

City of Camas
Parks and Recreation Commission
2017 Annual Report

Commission Members:

Randy Curtis, Chairperson
Steve Lorenz, Vice Chair
Eunice Abrahamsen
Cassi Marshall
David Gast
Katy Daane
Dareena Stepanyuk
Deanna Rusch (Council Liaison)

On behalf of the Park and Recreation Commission members, we are pleased to submit the Commission's annual report of activities and goals pursuant to chapter 2.28.060 of the City Municipal Code. The Commission's role includes reviewing applications for park development, fee and rental schedules, providing input on park master plans, recommending signage and rule changes, reviewing budgets, listening to complaints and/or mediating disputes on matters relating to park and recreational programs.

The following is a list of project updates and our major accomplishments for 2017 and our Goals/Work Plan for 2018.

Project Updates and Accomplishments in Parks and Recreation (2017)

Green Mt. park and development plan	Plan approved and Commission recommended city adopt playground equipment standards
City Volunteer Coordinator	Although the creation of the volunteer coordinator position is now on hold, we continue to advocate for the creation of this position to support and enhance the parks and recreation programs
Ivy League	Supported the efforts of Cassi Marshall to implement a volunteer-based program to control and/or remove invasive species from our parks, open space and trails. 4 events were held in 2017
Pitts Property (future park analysis)	The commission determined that the Pitt's property does not have potential to be used for park purposes. Declared surplus.
Long range parks funding committee (PRGA)	The PRGA committee has met 5 times and is expected to submit funding options to the City Council in 2018.
Capital Improvement Plan (Community Center)	Improvements to the Community Center were approved and budgeted. Plan was put on hold pending further review.
Pedestrian Bridge at Round Lake	As part of the north shore sewer project, design for a new pedestrian bridge was approved.
Dog Park feasibility study	The commission has reviewed options for the location of a new dog park. The city has authorized funds to share in the development of a park, but a final site has not been selected.
Parking lot expansion (Heritage trailhead)	The plan was downsized and put on hold pending approval of new trail access and parking opportunities.
Eagle Scout Project (Crown Park Orienteering)	Ben Miller, boy scout, submitted plans for an orienteering (compass) course. Plans were approved and implemented.
Tobacco Policy for City Parks	At the request of Commissioner Eunice Abrahamsen, policies were approved for a voluntary compliance program discouraging the use of tobacco products in selected park areas.

Cemetery Data System	A new on-line system for tracking and finding burial & genealogy information was approved and implemented.
Crown Park Master Plan	A project advisory committee was created. The committee reviewed options for redevelopment of Crown Park including the closure of the pool (option 2). The Parks Commission approved the recommendation for option 2. The plan was forwarded to City Council along with a caveat that the city should move forward with a plan to fund and develop a year-round aquatic facility.
Play Ground Equipment (Louis Block Park)	New playground equipment was installed.
Camas Cemetery	A new information reader board was installed.
North Shore conservation plan	Reviewed plans for funding and acquisition.
Cooper's View Park	Cooper's View Park was formally dedicated on May 10, 2017.
Heritage Park (Parking and dock)	Approved changes to parking lot signage, recommended removal of the rope swing and hiring a summer time employee to monitor activities.
Vega gymnastics proposal	Commission approved plan to add parking and development of a neighborhood "pocket" park. Vega will pay all expenses.
Surplus property review (Everett Street)	The commission conducted a public meeting to take testimony and make a determination as to whether a 2.7 ac vacant parcel should be declared surplus. The surplus property question was subsequently withdrawn. However, public testimony did provide the Commission with valuable insight into the public's concerns about preserving open space. No further action was taken.
Lewis and Clark Greenway trail project	The Clark Co. Parks Advisory Bd. requested Camas to issue a statement of support for the trail project. The Commission decided to table the request pending more information on the location and impact of the trail system on the downtown Camas area.

Parks and Recreation Commission Goals for 2018

Parks Advocate Program	The Commission reassigned park assignments among our current members and will continue reporting on vandalism, signage, safety and maintenance issues. We will also continue to support neighborhood and adopt-a-park programs (see attachment).
City Volunteer Coordinator	Although the creation of the volunteer coordinator position is now on hold, we continue to advocate for the creation of this position to support and enhance the parks and recreation programs.
Annual Retreat	Continue to conduct an annual retreat to revisit the accomplishments, set goals and develop a work plan for the coming year. The ideal timing for this is in February following the City Council's Annual Planning Conference. Having an outside facilitator for the meeting is also recommended.
The Ivy League Program	Continue to support the efforts of Cassi Marshall to implement a volunteer-based program to control and/or remove invasive species from our parks, open space and trails.
Community Center	Advise City Council on the envisioned future for the Camas Community Center. This facility would require additional upgrades to continue to function as a rental space, funding that might be better used elsewhere in the system. The process could include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identifying uses • Clarify the role of this facility in the system • Project the cost and use of the facility to determine return on investment • Recommend action to the City Council
Parks & Recreation Growth Assessment	Continue committee process to identify the best method to fund long term park and recreation projects, services and operational needs. The goal is to prioritize these needs including cost estimates and identify funding options. The committee work remaining on this process includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review and prioritize cost estimates for major projects and service levels to be funded.

Parks & Recreation Growth Assessment Con't.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Test assumptions and needs via community survey. • Prepare final report for submission to the Parks and Recreation Commission and City Council.
Mill Site Vision	<p>The downsizing of the paper mill and the jobs it supports is leading many in our community to ask about the future of that site. It seems inevitable that at least some of the property will become available for public use and/or private redevelopment.</p> <p>Potential for park and recreation elements should be considered within the visioning process.</p>
<p>Building and Funding a New Community/Aquatics Facility</p> <p><i>"Keeping the Vision Alive"</i></p>	<p>Momentum is now building, with the plan to demolish the Crown Park Pool, toward the development of a new community/aquatics facility. We strongly urge the Council to adopt a process that moves us forward with a plan to fund and develop a year-round community/aquatics facility. There are many variables that revolves around this process. The commission would like to play a role in helping define some of the details including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Location - Siting options and size - Size of facility - Partnerships - Unified or separate facilities - Capital funding - Operational funding
Impact Fee Update	<p>City will be updating impact fees, including the parks fee, charged to new housing to off-set the expansion of the park system. The Commission will engage in this discussion for the parks fee.</p>
Joint Camas/Washougal Park Commission Meeting	<p>Hold a meeting to discuss projects, most notably the community center/pool, and shared interests.</p>
Tracking Events	<p>Add information items to the agenda and the City's social media calendar to help notify well in advance of community events and happenings. Add Wreaths Across America to that calendar.</p>

Park Assignments – Advocate, track the condition, discuss with the community

Benton Park – Cassi

Fallen Leave Lake Park – Cassi

Cooper’s View – Katy

Dorothy Fox Park – Katy

Crown Park – Steve

Prune Hill Sports Park – Steve

Forest Home Park – Deanna

Grass Valley Park – Eunice

Klickitat Park – Eunice

Heritage Park – Randy

Louis Bloch Park – David

Oak Park – David

Goot Park – Dareena

Skate Park – Dareena

Washougal River Greenway – Dareena