

Downtown Camas Association Farmers Market - Event Summary

September 14, 2022



Event overview

The Camas Farmers Market is hosted every Wednesday afternoon/evening throughout the summer in downtown Camas. It's a popular event, attracting over a thousand people each week from Camas-Washougal and Greater Clark County. The DCA and the Mill Cleanup Community Advisory Group (CAG) identified the Camas Farmers Market as an opportunity to connect with different audiences around Camas and Washougal than might have attended the DCA Plant Fair, Camas Days, and Wheels & Wings events. CAG members and consultant team members staffed a booth with visuals, rack cards, and comment cards.



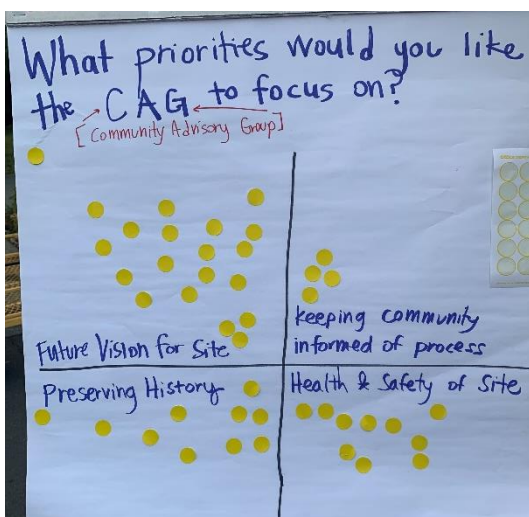
CAG members Dave Ripp and April Berlin talk to community members about the Camas Mill Cleanup at the Camas Farmers Market.

Date: September 14, 2022
Time: 3 p.m. – 7 p.m.
Location: In person, downtown Camas

Participation and staffing

CAG members Caroline Mercury, April Berlin, David Ripp, Kalani Cox, and Marty Snell participated. Emily Hess, Project Hydrogeologist, participated from Maul Foster & Alongi, Inc. (MFA).

CAG and MFA members worked in shifts, so there were always three to four people with diverse knowledge of the site and Washington Department of Ecology's cleanup 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
- Keeping community informed of the process
- Preserving history
- Health and safety of the site

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Respondents identified the future vision as the top priority for the CAG. Preserving history and the health and safety of the site were the next highest priorities. Keeping community informed of the process 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
If/when the mill closes, what kind of uses can the property be redeveloped as?
What is the redevelopment timeline?
I have worked at the mill and have information about where sampling should take place.
Can GP sell the property to avoid cleaning it up?
Where is GP in the process and how long will it take?
Status of operations at the mill property

Outcomes

An estimated 85 people directly interacted with staff at the booth during the Farmers Market event. In total, 1,500 people were estimated to be at the Farmers Market. The team collected dozens of verbal comments and nine newsletter signups. The team also received 44 votes on the dot survey around CAG priorities.

Interactions	Comment cards	Newsletter signups	Project web page data (Sep. 14 – Sept. 27 2022)	Dot survey
Approx. 85	None	9	94 unique visitors 3:02 average time on page	44 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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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.

Upcoming CAG meeting dates include:

- November 10, 4 to 5:30 p.m.
- January 12, 4 to 5:30 p.m.

Resources

Sign up for email updates, observe a CAG meeting 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>