

Downtown Camas Association Camas Days - Event Summary



Event overview

On Friday, July 24, members of the Downtown Camas Association's Community Advisory Group (CAG) attended Camas Days. Each year, the Camas-Washougal Chamber of Commerce hosts Camas Days, a two-day community celebration featuring parades, live music, street vendors, a wine and microbrew street, and activities for kids. This popular event attracts thousands of attendees from across the region. The CAG attended to answer any questions community members had related to the ongoing cleanup at the Georgia Pacific Mill in Camas.

Date: July 24, 2026
Time: 2 p.m. - 6 p.m.
Location: In person, downtown Camas

Participation and staffing

CAG members Caroline Mercury, Steve Sylvester, and Mahsa Eshghi participated. Colleen Newell, Project Communications Specialist, 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 62 people.



Caroline Mercury speaks with a community member outside the CAG's information booth at Camas Days.

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:

- Many community members were aware of recent demolition at the mill and interested in what else was set to be demolished.
- Some community members were newer to the area and were previously unaware of the investigation.
- There were several questions about the mill potentially shutting down or selling its property, and interest in what would happen if the mill were gone in the future.
- Many people asked if the mill was a superfund site.
- Several people were aware of the recent accident at the mill in Longview, and inquired about whether something similar could happen at the Camas mill.
- There were several questions from attendees on the timing and length of the investigation, as well as next steps once the results were understood.

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- Multiple community members were interested in understanding the current footprint and property owned by the mill.

In addition to the interests and inquiries outlined above, booth attendees picked up several of the informational rack cards and handouts that were available. The board on the history of the mill received a lot of attention and was a major draw to the booth.



CAG members (left to right): Mahsa Eshghi, Steve Sylvester, and Caroline Mercury.

Outcomes

Interactions	Newsletter signups	Project web page data (July 24 – Aug. 6, 2026)
Approx. 62	--	Views: 58 Users: 39 The page received more than 200 clicks during the reporting period.

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>

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