
PARKS, RECREATION & OPEN SPACE PLAN

City of Camas

March 2022



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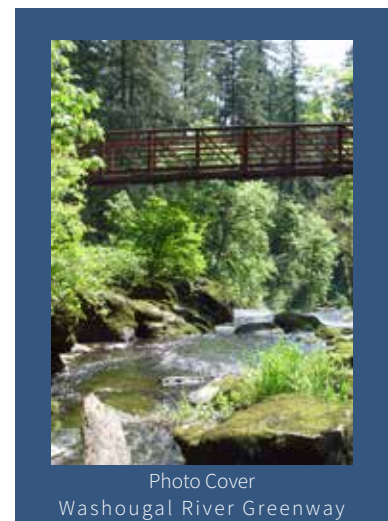


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2022 PROS Plan

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Core to our city, our community, and our residents are the parks, open spaces, forested lands, and recreational system that you've had a hand in building and growing. These treasured amenities compel stewardship as a core value, create great places, and engage our community to be active and healthy. It has been my great honor to start my tenure as Camas Parks & Recreation Director by working with the community, Parks and Recreation Commission, City Council, Planning Commission, City staff and the consultant team to develop this Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan that will help guide the City and the Parks and Recreation Department over the next 6+ years to maintain, care for and grow this beautiful system we call home. Please join me on the trail to accomplishing our shared vision for Camas.

Trang K. Lam, Parks & Recreation Director

Executive Summary

The City of Camas owns and manages over 1,000 acres of parks and open spaces, which supports a range of active and passive recreation experiences. The park and recreation system provides developed parks with playgrounds, public waterfront access sites, active recreational facilities for team sports, a skate park and 12 miles of walking paths and trails.

Additionally, recreation facilities and services available within Camas are a major community asset and support the physical, mental and social health of community members. Camas residents can also access additional parks, trails, open spaces and recreational facilities provided by Clark County, the Camas School District, the Port of Camas-Washougal, and the cities of Washougal and Vancouver.

This Parks, Recreation and Open Space (PROS) Plan is a six-year guide and strategic plan for managing and enhancing park and recreation services in Camas. It establishes a path forward for providing high quality, community-driven parks, trails, open spaces and recreational opportunities. The Plan proposes updates to service standards for parks and trails and addresses goals, action items and other management considerations toward the continuation of quality recreation opportunities to benefit the residents of Camas.

Camas is preparing for continued growth, with a forecasted 2035 population of approximately 34,100. New investments in parks and recreation will be necessary to meet the needs of the community, support youth development, expand opportunities for inclusion, provide options for residents to lead healthy, active lives, and foster greater social and community connections.

This Plan was developed with the input and direction of Camas residents. The Plan inventories and evaluates existing park and recreation areas, assesses the needs for acquisition, site development





and operations, and offers specific policies and recommendations to achieve the community’s goals. Through a robust and COVID-sensitive community engagement process, the Community feedback can be synthesized into three core, community priorities:

- Maintain what we have,
- Fill gaps and improve trail connections, and
- Develop and improve existing park.

With these key community priorities in mind and thorough data driven evaluation of the system, the following Plan findings and recommendations will help Camas meet its growth sustainably:

MAINTAIN WHAT WE HAVE

Mindful stewardship of over 1,000 acres of parks and open spaces will require strengthening of maintenance and operational approaches. Specifically, the Plan recommends the preparation of a system-wide Open Space Management Plan to guide City staff in the care, maintenance and stewardship of open space, along with an Urban Forestry Management Plan to examine the health and coverage of the urban forest. These two plans should define an implementation program that effectively carries out the maintenance and operations strategies outlined in the plans.

FILL GAPS AND IMPROVE TRAIL CONNECTIONS & DEVELOP AND IMPROVE EXISTING PARKS

The Plan includes a modest acquisition program to secure strategically located sites for future parks and/or trail corridors. To connect Camas’ residents to destinations throughout the City and provide healthy and safe options for walking and bicycling, the Plan recommends additional trail development, and trail connections including sidewalk and bike lane improvements, along with coordination with local subdivision and site development projects for smaller scale linkages.

Serving existing and future residents will require improvements to existing parks and additional investments in the park, trail and recreation system. To ensure existing and new parks provide desired recreational amenities and offer safe and accessible opportunities to play and gather, the PROS Plan recommends investments throughout the park system to enhance accessibility, safety and usability of park features. Recommended projects include an all-inclusive play area, water feature, pump track, sport field enhancements and mountain bike trails.

IMPLEMENTING THE PLAN

The City has built an amazing system of developed parks, trails and open spaces. Per capita, the Camas community enjoys more park land and trail miles than other similarly sized cities. In the last decade, the City has been fortunate to add nearly 463 acres into its system. Despite flat staffing levels since 2010, developed parks have been well maintained; however, park amenities are aging out of their life cycle and levels of service for maintenance of open space have not kept up with acquisition. The City currently relies on Park Impact Fees (PIF), Real Estate Excise Taxes (REET), grants, donations, and general and special revenue funds to finance individual projects or programs. Periodically updating the existing PIF program, which assesses fees on new development to meet the increased demand for parks, will allow the City to obtain future acquisition and development funding from residential development. Dedicated, new funding will be required to finance maintenance and operations, upgrades to, and growth in the parks system to meet community needs.

The Camas community is reaching a size that will result in greater public demand for major facilities investments such as a recreation center with aquatics programs and a sports field complex, which will require additional public and policy conversations. Bond or levy will be needed to augment existing revenue to support major investments such as parkland acquisitions and development, trail development, recreational facilities, waterfront opportunities and general park element upgrades. Such mechanisms would require both political and public support. State and federal grant programs offer additional potential opportunities to leverage available local revenues to fund specific projects.





CHAPTER 1

A Thriving CAMAS



When my kids were young, activities such as the Easter Egg Hunt and Boo Bash were important as was safe, accessible and fun playground equipment. Without children in our household, I'm more interested in trails, both walking and biking.

- Online Open House participant



PURPOSE OF THE PLAN

The City of Camas Parks, Recreation & Open Space Plan (PROS Plan) is an update to the 2014 Parks, Recreation & Open Space Plan that builds on the previously completed planning work and incorporates the feedback from an extensive community engagement process conducted throughout 2021. This Plan creates a vision for a thriving, inclusive, and interconnected system of parks, trails, and open space that promotes recreation, health,



Photo: Paul Newmann

environmental conservation, and fiscal responsibility as integral elements of a thriving, livable Camas.

The PROS Plan serves as a blueprint for the growth, enhancement, and management of the City of Camas park and recreation system and assists in guiding decisions related to planning, acquiring, developing, and maintaining parks, open space, trails, and recreational facilities. This Plan also identifies priorities for recreation programs and special events.

The 2022 PROS Plan provides updated system inventories, demographic conditions, needs analyses, and a comprehensive capital project list. The Plan identifies parks and recreation goals and establishes a long-range plan for the Camas park and recreation system, including action items and strategies for implementation over the next six to ten years. The recommendations in this Plan are based on community input, evaluations of the existing park system, operating conditions, and fiscal considerations.

The PROS Plan is part of the City's broader Comprehensive Plan and is consistent with the guidelines established by the Washington State's Growth Management Act. The PROS Plan, updated approximately every six years, allows Camas to remain current with community interests and retain eligibility for state grants through the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO), which administers various grant programs for outdoor recreation and conservation efforts.

PLANNING PROCESS

This PROS Plan represents the culmination of a year-long planning effort, and it reflects the community's interests and needs for parks, open space, trails, and programming - balanced with the realities of budget considerations. The planning process, which included a variety of public outreach activities, encouraged public engagement to inform the development of the priorities and future direction of Camas' park and recreation system. Community members expressed their interests through surveys, an online open house, stakeholder interviews, focus group discussions, tabling at events, online outreach, Parks and Recreation Commission meetings, and City Council meetings.

In addition to community engagement, the actions identified in this Plan are based on:

- An inventory and assessment of the City's existing park and recreation facilities to establish the system's current performance and to identify needed maintenance and capital repair and replacement projects, and
- Service level and walkability assessments to quantify the system's ability to serve current and future residents.

The Plan's capital facilities section and accompanying implementation and funding strategies are intended to sustain and enhance, preserve, and steward the City's critical parks and recreation infrastructure.

DEPARTMENT OVERVIEW

The City of Camas Parks and Recreation Department (Department) provides and manages a wide range of places that provide year-round active and passive recreational opportunities for residents and visitors. The Department develops, operates and maintains:

- 16 developed parks, including Fallen Leaf Lake Park
- A variety of outdoor recreation facilities, ranging from playgrounds and picnic areas to boating and water access points, to sports facilities like the Camas Skate Park and Prune Hill Sports Park
- Three indoor recreation and community gathering facilities – the Camas Community Center, Lacamas Lake Lodge, and Scout Hall
- 12 miles of City trails
- Over 1,060 acres of parks and open space

The Department also provides special events and recreational programs – including sports instruction, arts and crafts, and general education programs – for residents of all ages, often in partnership with local businesses.

Guided by Values

As part of this PROS Plan update, the Parks and Recreation Commission took the opportunity to update the Department's vision and mission statements to reflect current community input. The vision and mission statements, along with the PROS Plan goals, will guide the Department's work in the coming years.

Mission:

Camas Parks and Recreation promotes a healthy and sustainable community by listening and responding to the community's needs and desires, protecting and preserving its natural spaces to improve ecological health, and developing and maintaining parks, trails and recreation programs that are welcoming for all.

Vision:

We envision Camas as a thriving, cohesive community that honors a unique legacy of coordinated parks, trails, natural areas and diverse recreation opportunities highlighted by our lakes, rivers and streams. Stewardship and thoughtful enhancement of these assets ensure a safe, healthy, active and balanced lifestyle for all.

Accomplishments Since the 2014 Plan

The 2014 PROS Plan guided City officials, management, and staff in making decisions about planning, operating, and implementing various parks and recreation services. The following represents a short list of the major accomplishments realized following the adoption of the previous Plan:

- Opened the Lacamas Lake Lodge and Conference Center
- Prepared a site master plan to guide renovations to Fallen Leaf Lake Park
- Completed the first phase of field and site improvements for the Prune Hill Sports Park
- Constructed the Cooper's View Neighborhood Park
- Prepared a site master plan to guide renovations to Crown Park
- Acquired multiple properties along the north shore of Lacamas Lake, also known as Legacy Lands, (165 acres) and forest land at Green Mountain (115 acres)

Parks & Recreation Commission

Additionally, the efforts of the Department are guided by the Parks and Recreation Commission, a seven-member advisory group to the City Council. The Commission meets monthly to provide guidance and give recommendations on policy and issues relating to the delivery of parks and recreation services. The Commissioners are appointed by the Mayor and subject to confirmation by the City Council for three year terms.

CURRENT CHALLENGES

Impacts of the COVID-19 Pandemic

The COVID-19 pandemic and the associated health mandates for social distancing have transformed the way municipalities plan for and conduct public engagement. To develop this Plan, the City implemented a sound public process that was compliant with health mandates by using a range of online tools for communications, engagement and community feedback.

Health mandates related to the pandemic also had dramatic impacts on the City's recreation programming and operations, requiring the temporary closure of some facilities, capacity and use restrictions, and the cancellation of recreation programming. However, with improvements in local caseloads, Camas has now begun to offer in-person recreation programs and community events.

Equity, Inclusivity & Accessibility

Much has been written lately about the subject of equity and inclusion. Maintaining and enhancing social equity across recreational opportunities and facilities should be a core function of municipal park and recreation systems. Through this PROS Plan, the City of Camas made a concerted effort to reach out to and engage its historically underrepresented communities, and the City also invested in a dual language community survey to include Spanish.

Also, portions of the City's parks, trails and open space system were developed before the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) was implemented. The conditions assessment identified several deficiencies related to ADA compliance. The City must continue to find ways to provide safe and



equitable access to parks, trails, open space areas, facilities, recreation programs and other services.

Growth & Development

Over the past ten years, Camas has seen rapid population growth, which is expected to continue over the coming decade. More residents and new development will increase the need for recreational spaces and experiences across the city and increase the use of existing parks and facilities. Rapid growth will also intensify existing community needs for safe and accessible walking and biking routes as well as the preservation of open space and natural resources. In response, the City should consider ways to improve recreation facilities and parks to adapt to emerging needs, complete critical connections in the City's extensive trail network, and proactively acquire or preserve parks and open spaces in strategic areas.

Asset Management

Established park and recreation systems require ongoing maintenance to serve the community safely and effectively. Public recreation providers across the country consider maintaining existing park facilities to be a key management issue. Poorly maintained assets – from benches to playgrounds to pools – can fail, either structurally or operationally, posing safety risks and reducing their recreational value. Aging infrastructure may also fail to meet community expectations or need capital upgrades to adapt to changing community needs. However, recreation providers often struggle to establish adequate funding mechanisms for routine and preventative maintenance and repair of facilities as well as the major rehabilitation and replacement of existing recreation facilities at the end of their useful life.

This Plan includes condition assessments of the City's parks and facilities to provide a baseline of current conditions that then informs facility, maintenance, and operations policies and improvements. Proper maintenance of park and recreation assets will prevent them from deteriorating thereby reducing long-term capital and operating costs, maintaining safety, improving public perception and increasing community use.

Active Older Adults

The City of Camas' relatively older population, low rates of disability among residents over 65, and high rates of participation among residents of all ages, indicate a potential local need for active recreation opportunities for active older adults. Nationwide, active seniors are often looking at retirement age differently, and many are transitioning to new careers, finding ways to engage with their community, and focusing on their health and fitness. To meet the needs of active older residents, the City will need to consider how the City's park and recreation facilities and programming can meet the needs of this growing group.





GUIDING DOCUMENTS

This PROS Plan is one of several documents that comprise Camas' long-range planning and policy framework. Past community plans and other relevant documents were reviewed for policy direction and goals as they relate to parks, open space, trails, and recreation opportunities across Camas.

- Comprehensive Plan Camas 2035
- City of Camas Strategic Plan
- Camas Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan (2014)
- City of Camas Transportation Plan
- Lacamas Lake Management Plan (under development)
- North Shore Lacamas Lake – A Vision for Conservation and Recreation (2017)
- Lewis & Clark Regional Trail Concept Plan (2020)
- Clark County Conservation Areas Acquisition Plan (2020)
- Clark County Parks, Recreation & Open Space Plan (2020)
- City of Washougal Comprehensive Parks & Recreation Plan (2021)

CONTENTS OF THE PLAN

The remainder of the Camas PROS Plan is organized as follows:

- Chapter 2: Community Profile – provides an overview of the City of Camas and its demographics.
- Chapter 3: Community Engagement – highlights the methods used to engage the Camas community in developing the Plan.
- Chapter 4: Classifications & Inventory – describes the existing park and recreation system.
- Chapter 5: Parks & Trails
- Chapter 6: Open Space & Stewardship
- Chapter 7: Recreation & Events
- Chapter 8: Operations & Maintenance
- Chapter 9: Goals & Objectives – provides a policy framework for the park and recreation system grouped by major functional areas and goal themes.
- Chapter 10: Capital Planning & Implementation – details a 6-year program for addressing park and recreation facility enhancements, maintenance, or expansion projects.
- Appendices: Provides technical or supporting information to the planning effort and includes survey summaries, focus group notes, recreation trends, and funding options, among others.

Community PROFILE

Situated in the eastern, hilly portion of Clark County, the City of Camas offers many amenities for the community including a quaint yet vibrant downtown, First Friday evening family events, a beautiful public library, summer farmer’s market on Wednesdays, Lacamas Lake and miles of surrounding trails to walk, and much more.

The City of Camas is located along the Columbia River and State Route 14 in southwestern Washington. Incorporated in 1906, Camas is now home to 26,065 residents. Camas prides itself on its small-town character, vibrant downtown, safe residential neighborhoods, and an abundance of open space and trails.

Most of the City is developed with single family homes interspersed with forested green spaces. The City’s historic downtown attracts locals and tourists while major employers, including many high-tech manufacturers, provide employment opportunities for city and regional residents. The City is bordered to the east by the City of Washougal and by the City of Vancouver to the west. Camas is located just 20 miles from downtown Portland, Oregon.

The City of Camas provides a wide range of government services and is dedicated to maintaining the community’s family-friendly character while providing sustainable economic growth and preserving the city’s access to nature. The City’s parks, open spaces, trails, and recreational opportunities are highly valued – for recreation, respite, and their ecosystem values.



A photograph of a field of purple flowers in the foreground, with a line of trees in the background. The flowers are in various stages of bloom, and the trees are dark against a bright sky.

”

I love the walking trails through the natural areas SO MUCH!! Would love to have more of them connected.

- Online Open House participant

DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE

Camas is a city of over 26,000 residents and has tripled in population over the past thirty years. The city is home to many families with children, see Figure 1. The City’s residents are generally very well educated and have higher incomes than other county residents. Many are employed

in the education, health care, professional, or manufacturing sectors, including at the multiple technology companies located in Camas. Residents also commute to other areas of the Portland-Vancouver metropolitan region for work.

Figure 1. Population Characteristics: Camas, Clark County, and Washington

Demographics	Camas	Clark County	Washington
Population Characteristics			
Population (2020)	26,065	503,311	7,705,281
Population (2010)	19,355	426,709	6,724,540
Population (2000)	12,534	347,510	5,894,121
Percent Change (2000-20)	100.0%	45.0%	31.0%
Persons w/ Disabilities (%)	9.1%	12.3%	12.7%
Household Characteristics			
Households	9,234	195,036	3,202,241
Percent with children	45.1%	33.8%	30.6%
Median Household Income	\$111,584	\$75,253	\$73,775
Average Household Size	2.81	2.69	2.55
Average Family Size	3.16	3.15	3.09
Owner Occupancy Rate	77.7%	67.0%	63.0%
Age Groups			
Median Age	40.2	38.4	37.7
Population < 5 years of age	5.6%	6.2%	6.1%
Population < 18 years of age	28.5%	24.3%	22.2%
Population 18 - 64 years of age	59.6%	60.7%	62.7%
Population > 65 years of age	11.9%	15.0%	15.1%

Sources: Washington Office of Financial Management Population Estimates, 2020
 U.S. Census, 2000 Census, 2010 Census, 2015-2019 American Community Survey

Population and Anticipated Growth

The City of Camas incorporated in 1906 and grew slowly through most of the 20th century, see Figure 2. However, the completion of the Interstate 205 bridge and the opening of Hewlett Packard and Tektronix plants in the mid-1980s spurred rapid growth. Between 1990 and 2000, Camas’ population nearly doubled, from 6,442 to 12,534 residents. Continued economic expansion in the technology industry, expansion of the city limits through annexation, and the City’s proximity to the growing Portland, Oregon and Vancouver, Washington have spurred steady growth in the past two decades. In

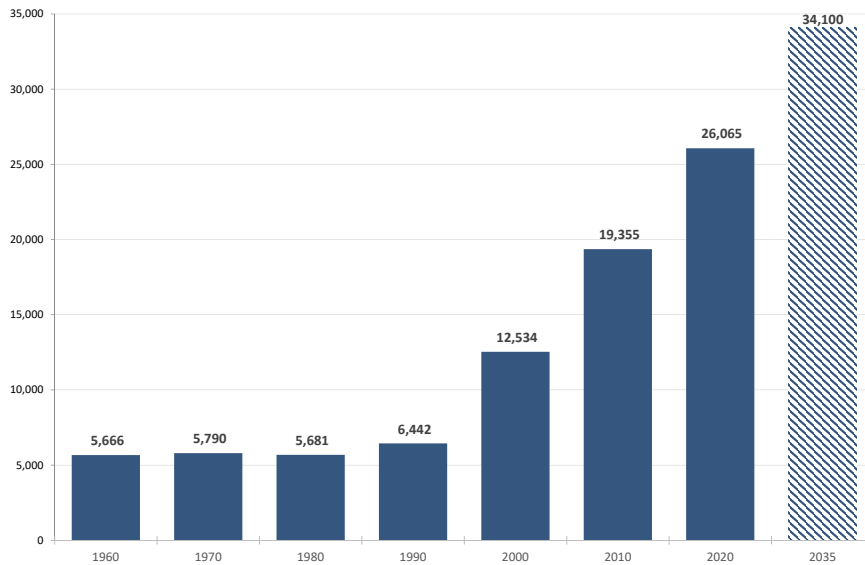
2020, Camas was home to about 26,065 residents and makes up about 5% of the total population of Clark County. Annual population growth has averaged over 5% per year over the past forty years. The Camas 2035 Comprehensive Plan projects that the city will grow to about 34,100 people by 2035, equivalent to about 2.05% annual growth over that period.

In 2020, Camas was home to 9,235 households of which 45% were families with children under 18, and 36% were individuals living alone. The 2019 average household size in Camas was 2.81 people, which is quite a bit larger than that of the county (2.69) and state (2.55).

The size of a community and its anticipated growth over time are key indicators of whether existing park and recreation facilities will be sufficient to meet future needs. Population growth can also result in increased residential density and/or the development of currently vacant land within a city, potentially increasing the need for away-from-home

recreation opportunities while simultaneously reducing potential locations for park and open space acquisition. Advanced planning for parks and recreation facilities can help ensure residents can enjoy sufficient, conveniently located parks, open space, and recreation facilities while the community grows and evolves.

Figure 2. Population – Actual and Projected: 1970-2040



Age Group Distribution

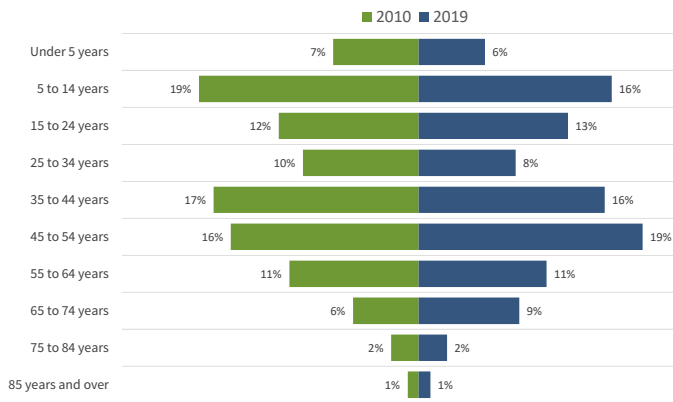
Camas has a median age of 40 (2019), older than that of the county (38.4) and state (37.7). The City also has a relatively high population of families with children (45%). These demographics have important implications for park and recreation needs. Adults between 40 to 59 years old make up the city’s largest 20-year population group, comprising 35% of the overall population in 2019, see Figure 3.

- Youth under 5 years of age make up 5.6% of Camas’ population, see Figure 3. This group represents users of preschool and tot programs and facilities, and, as trails and open space users, are often in strollers. These individuals are the future participants in youth activities.
- Children ages 5 to 14 years make up current youth program, whole-family program, and event participants. Approximately 16% of the city’s population falls into this age range.
- Teens and young adults, age 15 to 24 years, are in transition from youth programs to adult programs and participate in teen/young adult programs where available. Members of this age group are often seasonal employment seekers. About 13% of city residents are teens and young adults.

While just over one-third of residents are youth and young adults up to 24 years of age, 43% are 25 to 54 years old, and 23% are 55 and older.

- Adults ages 25 to 34 years are users of adult programs. Approximately 8% of residents are in this age category. These residents may be entering long-term relationships and establishing families.
- Adults between 35 and 54 years of age represent users of a wide range of adult programs and park facilities. Their characteristics extend from having children using preschool and youth programs to becoming empty nesters. This age group makes up 35% of the city’s population.
- Older adults, ages 55 years plus, make up approximately 23% of Camas’ population. This group represents users of adult and senior programs. These residents may be approaching retirement or already retired and may be spending time with grandchildren. This group also ranges from very healthy, active seniors to more physically inactive seniors.

Figure 3. Age Group Distributions: 2010 & 2019



Race and Ethnicity

According to the 2019 American Community Survey, Camas residents identified as 84% White, 8% Asian, 6% as two or more races, and less than 1% Black or African American, American Indian or Alaskan Native, Pacific Islander, or another race. Approximately 5% of people identified as Hispanic or Latino of any race. Camas’ low level of racial diversity is on par with that of Clark County, where 85% of residents identify as White. Camas’ population has become only modestly more diverse over the past decade, see Figure 4.

In 2019, approximately 11% of Camas’ population spoke a language other than English at home; Asian and Pacific Island languages and other Indo-European languages comprise the largest non-English language groups. However, less than 3% of residents speak English ‘less than very well’. Camas has a smaller percentage of people who speak a language other than English at home than compared to Clark County as a whole (15%).

Nationally, the design and marketing of municipal recreation programs have also historically been biased against serving communities of color. In addition, residents who speak languages other than English may face barriers in finding, accessing, and participating in park and recreation facilities and programs. Camas should consider how it could best provide recreational opportunities, programs, and information that are accessible and relevant to, and meet the needs of, all community members.

Figure 4. Changes in Racial Composition - 2000 to 2019

Racial Identification	2010	2019
White	87.4%	83.6%
Asian	6.0%	8.2%
Two or more races	3.6%	6.0%
Some other race	1.2%	0.4%
Black or African American	1.0%	0.8%
American Indian and Alaska Native	0.6%	0.9%
Native Hawaiian & Other Pacific Islander	0.2%	0.1%
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	4.1%	4.9%

Persons with Disabilities

The 2019 American Community Survey reported 9.1% (2,092 persons) of Camas’ population aged 5 years and older as having a disability that interferes with life activities. This is lower than the county (12.3%) and state average (12.7%). Approximately 8% of residents between 18 and 64 have a disability. Among residents 65 and older, the percentage rises to 25%, which is lower than the percentage found in the general senior population of Washington State (35%).

Planning, designing, and operating a park system that facilitates participation by residents of all abilities will help ensure compliance with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). In addition to ADA, there are other accommodations that people with disabilities may need to access parks and participate in recreation programs. Camas should consider community needs for inclusive and accessible parks, recreational facilities, programs, marketing, and communications.

Employment & Education

According to the 2019 American Community Survey, the 2019 work force population of Camas was 17,743 (76%). Of this population, 68% is in the labor force, 2% is unemployed, and 32% is not in the labor force. Nearly 60% of employed residents work in a management, business, science, or arts occupation. One quarter of employed residents work the education or health care industries, while another 15% work in the professional/management industries. The manufacturing sector also employs a large percentage of local workers (approximately 13%).

Approximately 29% of Camas residents over age 25 have a bachelor's degree or higher, and 82% have at least some college education. This level of education attainment is higher than that of Clark County and the state (in which 68% and 69% of residents have some college, respectively). Additionally, 95% of city residents have a high school degree or higher, approximately four percentage points higher than the statewide average.

Higher levels of employment and educational attainment positively correlate with both the income and health status of a community – both of which have further impacts on the use and need for park and recreation facilities, as described in the next two sections.

Income & Poverty

A community's level of household income can impact the types of recreational services prioritized by community members, as well as their willingness and ability to pay for recreational services. Perhaps more importantly, household income is closely linked with levels of physical activity. Low-income households are three times more likely to live a sedentary lifestyle than middle and upper-income households, according to an analysis of national data by the Active Living by Design organization.

In 2019, the median household income in Camas was \$111,584. This income level was about 50% higher than the median income for Clark County (\$75,253) and Washington households (\$73,775).

Higher income households have an increased ability and willingness to pay for recreation and leisure services, and they often face fewer barriers to participation. Approximately 56% of city households have incomes in the higher income brackets

(\$100,000 and greater), which is significantly more than across the state (36%).

At the lower end of the household income scale, approximately 6% percent of Camas households earn less than \$25,000 annually, significantly fewer than households in Clark County (13%), the State of Washington (15%), and across the United States (23%). In 2019, less than 2% of the city's families were living below the poverty level, set at an income of \$25,750 for a family of four. This percentage is lower than the countywide (approximately 5.8%) and statewide (7%) levels. Poverty affects 3% of youth under 18 and 4% of those 65 and older.

Generally, lower-income residents may face barriers to physical activity, including reduced access to parks and recreational facilities, a lack of transportation options, a lack of time, and poor health. Low-income residents may also be less financially able to afford recreational service fees or to pay for services, such as childcare, that can make physical activity possible.

Health Status

The overall health of a community's residents can impact their ability to participate in recreation and other physical activity and may also reflect, in part, the locality's level of access to appropriate and convenient green spaces, recreation opportunities, and active transportation facilities.

Information on the health of Camas residents was not immediately available. However, according to the County Health Rankings, Clark County ranks in the highest quartile of Washington counties for health outcomes, including length and quality of life.

Clark County residents also rank as some of the healthiest residents in Washington (high middle quartile) when it comes to health behaviors. Only 18% of Clark County adults ages 20 and older report getting no leisure-time physical activity – on par than the statewide average of 17%. This may be due, in part, to the large number of places to participate in physical activity, including parks and public or private community centers, gyms, or other recreational facilities. Over 96% of residents in Clark County have access to adequate physical activity opportunities, more than the 88% average for all Washington residents. However, approximately 29% of Clark County adults are overweight or obese, compared to 27% of Washington adults.

CHAPTER 3

Community LISTENING

Community engagement played an essential role in developing the 2022 PROS Plan. Although the planning process occurred during the COVID-19 pandemic, numerous efforts were made to connect with the community, seek their input and provide information about the project. Public outreach methods were varied and extensive, including:

- Random-sample mail survey
- Online community-wide survey in English and Spanish
- Two online open houses
- Stakeholder group discussions
- Individual stakeholder interviews
- Tabling and outreach at multiple community events
- Meetings with the Parks and Recreation Commission, Planning Commission and City Council
- Camas city website and Engage Camas online forum with interactive mapping tool, plan information and feedback opportunities
- Multiple social media postings, email blasts



Parks, Recreation & Open Space Comprehensive Plan



City of Camas
August 16

Camas Parks and Rec wants to hear from you! Participate in an online open house now through Aug. 22 <https://engagecamas.com/parks-recreation-open-space...> for more information!





Welcome to the City's online engagement platform!

We understand better decisions are made when our community provides input, and we want to make that easy. Contribute your ideas and take the opportunity to influence decision making on local issues and projects that matter to you.

[Join the Conversation](#)

What's Happening in Camas - We Want to Hear From You!



Parks, Recreation & Open Space Comprehensive Plan



Lacamas Lake Management Plan

The City has begun a process to develop a Lake Management Plan



Ask The City!

Do you have a question for the City, or maybe you've heard something you want clarified? We

Over 1,700 participants provided insights on current community preferences and priorities.

COMMUNITY SURVEY

A community-wide, online survey was conducted to assess the recreational needs and priorities of Camas residents. The City mailed 2,500 surveys to randomly chosen households in Camas on May 29, 2021, of which 509 surveys were completed and returned. Online versions of the survey in English and Spanish were posted to the City's website on June 4, 2021. An additional 874 surveys in English and two in Spanish were completed from the general, community-wide online surveys. In all, 1,385 surveys were completed.

Information about the survey was provided on the City's website and on the Engage Camas site for the PROS Plan project. It was promoted via public meeting announcements, multiple social media postings, city email blasts and an email blast through Camas School District mailing list. Print copies were made available at the Camas Library and the Camas School District Family Community Resource Center. Also, signage and flyers with QR codes were placed at numerous parks and local businesses.

The survey measured current levels of satisfaction and which facilities were primarily being used by residents. Residents were asked about future improvements and the types of recreational amenities they would like to see considered for the park system. Survey respondents were asked about:

- Performance and quality of programs and parks
- Usage of city parks and recreation facilities
- Overall satisfaction with the value of services being delivered by the city
- Opinions about the need for various park, recreation, and trail improvements
- Preference for learning about programs
- Priorities for future park and recreation services and facilities, including revenue generation and other funding tools

Significant survey findings are noted below, and a more detailed discussion of results can be found in the needs assessment chapters covering parks, open space, recreation, and trails (Chapters 6 - 8).

Major Survey Findings:

- **Livability:** Nearly all respondents (97%) feel that public parks and recreation opportunities are important or essential to the quality of life in Camas.
- **Usage:** Park visitation is high, with 88% of respondents visiting parks or recreation facilities at least once a month. The most popular activities are walking or running (80%), followed by fitness and exercise (70%), and relaxation (56%).
- **Park Amenity Priorities:** More than three in four respondents are very or somewhat supportive of adding walking trails (87%), updated (75%) and accessible (75%) playground features, and more picnic shelters (74%) to the City's existing parks. A plurality of survey respondents think that Camas does not have enough walking and biking trails (46%).
- **Recreation Facilities & Programming:** Respondents to both the mail and online survey ranked maintaining existing parks, expanding trail opportunities, building new parks, and acquiring land for future parks as their top priorities. More than half of survey respondents felt the City needed more outdoor adventure summer camps, teen activities, adult wellness classes, and programs for adults over 55.

The complete survey summary is provided in Appendix A.

ONLINE OPEN HOUSE #1

The City hosted an online open house to share information about the Camas Parks, Recreation and Open Space (PROS) Plan Update with the public and dive deeper into survey responses to explore more about which park and recreation programs, services and facilities are important to them. More than 130 people visited the online open house from July 29 and August 22, 2021, and 74 community members provided responses in the online open house. The online open house was promoted via social media posts, community event tabling, email blasts and public meeting announcements.

Major Online Open House Findings:

- After-school and summer day camps, outdoor adventure camps and youth sport programs were strongly supported by respondents.
- Top park improvement priorities included building new parks on city-owned land, installing a splash pad and building additional shared-used trails.
- Other top improvements included acquiring and developing trail corridors to fill gaps and providing an off-leash dog area.

A summary of responses to the online open house is provided in Appendix B.

STAKEHOLDER DISCUSSIONS

COVID-sensitive, online focus group discussions and individual interviews with external stakeholders were conducted to more broadly assess local needs and opportunities for partnership and coordination. Stakeholders were identified by city staff based on their past coordination, their involvement, or interest in the future of recreation, park, athletic or trail facilities. The group-based discussion sessions were conducted via Zoom and occurred between July 2020 and September 2021. Representatives from the following organizations participated:

Summary meeting notes from each focus group session are provided in Appendix C.

Figure 5. Stakeholder Group Participants

Mountain Bike & Pump Track Advocates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Evergreen Mountain Bike Alliance ■ Camas Bikes ■ Local resident advocates ■ Portland Parks & Recreation 		Sport Field User Groups <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Camas Little League ■ Camas Lacrosse
Underrepresented Users Group <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Clark County Commission on Aging ■ Clark County Community Services ■ Washington State School for the Blind ■ SW Washington Center of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing ■ Hispanic Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce of SW Washington 		Bike & Pedestrian Trail Users Group <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Evergreen Mountain Bike Alliance ■ Camas Ivy League ■ All Weather Walkers ■ Washington Trails Alliance ■ Local volunteers
Public Agencies Group <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ City of Washougal ■ City of Vancouver ■ Clark County ■ Port of Camas-Washougal 		Individual Interviews <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Former City Administrator ■ Former Mayor ■ Local Land Development Representative ■ Downtown Camas Association

ENGAGE CAMAS ONLINE FORUM

The City of Camas has implemented an integrated online engagement platform to their city website, called Engage Camas. The PROS Plan was a highlighted city project on Engage Camas, which included information about the plan update and public process, a video introducing the project, periodic updates and interim project documents, such as presentation materials and summaries from community outreach. Engage Camas was also a primary forum for community members to offer direct feedback, comments and questions. The PROS Plan page was maintained and updated through the duration of the project.

ONLINE INTERACTIVE MAPPING

On the Engage Camas project page, the public was provided an interactive map of Camas and given the opportunity to share which parks, trails, and open spaces they currently visit in Camas; where they think improvements need to be made; and what new things they would like to see offered in Camas’ park system. Eleven unique users submitted a total of 22 comments. A highlight of some of the comments follows:

- Replace the play equipment at Grass Valley Park
- Provide parking on the north side of Lacamas Lake
- At Crown Park, consider new/updated programming to tie in with programs/activities to be offered at new Garfield Performing Arts Center, splash pad or kids pool, new restroom
- Consider a splash pad or community fountain, parking lot and picnic tables at Fallen Leaf Lake

COMMUNITY EVENT TABLING

This section summarizes the feedback received at the three tabling events held in July and August to build awareness of the PROS Plan Update and share information about the project. Approximately 50 people were engaged at these events. Tabling was held at the following times and places:

- July 31st at Heritage Park from 10 a.m.-12 p.m. and 1 p.m. - 2 p.m.
- August 17th at Concert in the Park from 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
- August 18 at Camas Farmer’s Market from 3 p.m. - 7 p.m.

Community comments ranged from concerns about water quality at the lakes, to interest in an expanded trail network, to specific park improvements and enhanced communications from the City.

ONLINE OPEN HOUSE #2

The City hosted a second online open house to share information and seek feedback on the public draft of the PROS Plan in January 2022. The online open house garnered a total of 136 survey responses and 923 site visits. The majority of participants (68%) believe the PROS Plan is on the right track. The two most common requests were for a bike park/pump track and new sports fields. Many respondents would like off road/mountain biking trails and turf and/or lights added to sport fields. A few other notable requests include adding a pool, creating more trail connections, and adding more bike lanes and trails.

PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETINGS

The Parks and Recreation Commission provided feedback on the development of the PROS Plan during five regularly scheduled public sessions. The first session occurred on April 28, 2021, immediately after the planning project was initiated. The Commission discussed the update and provided their perspectives on a vision for the system, specific challenges, opportunities, and ideas about parks, trails and programs. The Commission spent significant effort reviewing and commenting on the PROS Plan public process, project priorities, and system-wide goals and strategies to implement improvement projects. Subsequent sessions in July, September (joint with Planning Commission), October, December 2021 and January 2022 (joint with Planning Commission) were used to review public feedback and solicit direction from the Commission on priorities and recommendations for the new PROS Plan.

OTHER OUTREACH

In addition to the direct outreach opportunities described above, the Camas community was informed about the planning process through a variety of media platforms. The following methods were used to share information about the project and provide opportunities to participate and offer comments:

- City website home page
- PROS Plan project page on Engage Camas
- Email blasts to the Parks and Recreation distribution list
- Social media: Twitter & Facebook
- Media releases
- Announcements at Council and Parks & Recreation Commission public meetings
- Announcements at Stakeholder Focus Group meeting



BENEFITS OF PARKS, RECREATION & OPEN SPACE

A number of organizations and non-profits have documented the overall health and wellness benefits provided by parks, open space and trails. The Trust for Public Land published a report called *The Benefits of Parks: Why America Needs More City Parks and Open Space*. This report makes the following observations about the health, economic, environmental, and social benefits of parks and open space:

- Physical activity makes people healthier.
- Physical activity increases with access to parks.
- Contact with the natural world improves physical and psychological health.
- Value is added to community and economic development sustainability.
- Benefits of tourism are enhanced.
- Trees are effective in improving air quality and assisting with stormwater control.
- Recreational opportunities for all ages are provided.



Physical Activity Benefits

Residents in communities with increased access to parks, recreation, natural areas and trails have more opportunities for physical activity, both through recreation and active transportation. By participating in physical activity, residents can reduce their risk of being or becoming overweight or obese, decrease their likelihood of suffering from chronic diseases, such as heart disease and type-2 diabetes, and improve their levels of stress and anxiety. Nearby access to parks has been shown to increase levels of physical activity. According to studies cited in a 2010 report by the National Park and Recreation Association, the majority of people of all ages who visit parks are physically active during their visit. Also, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reports that greater access to parks leads to 25% more people exercising three or more days per week.



Community Benefits

Park and recreation facilities provide opportunities to engage with family, friends, and neighbors, thereby increasing social capital and community cohesion, which can improve residents' mental health and overall well-being. People who feel that they are connected to their community and those who participate in recreational, community and other activities are more likely to have better mental and physical health and to live longer lives. Access to parks and recreational facilities has also been linked to reductions in crime, particularly juvenile delinquency.



Economic Benefits

Parks and recreation facilities can bring positive economic impacts through increased property values, increased attractiveness for businesses and workers (quality of life), and through direct increases in employment opportunities.

In Washington, outdoor recreation generates \$26.2 billion in consumer spending annually, \$7.6 billion in wages and salaries, and \$2.3 billion in state and local tax revenue. Preserving access to outdoor recreation protects the economy, the businesses, the communities and the people who depend on the ability to play outside. According to the Outdoor Recreation Economy Report published by the Outdoor Industry Association, outdoor recreation can grow jobs and drive the economy through management and investment in parks, waters and trails as an interconnected system designed to sustain economic dividends for citizens.

Classifications & INVENTORY



Need to provide facilities for additional outdoor activities that create community connection and activity. With the number of sporting families, Camas lacks facilities that other communities provide.

- Online Open House participant



The City of Camas manages over 1,000 acres of parks and open space lands, providing several public waterfront access sites, active recreational facilities for team sports, several playgrounds, more than 12 miles of walking paths and trails, picnic areas, and hundreds of acres of natural forest lands.

PARKLAND CLASSIFICATIONS

Parkland is classified to assist in planning for the community's recreational needs. The classifications also reflect standards that inform development decisions during site planning, in addition to operations and maintenance expectations for the level of developed facilities or natural lands. The Camas park system is composed of a hierarchy of

various park types, each offering recreational opportunities and natural environmental functions. Collectively, the park system is intended to serve the full range of community needs.

Each park classification defines the site's function and expected amenities and recreational uses. The classification characteristics serve as general guidelines addressing the size and use of each park type. The following six classifications are used in Camas' park system.

Neighborhood Parks

Neighborhood parks provide close-to-home recreation opportunities. These parks provide both active and passive recreation opportunities for people living within approximately one-half mile of the park. Typical facilities found in a neighborhood park include playground equipment, picnic areas, open grass areas for passive use, outdoor basketball court, and multi-use open grass area for field sport practice. Dorothy Fox Park and Cooper's View Park are examples of typical neighborhood parks in Camas.

Neighborhood parks should be located and designed based on the scale and type of surrounding uses. During site master planning, parks in locations with higher residential density should be designed with more resilient features and facilities that can withstand more intensive use.

Site Selection & Design:

- Neighborhood park sites should be 5 to 10 acres in size. The minimum size for neighborhood parks is 3 acres when land constraints do not allow a larger site.
- At least 50% of a neighborhood park site should be suitable for active uses.
- The site should have good visibility from surrounding streets and have a minimum of 200' of street frontage.
- The site should be relatively central to the area it is intended to serve (within about ½ mile of the intended users).
- The site should be accessible by walking, bicycling, or driving. Connections to the community trail network should be provided, where possible, to facilitate walking and bicycling. Sidewalks should be provided.
- Regional-scale facilities (e.g., large sports complex, community center, etc.) should not be provided



Community Parks

Community parks are larger parks, typically between 10 and 30 acres, that provide a wide variety of recreation opportunities that appeal to the entire community. Typically, these sites are designed for active recreation, supported by facilities such as sport fields, outdoor courts, skate parks and recreation centers. Community parks can accommodate large numbers of people and offer a wider variety of facilities than neighborhood parks, such as disc golf, volleyball, tennis courts, dog parks, and group picnic areas. These parks also may serve as destination for access to water and large community events, and they may include significant natural areas and trails. For this reason, community parks require more support facilities, such as off-street parking and restrooms. Community parks can also serve as local neighborhood parks for their immediate areas, and they may be connected to schools or other community facilities. Prune Hill Sports Park and Crown Park are examples of community parks.



Site Selection & Design:

- Community park sites should be 10 to 30 acres in size. The minimum size for community parks is 6 acres when land constraints do not allow a larger site.
- At least 30% of a community park site should be suitable for active uses.
- The site should have good visibility from surrounding streets and provide parking and restrooms.
- The site should be accessible by walking, bicycling, or driving. Connections to the trail network should be provided, where possible, to facilitate walking and bicycling. Sidewalks should be provided.
- Community parks should accommodate diverse active-use recreation, such as sport fields, sport courts and large playgrounds.

Regional Parks

Regional parks may be provided by Camas and also are provided by Clark County - serving residents from throughout Clark County and beyond. Regional parks are usually larger than 50 acres in size and provide opportunities for diverse recreational activities. Facilities may include sports fields, extensive trail systems, or large picnic areas. In addition, regional parks often include passive recreation space and unique features, such as significant natural areas or access to lakes or rivers.



Site Selection & Design:

- Regional park sites should be 50 to 200 acres in size. There is no minimum size for regional parks, since the size of the site relates to the uniqueness of the landscape or recreational experience provided.
- Regional parks should provide parking and restrooms.
- The site should be accessible by walking, bicycling, or driving. Connections to the trail network should be provided, where possible, to facilitate walking and bicycling.
- Regional parks may accommodate active-use recreation and/or passive uses such as trail walking or wildlife viewing. Specialized regional amenities may be provided, such as mountain biking trails, equestrian trails, and water access (e.g., boat ramps & docks).

Special Use Areas

Special use areas are sites that are occupied by a specialized facility or that fulfill a specialized purpose. Some uses that fall into this park type include waterfront parks, pools, boat ramps, interpretive centers, botanical gardens, community gardens, single purpose sites used for a particular field sport or sites that offer indoor recreation opportunities. Fallen Leaf Softball Field, Lacamas Lodge and the Camas Community Center are examples of special use areas in Camas.

Site Selection:

- Site size should be adequate to support the proposed specialized use, as well as necessary supporting facilities, including parking, stormwater management, etc.
- Site selection criteria will be dependent on the specific specialized use proposed, and may include criteria determined through an economic feasibility study.
- The site should be accessible from the community-wide trail system.
- Prior to the addition of any special use areas, the City should prepare a detailed cost/benefit analysis and maintenance impact statement for each proposed site being considered.



Natural Open Space

Natural open space is defined as undeveloped land primarily left in its natural form with passive recreation use as a secondary objective, such as trails. This type of land often includes wetlands, steep hillsides, or other similar undevelopable spaces. In some cases, environmentally sensitive areas are considered as open space and may include wildlife habitats, stream and creek corridors, or unique and/or endangered plant species. There are currently a number of natural open space areas in Camas, and the Ostensen Canyon Greenway and the Prune Hill South Open Space are examples of natural open space.

Site Selection:

- Site size should be based on natural resource and connectivity needs.
- Public use of natural open space sites should be encouraged through trails, viewpoints, and other features, but environmentally sensitive areas should be protected.
- The site should have access to a public street, to public land, or contribute to the planned open space network.
- Features in natural open space areas should be limited to those appropriate for the numbers and types of visitors the area can accommodate, while retaining its resource value, natural character, and the intended level of solitude.



Cemetery

The Camas Cemetery is an important historic and aesthetic resource for the City of Camas. Located adjacent to Lacamas Park, the cemetery is a unique, special facility and component of the park and open space system that provides a peaceful resting place and a quiet space for reflection. The City took over the operations of the cemetery in 2007.

PARK & OPEN SPACE INVENTORY

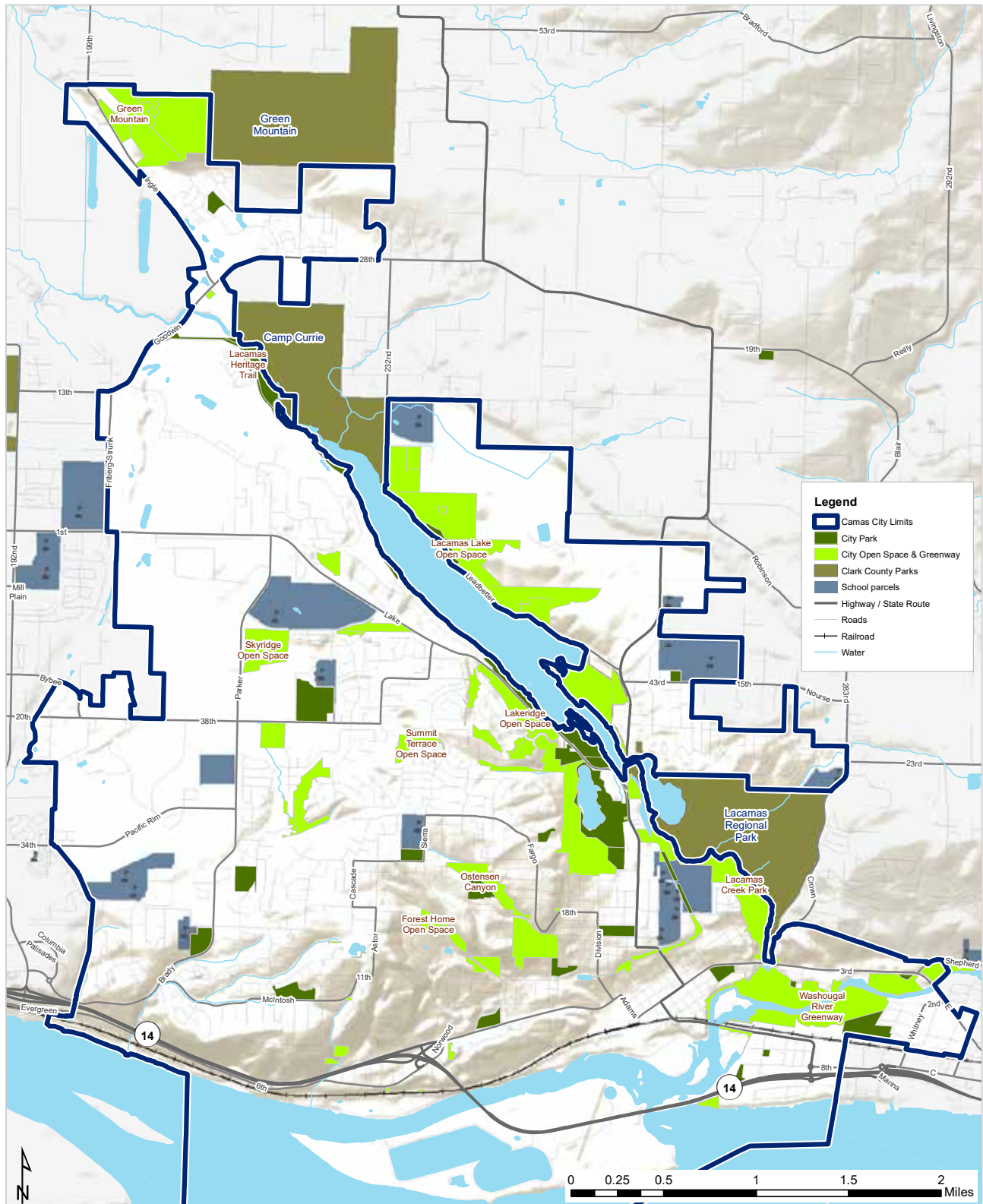
The park and open space inventory identifies the recreational assets within Camas. The City provides 1,068 acres of public parkland distributed among 59 parks and natural area properties, see Figure 6 and 7.

Figure 6. Existing Inventory of City Park & Natural Areas

Name	Classification	Status	Acreage
Fallen Leaf Lake Park	Regional Park	Developed	54.8
Green Mountain	Regional Park	Undeveloped	114.2
Subtotal			169.0
Crown Park	Community Park	Developed	7.3
Grass Valley Park	Community Park	Developed	25.0
Goot Park	Community Park	Developed	5.8
Heritage Park	Community Park	Developed	12.8
Prune Hill Sports Park	Community Park	Developed	9.0
Subtotal			59.7
Ash Creek Park	Neighborhood Park	Undeveloped	9.7
Benton Park	Neighborhood Park	Developed	2.2
Coopers View Park	Neighborhood Park	Developed	2.5
Dorothy Fox Park	Neighborhood Park	Developed	5.0
Forest Home Park	Neighborhood Park	Developed	4.7
Green Mountain Neighborhood Park	Neighborhood Park	Developed	5.3
Klickitat Park	Neighborhood Park	Developed	8.8
Lacamas Heights Park	Neighborhood Park	Undeveloped	2.3
Louis Bloch Park	Neighborhood Park	Developed	5.0
Oak Park	Neighborhood Park	Developed	2.5
Ostensen Canyon Park	Neighborhood Park	Undeveloped	8.2
Subtotal			56.2
Baz Park	Special Facility	Developed	0.6
Camas Community Center	Special Facility	Developed	0.9
Downtown Community Garden	Special Facility	Developed	0.1
Fallen Leaf Softball Field	Special Facility	Developed	6.0
Lacamas Lake Lodge & Conference Center	Special Facility	Developed	4.8
Leadbetter House	Special Facility	Undeveloped	3.0
Pomaria House	Special Facility	Undeveloped	3.0
Skate Park	Special Facility	Developed	0.9
Subtotal			19.4
Heritage Trail	Trail / Linear Park	Developed	30.9
Mill Ditch Trail	Trail / Linear Park	Undeveloped	1.7
Renaissance Summit Trail Access	Trail / Linear Park	Undeveloped	0.4
Subtotal			33.0
Camas Cemetery	Cemetery	Developed	25.4
Subtotal			25.4
TOTAL PARKS & GREENSPACE			1,068.0

A listing of existing City open space and greenways follow in Figure 7. Detailed descriptions of the City's parks and natural areas is provided in Appendix D.

The following map shows the location of existing parks and natural areas within the City.



Map 1: Existing Parks & Open Spaces

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Figure 7. Existing Inventory of City Greenways & Natural Areas

Name	Acreage	Name	Acreage
6th Ave Open Space	0.6	Mill Ditch Open Space	9.1
Columbia River Open Space	2.8	Mills Open Space	31.6
Columbia View Terrace Open Space	0.2	Ostensen Canyon Greenway	50.3
Crown Road Open Space	1.4	Prune Hill Slope Open Space	19.1
Fallen Leaf Open Space	52.3	Prune Hill South Open Space	3.9
Forest Home Open Space	19.7	Renaissance Summit Open Space	0.3
Goodwin Road Open Space	0.8	Skyridge Open Space	29.6
Grass Valley Open Space	11.3	Summit Terrace Open Space	12.3
Lacamas Creek Open Space	10.6	Sunningdale Open Space	1.7
Lacamas Creek Park	50.9	Tidland Heights Open Space	1.5
Lacamas Lake Open Space	169.3	Top Fallen Leaf Open Space	0.4
Lake Road Open Space	7.0	Triangle Open Space	9.4
Lakeridge North	33.3	View Ridge Open Space	0.3
Lakeridge Open Space	26.2	Washougal River Greenway	135.7
Meadows Open Space	3.4	Wildlife League	10.3
		Subtotal	705.3

OTHER RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES NEAR CAMAS

The ownership and management of recreational resources in the larger Camas region involves several public agencies. Facilities include parks, trails, boat launches, and other attractions. Though some of these facilities are not located within city limits, their close proximity to residents of Camas makes them important components of the broader recreation ecosystem.

Homeowner Associations

Numerous homeowner associations (HOA) across Camas include open space tracts, and some include small pocket parks serving HOA residents. In all, HOA properties include 385 acres of open space and 43 acres of pocket parks.

School Districts

The Camas School District operates 19 school sites across Camas and, via use agreements, makes certain fields and gymnasiums available for community use by youth sport leagues. Evergreen School District borders Camas to the west and also makes sport fields and gymnasiums available for community use.

Clark County

Clark County provides and maintains a system of regional parks, special facilities, regional trails, greenways and natural areas, in addition to neighborhood and community parks and sports fields in or proximate to the Vancouver urban unincorporated area. The park and open space inventory identifies the recreational assets within the county. The county provides 3,325 acres of public parks and recreation facilities distributed among 88 sites, along with an additional number of greenway parcels that comprises over 3,135 acres of conserved public open space. Within and near Camas, Clark County manages Lacamas Regional Park, Camp Currie, Green Mountain, and Harmony Sports Complex.

Port of Camas-Washougal

The Port of Camas-Washougal provides several recreation opportunities for the greater Camas community.

- Captain William Clark Park at Cottonwood Beach is an 85-acre park that includes walking paths, paved parking, picnic tables, covered cooking areas, a

recognition plaza, three restroom buildings, and replicas of Chinookan canoes and Lewis and Clark's dugout canoes. A two-mile trail on top of the levee at the north side of the Park offers opportunities for hiking, jogging, biking, and horseback riding.

- The 3-mile Lewis and Clark Heritage Trail follows the Columbia River from Steamboat Landing Park to the border of the Steigerwald Lake National Wildlife Refuge. This has been connected to the Washougal Waterfront Park and trail creating a long walking trail into Camas and Washougal.
- Marina Park offers a walking path, picnic tables, an open lawn for entertainment, and a deck overlooking the marina.
- The Natural Play Area features a giant Sasquatch named Eegah along with a hill-side slide, log steppers, xylophone, drums, a boulder maze, and log balancing beams.

Other Urban Park Systems

Adjacent cities provide recreation opportunities that should be considered relevant components of the overall Camas open space system. Some facilities, such as regional trails, will require partnerships and coordination that extend beyond city boundaries. Two adjacent municipalities operate and maintain park and recreation facilities, including:

- City of Washougal: The City of Washougal has over 120 acres of park land, ranging from parks, playgrounds, sports fields, and open space. Washougal's 19 parks include special use areas, including several riverfront sites that enhance Washougal's Park system.
- City of Vancouver: The City of Vancouver serves the community with approximately 1,600 acres of parkland at 113 sites, which includes 90 parks and 20 miles of trails plus numerous natural areas. The city offers a full range of recreation programming and operates two community centers.





CHAPTER 5

Parks & TRAILS

The PROS planning process assesses recreational needs and priorities for park facilities, active use areas, and trails in Camas. The park assessment included a discussion of specific local needs with consideration given to the City's broader park system. Public input and information on park inventory conditions were also heavily relied upon in the planning process.

By considering the location, size, and the number of park facilities by type and use, along with community interests and priorities, the PROS Plan evaluates the existing and future demand for park and recreation

amenities and provides recommendations for future initiatives. The six-year Capital Facilities Plan, which identifies and prioritizes crucial upgrades, improvements, and expansions, is based on the needs assessment and the recreational interests expressed by residents.

The recreational interests of Camas residents were captured in the community survey and compared to regional, state and national trend data. Local support for and interest in trails for walking and biking, water access opportunities, and kayaking align with recreation participation data from multiple sources.

PARK USE TRENDS

Various resources have been assembled and summarized to provide an overview of current trends, market demands, and agency comparisons in the provision of parks and recreation services. This information is helpful when balanced with local insights and feedback from the community in guiding future initiatives.

The following national and state data highlights some of the current park use trends and may frame future considerations for Camas' park system. Additional trend data and summaries are provided in Appendix E.

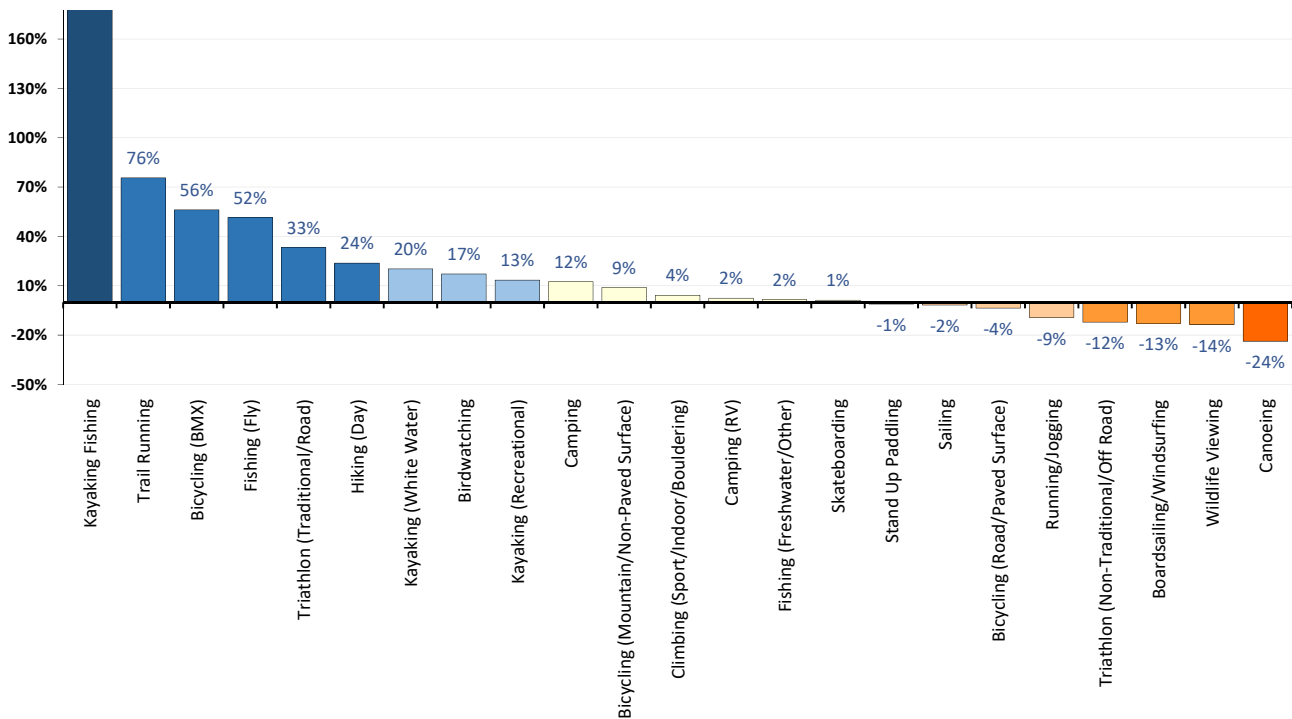
- Nationwide, 82% of U.S. adults believe that parks and recreation are essential according to the American Engagement with Parks Survey from 2020. ⁽¹⁾
- 77% of survey respondents indicate that having a high-quality park, playground, public open space, or a recreation center nearby is an important factor in deciding where they want to live. ⁽¹⁾
- Just over half of Americans ages six and older participated in outdoor recreation at least once in 2019, the highest participation rate in five years. However, the number of outings per participant declined – continuing a decade-long trend – resulting in fewer total recreational outings (pre-pandemic). ⁽²⁾

- Walking, running, hiking, and cycling saw significant increases in participation in the early months of the COVID-19 pandemic (March to June 2020). ⁽²⁾
- Running, jogging, and trail running are the most popular outdoor activities across the nation, based on levels of participation, followed by fishing, hiking, biking, and camping. ⁽²⁾
- Walking ranked as the top activity by participation rate (94%) in Washington State. ⁽⁴⁾
- Trail running, day hiking, and recreational kayaking are rapidly increasing in popularity – participation in each increased more than 5% per year between 2014 and 2019. ⁽³⁾
- People of all ages and income levels are interested in outdoor activities like fishing, camping, hiking, biking, bicycling, and swimming. Younger people are more interested in participating in team sports, such as soccer, basketball, and volleyball. Older adults are more likely to aspire to individual activities like swimming for fitness, bird and nature viewing, and canoeing. ⁽³⁾

Sources:

- (1) 2020 American Engagement with Parks Survey
- (2) 2020 Outdoor Participation Report
- (3) 2020 Sports, Fitness, and Leisure Activities Topline Participation Report
- (4) 2018-2022 Recreation and Conservation Plan for Washington State

Figure 8. 5-Year Change in Outdoor Recreation Participation by Major Activity (2021 Outdoor Participation Report)



Operational & Service Challenges Due to COVID-19

A statewide survey of Washington park and recreation agencies was conducted in the second half of 2020, with a focus on service demand and operational challenges, both preceding and as a result of COVID-19. City, county, and parks and recreation district leaders were asked to complete the survey, and the survey was sent to 227 agencies - 109 cities, 39 counties, 79 Special Purpose Park Districts with 73 responses. The project was a collaboration between the Washington Recreation & Park Association, the Washington State Association of Counties, the Association of Washington Cities, and Metro Parks Tacoma.

In a question that asked the agency about how stable its outlook is for 2020 pre- and during COVID-19, the percentage of agencies that stated their outlook as very strong and stable decreased by 25 points, with 27.8% indicating as very stable at the beginning of the year to 2.8% indicating as very stable by August 1, 2020. Similarly, agencies that felt moderately or significantly underfunded and unstable rose from 5.5% to 50% by August 1, 2020.

Also, significant majorities of agencies indicated service delivery impacts due to the COVID-19 pandemic in the following ways:

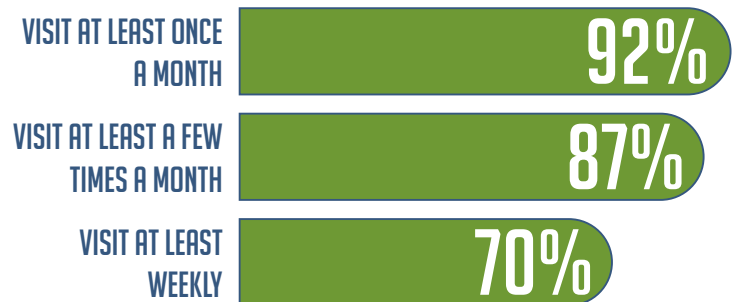
- Reduced ability to manage, maintain, operate, and secure passive parks to safety standards and control access (87%).
- Cancellation of special events and tourism campaigns that support local employment and drives the local economy (87%).
- Inability to operate critical community programs, pools, attractions and facilities, including services for vulnerable populations (81%).
- Lack of ability to hire/maintain seasonal employees & offer programs/services allowable under Safe Start (74%).
- Addressing public use and behaviors that put the community at risk, such as tearing down caution tape, using fields (85%).

LOCAL INSIGHTS

Local recreation demands and needs were explored through various community engagements to gather feedback on the strengths and limitations of existing recreational resources and parks available to Camas residents. Public outreach included a community survey, an online open house and several stakeholder focus group discussions to explore project priorities and opportunities to enhance the City's park system (see Appendices A, B & C). Through this outreach, nearly 1,600 responses were recorded.

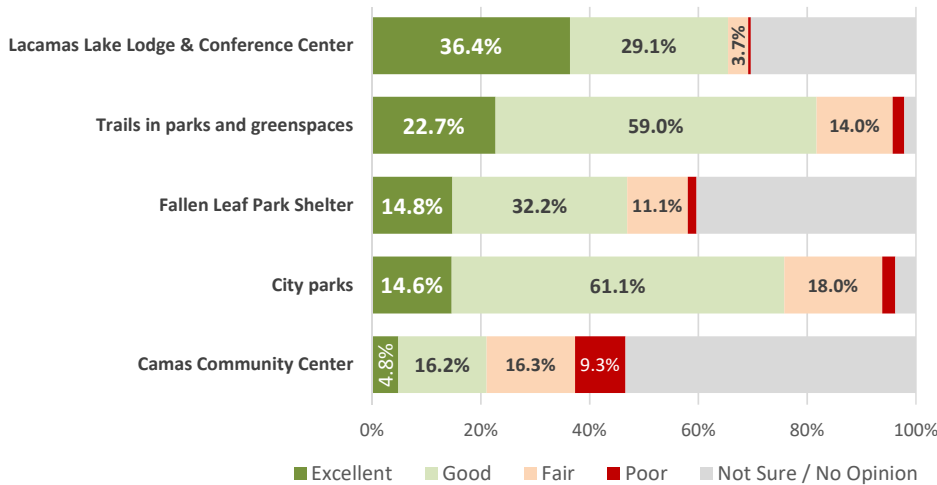
The community survey confirmed that local parks, recreation options, and open space opportunities are important or essential to the quality of life in Camas. Virtually all respondents (97%) feel that local parks and recreation opportunities are important or essential to the quality of life in Camas. Respondents tend to visit frequently, with more than two in three visiting at least once a week (68%) and another 20% visiting one to three times per month.

Figure 9. Frequency of Visitation to Parks, Trails & Open Space



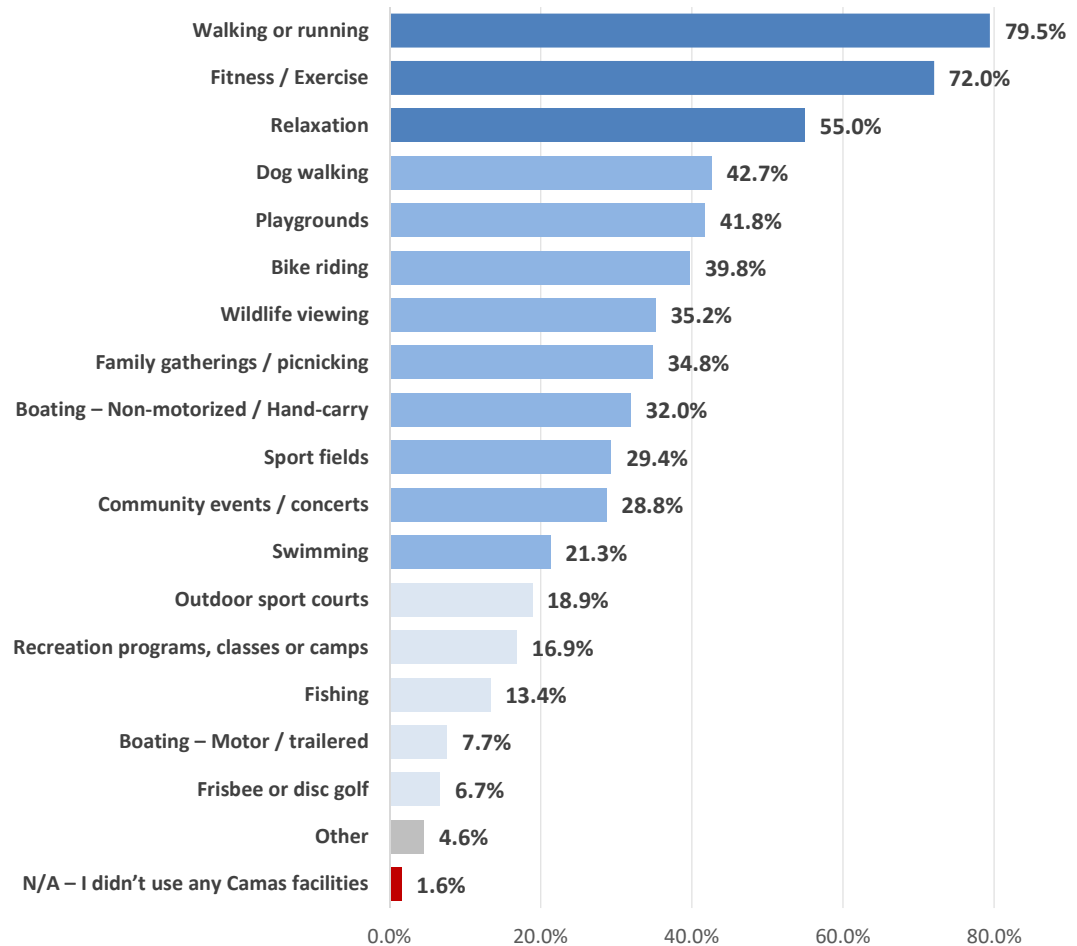
Survey respondents were asked to rate the condition of a variety of park and recreation facilities on a scale from poor to excellent. Respondents gave overwhelming high marks to the condition of the City's trails in parks and greenspaces and the parks themselves. Overall, the Lacamas Lake Lodge & Conference Center received the highest condition ratings, with 95% of respondents who provided a ranking rating it as excellent or good.

Figure 10. Sentiment of Condition of Park and Recreation Facilities.



Survey respondents visit local parks and recreation facilities for a variety of reasons. The most popular activities are walking or running (80%), followed by fitness and exercise (72%), and relaxation (55%). More than three in ten respondents visited to walk their dog (43%), visit a playground (41%), ride their bike (40%), view wildlife (35%), or attend a family gathering or picnic (35%). Relating to statewide and national trend statistics, the popularity of walking and running have consistently ranked as top outdoor activities – in alignment with Camas’ survey responses.

Figure 11. Main Reasons For Visiting Local Parks and Recreation Facilities.



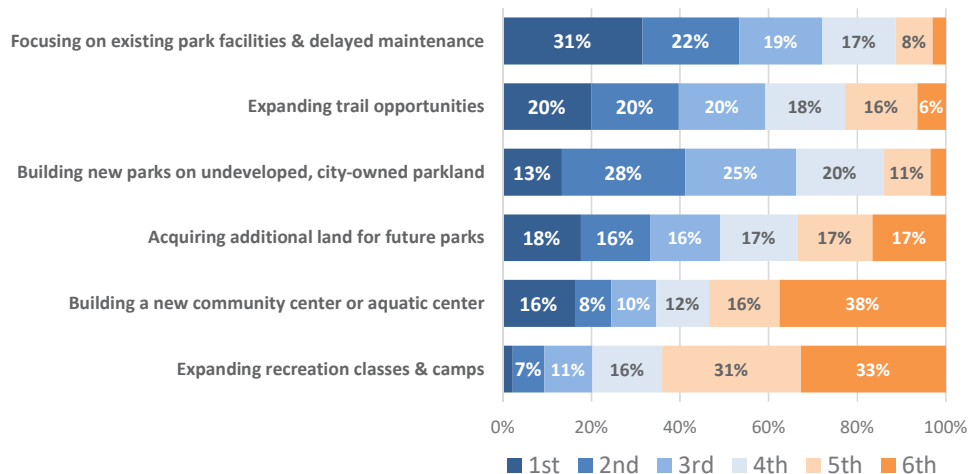
More than three in four respondents are very or somewhat supportive of adding walking trails (88%), updated or renovated playgrounds at existing parks (82%), all-abilities accessible playground equipment (81%), and more picnic shelters (80%) to the City's existing parks. A majority of respondents are also supportive of developing more biking trails, splash pads, off leash dog areas, pools or aquatic centers, tennis or pickleball courts, a new community center, disc golf course, and basketball courts. However, through the community survey, approximately two out of three community members are willing to travel for an unmet recreational amenity in Camas (such as splash pad, aquatic/pool center, community center and bike skills park) versus increasing taxes to pay for development of a new facility.

Recognizing the significance of trail access to the Camas community, the survey also inquired about different trail types. Respondents overwhelmingly rated unpaved trails in natural areas (94%) as very or somewhat important. Majorities of respondents also feel paved, shared use paths for pedestrians and cyclists (87%) and accessible trails (73%) are either very or somewhat important. An online open house followed the community survey to dive deeper into the community's strong interest in trails. Respondents to the online open house, 74 respondents total, noted the need to acquire land and develop trails to fill gaps in trail corridors as a top priority. Also, respondents were particularly interested in improving trail connections for the North Shore of Lacamas Lake, the Mill Ditch, Lake Road, and the Lewis & Clark Regional Trail.

Respondents were asked to rank a list of potential recreation, park, and open space investments. Generally, respondents ranked maintaining existing parks, expanding trail opportunities, building new parks, and acquiring land for future parks as top priorities. Respondents ranked offering building a new community or aquatic center and expanding program offerings as their lowest priorities. Respondents of different ages prioritized the investment options similarly, with the exception of building a new community or aquatic center, which was a higher priority for significantly more younger respondents. Respondents with children in their home tended to rate building a new community or aquatic center higher than those without children in the home, who were more likely to rate expanding trail opportunities as a high priority.

- 
EXPAND WALKING & BIKING TRAILS
 88% Support & Top Priority
- 
RENOVATE PLAYGROUNDS
 81% Support
- 
ADD PICNIC SHELTERS
 80% Support
- 
INSTALL SPLASH PAD / SPRAY PARK
 75% Support
- 
PROVIDE OFF-LEASH DOG PARK
 66% Support
- 
PROVIDE POOL OR AQUATIC CENTER
 69% Support
- 
EXPAND TENNIS & PICKLEBALL OPTIONS
 64% Support

Figure 12. Park Amenities to Consider Adding to Camas Park System



Common Themes from Community Outreach

Considering all of the community feedback from the survey, online open house, stakeholder interviews, and stakeholder focus group discussions, a number of core themes and interests emerged.

Trails

- Trail connectivity is important. Complete loops and circuits, and focus on trail connectivity (connecting trail gaps).
- Enhanced linkages between residential neighborhoods and downtown via pedestrian- and bicycle-friendly routes are an important focus area.
- COVID has accelerated the trends toward higher trail usage, which include more users on trails and a wider age distribution of off-road bike riders.
- There is broad interest and excitement for the potential of expanded trail connections via the Mill Ditch property for walking/hiking and the Green Mountain acquisition for mountain biking and hiking. The Mill Ditch property for walking/hiking and the Green Mountain acquisition for mountain biking and hiking are two examples of potential projects.

Parks & Open Space

- The maintenance of existing parks and open spaces remains a key priority.
- Building new parks on undeveloped, city-owned parkland was one of the highest rated priorities.
- There has been strong interest in expanding recreational options in the park system that include the installation of a splash pad, bike skills/pump track, off leash dog areas, and tennis or pickleball courts.
- The City should provide space and amenities for programming (sport fields & courts, shelters for outdoor education, etc.) and increase sport field capacity by improving field quality and adding lighting where appropriate.
- Coordination with the school district might result in benefits for more community access to existing school fields and the development of additional sport fields.

Convenience & Support Amenities

- Upgraded and expanded access to restrooms and parking is a highly-desired user convenience improvement.
- Wayfinding, maps and communications were noted as ways to improve the user experience and familiarity with the park and trail system.



PARK SYSTEM CONDITIONS ASSESSMENT

The overall condition of park infrastructure and amenities is one measure of park adequacy and assurance of public safety. Proper stewardship of park infrastructure requires developing a long-term maintenance and capital plan to ensure the safety of park users that aligns with community needs and allocates limited funding resources properly.

The current conditions of the Camas park system were assessed to identify existing site maintenance issues and opportunities for future capital improvements. The assessment included walkways, parking lots, park furniture, drainage and irrigation, lighting systems, vegetation, and other amenities. The following conditions assessment matrix summarizes the results of these assessments. They will inform the PROS Plan, including developing the project prioritization strategy for park improvements, identifying funding strategies, and updating the recommended parks six-year Capital Facilities Plan.

Park infrastructure and amenities were rated based on the following scale:



1 – Good Condition: Generally, amenities in good condition offer full functionality and do not need repairs. Good facilities have playable sports surfaces and equipment, working fixtures, and fully intact safety features (railings, fences, etc.). Good facilities may have minor cosmetic defects and encourage area residents to use the park.



2 – Fair: In general, amenities in fair condition are mainly functional, but need minor or moderate repairs. Play surfaces, equipment, fixtures, and safety features that are operational and allow play, but have deficiencies or periods where they are unusable. Fair facilities remain essential amenities for the community but may slightly discourage the use of the park by residents given the current condition.



3 – Poor: In general, amenities in poor condition are largely or completely unusable. They need significant repairs to be functional. Some examples include athletic fields that are too uneven for ball games, irreparably broken features, buildings that need structural retrofitting, etc. Poor facilities discourage residents from using the park and may present safety issues if left open or operational.

In general, good conditions should be the goal for the management and stewardship of park facilities. Where infrastructure or amenities are rated as “fair,” strategies should be developed for repair or restoration. Park features, structures, amenities, or landscapes rated as “poor” should receive immediate attention and be prioritized for near-term maintenance, capital repairs, or a new capital project. Facilities in “poor” condition should also be evaluated and taken out of operation if they are deemed unsafe. Based on this assessment, the City’s sport courts, trails, site furnishings, turf and ADA compliance are in the greatest need of attention.

Detailed site conditions and site enhancement recommendations are noted in Appendix D for the park sites visited.

Overview of Condition of Existing Parks

The following list summarizes some of the key observations and recommendations to enhance the City's park and trail system, its visual character, and longer-term sustainability.

1. Overall, the level of maintenance observed at the developed parks appears to be very good.
2. Consider upgrades to City Park Standards for signage and furnishings. For future park improvements and prior to implementing new master plans for undeveloped parks, it would be beneficial to use the same standard design, style and color for benches, picnic tables, other site furnishings and signs to provide a consistent identity to the park and trail system and reduce future maintenance costs.
3. As the trail system develops with additional connections, a wayfinding system would be beneficial. Coordinated with the graphic style for the park identification signs, this wayfinding signage would help trail users navigate the connections and know the destinations along the trails. Distances, destinations, trail etiquette, and other essential information should be planned and located at strategic sites to inform walkers, runners, and bikers.
4. Consider adding more destination amenities into the park system, such as splash pads, rock climbing, fitness equipment, nature play, inclusive play and/or themed designs to add a more diverse character to the system.
5. Many of the developed sites need ADA upgrades. Among the most common deficiencies observed are:
 - Current park standard trash and recycling receptacles are not ADA
 - The minimum ratio of ADA compliant tables and benches is below the required ADA standards
 - Lack of companion spaces adjacent to ADA compliant benches
 - Minimum clearances surrounding picnic tables are often not met
 - Several ADA compliant amenities are not along accessible routes
6. Many of the playgrounds lack ADA ramps leading into the play pit areas
7. All of the playground surfacing consists of engineered wood fiber. Although it is considered accessible when it is properly maintained; however, infrequent maintenance and refilling is fairly common. Consider transitioning to more stable playground safety surfacing options for the heaviest used playgrounds.
8. Several playgrounds do not have the minimum number of ADA accessible features
6. Several parks have vegetated open space within or adjacent to the property and may be good candidates for trail locations. Some open spaces connect residential neighborhoods with parks together and could provide alternative routes to City parks.
7. Camas has multiple storm facilities and or wetlands throughout the City, some of which are adjacent to existing developed parks. These facilities might offer opportunities to incorporate interpretive and educational experiences within the parks for a relatively low implementation cost. Proposed educational amenities might include wildlife viewing blinds and overlooks accompanied by interpretive signage.

Most of the undeveloped open space that was observed consisted of dense vegetation, including invasive species. The City should consider an invasive weed removal program, along with a more broadly framed open space management plan to identify resources and tactics to care for the City's nearly 700 acres of natural areas.

Figure 13. Park Condition Assessment

Site Name	Park Type	Park Site Average	Recreation Amenities														Park Structures						Vegetation				ADA Compliance				
			Playgrounds	Paved Courts: Basketball	Paved Courts: Tennis	Volleyball	Soccer Fields	Baseball / Softball Fields	Pathways / Trails	Off-Leash Area	Waterfront/Beach	Other Rec Element	Site Furnishings	Lighting (Y/N)	Signage	Parking Areas	Restrooms	Picnic Shelters	Boat Dock / Ramp	Concession Building	Turf	Park Trees	Landscaped Beds	Natural Areas							
PARKS																															
Ash Creek Park	Undeveloped / Undefined	2.0																													
Coopers View Park	Neighborhood Park	1.1	1									1													1	2	1	1	1		
Crown Park	Community Park	2.0	2		2	2						2													2	1	2		2		
Dorothy Fox Park	Neighborhood Park	1.5	2	1.5					1			2													1	1	2		2		
Forest Home Park	Neighborhood Park	1.8	1	2					1			2													2	2	2		2		
Goot Park	Community Park	1.4	1.5	1.5				1.5	1.5			1.5													1.5	1.5	1.5		1.5		
Grass Valley Park	Community Park	1.7	2	1	2.5				2			1.5													2	1	2		2		
Green Mountain Neighborhood Park	Neighborhood Park	1.3	1	1		2						1.5												2	1	2		2	2		
Louis Bloch Park	Neighborhood Park	1.7	1	2				1.5																2	2	1	2		2		
Oak Park	Neighborhood Park	1.8	1.5	2							2													2	2	1			2		
Benton Park	Neighborhood Park	2.1										2												2	1				3		
Klickitat Park	Neighborhood Park	1.9	1.5	2								2													3	2	3	2.5	3		
Lacamas Heights Park	Neighborhood Park	2.0																								2			2		
SPECIAL FACILITY SITES																															
Fallen Leaf Lake Park	Regional Park	1.9				3												2											1	2	
Fallen Leaf Softball Field	Special Facility	1.7								1	1																1	2	1	2	3
Prune Hill Sports Park	Community Park	1.4	2	1.5				1	1.5	2																1.5	1	1		1.5	
Heritage Park	Community Park	1.3	1								1.5							1.5								1	1	1	2	1	1.5
Leadbetter House	Undefined Park	-																													
Pitt Property	Undefined Park	1.2	1							2																	1	1		1	2
Pomaria House	Undefined Park	1.0																								1	1		1	1	
Wildlife League	Undefined Park	1.4	2								2															1	1		2	2	
Baz River Front Park	Special Facility	2.0									3							1												2	
Skate Park	Special Facility	2.5									2							2											3	3	3
Average:		1.67	1.46	1.61	2.25	2.25	2.25	1.17	1.50	1.75	-	1.63	-	1.68	-	1.44	1.53	1.45	1.29	1.50	1.67	1.81	1.31	1.95	1.80	1.95	1.81	1.31	1.95	2.15	

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GAP ANALYSIS

Understanding the known gaps in the park system and evaluating the City's existing levels of service for parks (i.e., snapshot in time of how well the City is meeting its adopted standards) will provide a foundation for strategic planning as a basis for a balanced distribution of parks, trails and recreation amenities in the future.

To better understand where acquisition efforts should be considered, a gap analysis of the park system was conducted to examine and assess the current distribution of parks throughout the City. The analysis reviewed the locations and types of existing facilities, land use classifications, transportation/access barriers and other factors as a means to identify preliminary acquisition target areas. In reviewing parkland distribution and assessing opportunities to fill identified gaps, residentially zoned lands were isolated, since neighborhood and community parks primarily serve these areas. Additionally, travelsheds were defined for neighborhood parks using a ¼-mile primary and ½-mile secondary service area with travel distances calculated along the road network starting from known and accessible access points at each park. Travelsheds for community parks were derived using ¼-mile, ½-mile, 1-mile and 2-mile travel distances to acknowledge that these park types (including athletic fields) serve a wider array of users and driving to such sites is typical.

Maps 2 through 5 illustrate the application of the distribution criteria from existing parks. Areas in white do not have a public park within reasonable walking distance of their home. The illustrated 'travelshed' for each existing Camas park highlights that certain areas within the city do not have the desired proximity to a local park.

Striving to provide a neighborhood park within a reasonable walking distance (e.g., ½-mile) may require acquiring new park properties in currently under-served locations or improving multi-modal transportation connections to allow local residents to safely and conveniently reach their local park. As Camas develops and acquisition opportunities diminish, the City should consider taking advantage of acquisition opportunities in strategic locations and as funding allows to fill remaining gaps. In concert with the search for developable park

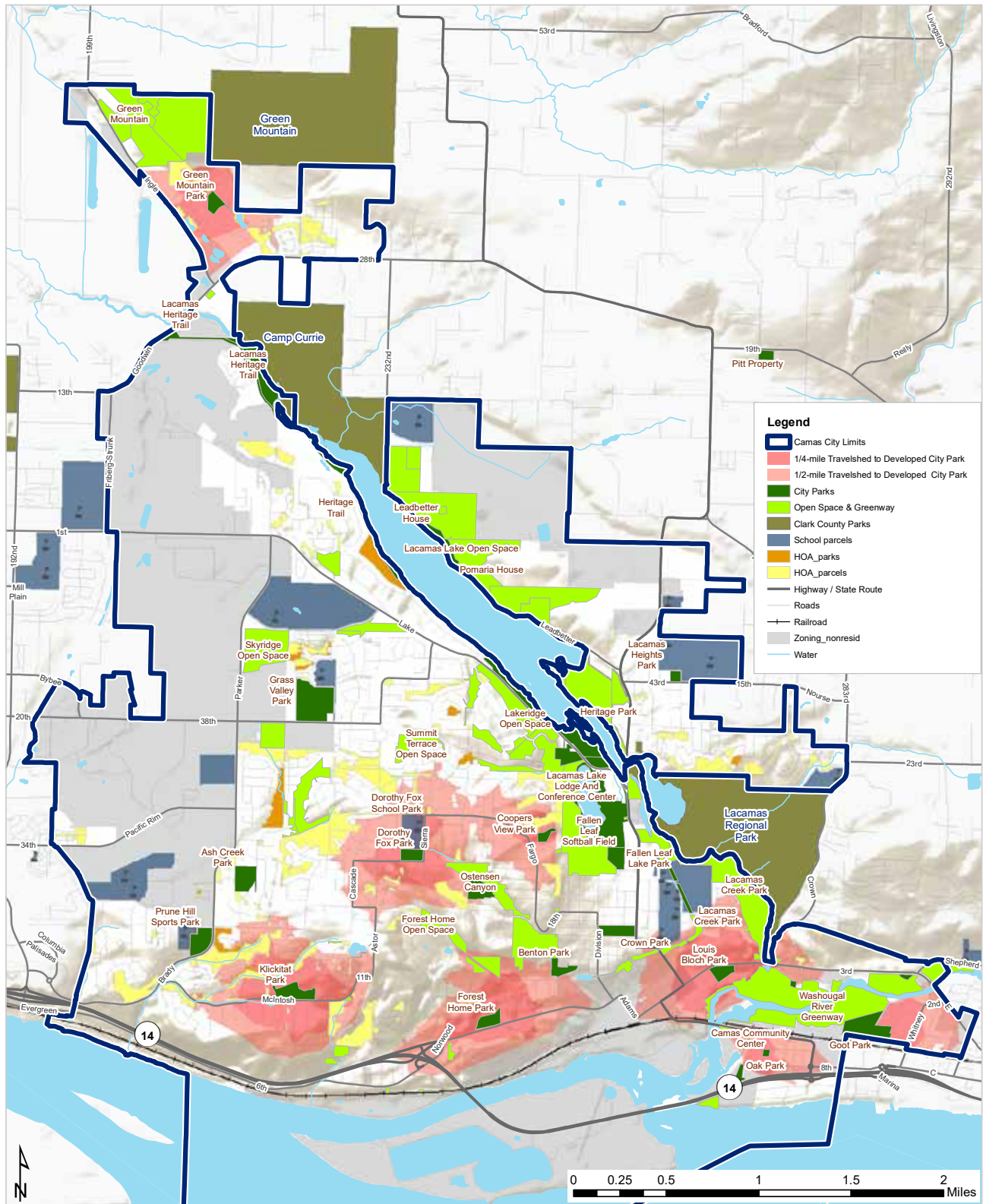
land, the City should continue to coordinate with proposed residential land development projects to consider when and how a public park (or trail connection) could be incorporated into the planning of newly developed residential areas.

The mapping of park distribution and 'travelsheds' helps to illustrate the underserved neighborhoods in Camas. Areas of southwest Camas and north-central Camas have limited access to public parks or open space as indicated by white areas on Map 6. These areas of the City should be targeted for future acquisitions to help create more equitable access for all residents.

Camas has been very successful in securing park and open space as the community has grown, and the small number of potential acquisition sites is a testament to that effort. It should also be noted that the City owns several properties that are intended to serve as neighborhood parks, but are as of yet undeveloped. The future planning and development of these sites will further improve the overall distribution of parks for the Camas community, and these sites have been accounted for in the gap analysis. These future parks include:

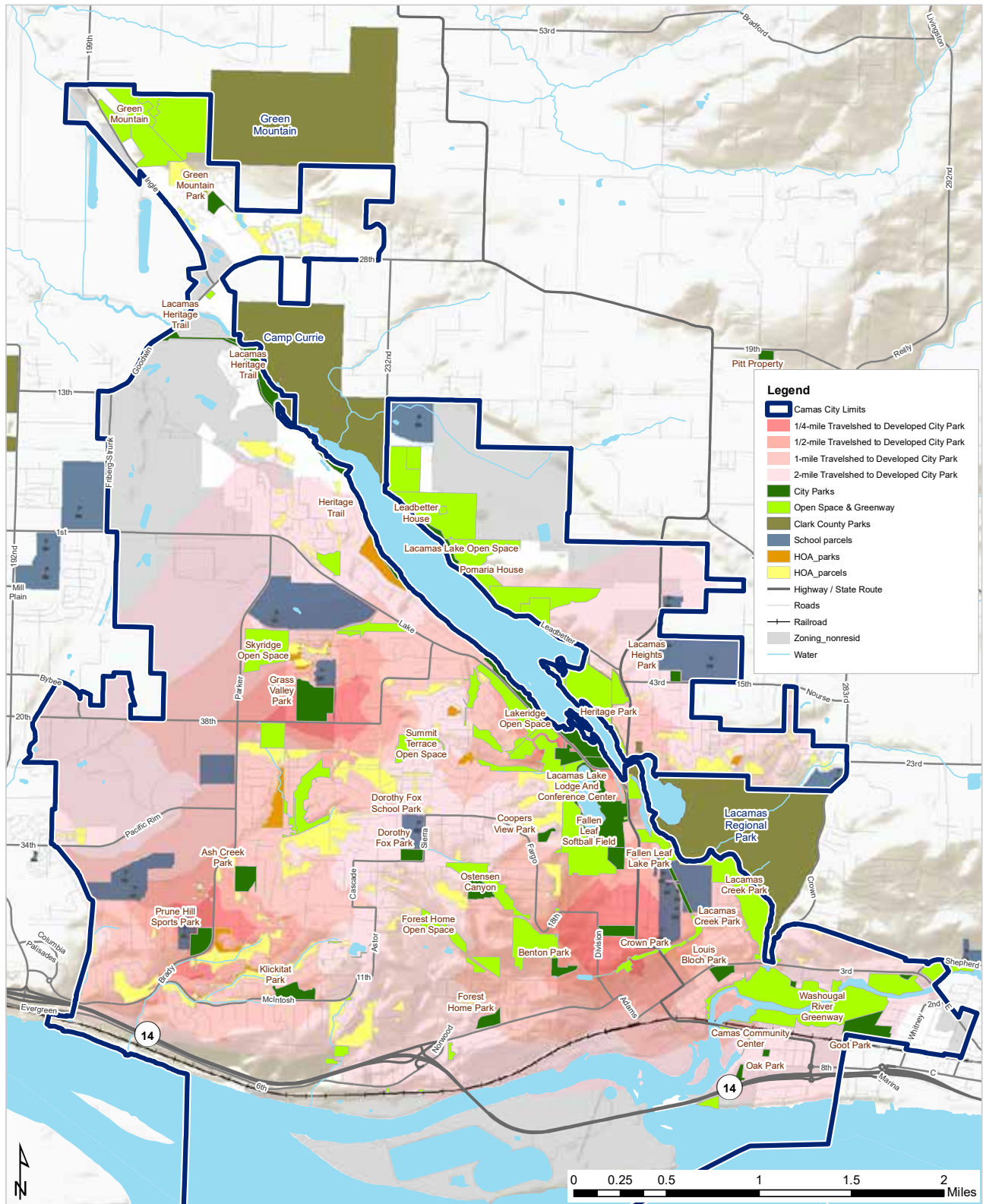
- Ash Creek Park (future neighborhood park)
- Ostensen Canyon Park (future neighborhood park on approximately 8 acres of upper shelf)
- Lacamas Heights Park (future neighborhood park adjacent to Camas High School)
- Green Mountain property (pending community planning)
- North Shore Lacamas Lake (TBD, pending community planning)

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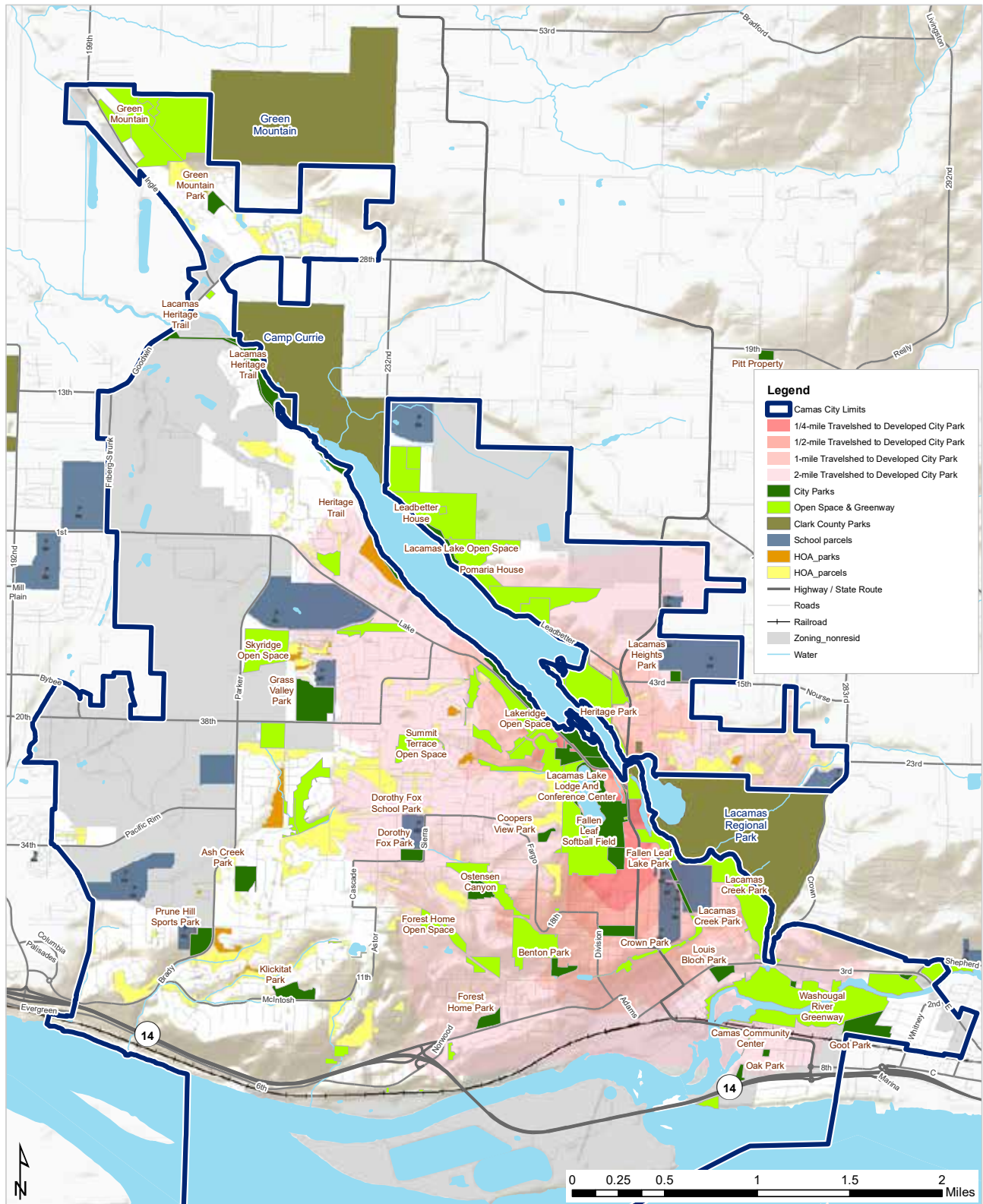
Map 2: Travelsheds for Neighborhood Parks (1/2-mile)

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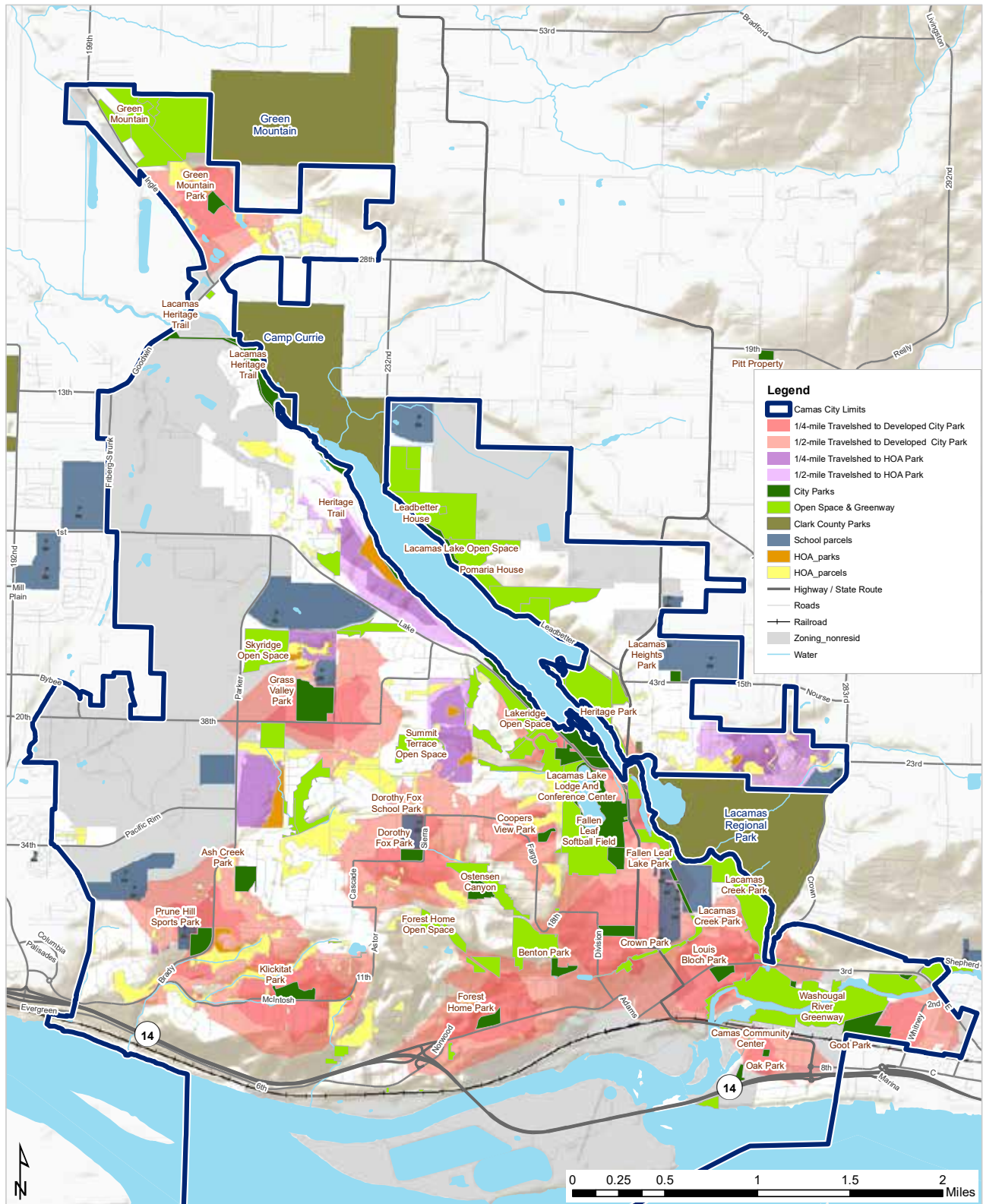
Map 3: Travelsheds for Community Parks (2-miles)

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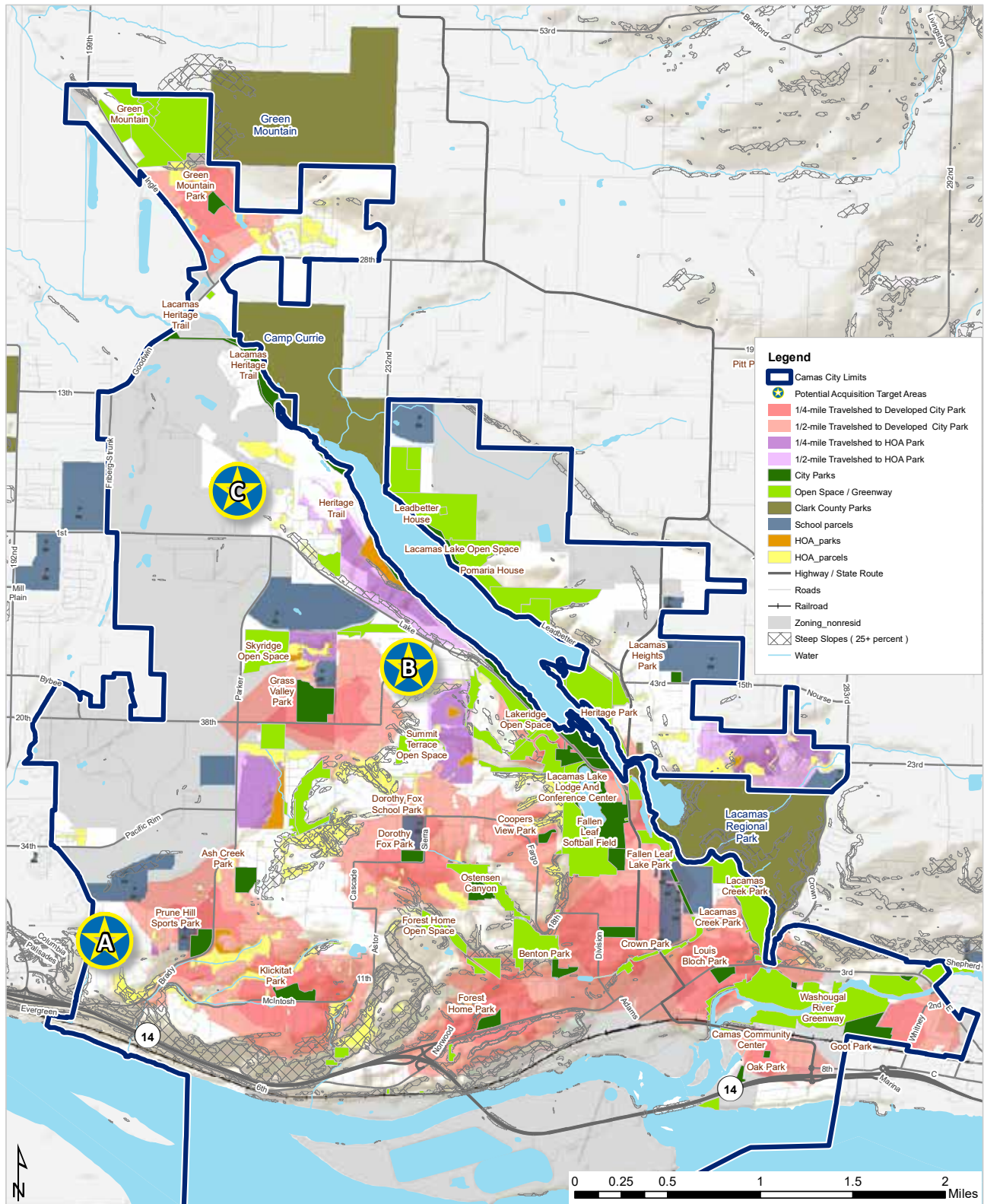
Map 4: Travelsheds for Special Use Areas (2-miles)

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Map 5: Travelsheds for All Parks & HOA Parks (1/2-mile)

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Map 6: Potential Acquisition Target Areas

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TRAILS

The City of Camas consistently has been working to create a network of trails to connect important destinations and help create a more walkable community. Individual parks typically have internal (and usually paved) pathways that provide walking opportunities within the park. While these are popular amenities for park visitors and help provide access to recreational amenities, their isolation from other destinations limits their value. The lakefront, riparian areas and woodlands in Camas also have provided locations for aligning recreational, off-road trails as opportunity arises. Trail connections and walking or biking linkages have been noted as the

highest priority for future improvements to Camas' park system.

The Heritage Trail offers the longest, singular trail at 3.7 miles within City ownership, and Lacamas Creek Park provides an additional 2.4 miles within a forested, park setting. Other significant trails within City open space include those at Fallen Leaf Lake (1.7 miles), Heritage Park (1.3 miles) and the Washougal River Greenway (1.5 miles). In total, Camas has almost 12 miles of walking or biking trails dispersed across its park system.

Figure 14.. Trail Inventory in Camas

Trail Owner Type	Mileage
Camas Recreational Trails	11.9
Camas ROW* Trails	6.8
Clark County Park Trails	10.9
Private / HOA Trails	8.4
School District Trails	1.2
Total Trail Miles	39.2

* Right-of-Way (ROW) trails utilize sidewalk and/or bike lane connections

Figure 15. City of Camas Park Path & Trail Inventory

City Trails	Mileage
Benton Park	0.2
Dorothy Fox Park	0.2
Fallen Leaf Lake Park & Open Space	1.7
Goot Park	0.1
Grass Valley Park	0.4
Heritage Trail	3.7
Klickitat Park	0.6
Lacamas Creek Park	2.4
Oak Park	0.1
Ostensen Canyon Greenway	0.5
Prune Hill Slope Open Space	0.6
Washougal River Greenway	1.5
Total City Trail Miles	11.9





TRAILS FOR WALKABLE COMMUNITIES

Parks are known to contribute to a healthier community by providing accessible outdoor recreation particularly through the walking trail within each park. Getting to the park by foot or bike can also offer a healthier choice integrated with the park destination and its amenities. In the NRPA publication *Safe Routes to Parks*, the elements of walkable, healthy community design are outlined as convenience, comfort, access & design, safety, and the park itself. Sidewalks, bikeways and trails should provide an integrated alternative transportation system for residents to access parks and other destinations within their community. As further emphasis for the importance of a walkable community to promote public health, the Surgeon General has issued a *Call to Action* to “step it up” and promote more walking and build a more walkable world. A more connected network of trails, sidewalks, and bike lanes with links to public transit also provides economic values.



Credit: Camas Post-Record

TRAILS FOR AGING POPULATIONS

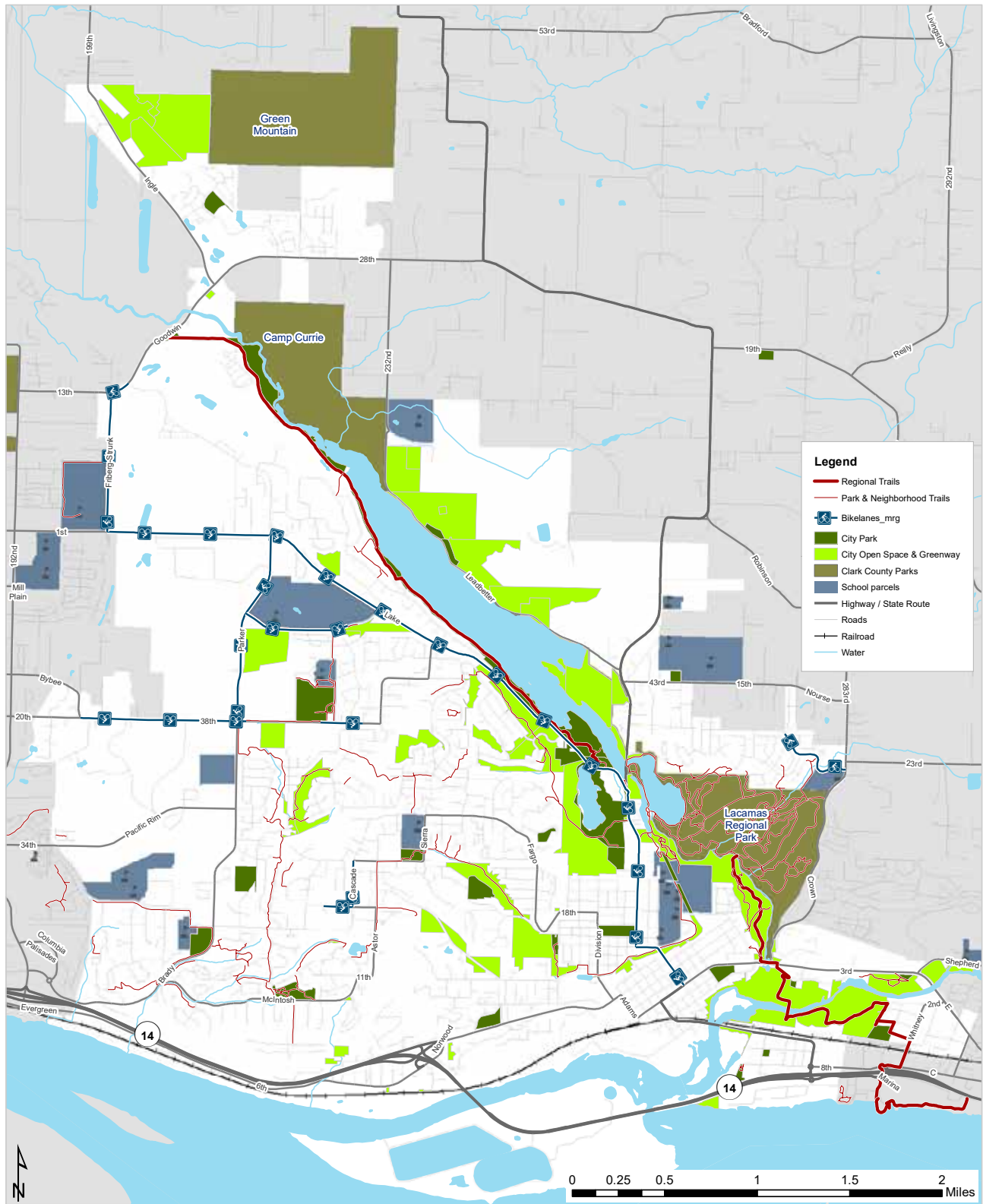
Today’s active seniors are looking at retirement age differently, as many are retooling for a new career, finding ways to engage with their community and focusing on their health and fitness. It will be critical for Camas’ park and recreation system to take a comprehensive approach to the city’s aging population needs. Accessibility and barrier-free parking and paths, walkability and connectivity will be paramount to future planning. Providing programming for today’s older adults includes not only active and passive recreation, but also the type of equipment needed to engage in certain activities. Trails provide the infrastructure for the most popular and frequent outdoor recreation activity of older adults: walking.



Credit: Camas Post-Record

TRAILS FOR ECONOMIC HEALTH

In the 2009 report, *Walking the Walk: How Walkability Raises Housing Values in US Cities* by Joe Cortright for CEOs for Cities, research cited the connection between home value and walkability. Higher WalkScore measurements, where more typical consumer destinations were within walking distance, were directly associated with higher home values. Homes located in more walkable neighborhoods command a price premium over otherwise similar homes in less walkable areas. The National Association of Realtors reports in their *On Common Ground* publication with numerous articles citing the preference of walkable, mixed-use neighborhoods and the role of walkability in creating healthier communities. These preferences translate into higher housing values. Even the National Association of Homebuilders (March 2014 publication: “Walkability, why we care and you should too”) have recognized that walkability is desired by consumers, creates lower development costs and allows flexibility in design. As part of the system of walkability and bike-ability, recreational trails are real estate assets that enhance community connections and contribute to economic health, and these attributes should be considered as Camas enhances trail connections to downtown and plans the future of the North Shore.



Map 7: Existing Trails

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TRAIL DEMAND

Park & Neighborhood Trails

During the public outreach, 80% of the community clearly identified that walking or running was a top reason for visiting Camas' parks. Park pathways are popular recreational amenities and significant contributors for promoting physical activity. This recreational trend is notable in state and national recreation surveys. Running, jogging and trail running are the most popular outdoor activities across the nation, based on levels of participation. Also, the need for more walking and biking trail connections that link parks together has been reinforced in the community survey and other public feedback. The online open house polled opinions about potential trail links and which were the highest priority. The Mill Ditch connection and safe crossings along Lake Road were also noted as important.

With the array of existing park trails and pathways within homeowner association lands, the City should prioritize a couple other connections to close existing gaps and improve options for loop trail routes, to include:

- Ostensen Canyon gap to link Dorothy Fox Park to Benton Park
- Prune Hill Sports Complex to Forest Home Park via Forest Home Open Space (will require on-street connections in coordination with transportation system planning)

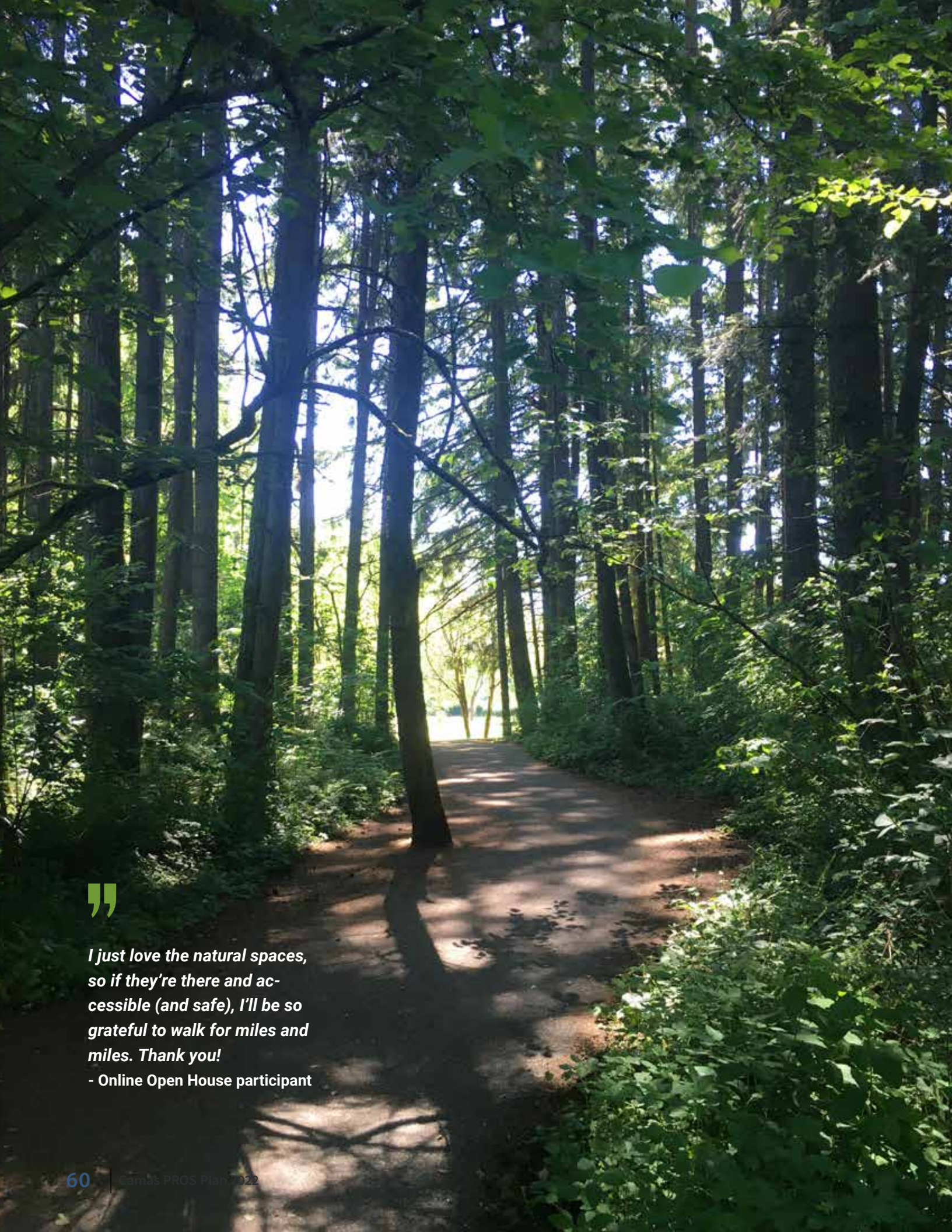
Regional Trails

A regional trail system helps knit communities within Clark County together. Public feedback deemed longer trails segments, such as the Lewis and Clark Regional Trail along the Columbia River and a North Shore Lacamas Lake connection important for Camas. The ongoing development of the North Shore Subarea Plan and conceptual trail planning outlined in the North Shores Lacamas lake - A Vision for Conservation and Recreation will guide more specific planning of trails through the North Shore Lacamas Lake area, including completing the loop to Heritage Trail. Future trail connections should link Round Lake to Camp Currie to Green Mountain, in addition to neighborhood and commercial area connections, trailheads, parking and signage.

Transportation Planning

The City is currently in the process of preparing an updated Transportation System Plan, and a review of existing pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure and discussion of future needs will be included in that plan. The existing conditions memo for the plan noted that paved, shared-use paths exist along portions of NW Parker Street, NW 18th Avenue, Lacamas Lake, Washougal River, and are also scattered throughout the residential neighborhoods. Regarding pedestrian routes and sidewalk coverage, a few areas do not have complete sidewalks, and gaps are most significant in southwest, southeast and northeast Camas.

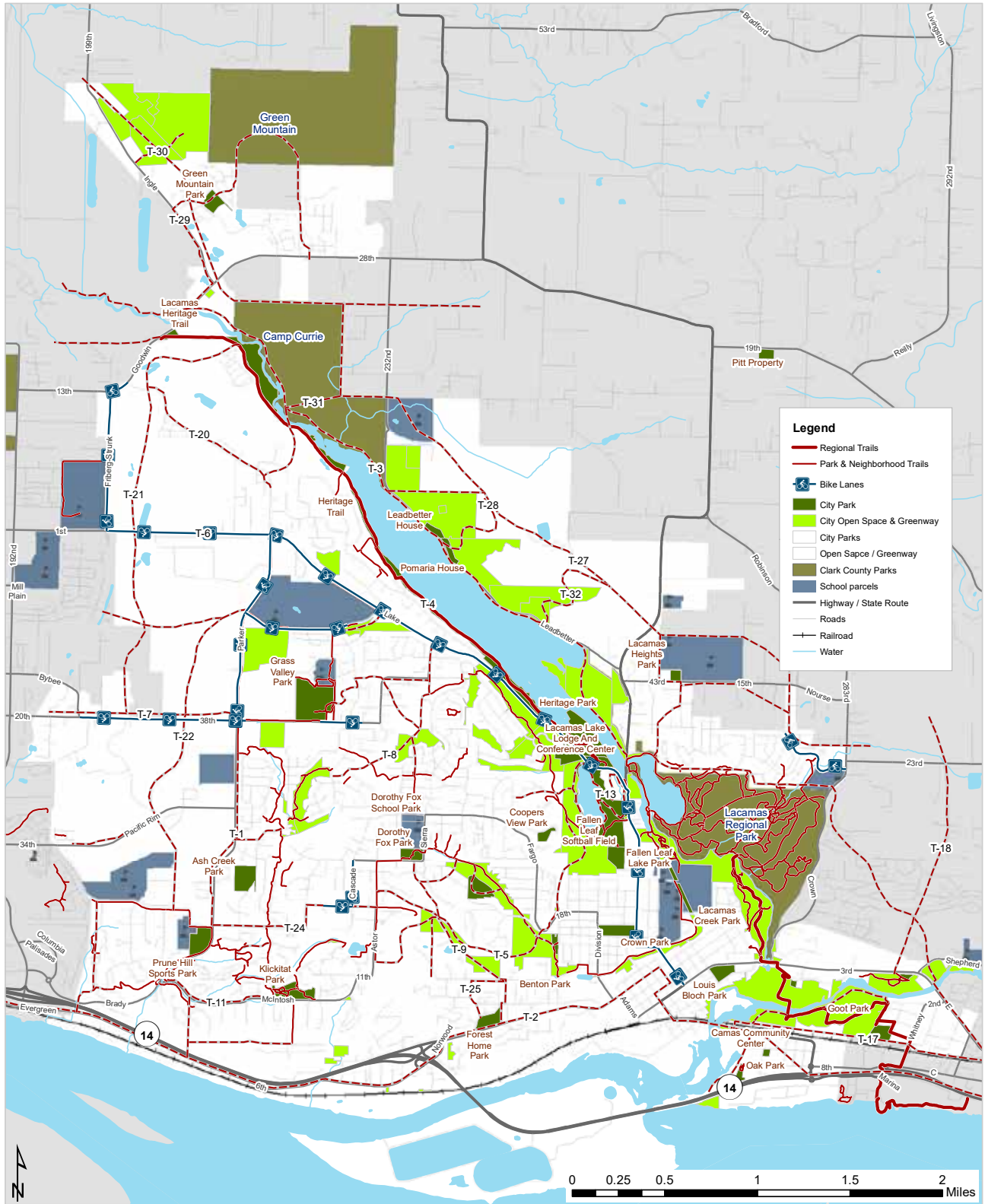
Additionally, the City of Camas has a number of targeted improvement projects that will help further the alternative transportation options for residents. The City's Six-Year Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) from 2022 to 2027 lists planned road, intersection, sidewalk and bikeway projects. Funding and project partners are identified for each planned improvement project. The TIP includes 15 road projects that include bike lanes that will improve connectivity and rider safety along Camas streets.



”

I just love the natural spaces, so if they're there and accessible (and safe), I'll be so grateful to walk for miles and miles. Thank you!

- Online Open House participant



Map 8: Potential Trails

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TRAIL DESIGN CONSIDERATIONS

Alignment

The future growth of the trail network will need to balance between alignments that are optimal from trail user, trail experience and connectivity perspectives and those that are practical from cost, design and engineering, regulatory and availability perspectives. Future consideration should be given toward finding alignment options that can accommodate different trail use types (i.e., commuter vs. recreational/destination oriented, and ADA accessibility), as well as potentially interim solutions that rely on wider sidewalks to serve trail users or routing that utilizes existing or planned sewer lines or utility corridors. Accommodating alignments for local, neighborhood link trails as connections to regional, shared-used trails or major park trails is important for providing access and reducing the sole reliance on trailheads for providing access to the trail network.

Access & Trailheads

Safe, convenient entryways to the trail network expand access for users and are a necessary component of a strong, successful system. A trailhead typically includes parking, kiosks and signage and may include site furnishings such as trash receptacles, benches, restrooms, drinking fountains, and bicycle parking. Trailheads may be within public parks and open space or provided via interagency agreements with partner organizations (e.g., county, school district, etc.) to increase use and reduce unnecessary duplication of support facilities. Specific trailhead design and layout should be created as part of planning and design development for individual projects and take into account the intended user groups and unique site conditions. Trail connections and walking or biking linkages also are good access point to designated local and regional trails.

Trail Development Limitations

One underlying tenet of the recreational trail system is to enable the placement of trails within or close to natural features to provide access to the city's unique landscapes, as well as accommodate outdoor recreational access to creeks, hillsides and waterfront. The future planning and design of trail routes through natural areas should be based on sensitive and low-impact design solutions that

offer controlled access that protects the resource, while providing for a positive experience for trail users. Trail routes should consider intended and unintended impacts to natural areas, such as soil erosion, especially near streams and shorelines. The determination of future trail alignments should place high priority on natural resource and natural hazards planning and protections, in part to meet local land use policies as well as Washington State requirements.

Ongoing Maintenance

Following trail construction, ongoing trail monitoring and maintenance will keep the trails functioning as designed, while working to protect capital investments in the network. Future trail renovation projects should be included in the Capital Improvement Plans as a means to identify and secure appropriate resources for needed enhancement, such as adding additional capacity to the trail. The City should maintain and expand their connection to and communications with the robust network of local volunteers to provide support as appropriate.

Trail Signs & Wayfinding

Coordinated signage plays a crucial role in facilitating a successful trail system. A comprehensive and consistent signage system is a critical component for the trail network and is necessary to inform, orient and educate users about the trail system itself, as well as appropriate trail etiquette. Such a system of signs should include trail identification information, orientation markers, safety and regulatory messages and a unifying design identity or element for branding. The following signage types should be considered and consistently implemented throughout the network:

- Directional and regulatory signage
- Trail user etiquette and hierarchy signage
- Continuous route signage for route identification and wayfinding
- Mileage markers or periodic information regarding distance to areas of interest
- Warning signs to caution users of upcoming trail transitions or potential conflicts with motor vehicles
- Interpretive information regarding ecological, historical and cultural features found along and in proximity to the trail
- Add QR codes to signs to provide links to additional information

Also, the installation of kiosks at trailheads is a best practice that should continue and provides important trail information, while reinforcing the visual brand of the Camas trail experience.

LEVEL OF SERVICE ASSESSMENT

A level of service (LOS) review was conducted in addition to and in support of the gap analysis as a means to understand the distribution of parkland acreage by classification and for a broader measure of how well the City is serving its residents with access to parks, trails and open space. Service standards are the adopted guidelines or benchmarks the City is trying to attain with their park system; the level of service is a snapshot in time of how well the City is meeting its adopted standards.

Many jurisdictions are developing guidelines that are customized to their community and its unique and often changing park and recreation demands, rather than solely applying the historic National Recreation and Park Association’s (NRPA) published park standards that primarily focused on parkland acreage per capita. The use and application of standards continues to evolve and develop diverse approaches. This Plan evaluates the City’s current parkland level of service through a variety of characteristics, including acreage per capita, as a snapshot in time and means to describe the performance of the park system.

Figure 16. Existing & Projected Levels of Service by Park Classification

Type	Current Inventory	Existing Level of Service (2020)	Projected Level of Service (2035)
Regional & Community Park	219.1 acres	8.4 ac./1000	6.4 ac./1000
Neighborhood Park	75.9 acres	2.9 ac./1000	2.2 ac./1000
Special Facility	15.9 acres	0.6 ac./1000	0.5 ac./1000
Trail / Linear Park	61.8 acres	2.4 ac./1000	1.8 ac./1000
Open Space & Greenway	691.5 acres	26.5 ac./1000	20.3 ac./1000
	1,064.1 acres	40.8 ac./1000	31.2 ac./1000

The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) conducts annual surveys to generate a Park Metrics database (formerly known as PRORAGIS) that reflects the current levels of service of park agencies across the country based on a variety of factors: population size, population density, number of full-time equivalent employees, number of park facilities, acres of parkland, and more. The Park Metrics survey data are used to compare different park and recreation providers in widely different communities across the country; however, the Park Metrics database relies on self-reporting by municipalities. Some agencies only include developed, active parks, while others include natural lands with limited or no improvements, amenities or access. The comparative standards in the table below should be viewed with this variability in mind.

A few highlights from the NRPA agency comparison provide perspectives on Camas’ park system. Figure 17 compares jurisdictional populations served by park and recreation agencies against certain performance metrics. The number of residents per park and acres of parkland per 1,000 residents implicate the potential wear and tear on park facilities. Compared with similar population sizes, Camas provides considerably more parkland acreage (40.8 acres, including open space) per 1,000 residents. Comparing just developed park properties, the City has 6.4 acres per 1,000 residents. Looking at the numbers of residents per playground, Camas has more playgrounds (at 1,862 residents per playground) than similar-sized jurisdictions (at 3,157 residents per playground).

Figure 17. Service Levels Comparing Park Metric (NRPA) Data

Metric	Median Value		
	All Agencies	Pop. Range 20-50,000	Camas
Residents per Park	2,281	1,963	1,629
Acres of Parkland per 1,000 population	9.9	9.6	40.8
Miles of Trails *	11	8.5	39.2
Number of Residents per Playground	3,750	3,157	1,862
Number of Residents per Recreation Center**	31,141	25,716	6,516

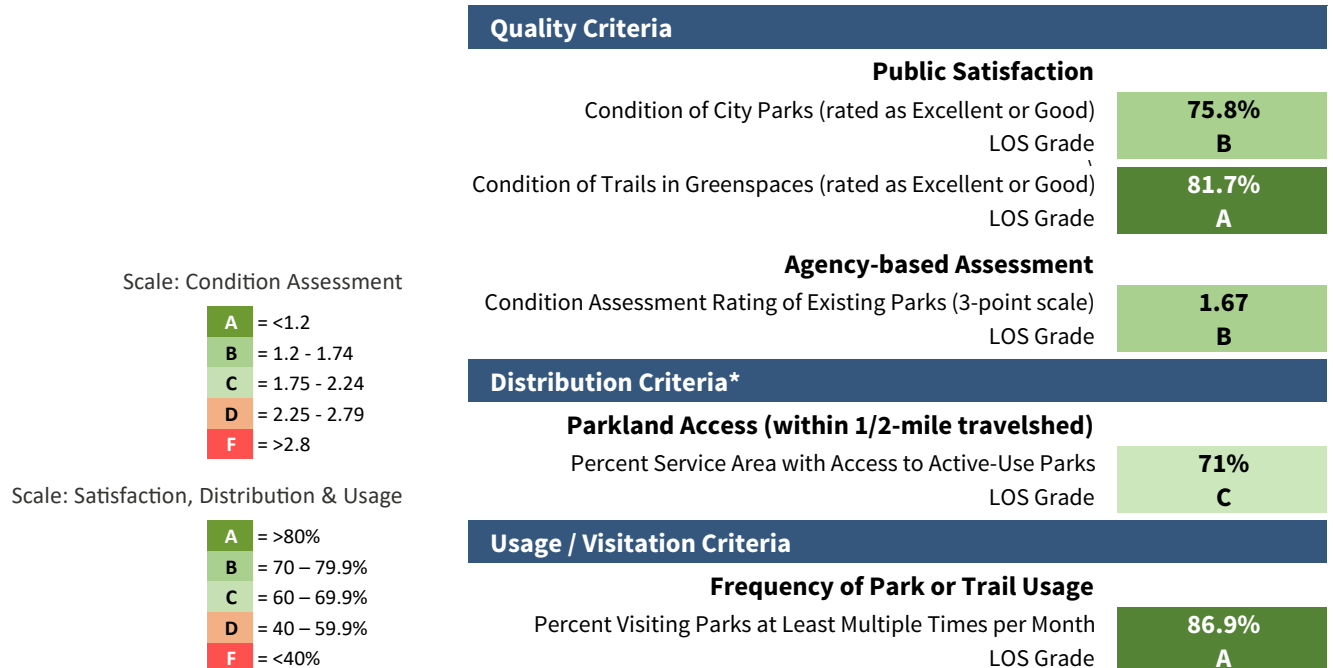
* Note: Includes trails in County parks

** Note: Assumes 25% of Camas population for Camas Community Center and Lacamas Lake Lodge as neither facilities function as traditional recreation centers

The use of numeric standards is a blunt and limited tool to assess how well the City is delivering park and recreation services, since the numeric values alone neglect any recognition for the quality of the facilities or their distribution (i.e., the ease to which residents have reasonable, proximate access to park sites). While public ownership of a broad range of recreation lands is crucial to the well-being of the city, the simple use of an overall acreage standard does not match with the citizen input received during this planning process. Residents were particularly interested in the availability of trails, water access, and open space within a reasonable distance from their homes.

The City’s park system also was assessed using Washington Recreation and Conservation Office’s (RCO) level of service metrics provided in their planning manual. In reviewing the park system as a whole, Figure 18 illustrates the current levels of service across different performance measurements. From the community survey results, public satisfaction of the facilities and amenities that Camas provides ranked as the strongest indicator for the park system. Future development of Ash Creek Park, Lacamas Heights Park and Ostensen Canyon Neighborhood Park will further improve the distribution rating noted in the figure.

Figure 18. Levels of Service with RCO Metrics (System-wide)



* Note: The percentage of land area covered by service area walksheds is a proxy for the population within the residential portion of the City.

No numeric standards are recommended or proposed for open spaces. While numerical planning standards are common for helping to determine a desirable number of neighborhood parks per thousand residents, they do not translate easily to open space because of the uniqueness of the land base itself. Rather than being guided by numerical standards for open space, the priority for future open space acquisitions, if any, should be focused toward those lands that expand ownership of adjacent City-owned properties or to ensure sufficient property is available to accommodate public access and future trail connections.

As with roadway system and transportation planning, planning for recreational trails should be geared toward connectivity, rather than mileage. Considering a mileage standard for paths within the Camas park system would provide only an isolated and inadequate assessment of need for the community and its plans for better connectivity, and as such no numeric standards are recommended or proposed for trails. This Plan recommends a connectivity goal that re-states and reinforces the desire to improve overall connections across the City and enhance off-street linkages between parks and major destinations, as feasible.

Other Considerations

While this Plan uses total parkland acreage and parkland access as primary indicators of parkland need, the City could also consider other factors as its population grows, including:

- Park pressure, or the potential user demand on a park: Residents are most likely to use the park closest to their home. This measure uses GIS analysis to assign all households to their nearest respective park and calculates level of service (in acres of parkland per 1,000 residents) based on the acreage of the park and the number of residents in the 'parkshed'. Areas with lower levels of service are more likely to be underserved by parkland and to see higher degrees of use and wear and tear on park amenities.
- Availability of park amenities: Park systems should include an equitable distribution and quantity of the most common amenities like playgrounds, picnic shelters, sports courts, sports fields and trails to meet local needs and help distribute the potential usage of individual parks. Working to provide well-distributed basic park amenities, while also offering unique outdoor experiences, will result in a varied park system with a range of different recreational opportunities for residents. See Appendix G for considerations.



Credit: Camas Post-Record

PARK & TRAIL SYSTEM RECOMMENDATIONS

Acquisitions and Development for Trail Connections

Additional trail connections are needed, as well as sidewalk and bike lanes improvements, to help link destinations across the community and park system to offer more walkability and promote healthier outdoor lifestyles. Acquisitions of easements, corridors and parcels will be needed to create the comprehensive linkages for Camas' future trail system. The Public Works and Parks and Recreation Departments will need to collaborate on the project planning to ensure the most appropriate links that improve the park and trail system. This should also include coordination with the Transportation System Plan (and subsequent updates), as well as coordination with local subdivision and site development projects.

Park Development & Improvement Projects

The preparation of an updated site master plan for Ash Creek Park and a new site plan for the flat, upper shelf of Ostensen Canyon Park will be beneficial to guide future decision-making and development of those two parks. Once master plans have been adopted, phased park development should be planned as part of the capital facilities program.

Field drainage problems are observed issues at various parks. The City should conduct a city-wide field assessment to create a capital improvement project list and on-going maintenance plan. Ongoing coordination with local leagues and the school district should inform other field improvements, including turfing existing fields, installing lights to expand play seasons and the development of additional fields to accommodate demand.

Expanding Recreation Options

Splash Pads / Spray Parks

Spray parks are water play features that are very popular and provide a means of integrating aquatics into parks at a relatively low cost. Camas currently does not have a splash pad in the park system,

and strong public support exists for this feature. The City should consider at least one spray park to serve residents as an option for summertime water play that doesn't require lifeguarding. This special use amenity typically is supported by parking and restrooms, since it draws users from a wider area. Any spray park facility should be designed to recycle water, if practical.

Bike Skills

Engaging older youth, teens, and adults in more intense physical activity within parks requires amenities that support challenging active movement. The City should plan for a pump track and connecting flow track in a visible location that can accommodate parking and can enable a synergy with other park uses. These features would add new challenges for riders and add to the range of outdoor recreational opportunities across older youth and teens.

Alternative Sports

Providing facilities for alternative or emerging sports, such as skateboarding, BMX, mountain biking, climbing and parkour, can offer residents a more diverse range of recreational experiences, while creating destinations that attract local and regional visitors. Camas currently has an outdoor, concrete skatepark located next to the Washougal River Greenway, and opportunities and facilities for other alternative sports should be considered as new parks, such as Green Mountain, are designed and developed.

All-Inclusive Playgrounds

Upgrading play areas for ADA-accessibility will be necessary to ensure compliance and universal access; however, providing for ADA-accessibility should not be the City's only goal. As new parks or playground replacements are planned, Camas should consider opportunities for fully-accessible all-inclusive play areas to provide for users of all abilities.

Off-Leash Dog Area

Walking with a dog is a very popular recreational activity, and off-leash areas have become desired amenities for dog owners living in urban environments who may otherwise have limited opportunities to exercise their pets. Recreational trends and community input indicate an existing

need for an off-leash area. The City of Camas currently does not have an official off-leash dog area; however, the City of Washougal has prioritized implementation of a dog park within the next year with opportunities for Camas residents to use.

Appropriate sites should be safe, not isolated, and noise impacts on neighbors should be considered. Ideally, a dog park would be a component to a larger (future) community park, where infrastructure (e.g., parking, restrooms and garbage collection) exists and supports multiple activities. The development of a dog park may require code revisions, the development of rules and policies, and community support for self-policing for behavioral issues and waste pick-up. Communities throughout the Northwest have relied on grassroots or non-profit organizations, such as DOGPAW, for the ongoing operations and maintenance of such facilities.

Sport Courts

A limited variety of sport courts exists within Camas. Two tennis courts, three volleyball courts and nine basketball courts are provided at City parks. Tennis court surfacing will require attention in the coming years, and Camas has an opportunity to transition one or both courts to multi-sport use. Camas currently has no outdoor, dedicated pickleball courts available within public parks.

Pickleball continues to rank as one of the fastest -growing sports and has seen significant jumps in participation over the past decade, attracting a wide range of age groups. As an interim step, the City should plan to convert some tennis courts to multi-sport courts through striping and examine the need for additional multi-sport courts in the future.

Community Gardens

Community gardens provide common space for residents to grow fruits, vegetables and flowers. Gardens have been shown to increase healthy food consumption, while providing opportunities for active living, social interactions and lifelong learning. Community gardens are becoming more popular park amenities in urban environments, where residents may have limited outdoor space. Gardens are also popular with a diverse range of residents. Additional gardens could be sited in community or neighborhood parks or in stand-alone locations with parking and access to water. Due to

limited staffing, the City should continue to seek partnerships for garden management with local community groups.

Water-oriented Recreation

Camas' location on the Columbia River and with three major lakes provide substantial opportunities for water-based recreation, including both motorized and non-motorized boating, fishing, paddle sports, wildlife watching, and beach activities. The City has made significant investments in waterfront acquisitions and water-oriented infrastructure over past decades, and this infrastructure, which includes docks, ramps and other water access amenities, should continue to be monitored.

Outdoor recreation businesses in the Camas-Washougal community benefit from the close proximity of the rivers, forests and mountains that provide venues for mountain biking, backpacking, rock climbing and similar outdoor activities. The cities of Camas and Washougal should coordinate and partner with local businesses to run classes that provide an introduction to these outdoor sports and broaden the outreach to new participants.

Acquisitions for a Complete Park System

Camas' park system has been expanding as the City grows and the need for more facilities triggers additions of both parkland and recreational amenities. The City is expected to continue its growth as a desirable place to live and, thus, must press forward to acquire more parkland and develop more amenities within existing parks. The mapping of existing parks within Camas' residential neighborhoods illustrated the need for three more strategically located park sites to ensure reasonable access to walkable parks for the bulk of the community. Acquiring parkland requires a proactive approach and may need to look beyond undeveloped or partially developed properties. In addition to fee-simple purchases, the City should continue to work and coordinate with local residential developers to include public parks in new subdivisions and utilize tools, such as park impact fee credits, to facilitate the process.



User Conveniences

Restrooms

Supporting park and trail use through the provision of restrooms is a critical element in any park system. Based on the park site assessments, several parks should have the restrooms replaced or upgraded; and where possible add new permanent bathrooms to parks and trailheads.

Parking

Camas has several park and trail assets that are heavily used during the summer, especially those that are adjacent to water or have access to water-oriented recreation such as Heritage Park and Heritage Trail. The City should evaluate such locations for parking and transportation constraints and needs and consider improvements to add capacity for heavy seasonal uses.

Picnic Areas & Shelters

Improving access to existing picnic areas and shelters for ADA compliance should be a core focus. Additionally, the City should assess and consider installation of new picnic shelters by city quadrants. Site master plans for Ash Creek Park and Ostensen Canyon Park should guide the future decisions about the need and location of picnic areas and shelter facilities.

Wayfinding

The City of Camas can benefit from enhanced wayfinding and signage supporting its overall park and trail system. Opportunities exist to help visitors navigate and inform them about the public spaces they are entering. A good wayfinding system can provide a consistent identity and display valuable and accessible information to orient the user. This guidance system ensures efficient use of the trail, park, or other public space and conveys safety to the user by translating the environment into a known geography. Signs, symbols, mapping, color, and standardized site amenities combined with good design of the physical environment (i.e., trail or park) help the user navigate the space and stay comfortably oriented.

ADA compliance

Minor improvements to access, such as providing ramped entrances, for site furnishings are necessary to conform to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and ensure universal accessibility. Also, the City should evaluate the play equipment and its signage for code compliance and replace outdated equipment, as appropriate. The Capital Planning section includes a line item for covering small upgrades and improvements to remove barriers and improve universal access. In general, the City should complete a system-wide ADA assessment and make improvements to existing parks as needed to ensure proper maintenance, usability and quality of park features and grounds.

Open Space & STEWARDSHIP

Camas' open space, greenways and waterways are a critical component of the City's green infrastructure and play critical roles in supporting healthy, well-functioning ecosystems. These many benefits include maintaining and enhancing air and water quality, mitigating impacts of climate change, capturing stormwater runoff, and providing recreational and scenic opportunities to connect with nature that promote physical and mental well-being.

OPEN SPACE

The Camas community is fortunate to have retained several significant natural areas across the City. Over 700 acres of open space properties and natural lands are either owned or managed by the City, in coordination with the acreage of the developed park areas. These open space properties include forested lands, riparian corridors, wetlands, and steep slopes across 31 different sites. Together, the open space properties around Lacamas Lake comprise the most extensive and contiguous public open spaces, accounting for 49% of the open space in the City. Several other significant natural areas, ranging in size from 11 to 125 acres, also provide substantial forested areas. Smaller open space properties, under 10 acres in size, are distributed across Camas.

The open space classification distinguishes natural lands from parks developed for active recreation and other highly managed landscapes. Open space may refer to public properties that are exclusively natural areas or portions of larger parks that are managed as natural areas. These open space lands are managed to preserve, restore, and conserve ecosystem functions, water quality, native vegetation, and wildlife habitat. Open space properties are undeveloped, primarily left in their natural form, and are managed to retain or enhance natural or





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Would like to see development of parking, picnic shelters, and water entry to Fallen Leaf Lake on opposite side of Lake Road.
- Online Open House participant

scenic resources. However, open space may include trails or interpretive signs, along with modest support amenities such as parking or restrooms. Additionally, some properties that are acquired and held as future, active-use parks are managed as open space until they are developed as parks, which may last five to ten years or even longer from the time of purchase.

Figure 19. City-owned Open Space Areas

Open Space Area	Acreage
Larger Open Space Properties	
Fallen Leaf Open Space	52.30
Forest Home Open Space	19.71
Grass Valley Open Space	11.26
Lacamas Creek Open Space	65.79
Lacamas Lake Open Space	52.41
Lakeridge Open Space	59.49
North Lacamas Lake Open Space	159.91
Ostensen Canyon Greenway	47.70
Prune Hill Open Space	22.96
Skyridge Open Space	29.63
Summit Terrace Open Space	12.34
Washougal River Greenway	124.29
Subtotal	657.78
Smaller Open Space Properties	
6th Ave Open Space	0.60
Columbia River Open Space	2.81
Columbia View Terrace Open Space	0.24
Crown Road Open Space	1.37
Goodwin Road Open Space	0.84
Lake Road Open Space	6.99
Meadows Open Space	3.37
Mill Ditch Open Space	9.12
Renaissance Summit Open Space	0.33
Sunningdale Open Space	1.67
Tidland Heights Open Space	1.46
Top Fallen Leaf Open Space	0.41
Triangle Open Space	9.41
View Ridge Open Space	0.33
Subtotal	38.95
Undeveloped Park Properties	
Ash Creek Park	9.54
Benton Park	4.77
Green Mountain	114.21
Lacamas Heights Park	2.30
Ostensen Canyon Park	8.23
Subtotal	139.05
TOTAL OPEN SPACE	835.78

Large Open Space Properties

The City manages several other sizable open space properties. At more than 10 acres, significant habitat for wildlife and a quiet experience for park visitors is buffered by nature from the surrounding urban environment. These areas, in addition to the Lacamas Lake and Washougal River Greenway areas, include Ostensen Canyon, Prune Hill, Skyridge, Forest Home, and Grass Valley. These large open space areas contain a variety of distinct habitats, such as wetlands and creeks, adding to the diversity of plant species they host. Some of these open spaces also include developed trail systems, serving as recreation opportunities and valuable pedestrian connections for local streets and neighborhoods.

Smaller Open Space Properties

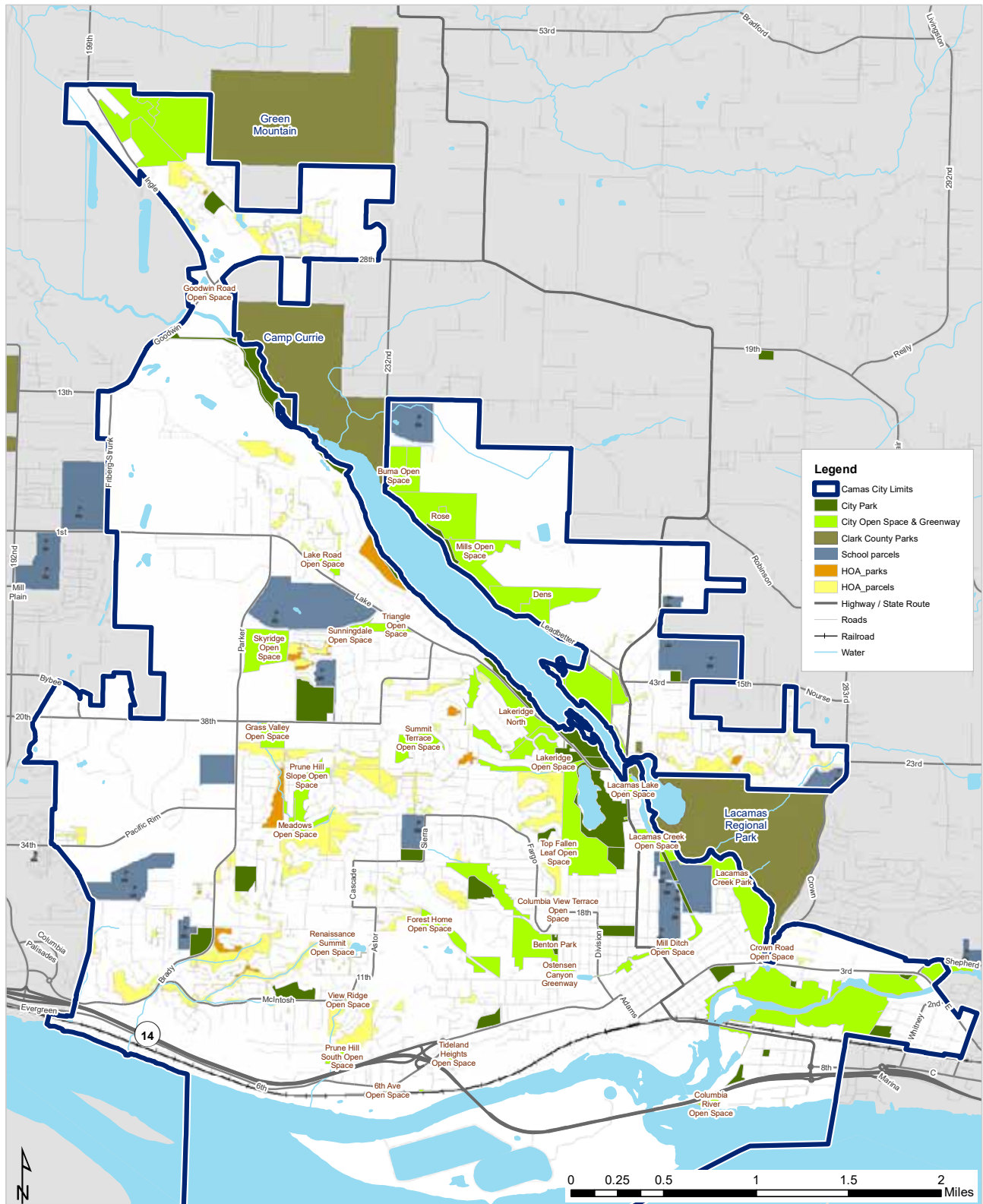
Smaller open space areas, ranging from less than one acre to ten acres, are distributed across the City. Though small, these pockets of natural area serve as refuges for wildlife traveling between larger forested areas, and in some cases, provide meaningful trail connections between adjoining neighborhoods. Several of these areas have no developed trails or site improvements and are managed exclusively as natural area set-asides and to preserve or enhance their ecosystem functions. These include Crown Road Open Space, Lake Road Open Space, Meadows Open Space, Mill Ditch Open Space and Triangle Open Space, among others. Development of these sites for public recreational use, including the construction of trails, may be limited, or restricted by natural characteristics of the land, including steep slopes, wetlands, and other features.

Other Open Space Properties

Other significant natural open space areas include sites owned by Clark County, such as Lacamas Regional Park and Camp Currie, and a significant collection of privately-held parcels owned by various homeowners' associations throughout the City.

Figure 20. Other Open Space Areas

Non-City Open Space Lands	Acreage
Clark Co	891.10
HOA Parks	43.25
HOA Open Space	341.65
TOTAL NON-CITY OPEN SPACE	1,276.00



Map 9: Existing Open Space by Provider

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LAND CONSERVATION

The City of Camas has demonstrated its commitment to conserving its natural resources within the context of a major metropolitan region. The preservation of the network of open space around Lacamas Lake and the Washougal River Greenway are shining examples of the importance of land conservation to the community. The City has also preserved a variety of public waterfront access and public park amenities along Lacamas Lake and the Washougal River.

Many of the public lands that the City owns and manages host unique, high-value landscapes, such as intact forests, waterfronts, and vistas. These areas are prioritized for conservation, acquisition, and restoration activities to ensure that they continue to thrive and provide their distinct ecosystem functions and benefits. High-quality waterfronts, watercourses, and wetlands are all vital to protecting water quality of these environments and preserving Camas' diversity of habitats. Providing safe public access to and within these areas needs to be carefully balanced with the crucial goal of environmental stewardship and natural habitat protection.

Waterfronts

Camas' diverse waterfronts present some of its most aesthetic and environmentally important characteristics. With only small exceptions, nearly the entire waterfronts of Lacamas Lake, Round Lake and Fallen Leaf Lake are in public ownership. Water access sites are provided at Heritage Park, Fallen Leaf Lake Park, Lacamas Regional Park and along Leadbetter Road. River access is provided within the Washougal River Greenway, and the Port of Camas-Washougal provides water access to the Columbia River. Through ongoing planning and coordination with Clark County, the City should continue to explore options to expand its waterfront ownership along the Columbia River. The conservation and continued restoration of these open spaces further highlight the conservation values of the Camas community.

Watercourses

The City's stormwater management area includes three major watersheds: the Columbia River, the Washougal River, and the Lacamas Lake watersheds. The Stormwater Management Program aims to inform and assist in the development of water quality management policies and strategies to protect local waterways, consistent with the state and federal requirements. Watercourses traversing the numerous sub-basins within the three main watersheds are naturally occurring or partially altered streams characterized by perennial or seasonal flows that contribute to water filtration, stormwater buffering, erosion control, and the provision of wildlife habitats. Within City-owned properties, preservation and restoration of the land surrounding watercourses are a priority, ensuring that these areas continue to provide their unique ecosystem services.

Wetlands & Steep Slopes

The City code also protects and regulates wetlands and steep slopes in Camas. The City's natural open space areas include several wetland areas, including riparian or lakeside wetlands and perched wetlands in upland forest areas. Steep slopes exist throughout the drainage basins and small canyons, such as Ostensen Canyon. These areas continue to be a high priority for protection and restoration efforts. Generally, they represent fragile ecosystems that host unique plant communities and serve as a valuable habitat for many animals, including bird and amphibian populations. These areas should be included in future open space management planning.

Forest Lands

Healthy and resilient forest lands are crucial for the preservation of Camas' high-value ecosystems. The City is fortunate to have acquired and protected many of the forested hillsides and canyons and open spaces around the three major lakes. Ongoing monitoring and management of these forest lands will be necessary to control impacts to water bodies and water quality, control invasive vegetation, maintain native plant communities and accommodate appropriate recreational access and usage.

LAND ACQUISITION

Conservation may also take the form of acquiring important lands that contribute to the ecological health of Camas' forests, wetlands, and watercourses. For many years, the City has partnered and planned with Clark County on the Legacy Lands Program to secure such lands adjacent to the North Shore of Lacamas Lake.

The 2021 update to the Clark County Natural Areas Acquisition Plan provides a vision for preserving and enhancing a system of natural lands that includes greenways, habitat, farm, and forest resource lands. The plan provides a regional perspective, identifying specific acquisition opportunities, as well as accommodates future opportunities for park development, trail creation, and restoration. Within Camas, this county-wide plan continues to identify high-value conservation lands along the Columbia River shoreline (including Lady Island) for open space and to accommodate the Lewis and Clark Regional Trail, in addition to lands along Lacamas Creek.

Undeveloped lands or sections of existing properties are often restricted in their potential development by steep slopes, wetlands, or critical areas. These features are often highly valued for habitat conservation. These areas may extend existing natural areas or serve as essential habitat corridors between larger open space lands. Conservation easements and public access easements are tools that could be applied to increase habitat benefits and access across the parks and open space system.

STEWARDSHIP

With the growth of the open space network, the City has initiated several studies to guide the stewardship and management of these lands, informed by quantitative data and best practices.

Open Space Studies and Management Plans

Lacamas Lake Management Plan

The City has begun a process to develop a Lake Management Plan to outline actions to improve water quality in Lacamas, Fallen Leaf, and Round lakes. The project will address algae blooms, along with other water quality concerns that City Council has identified as a top priority. The planning effort will include water sampling and monitoring to better understand current water quality and to develop potential management strategies to improve the overall health of the lakes.

North Shore Subarea Plan

The area north of Lacamas Lake is anticipated to experience substantial growth and redevelopment within the next 20 years, and the City is actively planning the future of the North Shore through an ongoing community process. Current uses are primarily agriculture and single-





family residences, and most of the subarea is in private ownership. Planned transportation infrastructure will improve connectivity and support the employment and retail uses desired in the North Shore area. A large portion of the land in this area is zoned Business Park and Multi-Family, with some Commercial and lower density residential zoning. An eight-point vision statement, adopted by City Council in September 2020, includes as the first two points the intent to preserve the natural beauty of the North Shore and plan for connected greenspace.

1. Preserve the North Shore’s natural beauty and environmental health. Policies, regulations and design rules must protect significant trees, tree groves, and surrounding lakes. Identify and preserve views to the treed hillside and the lake.
2. Plan a network of green spaces and recreational opportunities. Integrate a variety of parks, playgrounds, trails, and open spaces into residential and employment areas throughout the North Shore area. Create a “green corridor” along the lake that completes the Heritage Trail, provides lake access, and buffers the lake from adjacent development.

System-wide Open Space Management

In 2003, the City prepared Policy Guidelines for an Open Space Management Plan, which was intended to give staff the basis for effective resource management decisions. The plan identified nine management goals and eight policies to guide open space management. The plan identifies high-level issues related to land management and trail development in and through the open space network.

Since 2003, the City’s open space network has grown by over 50% in terms of city-owned acreage, and an updated, more specific and science-oriented open space management and urban forest management plans are required to better guide City staff in the care, maintenance and stewardship of open space and forested lands. In particular, these new plans should reflect the realities of limited program funding and the challenges presented by climate change to include the following considerations:

1. Maintain the functional benefits of open space vegetation.
2. Foster resilient plant communities that can recover from disturbances and adapt to climate change and its impacts, such as forest fires.
3. Implement work based on the value of these functional benefits, the community’s priorities for the open space properties and the condition of the vegetation found there.
4. Maximize the return on available funding through volunteers, matching grants, and donations.

SUSTAINABLE STEWARDSHIP PRACTICES

The management of landscapes in City parklands, whether formal plantings in developed parks or diverse forest ecosystems in open space areas, requires continual attention and an investment of significant resources to properly steward and maintain the living landscape. Regardless of the use of these landscapes, the desired outcomes are the same – to sustain healthy, thriving plants.

Past practices and traditional horticultural methods to achieve this goal have become less reliable in recent years. Changes to the Pacific Northwest climate have increased summer heat and drought, causing more stress for mature and establishing plants. This change has been accompanied by a shift toward more sustainable landscape maintenance practices, reducing potential impacts on the surrounding environment and its inhabitants.

Water Conservation

Despite the rainy winters, water is not an unlimited resource in the mid Columbia River valley, and summers are expected to get even hotter and drier as climate change intensifies. It is increasingly likely that not just voluntary, but mandatory, water conservation measures will become necessary on occasion to preserve supplies for the most critical uses, such as domestic consumption.

In landscaped areas where shrubs and trees rely on some summer water, maintenance staff have adjusted the irrigation systems to water before sunrise to reduce water waste and maximize plant uptake. Depending on the landscape, watering also may need to be shifted to a deeper and less frequent watering schedule to reduce evaporation and encourage plants to root more deeply. In addition to reducing irrigation volumes and frequency, the City should consider shifting to planting more drought-tolerant species and schedule the majority of new plant installations in the early part of the rainy season to maximize root growth and establishment before the onset of the dry season.

Plant Selection

Selecting appropriate plants species for park landscapes is the source of a great deal of discussion, both on the local and regional scale.

While drought-tolerant plants will be better able to establish in the short term, consideration is also given to how well newly established plants will survive in the long term. In recent years, cities across the Pacific Northwest have seen many mature native trees decline and die in recent years, unable to adapt quickly to the increased summer temperatures and lack of summer moisture. Plant selection for tree replacements or renovations that consider the anticipated climate in 10-50 years will be more likely to create resilient, mature landscapes that can better transition to warmer, drier conditions.

In natural areas, generally replanted with trees and shrubs native to the immediate area, staff should begin selecting new plants from seed zones that reflect the greater Portland-Vancouver area's projected climate. This focus on plant provenance (the original geographic source of seed, pollen, or propagule) will allow staff to plant the same native species better adapted to future conditions.

In addition to considering the climate in the selection of plants for developed parks, other factors must also be considered, including the mature size of the tree or shrub, any known pests or diseases that may affect the species, and how a fully developed root system will interact with nearby paved surfaces.

Invasive Species Management

The control of invasive species is a critical element of the restoration process and essential in maintaining a healthy natural landscape. Many invasive and non-native species exhibit strong adaptability to Pacific Northwest environments and displace native species, especially within the disturbed landscapes proximate to urban development. In relation to the need for an updated open space management plan, the City should expand resources to managing invasive species and enhanced partnerships to help with these efforts. While removal efforts may be ongoing, those sites cleared of invasives will require continuous monitoring and intervention to reduce or limit the re-establishment of the invasive plants. Through proper management of public open spaces and natural areas, the City and its partners can maintain and enhance its open space areas and the critical ecosystem and community benefits they provide.

Stormwater Management

The Pacific Northwest region is experiencing more severe rainstorms due to climate change, and more of that rain is falling on impervious surfaces: roads, parking lots, and rooftops. This untreated surface water runoff is a source of contamination along the Columbia River, Washougal River, Lacamas Lake, and in other riparian areas, impacting both people and wildlife, especially salmon populations.

State requirements for surface water management are becoming more stringent and costly for both developers and the City. Ongoing updates to and management of the City's NPDES Phase II Permit, Stormwater Design Standards, Stormwater Management Plan, and Stormwater Management Program should be acknowledged in relation to park and open space system management.

Runoff volumes, peak stream flows, and local flooding can be reduced by incorporating trees into stormwater management planning, lessening the need for expensive detention facilities (e.g., catch basins) and the cost of treatment to remove sediment and other pollutants such as lawn chemicals. Green infrastructure is far more cost-effective than grey infrastructure.

Using open space areas and greenspaces to capture stormwater runoff encourages infiltration into the soil, prevents excessive streambed erosion, and reduces sedimentation in major waterways. In addition, a healthy tree canopy increases carbon sequestration potential, encourages local biodiversity, and enhances overall environmental resilience by reducing heat island effects and offering cooler, shaded air.



Recreation & EVENTS



...my top priority “Outdoor adventure summer camps, including archery...” I would be very interested in these types of activities/camps not only for children and youth, but adults as well. I would love to participate in all of the activities that were listed, not only to learn more but also to meet more people in the community.

- Online Open House participant



The recreation facilities and services available within Camas are a major community asset and support the physical, mental and social health of community members. Recreation services are available through a range of public and private recreation, health and fitness providers and facilities. The City currently provides nearly all of its programming through partnerships and program contractors and does not provide a full suite of ‘traditional’ recreation offerings, such as fitness and aquatics, due to limited facility space and staffing.

RECREATION MACROTRENDS

The following national and state data highlights some of the current trends in recreation and may frame future considerations in Camas’ recreation programs. Additional trend data are provided in Appendix E.

- Nationwide, eighty-two percent of U.S. adults believe that parks and recreation are essential. ⁽¹⁾
- Seventy-seven percent of survey respondents indicate that having a high-quality

park, playground, public open space or recreation center nearby is an important factor in deciding where they want to live. ⁽¹⁾

- Nearly all (93%) park and recreation agencies provide recreation programs and services. The top five most commonly offered programs include holiday or other special events (65%), educational programs (59%), group exercise (59%), fitness programs (58%), and day or summer camps (57%). ⁽²⁾
- Youth aged 6 to 17 were active outside far less in 2019 than in previous years – the average

number of outings per child dropped 15% between 2012 and 2019. ⁽⁴⁾

- Adults over the age of 65 showed significant change in inactivity rates in the six year period between 2014 and 2019, decreasing 6.8%. The rise in popularity of low impact exercise like aquatic exercise, swimming for fitness, yoga, and barre could be attributing to the decline of inactivity in this older age group. ⁽⁵⁾
- Nearly all park and recreation providers in the U.S. experienced a decline in revenue in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. As early as May 2020, most providers had to close facilities temporarily in accordance with health and safety directives. Nearly half had also furloughed or laid off staff due to the funding and facility impacts of the pandemic. ⁽³⁾

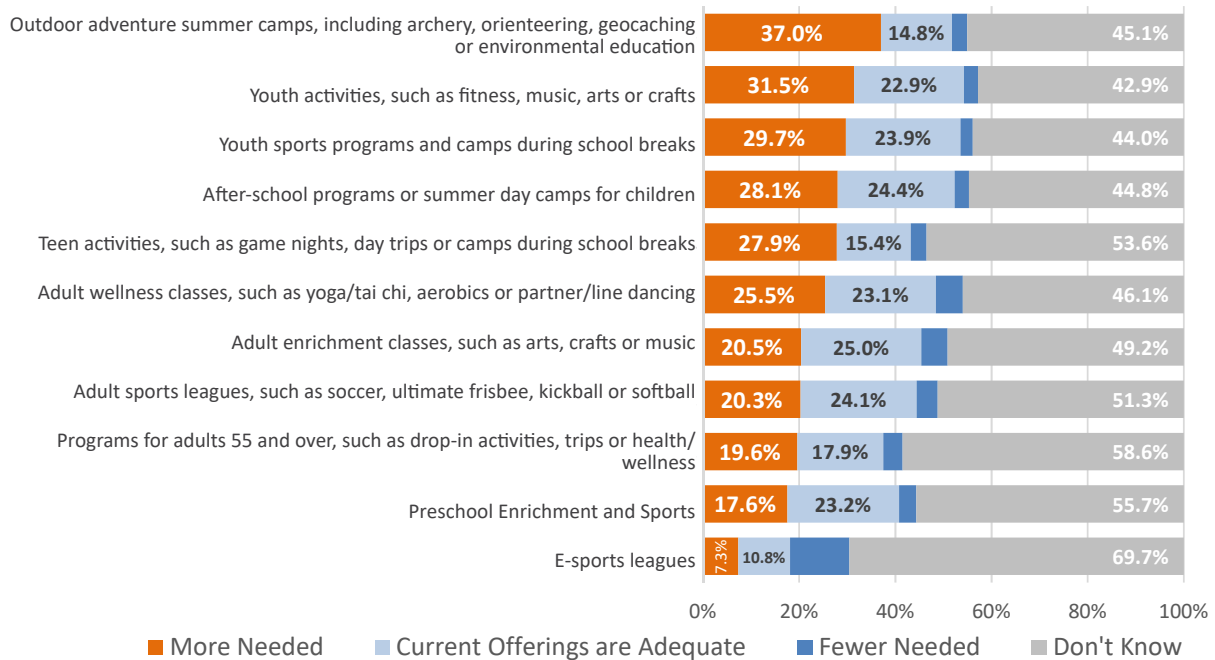
Sources:

- (1) American Engagement with Parks Survey
- (2) 2020 NRPA Agency Performance Review
- (3) 2020 State of the Industry Report
- (4) 2020 Outdoor Participation Report
- (5) 2020 Sport & Fitness Industry Association Sports, Fitness, And Leisure Activities Topline Participation Report

LOCAL PERSPECTIVES

The community survey conducted as part of this PROS Plan update asked respondents which types of recreation programs, classes and activities they would like to see more of. Notably, approximately half of respondents indicated that they did not know whether current offerings were adequate or not. Of those who expressed an opinion, more than half felt the City needed more outdoor adventure summer camps, teen activities, adult wellness classes and programs for adults over 55. Respondents under 34 years of age were more likely to feel the City needs more adult sports leagues, youth camps and after-school programs, preschool activities, and E-sports leagues.

Figure 21. Adequacy of Current Recreation Options



Additional insight was gleaned from the online open house, which asked participants to prioritize the list of recreation programs and activities that ranked strongly from the above community survey. The top three recreation program priorities were noted as the following:

- (1) After-school programs or summer day camps for children
- (2) Outdoor adventure summer camps, including archery, orienteering, geocaching or environmental education
- (3) Youth sports programs and camps during school breaks

The online open house also included a question about community events. Participants were asked to rate the priority (high, medium or low) from a list of ten program options. The top three event priorities were noted as the following:

- (1) Hometown Holidays
- (2) Movies in the Park
- (3) Concerts in the Park

RECREATION PROGRAMS

Interest in the City providing recreation programs appears to be strong; however, the number and types of activities the City can offer is very limited due to the lack of staffing and indoor facility capacity. The City should consider incremental growth in recreation programs and initially focus on facilitating programs via contract vendors who provide their own staff and/or focusing on those programs that are not currently offered by local or regional providers.

Programming Classifications

Recreation program offerings can be classified and segmented into general program categories to assist in the planning and provision of programs and activities. The following general program categories have been applied to a review of programs offered by the City to illustrate the range and variety of program options:

- Education – Language programs, tutoring, science (STEM) classes, computer, financial planning, and CPR/AED/First Aid
- Fitness – Group fitness classes, personal training, education, and nutrition

- Outdoor Recreation – Environmental education, hiking, camping, kayaking, and other activities
- Sports – Team and individual sports including camps, clinics and tournaments, as well as adventure/non-traditional sports
- Seniors – Programs and services that are dedicated to serving the needs of seniors
- Special Events – City wide special events that are conducted throughout the year
- Teens - Programs and services that are focused on serving the needs of teens. This can include all of the activity areas noted above (except seniors)
- Youth – Before and after school programs, summer/school break camps, and preschool

Figure 22 highlights the major areas of focus for current Camas recreation programs, segmented by general program classification and age group. The programs noted are based on a review of program offerings for 2018-2021, that were provided by the Department.



Figure 22. Existing City Programs by Classification

Area	Focus	Programs
Sports	Youth Sports	Sports Camps, Soccer, Skyhawks Sports Camps, Co-ed Flag Football
	Adult Sports	Adult Co-ed Softball, Men's Softball
Fitness / Wellness	Youth	Fencing, Kung Fu, Fitness Classes, Tiny Tots Tumbling
	Adult	Fitness Classes, Yoga, Tai Chi, Women's Self Defense, Barre
Youth		Spring Kids Camp, Preschool, Preschool Summer Camp, Brickzone Summer Camp, School Break Camps
Teens		Camtown Art Show, plus Sports & Fitness (see above)
Education	Youth	CPR/AED/First Aid. Busy Bee Preschool
	Adult	CPR/AED/First Aid
Specialty / General Interest	Youth	Music Together, Craft Workshops, Family Paint Night
	Adult	Craft Workshops, Family Paint Night
Special Events		Easter Egg Hunt, Camtown Youth Festival, Movies in the Park, Summer Concerts, Family Fun Fridays, Hometown Holidays
Outdoor Recreation	Youth	Spring Adventure Camp
	Adult	N/A
Seniors		Fitness Classes, Tai Chi, Self-Defense, Cultural Bus Tours, Casino Tours

Programs Available by Age Groups

Below is listed the general program categories that are available for different age groups. Full dots represent categories where Camas has an established set of programs, and hollow dots represent categories where Camas currently provides some program options and is working to grow the programming.

Figure 23. Segmentation of City Programs by Age Group

Program Category	Preschool	Youth	Teen	Adults	Senior
Education	●		◉	◉	◉
Fitness		●	◉	●	●
Outdoor Recreation		●			
Seniors					●
Special Events	●	●	●	●	●
Sports	●	●	●	◉	◉
Teens			●		
Youth		●			

For the programs it provides, Camas serves all of the major age groups to a degree. Education and Outdoor Recreation have very limited programs in place and should be supplemented as staff and resources allow. Education programs could include language programs, tutoring, science (STEM) classes, computer classes and financial planning. Outdoor recreation programs could occur at many of the local parks and include environmental education, birding, hiking, camping, kayaking and other activities.

As shown in the community survey conducted as part of this Plan, the Camas community considers youth programs to be a high priority for City recreation services. More than three in ten survey respondents indicated that there were not enough youth activities, such as fitness, music, arts or crafts (31.5%) and outdoor adventure summer camps, including archery, orienteering, geocaching or environmental education (37%). To address community needs and demand, the City should explore how to provide adequate resources to expand and diversify its youth programs to meet the growing need for engaging, affordable, safe options for children and teens. The City should continue to work with the school district, community partners, recreation providers, and sports organizations to explore facility options and availability. In utilizing existing parks and outdoor resources during the summer months, the City should explore specialized outdoor youth camps focusing on hiking, climbing or orienteering, as well as expand and strengthen its Adventure Camp program.

If opportunities are created for additional indoor or classroom space, the City should consider whether to expand the quantity and breadth of youth and adult programs offered. In particular, the City should consider health and fitness classes, additional team sports programs, classes in alternative sports, art and music classes, and educational programs, such as language, and personal and home improvement. Because recreational programming can be influenced by national and regional trends, staff must stay abreast of current trends and continue to evaluate and adjust program offerings within its contractor-reliant service model and if indoor program space becomes available.

The City also should continue to coordinate with the school district and explore options to partner with the district for the use of school facilities (e.g.,

gymnasiums and classrooms) as space for expanded program options, especially during non-school summer months. Such an option would require the loosening of COVID restrictions, as the school district has stopped allowing outside organizations to use their spaces for activities.

Regarding programs for adults over 55, the depth and breadth of programming for seniors may need to increase or be adjusted as the overall population ages, with a greater emphasis on the wide-ranging needs and expectations of the Baby Boomer generation. As noted in the Community Profile chapter, Camas has a slightly higher median age than the county and state, and nearly one-quarter of the city population is 55 years of age and over. Today's seniors are generally more active than previous generations and would benefit from a diverse array of recreational and educational programs that promote active, healthy lifestyles. The City will likely see an increased demand for programs offered on evenings and weekends, as older community members maintain employment or volunteer activities later in life.

Additionally, the following program categories are not provided due to the limited nature of the City's facilities and staffing capacity to support these programs:

- Aquatics – Learn to swim classes, aqua exercise classes, competitive swimming/diving, SCUBA, and other programs (synchro, water polo, etc.).
- Cultural Arts – Performing arts classes, visual arts classes, music/video production and arts events.
- Self-Directed – This includes the opportunities for individuals to recreate on their own. This can include activities such as open gym, use of weight/cardio space, and lap/recreational swimming.
- Special Needs – Programs for the physically and mentally impaired, as well as inclusion programs.
- Social Services – This can include nutrition and feeding programs, job training, life skills training, childcare and other activities, such as health screenings.

RECREATION FACILITIES

Camas Community Center

The Camas Community Center is a historic school building located south of the Washougal River and downtown Camas, in the Oak Park neighborhood. The center is used for community meeting and private event space, recreation programs, senior activities, as well as storage for non-profit partners, special event and recreation program supplies. The facility has limited function due to its small size, limited amenities, location, and inability to expand. Built in 1915, the Center was not designed for recreation programming and does not have a full-size gym. In the future, if a new recreation center is approved, the City should reexamine the use of the existing community center to avoid duplication of services.

Lacamas Lake Lodge

The Lacamas Lake Lodge is located adjacent to Heritage Park on Lake Road, along Lacamas Lake. Located on the site formerly occupied by the Camas Moose Lodge, the new building provides community meeting and event space, adult and youth recreation programs, as well as improved access to Lacamas Lake and public parking. This facility is intentionally designed for multiple uses but is especially well suited to rent for events. The City should continue to program this facility to support recreation programs, but in a manner balanced with rental use of the facility, which provides the greatest revenue to support this facility and other City services.

Private Fitness

Several private fitness and aquatic clubs are located in or near Camas. These facilities vary in their offerings and clientele, and their strength in the marketplace is an indicator that the wider Camas-Washougal community seeks out and has a need for fitness-related activities and programs.

School District Facilities

In addition to school gymnasiums and sport fields, the Camas School District also operates the Jack, Will and Rob Center. The facility was opened in 2002 and run as a Boys & Girl Club until 2017. At that time, the Camas School District assumed operations.

The center provides after-school programs, classes and rentals, and the facility offers a gym, classroom space, art room, computer lab and Family Community Resource Center.

Future Recreation & Aquatic Center

In 2019, Camas voters rejected a \$78 million bond to build a community recreation and aquatics center with a recreation pool and competitive pool, in addition to sport field improvements. Although the outcome of that vote was clear, the outreach conducted through this planning effort indicates that many in the Camas community still have interest in an aquatics facility and indoor recreation space.

Traditional guidelines from the National Recreation and Parks Association for service demand for recreation centers are based on a population benchmark, with the idea that one recreation center could be supported by a population of 40,000. With the City's current population and projected growth, the City should continue to explore the potential to site and finance an indoor facility and continue the dialogue with the community about what could be included in a new facility, its projected costs, and the community willingness to support such an endeavor – at a scale that would be supported by voters. Partnerships will be necessary to offset development and operational costs of a community recreation center, so the City should continue discussions with local agency partners (e.g., City of Washougal, Camas School District) and with operators (e.g., YMCA) to explore options for the development and operations of a future center.

SPECIAL EVENTS

The main recreation program area that is directly offered by Camas Parks and Recreation is special events, which include the following (pre-COVID):

- Easter Day Egg Hunt
- Camtown Youth Festival
- S'more Stories Under the Stars
- Concerts in the Park
- Camas Days Kids Parade
- Family Fun Fridays
- Movies in the Park
- Family Halloween Night
- Hometown Holidays

Community and special events should continue to be an area of emphasis. Special events draw communities together, attract visitors from outside the community, and are popular with residents. However, due to resource requirements of coordinating special events, the overall growth in the number of events should be carefully managed. This will ensure the City can adequately invest in its overall recreational offerings and maintain high-quality special events. Other community groups should be encouraged to be the primary funders and organizers of as many community-wide events as possible. If the City decides to offer more events, it should obtain sponsorships to offset costs and develop a series of seasonal activities.

PROGRAM ENHANCEMENT & DEVELOPMENT

Staff should periodically review data from the following sources to determine community needs for programs and services:

- Historical registration trends/success of current programs and services
- Surveys and questionnaires
- Washington SCORP and national trend data
- Suggestions provided by current instructors and current employees
- Suggestions submitted by prospective instructors/employees

Staff should continue to evaluate and assess the City's program offerings and prioritize future programs based on a mix of criteria that include:

- Current or potential importance for community-wide or broad individual benefit
- Community needs or deficiencies
- Potential for increased participation
- Revenue potential, affordability and accessibility

With the City of Washougal's interest in expanding recreation options, the City of Camas should directly coordinate and plan with Washougal staff to provide a balanced suite of programs in a complementary manner. This should be in parallel with the development of Camas' programming philosophy to detail how the City will deliver recreation programs and services in the future, which also is framed by the availability of flexible, indoor space for programs and classes. As part of the programming philosophy, the City must determine what programs and services will be offered directly by recreation staff and which will be contracted to other individuals or organizations. The City's current model of utilizing program contractors could be expanded or supplemented as indoor space is available via arrangements with the school district and/or the construction of a larger recreation center that can accommodate fitness, athletics and classes.

Before determining which programs and services to contract or have provided by others, an assessment of the specific pros and cons of such a move needs to be completed. A major aspect of this analysis should be to determine the financial impacts and



quality of the services that will be provided. Key questions to be asked include:

- Is this program offer consistent with community wants and needs?
- Do we have the facility capacity to provide the program? If not, can we partner with someone who has the space?
- Will this be the most cost-effective method to obtain the program, service or function?
- Does the Department have the knowledge, equipment, staffing resources and systems to provide the program, service or function?
- Are there other more qualified organizations that should provide the program, service or function? Will the quality of the program, service or function suffer if it is contracted to other organizations?
- Is the program, service or function only available from a contract provider?
- Are the safety and liability risks too high to provide the program or service in house/
- How will we effectively and efficiently market this program?

to ensure that there is a broad base of inclusive programming options available. This will require strong communications with other providers to determine roles, tracking of programs offered and number of participants, plus actively promoting the availability of services. Strong marketing efforts will be needed to inform and promote the recreation programs that are available and should focus on the following areas:

- Website enhancement to better promote programs and services
- The development of an updated program catalog, circulated multiple times a year
- Promotion of program registration options
- Programs and services offered by other providers
- Using appropriate communication channels to effectively market to various demographic segments.
- Cross marketing and/or promotional opportunities with other organizations such as the Camas School District, Camas Library, Meals on Wheels, Camas-Washougal Rotary and others.

There must be a strong recognition of the different demographic markets that have to be served. The youth, senior and family populations in the area should be specifically addressed, as should the different ethnic groups. Cross marketing programs with the school district and using social media to highlight programs by target audience also should be employed.

COMMUNICATIONS & MARKETING

As staffing and resources allow, the City should take a stronger role in coordinating and delivering recreation programs and services in the community



CHAPTER 8



*Near-term – increase field capacity
by improving field quality.*
- Stakeholder Focus Group participant

Operations & MAINTENANCE

The City of Camas aims to provide a quality park, recreation, natural open space, and trail system that is efficient to administer and cost-effective to maintain. The previous 2014 PROS Plan outlined a set of objectives for operations and maintenance to help achieve this goal. These included staff training, updated equipment, the exploration of additional resources through alternative staffing, a volunteer coordinator position and the investment in preventative maintenance and upgrades to park facilities to maximize long-term benefits. Camas has since purchased larger mowing equipment, added two FTE positions in the fiscal 2019/20 period and added a playground inspection program with funding for playground equipment repair. This park management effort is ongoing as resources are available but further progress



is needed. Park Operations staff have demonstrated their dedication to keeping parks functioning while the parkland system, city population, and park use has been expanding rapidly.

This chapter will provide data and assessments to help identify existing resource gaps and explore opportunities that may improve the capacity of park operations and maintenance.

BACKGROUND

The City of Camas has doubled its population since 2000 and has been very successful at implementing its plans for acquiring and preserving open space in the face of development pressures. The City has worked diligently to create its open space network with a connecting system of trails around Lacamas Lake and linked to regional trails. In the last decade alone the City has added over 316 acres of open space and over 146 acres for future parks. The ten years of successful acquisitions increased the 2010 park system size by over 75%.



Figure 24. Camas Parklands Acquisitions since 2010

Year	Acquisition Acreage		
	Park	Open Space	Total
2011	7.02	4.92	11.93
2012		48.92	48.92
2013		23.59	23.59
2014		5.82	5.82
2015	25.12		25.12
2016			0
2017			0
2018		75.57	75.57
2019		37.99	37.99
2020	58.55	119.66	178.22
2021	55.65		55.65
Subtotals	146.34	316.47	
Total Acquisitions since 2010			462.81

While the park system in Camas increased by over 462 acres, the park maintenance staffing remained at the same equivalent employee level. There is some degree of maintenance outsourcing that accomplishes tree pruning or removal and invasive weed control.

Figure 25. Camas Park Maintenance Staffing Levels from 2010-2020

Metrics	2010 Actual	2020 Budget	2020 Actual
Parks Maintenance Expenditures	\$842,449	\$1,284,856	\$1,246,099
Parks Maintenance Staffing (FTEs)*	7.3	7.3	*

* No seasonal workers were hired in 2020 due to COVID
2010 FTE's combined full-time and seasonal equivalents

In 2010, park maintenance was conducted by 5.3 full-time employees (FTE) and two FTE equivalents for summer seasonal work. Having added two FTEs in 2019, park maintenance was executed by 7.3 FTEs with two additional seasonal positions. In 2020, no seasonal workers were hired due to COVID restrictions. While the park maintenance budgetary

expenditures increased by about 48%, the actual personnel level was similar to 2010. Those budget increases were mainly from normal inflation, additional playground repair/maintenance, and cost of living adjustments. Clearly, the operational resources have not kept up with the increase in the park system.

National Park and Recreation Agency Comparisons

The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) 2020 Agency Performance Review provides some park metrics that offer perspectives on the Camas park system. Selected findings from their benchmarking tool illustrate some disparities with park acreage, population size and Park Operations staffing levels.

Figure 26. NRPA Agency Performance Comparisons with Camas' City-owned Park Facilities

Metric	All Agencies	Pop. 20,000-49,999	Camas
Number of Parks	20	-	18
Park Acres	437.1	-	240
Parks & Open Space Facilities (# sites)	27	-	70
Parks, Open Space & Non-Parks Acres	530	-	1,064
Residents per Park	2,281	1,963	1,448
Park Acres per 1,000 Residents	9.9	9.6	40.8
Trail Miles	11	8.5	18.7

The City of Camas, with 1,064 acres of parks and natural areas, has more than double the acreage of parks and open space than the median park and recreation agency (at 530 acres). That acreage comparison uses only city-owned parklands excluding the parklands owned by Clark County. The City also manages much more than the median trail mileage as typical agencies across the country. For Camas residents, these additional park facilities help improve the quality of life. However, the existing park operations staffing level does not provide enough resources to oversee, monitor or steward this extent of open space and natural parkland. A review of additional NRPA metrics provides further comparison with other agencies and jurisdictions of similar size. The number of park FTE positions relative to the population size for most park and recreation providers is 8.9 FTEs per 1,000. The Camas park and recreation system has 0.4 FTEs per 1,000 population; the number of FTEs is considerably lower. The operating expenditures per capita is much lower than comparable cities.

Figure 27. NRPA Agency Performance Metrics Comparisons – Park & Recreation Staffing

Metric	All Agencies	Pop. 20,000-49,999	Camas 2020
Park & Rec FTEs*	41.9	27.3	11.1
P&R FTEs per 1,000 Residents	8.1	8.9	0.4
Annual Operating Expenditures	\$4,342,495	\$2,885,847	\$1,771,272
Operating Expenditures per Capita	\$81.19	\$95.34	\$67.96
Operating Expenditures per Park Acre	\$7,160	\$8,522	\$1,665

*No seasonal FTEs for Camas in 2020 due to COVID

The comparison with NRPA metrics predicts the need for additional staffing resources to effectively manage the extensive system of parklands owned by the City. As the City continues to work to fill in the gaps in its open space network and to further develop its comprehensive trail system, park operations will need to be expanded to meet the need for more active stewardship and care.

Additional agency performance review findings are located in the 2020 NRPA Agency Performance Review summary in Appendix E.

Washington Cities Park and Recreation Provider Comparisons

Park and recreation operations can be highly variable, particularly at different population sizes and residential densities. A more refined comparison of park metrics was prepared using several cities in western Washington with population sizes within range of the population size of Camas. This comparison used budgetary and staffing numbers from 2018 to avoid the highly variable impacts from the COVID-19 shutdown and ensuing restrictions.

Figure 28.. Comparable Washington Cities' Park & Recreation Performance Measures

Performance Measure	City of Camas	City Park Providers				Park District Providers	
		Port Angeles	Maple Valley	Mercer Island	Mountlake Terrace	Si View	PenMet
Population	26,065	19,960	28,013	25,748	21,286	25,410	37,485
P&R total spending (2018)	\$1,020,000	\$3,462,300	\$2,525,940	\$5,209,047	\$3,623,851	\$7,645,050	\$14,567,517
Spending per resident (2018)	\$39.13	\$173.46	\$90.17	\$202.31	\$170.25	\$300.87	\$388.62
Operating Budget (2018)	\$2,050,000	\$3,356,600	\$2,525,940	\$5,864,507	\$3,623,851	\$5,042,038	\$6,297,517
Operating per Resident	\$78.65	\$168.17	\$90.17	\$227.77	\$170.25	\$198.43	\$168.00
Annual Capital Spending (2018)	-	\$1,024,000	\$8,100,000	\$3,154,753	-	\$1,460,952	\$8,270,000
Capital Spending per Resident	N/A	\$51.30	\$289.15	\$122.52	-	\$57.50	\$220.62
Park & Rec FTE (2018)	5.25	25.6	11.75	29.75	44	14.5	22.3
Seasonal FTE positions	3.75	7.6	(combined)	(combined)	(combined)	-	(combined)
P&R FTEs per 10,000 Residents	3.45	16.6	4.2	2.6	2.1	5.8	4.6
Total Developed Parks (acres)	240	270	320	259.9	269	46	266.1
Park acres per 1,000 Residents	9.2	13.5	6.9	10.1	12.6	1.8	7.1
Total Parks & Natural Areas (ac.)	1064	270	370.8	479	269.0	890	570.9
Parkland acres per 1,000 Residents	40.8	13.5	13.2	18.6	12.6	35.0	15.2
Parkland acres per P&R FTE	118.2	8.1	31.6	16.1	6.1	61.4	25.6
Population Density (people/sq. mi.)	1,853	1,865	4,669	4,036	5,243	941	742
Park Facilities	18	23	9	52	15	65	19
Trails (miles)	18.7	8.5	3	24.9	-	-	1.6

Note: 2018 budget numbers were used for the provider comparison to avoid the highly variable budget impacts from COVID.

In reviewing the comparisons, a few observations about the Camas system stand out.

- Overall spending per resident for park and recreation services was considerably lower for Camas (\$39.13 per resident). The average across the other comparable cities was \$220.95 per resident.
- Also, Camas parks and recreation budget allocated the equivalent of \$78.75 per resident compared with an average \$170.46 per resident for the other cities.
- Overall, Camas had more total park and open space acres per 1,000 population (40.8 per 1,000)

than the comparable agencies. However, when comparing staffing for that larger parkland system, Camas measured at 118.2 parkland acres per FTE significantly higher than the averaged 24.8 parkland acres per FTE of other comparable cities.

This comparison indicates some off-balance traits for Park Operations charged with stewardship of the entire Camas park system.

OPEN SPACE MANAGEMENT

The City provides conserved public lands and undeveloped parklands temporarily held as greenspace totaling over 830 acres. Recent additions of Green Mountain and properties in the north Lacamas Lake area have helped create a significant network of contiguous natural areas with high ecosystem value. Park Operations currently manage to accomplish field mowing in open space lands such as Goot power lines, Ostensen Canyon, etc. and have performed annual invasive species spraying in areas identified by the County Weed Management Board in the spring.

However, the capacity of the Park Operations staffing has not kept up with the more extensive need for open space management that may involve proactive hazard tree removal, vegetation monitoring, invasive plant control and addressing any ecological restoration needs. The open space network has grown by over 50% in terms of City-owned acreage since 2000.

With the growth of its open space network, the City has responsibilities for extensive conserved landscapes and has conducted several studies to guide the stewardship and management of these lands.

To highlight the intended need for open space management, past planning efforts have been summarized below.

The 2003 City of Camas Policy Guidelines for an Open Space Management Plan established the overall policies to guide the management of both public and private property within the Open Space Network. The Open Space Network was identified and mapped as part of the 2000 Parks & Open Space Comprehensive Plan. The Policy Guidelines document was intended to set the direction of open space planning and to provide staff with the foundation for effective resource management decisions. The Management Goals for open space policy included nine directives that coordinated best management practices in natural areas and funding for an open space management program by the City. The Parks and Recreation Department was designated with the responsibility for administration, management and maintenance of the open space network. Trails are considered to be an integral part of the open space network. The

Parks and Recreation Department is designated with the responsibility for trail safety and security, inspection and monitoring, and maintenance.

The 2014 PROS Plan included Design and Development Guidelines for the City's Natural Open Space Areas that recognized natural areas should be protected for their environmental value with only limited improvements for passive recreation where appropriate. The guidelines encouraged public use of the natural open space through trails, viewpoints and other features while ensuring protection of ecologically sensitive areas. A minimum of park features were cited for improving natural open space including trails and site furnishing such as benches, picnic tables, bike racks, trash receptacles, and signs. The guidelines suggest additional park features for consideration such as parking, restrooms, picnic shelters, gathering spaces (for education), interpretive exhibits, trailhead or entry kiosks, and restoration areas.

The Legacy Lands Master Plan – 2020 Draft Design Report, was the culmination of a consensus-building process for guiding the future development of the north shore of Lacamas Lake. The City had secured significant lands intended for shoreline protection, conservation and recreation. The Legacy Lands Master Plan built on the concepts that were put forth in the 2016 North Shore Lacamas Lake Vision Plan whose guiding principles included recreational trails with connections to the regional trail network, active recreational facilities, native habitats, and preserving key visual landmarks along the shore. Acknowledging future population growth and development pressures, the City is undergoing the North Shore Subarea Plan that encompasses 800 acres north of Lacamas Lake, and will incorporate the concepts developed in the draft Legacy Lands Master Plan.

None of the above planning efforts addressed the predictable need for more maintenance staffing or the necessary increased funding for management and maintenance.

TRAIL MAINTENANCE

Camas' trail network provides tremendous value to its residents and visitors with walking and biking infrastructure for healthy outdoor recreation and connections to destinations across the city. With limited Park Operations staffing, trail maintenance, upkeep and capital repairs will fall behind or be deferred on a recreational asset that receives continual, daily use. Park Operations are currently able to manage brush clearing on significant trail on the Washougal River Greenway and Heritage Trails. Trail resurfacing is scheduled when pathway tread conditions deteriorate. Other maintenance activities tend to be triggered by public comments or complaints.

The planned expansion of Camas' trail network along the north shore of Lacamas Lake, Mill Ditch and connecting to Green Mountain will add miles of public shared-use trails. To ensure safe and beautiful trails, park operations estimates one FTE to maintain trails, at .04 FTE per trail mile. The current level of service for trail maintenance is estimated at .02 FTEs/mile. As miles of trail are added, additional FTE resources should be increased concurrently.

To help convey the importance of trail upkeep, parks operations may want to consider adding one or two trail counters along the busier trail sections. Measuring the trail use can help communicate how many people are affected daily by the trail conditions. A record of trail use can also help when providing quantifiable data for grant support or submittals.

SPORT FIELD MAINTENANCE

Camas has sport fields in ten of its park facilities. Some of its sport fields receive extensive maintenance and care through partnering sports organizations (such as Little League) while other fields may only receive mowing, annual weed control and litter control. In parks where local sports organizations are not providing added level of care, Camas should address deficiencies to ensure that access and equity for sports facilities is maintained across the city. Additional maintenance on these sport fields calls for turf maintenance, including over seeding, fertilization, and top dressing; athletic field fence maintenance, including backstops and fence perimeters; and goal post maintenance.

PARK FACILITIES MAINTENANCE

Park maintenance staffing has been stretched to care for the City's aging park facilities, while the system continues to expand to meet the increased park use. Additional attention needs to be given to bolster existing general park maintenance tasks: playgrounds inspections, maintenance and repairs, and noxious and invasive weed control. Updating the older park amenities can help lighten the load on needed repairs and ongoing maintenance tasks, but as newly developed parks are added to the system, additional operational and maintenance resources will be necessary to ensure those park assets are managed for safe and enjoyable public use and longevity. Park Operations has not been able to proactively perform tree assessments within parks to ensure proper care of its tree canopy resource or to mitigate for potential tree hazards. Additionally, Park Operations is tasked with managing and maintaining the Camas Cemetery.

ASSET MANAGEMENT

The NRPA has developed a quality risk assessment tool called "Park Check" to provide an analysis of an agency's risk profile. The online tool uses a series of questions to explore the likelihood of problems due to lack of resources available over time. The Park Check risk assessment tool rates your responses to these questions to determine if your agency's ability to deliver quality park and recreation amenities and services to all members of your community in the future is at "low," "moderate" or "high" risk. The online tool generates a customized report that could help department's further articulate their needs for dedicated and reliable funding and local support.

More specifically, the conditions assessment conducted in this PROS planning process reveals a number of areas where more attention is needed to physical amenities with park facilities. Whether the need to repair site furnishings, reduce ADA barriers, or correct deficiencies is identified, the conditions assessment should be used to help improve public safety in the parks and reduce public risk.

As an example, playgrounds across the city are in different stages of their life cycles. Some play equipment has aged beyond its life expectancy and may not meet current safety standards.

While the city has started regular scheduled safety inspections, additional funding needs to be evaluated to ensure timely repair or replacement of play equipment. In addition, the inspection report could include assessment of the likelihood and consequence, in terms of financial, community and environmental impact, of the future failure of its assets, such as shelters and other structures. Such an assessment can provide key information for the strategic prioritization of limited resources toward those assets whose failure would have the greatest negative impact on the Camas community.

As an element of Park Operations, the management of physical assets requires proactive planning for capture cost efficiencies. Tracking repairs, maintenance tasks, routine operations and seasonal work can help predict the needs for future labor resources as the system grows. The 2014 PROS Plan recommended developing a detailed list of the assets at each park facility site and evaluating asset conditions annually. Such a tracking schedule would create a framework for long-term management of the Camas park system. Detailed inventories with conditions tracking will inform replacement needs, monitor safe use, and assist in assigning maintenance frequency.

Most built park amenities have limited lifespans. Buildings, play equipment, pavement, etc. can be tracked from installation dates. As repairs are needed, those assets can have predictable replacement dates that are added to the capital facilities program. Life-cycle planning can help avoid extra time spent repairing outdated amenities and foster more cost effective labor resource use.

Following on a program of asset management tracking and life-cycle planning, a regular capital repair program should proactively address minor repairs and help extend the life of some amenities. The delay of small repairs can lead to more frequent maintenance that could be avoided. When existing staffing is stretched to its limit, park agencies must rely more heavily on outside contractors for implementing even the small capital repair projects. Without adequate staffing, a backlog of needed maintenance and repairs usually exists. With a sufficient skilled labor force, the City can capitalize on using existing staff resources to complete the smaller capital repair projects during off-season capacity.

Americans with Disabilities Act Compliance

The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability. Titles II and III of the ADA require, among other things, that newly constructed and altered state and local government facilities, places of public accommodation, and commercial facilities be readily accessible to, and usable by, individuals with disabilities. Recreation facilities, such as play areas, are among the types of facilities covered by Titles II and III of the ADA.

The U.S. Department of Justice 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design provide guidelines that are intended to address design conditions to ensure that barriers or obstacles blocking outdoor recreation facilities are prevented or removed, such that all park patrons have reasonable access to site amenities. As older facilities are in the process of renovations and replacements and new facilities are added to the system, Camas will need to ensure compliance with ADA accessibility requirements.

Invasive Species Management

The control of invasive species is a critical element in the stewardship of open space lands to ensure their continued conservation values and ecosystem services. An active invasive species control program is also necessary to ensure that the City is meeting the requirements of RCW 7.10 Noxious Weed regulations. This may involve direct control measures for known and identified noxious weed problems, pre-construction prevention of noxious weed spreading, and evaluating new parkland or conservation land noxious weed coverage. Clark County's Vegetation Management Division currently handles some of the invasive weed control for the Camas park system but more work needs to be accomplished to effectively meet the regulations. Camas should consider hiring and training its own staff to perform an invasive weed control program for all its park and open space lands.

In-House vs. Outside Contractors

Park and recreation agencies throughout the country should continually weigh the costs of service provision through internal staffing versus external contracts. Full-time staffing weighed against seasonal resources should explore the off-season workload, training time for new part-time seasonal employees, the availability of seasonal labor, and the specialized skill sets for some types of operations. One-time projects and specialized repairs and renovations may require outside contractors while some park agencies have enough trained in-house staff to accomplish smaller capital projects.

STAFFING NEEDS

The assessments and comparisons of park operations staffing have indicated the need for a stronger labor force for maintaining Camas' parks and open space/natural lands. The 2014 PROS Plan recommended adding specialized trail position, an urban forester or arborist, and a natural resource specialist to the operations team to build the level of expertise needed to effectively manage the existing natural resources owned by the City. Since the 2014 PROS Plan, several additional open space properties have been acquired, increasing the natural lands owned by the City from 440 to 691 acres.

For the Clark County park system that includes extensive natural areas, regional parks, community and neighborhood parks, many years of tracking maintenance tasks and labor expenditures produced some five-year averages for the amount of labor required to adequately care for its park system.



Figure 29. Performance Metrics for Clark County Parks Maintenance

Predictive Labor Staffing Needs	Total Park Acres	Labor Hours/Acre	Total Labor Hours	FTE # (1,820/yr)
Neighborhood Parks	75.9	152	11,536.8	6.3
Community Parks	67.7	111	7,514.7	4.1
Regional Parks	151.4	98	14,837.2	8.2
Open Space/Natural Areas	691.5	21	14,521.5	8.0

Using those metrics can help predict the potential park maintenance staffing needs for the Camas park system as it ramps up its stewardship of natural areas and adds new developed parks.

Figure 30. Predictive Staffing Levels for Camas Park System

Annual Labor Expenditures per Acre	5-yr Average
Greenspace Labor Hours per Acre	21
Neighborhood Parks Labor Hours per Acre	152
Community Parks Labor Hours per Acre	111
Regional Parks Labor Hours per Acre	98

The table in Figure 30 (above) uses acreage that includes both developed and undeveloped parkland acreage. If only the currently developed park acreage was calculated in this staffing prediction and included special facilities sites, the 240 acres of developed facilities (not including trails or open space) would suggest the need for 15 full-time equivalent employees, double the size of the current staff level. Staffing resources are needed to implement the updating and renovations for older parks, to provide maintenance for expanded trail connections and to steward its hard-earned open space lands. Camas should be prepared to support its park system with adequate operations and maintenance staffing to ensure protecting and preserving the value of its outdoor assets now and in the future.

CHAPTER 9

Goals & OBJECTIVES



Add interpretive cultural and historical information to the parks or trails to honor local heritage. Highlight tribal history. This information can draw people into a park, and it helps teach kids. Provide signage in a blind/deaf-friendly way.

- Stakeholder Focus Group participant



The goals and objectives described in this chapter define the recreation and park services that Camas aims to provide. These goals and objectives were derived from input received throughout the planning process, from City staff, the Parks and Recreation Commission, City Council and community members.

The Growth Management Act (GMA) adopted by the Washington State Legislature in 1990 provided a foundation for land use planning in selected cities and counties throughout the state,

including Clark County and the City of Camas. The GMA's purpose is to help communities manage efficiently with the challenges of growth to ensure their long-term sustainability and high quality of life. It identifies 14 planning goals to guide the development of comprehensive plans and development regulations (codified in Chapter 36.70A of the Revised Code of Washington). Four of these goals directly affect the development and implementation of this plan.

- “Encourage the retention of open space and development of recreational opportunities,

conserve fish and wildlife habitat, increase access to natural resource lands and water, and develop parks.” RCW 36.70A.020(9)

- “Protect the environment and enhance the state’s high quality of life, including air and water quality, and the availability of water.” RCW 36.70A.020(10)
- “Identify and encourage the preservation of lands, sites, and structures, that have historical or archaeological significance.” RCW 36.70A.020(13)
- “Carry-out the goals of the Shoreline Management Act



Credit: Camas Post-Record

with regards to shorelines and critical areas.” RCW 36.70A.020(14)

Furthermore, the Camas Comprehensive Plan, the previous park system plan and county-wide planning policies provide a framework for this PROS Plan.

The following goals matrix is structured by functional areas and thematic goals, as follows:

Functional Areas

- Administrative
- Projects & Programs
- Policy

Goal Themes

- Welcoming For All
- Stewardship of Land, Parks & Programs
- Plan for & Fill Known System Gaps
- Organizational Excellence

Goals are stated within each thematic area and associated to the functional areas. Under each goal, action item(s) will be listed.

A goal is a general statement that describes the overarching direction for the park and recreation system. Action items are more specific and describe an outcome or a means to achieve the stated goals. Near-term recommendations are specific and measurable actions or projects intended to implement and achieve the goals, and will be contained within the Needs Assessment and Capital Planning chapters of the PROS Plan.

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WELCOMING FOR ALL



STEWARDSHIP OF LAND, PARKS & PROGRAMS



PLAN FOR & FILL KNOWN SYSTEM GAPS



ORGANIZATIONAL EXCELLENCE

PROJECTS & PROGRAMS

Actively communicate and improve outreach and marketing to increase participation.

- Promote and increase participation in youth and senior scholarships.
- Keep park and trail facilities map updated.
- Pursue opportunities for alternative outreach and education to diverse groups, such as piloting youth parks stewardship programs and active communication through faith groups and non-profit organizations that work with people of color and underserved communities.
- Pursue partnership opportunities with health care organizations to promote active recreation and wellness activities and events.

Opportunities for dogs to recreate with their human family.

- Partner with non-profits for more pet and animal and animal friendly events.
- Explore a partnership with DOGPAW to develop and manage off leash areas.

Increase capacity for sports field users.

- Explore opportunities through joint use agreements with school districts to use existing fields or interim use of other lands.
- Enable an effective scheduling system.
- Implement creative design options, such as multi-use fields, upgrade field turf surfacing, and/or install lights.

Improve Asset Management.

- Improve the asset management system; to include parks facilities and amenities assets along with tree and plant assets.
- Update levels of service standards and develop a per acre maintenance budget.
- Develop an urban forestry program that articulates long-term strategy for tree protection, urban forestry management and education.
- Develop and implement improved natural area management practices to enhance ecological health and remove invasive plant species.
- Continue to build on playground equipment inspection program, prioritizing removal and replacement of unsafe/hazardous equipment and plan for a cycle of replacement based on equipment age and anticipated useful life.

Enhance parks and trails amenities.

- Refresh existing legacy parks with new features to reflect current community desires, such as Crown Park.
- Prioritize permanent bathrooms at neighborhood parks and trailheads.
- Increase portable restrooms when permanent bathrooms are unavailable during the summer.
- Provide additional picnic shelters, tables and benches.
- Maximize the multiple-use aspects of critical areas, stormwater detention ponds, etc. with addition of public trails or viewing access and education of ecological value of the area.

Design new parks, trails and amenities with environment, safety and accessibility in mind.

- Design and maintain parks and facilities to offer universal accessibility for residents of all physical abilities, skill levels and age; at a minimal in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Standards for Accessible Design.
- Identify and grow trail segments and trailhead amenities that can accommodate residents of all physical abilities.
- Standardize and install a more complete wayfinding and signage system.
- Incorporate sustainable development and low impact design practices into the design, planning and rehabilitation of new and existing parks, trails and facilities.

Enhance outdoor recreation opportunities.

- Identify and prioritize the acquisition of parklands based on factors such as contribution to level of service, connectivity, preservation and scenic or recreational opportunities for residents.
- Develop park master plans that reflect local needs, community input, recreation and conservation goals; with consideration for financial resources and availability of similar amenities/facilities within the city and region.
- Prioritize implementation of existing master plans with consideration for service gap delivery and available financial resources.
- Add new unique park amenities to the system such as nature play area, a splash pad, a bike skills pump track, and all-inclusive playgrounds.

Partner with Developers to fill parks and trails gaps.

- Actively pursue trail connections via rights-of-way or easements.
- Continue and maintain Parks & Recreation review and comment on private development proposals that includes park and trail siting and design.
- Partner with developer to create robust public engagement process for park and trail design projects within the development project site intended to be transferred to the city.

Continued...

Continue building strong partnerships.

- Collaborate with local arts organizations, business, education institutions, other non-profits and jurisdictions to deliver on recreational programs and community events.
- Partner with user groups of specialized facilities, such as sport fields, off-leash areas, disc golf, skatepark, bike skills/pump track, etc. to continually improve programming and maintenance.



PLAN FOR & FILL KNOWN SYSTEM GAPS

Continued...

Partner with neighboring jurisdictions to fill regional trail network gaps.

- Work with Clark County, City of Washougal, City of Vancouver and Port of Camas-Washougal to align trail connectivity priorities.
- Coordinate and connect the City's pedestrian and bicycle system with the Clark County regional system of on-street and off-street trails.

Promote water access and safety.

- Collaborate with other agencies regionally in developing and operating parks and/or programs that access our bodies of water.
- Promote water safety through educational and marketing program in partnership with County and School Districts.
- Evaluate the north shores city-owned Legacy Lands properties to expand trails and water access points around Lacamas Lake.

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WELCOMING FOR ALL



STEWARDSHIP OF LAND, PARKS & PROGRAMS



PLAN FOR & FILL KNOWN SYSTEM GAPS



ORGANIZATIONAL EXCELLENCE

ADMINISTRATIVE

Regularly review and renew recreational classes for all ages, interest and abilities.

- Provide annual recreational program summary to Parks & Recreation Commission for review and input.
- Pilot new classes each year that reflects current market trends and community desires.
- Provide Summer free pop-up classes to promote recreational programs.

Continue to host events and provide community spaces that bring people together.

- Continue to partner to implement legacy events.
- Have intentional engagement with diverse community groups to create and partner on new diverse events.
- Expand locally sourced food options at parks and events.

Maintain Parks and Facilities.

- Standardize park furnishings and amenities (trash cans, tables, benches, fencing, etc.) to reduce inventory and replacement costs and improve appearance.
- Continue growing volunteer parks enhancement and beautification program.

Continue to preserve, protect and restore natural area corridors, include shorelines.

- Strengthen partnerships with public agencies, tribes, and private partners to facilitate greenway corridor connectivity.
- Continue to support and actively participate in shoreline and/or bodies of water conservation and restoration projects lead by other city departments, agencies and/or non-profits.
- Pilot environmental education program.
- Add educational interpretive signage to natural areas, shorelines and trails.

Evaluate user satisfaction and use.

- Implement periodic surveys to gauge user satisfaction, program initiatives and statistical use of parks, facilities and programs, including trail counts.

Promote and support Parks & Recreation Commission.

- Promote P&R Commission meetings as forum to discuss parks and recreation topics.
- Provide more training and resources to build parks and recreation knowledge base within Commission members.

Encourage staff innovation and creativity.

- Provide professional development opportunities through training and affiliation with NRPA and WRPA, among others.
- Provide opportunities to explore and implement pilot programs.

POLICY

Enhance our parks and recreation system to make it more welcoming and accessible.

- Develop Diversity/Equity/Inclusion policy that removes accessibility barriers (socio-economic, language, physical, geographic, transportation) to programs, parks and trails, and in alignment with City vision and policies.

Better understand funding gaps and funding alternatives.

- Develop and implement a cost recovery policy that provides for an equitable fee structure for park facilities and recreation programs, with high-community benefit programs and event funded appropriately to ensure accessibility for all residents.
- Periodically revise the park impact fee methodology and rates to accurately reflect changes in level of service standards and/or the costs of expanding the park infrastructure to accommodate population growth.
- Review and update the adopted six-year Parks Capital Facilities Plan (CFP) every two years to remain current with local recreational interests and account for the capital needs of the parks and recreation system.
- Pursue alternative funding options and dedicated revenues, including engaging and exploring with the City of Washougal a feasibility study to assess the potential of establishing a regional financing tool for recreation service.

Provide equitable access to parks and open space system.

- Prioritize park and trail development in areas where service gaps exist (e.g., where households are more than 1/2-mile from a developed park, open space or trail) and in areas of the City facing population growth and residential and commercial development.
- Evaluate and update design and development standards for parks and recreation amenities within private development to promote and achieve equitable levels of service and provide amenities that are complementary to the city park.

Expand recreational services.

- Re-examine the opportunity for new recreational center with aquatics facility, taking into consideration financial feasibility and partnership opportunities.

Coordinate collaborative discussions on policy matters.

- Bring together Parks and Recreation Commission, City Council, and other standing City boards, such as the Planning Commission, to discuss policy matters pertaining to recreational resources, opportunities and funding.

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I would very much like to see a renewed look at the existing skatepark facility, as well as the adjoining parking lot and water access. I believe significant improvements could be made (i.e. lighting and clean up), as well as design changes to the actual skatepark. All of which leads to ensuring this site promotes inclusion for kids of all ages and experience levels as well as safety. Overall promoting a more family friendly environment.

- Online Open House participant

Capital Planning & Implementation

KEY PROJECT RECOMMENDATIONS

The following is a summary of key project recommendations which will require commitment from the City and its residents for the continued support of a healthy park and recreation system that preserves and enhances the safety, livability, and character of the community.

Trail Connections

Trail connections, including sidewalk and bike lane improvements, are needed to help link destinations across the community. Acquire easements, corridors and parcels to create the comprehensive linkages for Camas' future trail system. Develop larger trails desired by the community, such as North Shores of Lacamas, Mill Ditch, Lewis & Clark. Coordinate with the Transportation System Plan (and subsequent updates), as well as coordinate with local subdivision and site development projects.

Park Design & Planning

Prepare an updated site master plan for Ash Creek Park and a new site plan for the flat, upper shelf of Ostensen Canyon Park. As development and maintenance funding allow, prepare site plans for Lacamas Heights, Green Mountain and Benton Park.

Sport Field Improvements

Conduct a city-wide assessment of sport fields to plan for drainage improvements and other field improvements, including turfing existing fields, installing lights to expand play seasons, and the development of additional fields to accommodate demand.





Splash Pads / Spray Parks

Install at least one spray park to serve residents as an option for summertime water play in a park that provides parking and restrooms.



Bike Skills & Mountain Bike Trails

Plan for a pump track and connecting flow track in a visible location that can accommodate parking and can enable a synergy with other park uses. Pursue options for mountain bike trails during the planning for the new Green Mountain property.



Skate Park Upgrade

Upgrade and enhance the existing concrete skatepark to improve the design and flow, as well as improve adjoining recreational amenities such as access to the Washougal River.



All-Inclusive Playgrounds

Develop fully-accessible, all-inclusive play areas as new parks are built or playground upgrades occur to provide for users of all abilities.



Off-Leash Dog Area

Coordinate with the City of Washougal on off-leash dog park planning for the potential of a joint use facility for Camas residents to use.



Sport Courts

Convert existing tennis courts to multi-sport courts through striping and examine the need for additional multi-sport courts in the future.

Community Gardens

Partner with local community groups for the installation of community gardens in community or neighborhood parks or in stand-alone locations with parking and access to water.

Acquisitions to Fill Park System Gaps

Acquire strategically located sites for future parks to ensure reasonable access to walkable parks. Coordinate with local residential developers to include public parks in new subdivisions and utilize tools, such as park impact fee credits, to facilitate the process.

Universal Accessibility

Complete a system-wide ADA assessment and make improvements to existing parks as needed to offer universal accessibility of park features and grounds.

Water Access

Improve shoreline and water access for motorized and non-motorized launches, including user conveniences such as restroom facilities and parking.

Recreation Programming

Continue to foster agreements or partnerships with programming partners and contract vendors for providing recreation services. Coordinate and partner with the City of Washougal on programming options. Explore new pilot programs, and partner where possible, to broaden the portfolio of offerings to youth. Explore options for access to additional flexible indoor recreation space to accommodate programs, classes and fitness.

North Shore Subarea Plan

Maintain strong role in planning for future parks and trails along the North Shore.

Open Space Management Plan

Prepare an updated, science-oriented open space management plan to guide City staff in the care, maintenance and stewardship of open space, as well as forecast maintenance needs and staffing resources.

Urban Forestry Management Plan

Prepare an urban forestry management plan to examine the health and coverage of the urban forest, define maintenance and operations strategies, and respond to the challenges of climate change, as well as other environmental and fiscal factors on long-term tree health and forest resiliency.

Wayfinding & Signage

Continue to implement a wayfinding program that includes both visual graphic standards. Colors, sign types, and information can help users navigate the outdoor recreation experiences offered by the City.

Communications

Maintain the website for easy-to-access park system maps, trail maps and an up-to-date listing of park sites and amenities to enhance the experience of the on-the-go user. Continue to promote via social media and highlight events, volunteer opportunities and parks and trails to visit. Utilize QR codes or comparable technology on signage as a means to share with or receive information from visitors about maintenance, restoration or monitoring data. Utilize the network of partners to help disseminate information on parks and recreational programs and events.



IMPLEMENTATION TOOLS

A number of strategies exist to enhance and expand park and recreation service delivery for the City of Camas; however, clear decisions must be made in an environment of competing interests and limited resources. A strong community will is necessary to bring many of the projects listed in this Plan to life, and the Camas City Council has demonstrated its willingness in the past to support parks and recreation, legacy land acquisitions and a high quality of life.

The recommendations for park and recreation services noted in this Plan may trigger the need for funding beyond current allocations and for additional staffing, operations and maintenance responsibilities. Given that the operating and capital budget of the Parks and Recreation Department is finite, additional resources may be needed to leverage, supplement and support the implementation of proposed objectives, programs and projects. While grants and other efficiencies may help, these alone will not be enough to realize many ideas and projects noted in this Plan. The following recommendations and strategies are presented to offer near-term direction to realize these projects and as a means to continue dialogue between City leadership, local residents and partners. The tools presented only capture development of the capital improvements and not the long-term operations of the new assets.

Additionally, a review of potential implementation tools is included as Appendix F, which addresses local financing, federal and state grant and conservation programs, acquisition methods and others.

Enhanced Local Funding

According to the city budget, Camas maintains reserve debt capacity for local bonds and voter approved debt. The city's non-voted general obligation debt is under its debt capacity limit of \$41 million for non-voted debt. Community conversations regarding the potential to develop a recreation center with aquatics and/or bundle several projects from the Capital Improvements Plan warrant a review of debt implications and operating costs for the City, along with the need to conduct polling of voter support for such projects.

Park Impact Fees & Real Estate Excise Tax

Park Impact Fees (PIF) are imposed on new development to meet the increased demand for parks resulting from the new growth. PIF can only be used for parkland acquisition, planning and/or development. They cannot be used for operations and maintenance of parks and facilities. The City of Camas currently assesses impact fees, but the City should review its PIF ordinance and update the methodology and rate structure, as appropriate, to be best positioned to obtain future acquisition and development financing from the planned growth of the community. The City should prioritize the usage of PIF to secure new park properties and finance park or trail development consistent with the priorities within this Plan.

The City currently imposes both of the quarter percent excise taxes on real estate, known as REET 1 and REET 2. The REET must be spent on capital projects listed in the City's capital facilities plan element of their comprehensive plan. Eligible project types include planning, construction, reconstruction, repair, rehabilitation or improvement of parks, recreational facilities and trails. Acquisition of land for parks is not a permitted use of REET 2. REET is used for other City projects, such as facility construction and public works projects, and may be used to make loan and debt service payments on permissible projects. Through annual budgeting and with discussions with City Council, the Parks and Recreation Department should seek access to REET funds and use the capital facilities plan to compile compelling projects to enhance service delivery of the amenities the community has provided voice to.

Conservation Futures & Legacy Lands Program

Clark County assesses the maximum allowable excise of \$0.0625 per \$1,000 assessed value to fund the Conservation Futures program and provides cities a venue to access these funds through a local grant process. The City should continue to submit applications for support in financing the acquisition of additional natural areas identified in the most recent Legacy Lands Program Natural Areas Acquisition Plan to facilitate the protection of these lands and enable improved linkages to expand the trail network.

Parkland Donations & Dedications

Parkland donations from private individuals or conservation organizations could occur to complement the acquisition of park and open space lands across the City and urban growth boundary. Gift deeds or bequests from philanthropic-minded landowners could allow for lands to come into City ownership upon the death of the owner or as a tax-deductible charitable donation. Also, parkland dedication by a developer could occur in exchange for Park Impact Fees or as part of a planned development where public open space is a key design for the layout and marketing of a new residential project. Any potential dedication should be vetted by the Department to ensure that such land is located in an area of need or can expand an existing City property and can be developed with site amenities appropriate for the projected use of the property.

Grants & Appropriations

Several state and federal grant programs are available on a competitive basis, including WWRP, ALEA, and LWCF. Pursuing grants is not a panacea for park system funding, since grants are both competitive and often require a significant percentage of local funds to match the request to the granting agency, which depending on the grant program can be as much as 50% of the total project budget. Camas should continue to leverage its local resources to the greatest extent by pursuing grants independently and in cooperation with other local partners.

Appropriations from state or federal sources, though rare, can supplement projects with partial funding. State and federal funding allocations are particularly relevant on regional transportation projects, and the likelihood for appropriations could be increased if multiple partners are collaborating on projects.

Internal Project Coordination & Collaboration

Internal coordination with the Public Works and Community Development Departments can increase the potential of discrete actions toward the implementation of the proposed trail and path network, which relies heavily on street right-of-way enhancements, and in the review of development applications with consideration toward potential

parkland acquisition areas, planned path corridors and the need for easement or set-aside requests. However, to more fully expand the extent of the park system and recreation programs, additional partnerships and collaborations should be sought.

Public-Private Partnerships

Public-private partnerships are increasingly necessary for local agencies to leverage their limited resources in providing park and recreation services to the community. Corporate sponsorships, health organization grants, conservation stewardship programs and non-profit organizations are just a few examples of partnerships where collaboration provides value to both partners. The City has a variety of existing agency and community-based organization partners and should continue to explore additional and expanded partnerships to help implement these Plan recommendations.

Volunteer & Community-based Action

Volunteers and community groups already contribute to the improvement of park and recreation services in Camas. Volunteer projects include park clean-up days, invasive plant removal, tree planting and community event support, among others. Camas should maintain and update a revolving list of potential small works or volunteer-appropriate projects for the website, while also reaching out to civic groups and the high school to encourage student projects. While supporting organized groups and community-minded individuals continues to add value to the Camas park and recreation system, volunteer coordination requires a substantial amount of staff time, and additional resources may be necessary to more fully take advantage of the community's willingness to support park and recreation efforts.

Metropolitan Park District

Metropolitan park districts (MPD) may be formed for the purposes of management, control, improvement, maintenance and acquisition of parks, parkways and boulevards. Several years ago, the City started a preliminary look at a metropolitan park district as a tool for Camas Parks and Recreation. The City should continue to evaluate the potential of an MPD along with other implementation tools as part of a long-term funding strategy.

Other Implementation Tools

Appendix F identifies other implementation tools, such as voter-approved funding, grants and acquisition tactics, that the City could utilize to further the implementation of the projects noted in the Potential Projects List.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PLAN

The following Capital Improvements Plan (CIP) identifies the park, trail and facility projects considered for the next six to twenty years, along with brief project descriptions. The majority of these projects entail the maintenance, acquisition and development of parks, recreational amenities and trails. Based on survey results and other feedback, Camas residents have indicated an interest in park facility upgrades and enhanced trail connections as priorities, and the Capital Improvements Plan is reflective of that desire.

2022 Camas PROS Plan

Capital Facilities Plan

Amended per ORD 22-002

Project Type	Site	Project	Current Cost
A	Trail Corridors	Acquisition to link corridors	\$2,500,000
D	Crown Park	Park development per site master plan	\$6,200,000
P	Open Space Management Plan	Develop Plan	\$200,000
P	Urban Forestry Management Plan	Develop Plan	\$150,000
P/D	System-wide	Trails & Trailheads - planning and development	\$1,800,000
D	T-3 Trail - East segment of N. Shore Trail	Development of trail	\$350,000
P/D	Closing the Loop - Heritage and N. Shore trails	Planning and development	\$1,500,000
P	Mill Ditch Trail	Trail corridor access point & stairway planning	\$225,000
R	System-wide	Minor repair/replacement (parks amenities) projects	\$250,000
D	Forest Home Park	Picnic shelter, drainage, building replacement & minor upgrades	\$300,000
P	Skate Park	Phase I - Redesign and construct skate park	\$250,000
D	3rd Ave. Trailhead	Trailhead development	\$700,000
P	Legacy Lands - Phase I, develop site master plan	Using existing draft Vision Plan, phased approach to Master Planning. This would be Phase I.	\$200,000
D	Legacy Lands - Phase I, implementation site master plan	Phase I Implementation - interim use, trails, trailhead, boat ramp, parking, Rose facility, Leadbetter facility	\$4,000,000
D	Mill Ditch Trail	Shared-use trail development	\$3,500,000
D	Skate Park	Phase II - Water access, trail and parking improvements	\$2,000,000
D	Bike pump track	Install bike pump track at selected site	\$350,000
D	Dog Park	Install dog park at selected site	\$125,000
D	All-inclusive playground	Install all-inclusive playground at selected site	\$600,000
P/R	System-wide	ADA compliance projects: facilities, pathway & amenities	\$200,000
P	System-wide	Sports Field - assessment of existing fields & planning for system gaps	\$100,000
R	Fallen Leaf Softball Field	Field improvements, new fence, infield dirt/grading, etc.	\$200,000
P	Green Mountain property	Site master plan	\$250,000
P/D	System-wide	Wayfinding and Park Signage program	\$150,000
R	Heritage Park	Modify dock, staging to separate non-motorized launches and Gate access control upgrades	\$125,000
R	System-wide	Playground replacements	\$1,000,000
R	Dorothy Fox Park	Sport field drainage/renovations	\$150,000
R	Grass Valley Park	Sport field drainage/renovations	\$150,000
D	Green Mountain property	Park development (Phase 1 trails)	\$1,500,000
R/D	Heritage Park	Picnic shelter installation & minor upgrades	\$280,000
R	Prune Hill Sports Park	Sport field drainage/renovations	\$150,000
R	Heritage Park	Install additional parking	\$250,000
D	Prune Hill Sports Park	Picnic shelter installation & minor upgrades	\$200,000
P/D	Sports Complex *	Site selection, site master plan, implementation	\$20,000,000
P	Ash Creek Park	Site master plan	\$90,000
D	Goot Park	Picnic shelter installation, replace bleachers & minor upgrades	\$150,000
D	Louis Block Park	Upgrade baseball facilities (fencing, restroom, concession, etc.)	\$750,000
P	Ostensen Canyon Park	Site master plan	\$100,000
P/D	Leadbetter House redevelopment	Feasibility analysis and redevelopment	\$2,000,000
D	Community garden support	New garden to fill gap in the system	\$50,000
P	Lacamas Heights Park	Site master plan	\$75,000
D	Oak Park	Restroom installation & minor site upgrades	\$400,000
A	Neighborhood park	Acquisition to address distribution gap (Area A, 2-3 ac.)	\$4,500,000
A	Neighborhood park	Acquisition to address distribution gap (Area B, 2-3 ac.)	\$4,000,000
P/D	Camas Community Center *	Feasibility analysis and redevelopment	\$10,000,000
R	Heritage Park	Upgrade playground & restroom	\$450,000
R	Grass Valley Park	Replace playground	\$250,000
D	Ash Creek Park	Park development per site master plan	\$2,200,000
A	Neighborhood park	Acquisition to address distribution gap (Area C, 2-4 ac.)	\$3,500,000
D	Fallen Leaf Lake Park	Park development per site master plan	\$2,600,000
D	Lacamas Heights Park	Park development per site master plan	\$1,000,000
D	Ostensen Canyon Park	Park development per site master plan	\$3,000,000
P	Goot Park - area under powerline	Site master plan and development	\$1,750,000
P/D	Aquatic Center *	Site selection, master plan, implementation	\$19,000,000
P/D	Public Plaza	Master Planning and development	\$1,000,000
P/D	Pickleball Courts	Master Planning and development (upto 8 courts)	\$895,000

Total Estimated Project Costs \$107,665,000

Project Type

- A Acquisition
- P Master planning
- D Development - new
- R Replacement/Upgrade

NOTES:

This list identifies planning-level cost estimates and does not assume the value of volunteer or other non-City contributions.

Detailed costing may be necessary for projects noted.

Legacy Lands and Green Mountain projects will have additional phase in the future (i.e. 20+ years).

This list is not an official budget and intended as a guiding document for City staff in the

*Additional public and policy discussion needed to refine project

Items highlighted in green are top priority for the next 2-3 years (2022-24).

Items highlighted in blue are high priority as opportunities arise.

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