

Downtown Camas Association Camas Days - Event Summary



Event overview

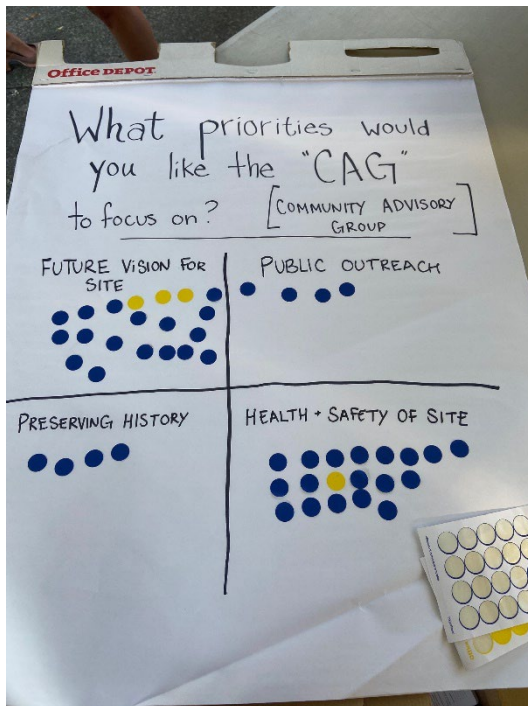
The Camas-Washougal Chamber of Commerce holds the Camas Days event each year. It's a popular event, attracting thousands of people from across the Camas Washougal area. After a two-year hiatus due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the event returned in 2022. The DCA and the Mill Cleanup Community Advisory Group (CAG) identified Camas Days as an opportunity to connect with the community in downtown Camas, within sight of the mill. CAG members and consultant team members staffed a booth with visuals, rack cards, and comment cards.

Date: July 22, 2022
Time: 3 p.m. – 7 p.m.
Location: In person, downtown Camas

Participation and staffing

CAG members Caroline Mercury, Dave Ripp, Marty Snell, and Carrie Schulstad participated. Meaghan Pollock, Project Geologist, participated from MFA.

CAG and MFA members worked in shifts, so there were always two to three people with diverse knowledge of the site and process staffing the booth and talking with community members.



Community priorities

The dot survey asked respondents to vote on four priorities to help CAG members understand what is important to the community and what the CAG should focus on in public participation and involvement with the Ecology process.

The listed priorities were:

- Future vision for the site
- Public outreach
- Preserving history
- Health and safety of the site

Respondents identified the future vision and health and safety of the site as the top two priorities for the CAG. Preserving history and public outreach were tied for the third highest priority.

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Community questions and interests

CAG members and MFA staff responded to questions and received a variety of input from booth visitors. A summary of common questions and comments is captured in the table below. Questions will be incorporated into the Frequently Asked Question sheet on the project web page related to the questions and areas of interest below.

Community questions and interests
Does GP keep it running, even at a low level, to delay having to clean it up?
Is it a superfund site?
What will happen to the property if/when the mill closes?
What if GP were uncooperative regarding cleanup? Can't they just shut it down, fence it and leave it sit?
Can GP sell the property to avoid cleaning it up?

Outcomes

An estimated three-hundred people directly interacted with staff at the booth during the day-long event. The team collected dozens of verbal comments, one written comment on comment cards, and thirteen newsletter signups. The team also received forty-seven votes on the dot survey around CAG priorities.

Interactions	Comment cards	Newsletter signups	Project web page data (July 14 – 31, 2022)	Dot survey
Approx. 300	1	13	76 unique visitors 3:15 average time on page	47

Conclusion and next steps

CAG and MFA participants felt the event was successful in reaching community members in Camas and Washougal and other nearby communities.

Interest in the outreach and process is strong, and questions and comments showed that the CAG is providing the kind of grassroots engagement and information people need.

As anticipated, there is widespread misinformation about the mill's operations and not much understanding that a cleanup process is underway, what it entails, and the timeframe. This underscores the importance of the CAG's work and the Ecology Public

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Participation Grant, and helps the CAG effectively address the community's needs through future outreach.

The dot survey results can help the CAG focus its work, and the questions above will be used to refine the Frequently Asked Questions document that will be shared with the community and used in future outreach and conversations.

The CAG plans to provide information throughout the Camas and Washougal communities—in active and passive ways—through the current grant period, which ends June 30, 2023. This includes continuing to provide rack cards at key locations like libraries and churches, and hosting standalone, process-related events. The CAG will continue to attend and host booths at working existing community events, like Camas Days. Upcoming summer events include:

- [Wheels and Wings](#)
 - August 27, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- [Camas Farmers Market](#)
 - September 14, 3 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Resources

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

Email questions and comments to Caroline Mercury, DCA Past President:
camaswamillinfo@downtowncamas.com

Read and review the draft Remedial Investigation Work Plan:
<https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/gsp/Sitepage.aspx?%20csid=15156>