

Downtown Camas Association Wheels & Wings - Event Summary



September 9, 2022

Event overview

The Port of Camas-Washougal holds the Wheels & Wings event each year. It's a popular event, attracting hundreds of people from Camas-Washougal and Greater Clark County. The DCA and the Mill Cleanup Community Advisory Group (CAG) identified the Wheels & Wings event as an opportunity to connect with different audiences around Camas and Washougal than might have attended the DCA Plant Fair and Camas Days. CAG members and consultant team members staffed a booth with visuals, rack cards, and comment cards.



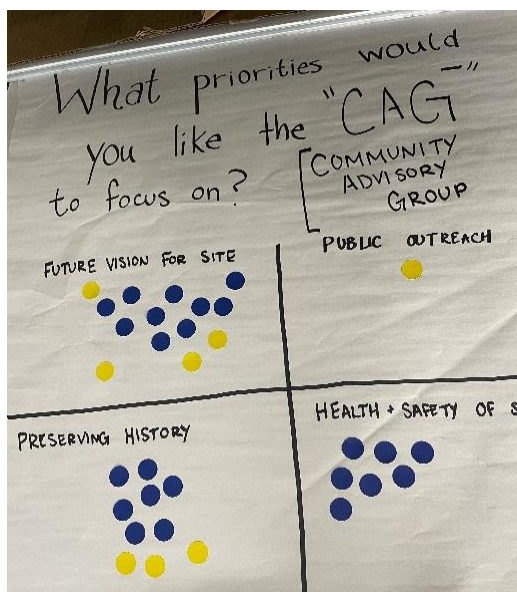
CAG members Randal Friedman and April Berlin talk to community members about the Camas Mill Cleanup at the Wheels & Wings event.

Date: August 27, 2022
Time: 11 a.m. – 3 p.m.
Location: In person, at the Port of Camas-Washougal's Grove Field

Participation and staffing

CAG members Caroline Mercury, April Berlin, Randal Friedman, and Steve Young participated. Alan Hughes, Principal 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 DCA used a dot survey that 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)

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Respondents identified the future vision and preserving history as the top two priorities for the CAG. The health and safety of the site was the third highest priority, and public outreach was the fourth highest priority.

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. The questions and comments are similar to those heard during past events. They will be incorporated into the Frequently Asked Questions sheet on the project web page.

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?
Can GP sell the property to avoid cleaning it up?
Where is GP in the process and how long will it take?

Outcomes

An estimated 112 people directly interacted with staff at the booth during the Wheels & Wings event. The team collected dozens of verbal comments and eight newsletter signups. The team also received 31 votes on the dot survey around CAG priorities.

Interactions	Comment cards	Newsletter signups	Project web page data (Aug. 21 – Sept. 2, 2022)	Dot survey
Approx. 112	None	8	100 unique visitors 3:52 average time on page	31 responses

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.

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Since Wheels & Wings had somewhat lighter attendance than the May Plant Fair, participants observed that they were able to have longer and more detailed conversations with attendees, which helped them provide more in-depth engagement. CAG members were able to talk with community members about the history of the mill and past clean ups and provide more detail about the Ecology process. They heard some new questions and comments, including positive feedback about their role as volunteers providing information to the community, and questions about whether the CAG and community engagement will continue after the current Public Participation Grant period is over.

As with previous events, CAG members noted misinformation about the mill's operations and a lack of understanding around the cleanup process.

Dot survey results will help the DCA and CAG focus resources. The questions above will be used to refine the Frequently Asked Questions document, available on the CAG's website.

The CAG is continuing 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 in the community and hosting standalone, process-related events. The CAG will continue to attend and host booths at existing community events.

Upcoming summer events include:

- [Camas Farmers Market](#)
 - September 14, 3 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>