



August 2, 2018

TO: Camas Mayor Scott Higgins  
Camas City Council

FR: Whitney Dorer, Friends of Trees Deputy Director  
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Megan Van de Mark, Friends of Trees Neighborhood Trees Specialist for SW Washington  
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RE: Camas Urban Tree Program proposal (comments in favor submitted for the record)

Mayor Higgins, Members of City Council, thank you for this opportunity to submit comments regarding the proposed Camas Urban Tree Program. Friends of Trees wholeheartedly supports Camas' proposed Urban Tree Program and encourages its adoption and timely implementation.

Friends of Trees applauds the City's wisdom in pursuing protection and growth of its urban canopy and natural areas—a strong, healthy urban canopy is good for business, good for livability, good for our health. Unfortunately, urban tree canopies across the country are decreasing at an alarming rate; this decrease in trees contributes to hotter cities and neighborhoods; higher energy costs; increased episodes of “heat islands”; greater health risks; and, overall, fewer trees results in a significant decrease in a city's livability. The benefits of protecting and increasing Camas' trees are numerous: trees cool the city; decrease energy costs; reduce the number and severity of heat islands; clean our air and water; provide oxygen; trees help keep us healthy; provide neighborhood gathering places; provide habitat for birds and beneficial insects; and so much more. You may find more information about the benefits of city trees here: <https://bit.ly/2KIfncR>

#### About Friends of Trees

Friends of Trees has been bringing people together to plant trees since 1989. Our community tree planting model engages 7,000+ volunteers at more than 100 volunteer tree planting events every year. Since our founding, Friend of Trees Neighborhood Trees (street and yard trees) and Green Space (natural area restoration) programs have planted more than 750,000 trees and native shrubs in 20 cities, within six counties, across two states. Learn more about Friends of Trees here: [friendsoftrees.org](http://friendsoftrees.org)

#### Friends of Trees in Southwest Washington

Friends of Trees has been planting trees and growing community in Southwest Washington since 2003. We've planted 5,500 street and yard trees in 60 neighborhoods during this time; during our last planting season we engaged more than 800 volunteers who donated 3,500 hours to plant 719 trees at six tree planting events in Vancouver and Clark County.

Thank you for considering this input as you make a crucial decision regarding Camas' future and livability. We are available as a resource should you like input regarding implementing Camas' Urban Tree Program, especially if you are interested in learning more about using a community tree planting model to help meet your goals.

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