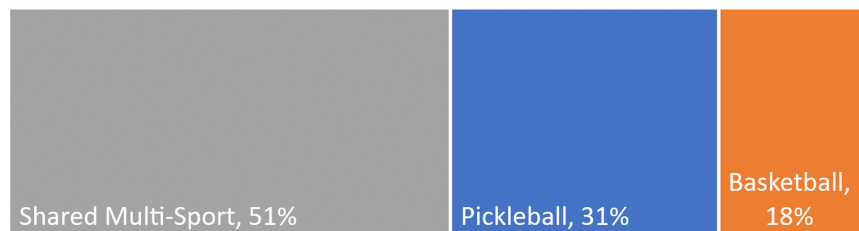
Playground Theme (1300 total participants)

■ Modern ■ Traditional ■ Natural



Sport Court Survey (1073 total participants)

■ Pickleball ■ Basketball ■ Shared Multi-Sport



DEPT. UPDATES - CONT.



Steve
Wall
Public
Works
Director

Lake Management Plan Update -

The City's Team continues to make progress on the Lakes Management Plan to improve conditions in Lacamas Lake, Round Lake and Fallen Leaf Lake.

Water quality sampling and monitoring began in early June and will continue for the next 12 months. The last time an analysis of this nature has been done on the lakes was in the 1980s.

The water quality sampling and data collection is a vital step in the process as the information will help the City determine where the nutrients, like phosphorus and nitrogen, are coming from that are driving the algal blooms.

The City won't know these drivers or understand them until the data is collected. Ultimately, to improve water quality the team will need to evaluate and recommend alternatives that can help reduce the nutrient load.



WHAT'S IN A BID?

When the City has a construction project that has been designed and it is time to find a contractor to complete the improvements, there are a number of requirements that must be met in order to appropriately obtain a company to complete the work. Generally speaking, the project must be publicly bid for all contractors and others to view and consider.

The City is required to issue a notice calling for “sealed bids” by any contractor wanting to complete the work. The notice is published in the newspaper(s) most likely to bring responsive bids, at least thirteen days prior to the date set for opening. Advertisements for bids include plans, specifications, and procedures for bidders to use when estimating their bids.

Additionally, bidders are required to pay Prevailing Wages as established by Washington State, or by the Federal Government when Federal funding is used, when developing their bids. After all sealed bids are received by the advertised due date and time, City staff publicly open and reads aloud all bids received. After opening bids and seeing the estimated costs submitted, there is further process that is required before awarding the work to a particular company or contractor.

Washington State law requires cities and other public agencies to award public works construction contracts to a responsible bidder with the lowest responsive bid. This applies to both informal bidding for small projects, as well as larger projects with formal competitive bids.

Agencies may not negotiate with any of the bidders or arbitrarily choose to use a contractor to complete the work. Some submissions may involve errors, omissions, or other irregularities, and agencies must decide how to handle them as part of determining the lowest responsive and responsible bidder.

Generally speaking, “Responsive” bids are bids that are submitted on time with all the information the agency requested. “Responsible” bidders must meet several mandatory criteria as identified by law.

The bidder must:

- Be a registered contractor
- Have a current Unified Business Identifier (UBI) number
- Have industrial insurance/workers' comp coverage, which means they normally cannot be sued for damages if a work-related injury or illness occurs.
- Have an Employment Security Department (ESD) account
- Have a state excise tax registration number
- Not be disqualified from bidding (as defined in the Revised Code of Washington)
- Not have any apprenticeship violations, if applicable
- Certify through a sworn statement or an unsworn declaration under penalty of perjury that they are not a willful violator of labor laws.
- Have received training, provided by the Department of Labor and Industries on the requirements related to public works and prevailing wages.

Once the lowest responsive, responsible bidder is determined, the City will officially award the project to the winning contractor in writing. After award, the City and contractor work together to begin and complete construction.



IF IT'S A PRIORITY YOU'LL FIND A WAY

A priority is defined as something that is regarded as more important than another.

People will often talk about priorities in life, as in what comes first to them. And when it comes to a city, there really is no difference in the fact that a city must also define what its priorities will be.

The difference comes in the form of the time. For cities, that timeline is forever. Cities are in the forever business, meaning cities make decisions today, that will impact tomorrow.

However, a city is not a person. Instead, the residents of the city elect Council Members and a Mayor, that they believe will help the city determine the "right" priorities. And that's where Camas' City Council currently finds itself – determining priorities.

This year, Camas welcomed three new members to the City Council, as well as the addition of a new Mayor.

In order for these elected officials to be successful, they must have a road map of where they want to take Camas, and the priorities needed to get there.

As such, Interim City Administrator Jeff Swanson has taken on the task of facilitating these discussions through multiple City Council Annual Planning Conferences. So far, there have been six sessions, but Swanson sees more on the horizon.

"We'll have as many as necessary, because the subject matter is very complex and has a lot of variety," Swanson said.

"Some of the items Council has concerns about. Some are straight forward, and some are concepts that need to be fleshed out. And then you have many that are ongoing priorities that will take multiple budget cycles to go through, but they're already in motion," he said.

Swanson has approached the priority setting meetings from various angles. At times, Swanson has focused on the idea of leadership, and how that plays into the process.

Additionally, Council has talked through what it takes to understand staff's workload, while balancing the needs of a growing community. Swanson said that topics like this are important in the context of priority setting.

IF IT'S A PRIORITY YOU'LL FIND A WAY

"It really boils down to the complexity of issues we're dealing with in Camas. There needs to be an understanding that when we move forward with our priorities, Council, staff and the community have to move forward together, if we're going to be successful," he said. "An individual's particular interests and priorities will need to be contextualized with all of the identified priorities and their respective criticality."

Critical issues are something Camas is dealing with. There are infrastructure and building issues, there are issues with the Fire Department, and then there's literally a whole list of others. If you have attended any Council meetings, you've probably heard of the current priority list that has somewhere close to 117 items. As most know, it's impossible to have 117 priorities that can be completed.

"Our job as staff, is to provide the information, context and understanding of what priorities on this list are more critical," Swanson said. "But ultimately, it's up to Council to decide on the size of the list, and the order in which they're completed," he said.

According to Swanson, it's about building a base of understanding. This way, when Council does decide, the decision will be made from a higher baseline of information and certainty.

Swanson also pointed out that Council has already recognized certain timelines and needs, as is the case with the current City ERP project and the need to move that forward. Additionally, staff is currently working on past priorities and other duties to keep the water flowing and the lights coming on.

"There's a lot already going on at the City in addition to the normal baseline of day to day work. We want all of our stakeholders – community, Council, and staff – to be on the same page in that regard as we consider additional priorities and initiatives to undertake," Swanson said.

So, is there a culmination of the work? Swanson said it's more of a yes and no.

"The policy work of elected officials occurs in cycles," he said. "Each cycle we'll need to review and see if we need to reconsider priorities based on events and changes occurring within the cycle."

It really goes back to the beginning; cities are in the forever business. Needs don't suddenly go away. There is always work to be done.

CITY COUNCIL UPDATES



**Greg
Anderson
Ward 3**



**Marilyn
Boerke
Ward 1**



**Bonnie
Carter
Ward 2**



**Don
Chaney
At Large**



**Tim
Hein
Ward 2**



**Leslie
Lewallen
Ward 3**



**Shannon
Roberts
Ward 1**

Tim Hein- Ward 2

I appreciate all the citizen involvement in providing feedback on the PROs plan, recent town hall meeting and Crown Park plan.

My additional focus has been the 6 scheduled city council planning sessions in order to establish city-wide priorities. Please view the story on the planning sessions and what they mean for the city in the previous pages.

Bonnie Carter - Ward 2

I encourage everyone to educate themselves on the non-native noxious plants that have become invasive and are detrimental to our local open spaces, as well as, your neighbors' yards.

Ivy is one of those invasive species that can strangle our large fir trees, eventually killing them. It can also crowd out our native ground cover such as trillium and camas lilies.

Did you know that Himalayan blackberries are invasive and can cover small buildings if left unchecked in our open spaces?

Bamboo is also an invasive species that can quickly outgrow its container and invade nearby yards crowding other vegetation. Please choose wisely and save yourself a future backache.

As you work in your yards this spring and summer, I ask that you please consider plants that encourage pollinators and consider natural weed killing solutions and insect repellants that do not harm our honeybees and butterflies.

Thank you for your support to keep our city clean and beautiful.