

## Why the Name Camas?

Camas is named after the Camas lily (*Camassia quamash*). The Camas lily bulbs were an important food source for many Native American tribes. These bulbs, which could be used as a vegetable or in bread, often saved tribes from starvation.



Native American woman prepares the Camas bulb harvest

At the feast which was prepared for Lewis and Clark by Sacajawea's brother, the bulbs were served as molasses, a delicacy reserved for important feasts and celebrations.



Camas lilies can be seen blooming in the spring at Lacamas Park.

## From LaCamas to Camas

Camas used to be called LaCamas but the US Postal Service dropped the “La” in 1894 because the name was too similar to the other towns of LaCenter and LaConner and it was causing confusion in the mail.



LaCamas was established as a town in 1883 and was incorporated into a city in 1906. The name of our fair city was officially changed to Camas in 1909.

Many of the townspeople did not want the name change and continued to write LaCamas as their address for many years! LaCamas is still used today for the lake, creek, and park.



LaCamas Lake