

Downtown Camas Association Camas Plant & Garden Fair - Event Summary



Event overview

The Downtown Camas Association (DCA) hosted the Camas Plant & Garden Fair on Saturday, May 9. This annual DCA community event attracts thousands of people from across the Vancouver-Portland metro area to enjoy and explore an amazing selection of plants, trees, garden art and supplies, and much more provided by dedicated local growers and vendors. Kids' activities, live music, entertainment, fresh food, and the shops and restaurants of Downtown Camas all add to the community experience. The DCA set up a table representing the Community Advisory Group (CAG) at the fair to answer community questions about the cleanup at the Georgia Pacific Mill in town, all within sight of the mill.

Date: May 9, 2026
Time: 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Location: In person, downtown Camas

Participation and staffing

CAG members Caroline Mercury, April Berlin, and Zach Linn participated. Emily Hess, Senior Hydrogeologist, participated from Maul Foster & Alongi (MFA).

CAG and MFA members worked in shifts, so there were always two to three people with diverse knowledge of the site, environmental investigation, and cleanup process staffing the booth and talking with community members. Throughout the event, they spoke to at least 115 people.



CAG members Caroline Mercury and April Berlin speak with community members during the May 9 Plant Fair event.

Community questions and interests

CAG members and MFA staff responded to questions and received a variety of input from booth visitors. A summary of these questions, comments, and interests is captured below:

- Community awareness of recent parts of the mill that were demolished, and interest in what else was set to be demolished.
- Importance of preserving papermaking history while also considering a future vision for the site.
- Several attendees were new to the area and learned about cleanup for the first time.
- Questions around the timing of the investigation, and when results will be known.
- Questions about the next steps after the results from the investigation are understood.
- Inquiry about whether the mill will shut down and/or sell property.



Emily Hess, Senior Hydrogeologist at MFA, explains potential pollution pathways using a conceptual model during the May 9 Plant Fair event.

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In addition to the interests and inquiries outlined above, booth attendees picked up several of the informational cards and handouts that were available. The MTCA cleanup process and timeline handout, in particular, was one of the most frequently taken. Booth attendees also signed up for the DCA’s newsletter that is released via email regarding updates on the Mill.

Outcomes

| Interactions | Newsletter signups | Project web page data (May 9 – 16, 2026) |
|--------------|--------------------|--|
| Approx. 115 | 13 | Views: 59 Users: 46 |

Resources

Sign up for email updates and learn more at: www.downtowncamas.com/camaswamillinfo

Email questions and comments to Caroline Mercury, CAG Chair:
camaswamillinfo@downtowncamas.com

Read more about the Georgia Pacific Mill Cleanup site on Ecology’s website:
<https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/cleanupsearch/site/15156>

Funded in part by a Public Participation Grant from the Washington State Department of Ecology.