

CAMAS PUBLIC LIBRARY  
**COMMUNITY  
SURVEY**  
CONDUCTED 2018

Dear Reader,

The following document contains survey results as part of the Camas Public Library's strategic planning efforts, conducted during the second half of 2018.

The Library employed the methods of the Harwood Institute, in which libraries turn outward toward their communities to discover first what makes an ideal place to live. Next, the Library took the input of the citizens on how to improve the community, and worked those needs into the Library's strategic plan. Library services become more meaningful when they are couched in the greater needs of the community, rather than asking patrons simply how to improve the Library.

This survey was one methodology used in gathering community input for the Library's strategic plan. The survey was administered online and via one-on-one conversations at community events. There were roughly 300 respondents. Camas Public Library's strategic plan can be found on our website.

The survey and its results follow. For Question 5, any Library-specific suggestions or feedback have been kept in a separate document and can be made available upon request.

In partnership,



**Connie Urquhart**  
Library Director

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CAMAS PUBLIC LIBRARY  A DEPARTMENT OF THE CITY OF CAMAS

# Community Survey

## QUESTION 1.

What kind of community do you want to live in?

### Top 5 words to describe an ideal Camas

Community-Minded 10% (54)	
Friendly 9% (52)	Small-Town Feel 8% (44)
Safe 9% (52)	Activities 7% (39)

### Next highest descriptors

Inclusive 6.8%	Diverse 2.5%
Family Friendly 5.9%	Caring 2.3%
Education or Educated 4.7%	Peaceful 2.3%
Local Business 2.5%	Connected 2.2%
Nature 2.5%	Kind 2.2%
	Supportive 2.0%

### Descriptors with less than 2% (in descending order)

Library	Helpful	Compassionate	No Homeless	Drug-free	No Traffic
Clean	Close to PDX	Healthy	Reliable Services	Generous	Pet Friendly
Recreation	Innovative	Calm	Walkable	High-End	Civic Pride
Culture	Less Growth	Green	Affordable	Honest	Respectful
Helpful	Thoughtful	Informed	Charming	Interesting	Responsible
Progressive	Thriving	Less Gov't	Convenient	Jobs	Traditional

### Definitions

Words were combined into one umbrella term if the intended meaning was the same. This happened most often with the following terms.

**Community-Minded:** know my neighbors, neighborly, close-knit, tight-knit, working together, united, sharing, involved, collaborative.

**Friendly:** nice

**Inclusive:** accepting, welcoming, open

# Community Survey

## QUESTION 2.

Why is this important to you?

Referring to Question 1, What kind of community do you want to live in?

### Top 5 reasons why an ideal community is important

**FAMILY 15%** (47)

Sense of belonging 13% (41)    Quality of Life 13% (40)

Safe Community 11% (36)    Small-Town Feel 11% (34)

### Next highest reasons

Neighbors Helping Neighbors 10%

Lots of Activities 6%

Inclusiveness + Diversity 7%

People are Nice/Kind 6%

Education 4%

### Descriptors with less than 2% (in descending order)

Nature

Commerce

Culture

Amenities

Progressive

Privacy

Environment

Services for Everyone

Religion



# Community Survey QUESTION 3.

How is your ideal community different from how you see things now?

**Top 5 answers**

People Connecting	12%	(29)
Inclusiveness + Diversity	10%	(23)
Manage Growth	9%	(22)
More Community Events	6%	(15)
Safety	6%	(15)

## Next highest answers

Pool	5%	Free Activities	3%
Citizen Involvement	4%	Community Center	3%
Educational Enrichment for All	4%	Communication	2%
More Funding for City Departments	3%	Kindness/Politeness Campaign	2%
Affordable Housing	3%	Traffic	2%
		Homelessness	2%

## More than one response but less than 2% In Descending Order

<i><b>MORE</b></i>	<i><b>MORE</b></i>	<i><b>ADD</b></i>	<i><b>IMPROVE</b></i>
Small Business Support	Outreach by Public Figures	Venue for Big Cultural Events	Streets
Indoor Activities	Resources for the Library	Community Garden	
Outdoor Activities	Mental Health Programs	Park or Playground Downtown	
Parks & Trails	Restaurants		
Alternatives to Screen Time	..of Everything Downtown		

## Definitions

Responses were combined into one umbrella term if a broader meaning could pull all of the specific responses together. For details on specific answers, see below.

**People Connecting:** Meet new people, Families getting together on weekends and evenings, Getting to know people, Welcoming newcomers

**Safety:** Crime, Pedestrian, School Security, Driving & Road Safety, Safety in Parks, Bike, Neighborhood Watch

**Inclusiveness + Diversity:** Equality, Events for all demographics (not just kids or couples), Multicultural, Learn different cultures, Respect for all viewpoints

# Community Survey QUESTION 4.

## What needs to happen to create that change?

### Top 5 words to describe an ideal Camas:

Community-Minded 9.7% (54)	
Friendly 9.3% (52)	Small-Town Feel 7.9% (44)
Safe 9.3% (52)	Activities 7% (39)

### Next highest descriptors:

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Inclusive: accepting, welcoming, open

# Community Survey

## QUESTION 5.

Is there anything else you want to share with us?

(In order to create an ideal Camas)

*Find balance between supporting small business and not congesting downtown.*

Integrate different cultures into activities.

*Talk more. Text less.*

People need to be nice.

*More classes available to everyone.*

Don't destroy the small-town feel.

*Keep creating fun activities.*

Celebrate the history, create affordable activities that all can enjoy, create a learning and growth mindset.

*Education, outreach.*

The people who are allowing all the development need to be replaced ASAP. I feel they are working for themselves with kickbacks from developers and not making decisions for the best of the citizens or for future generations.

*Better design for growth.*

It won't be long before they build high-rises or condos, and if they don't---what they do preserve will be too expensive for most people who will end up living in "affordable" high rise apartments in outlying areas.

*I think the activities at Crown Park is a great start, but under utilized, and not widely advertised in the community. I wish ALL the parks in Camas were equipped with better and/or more play equipment. Even the some of the local school playgrounds are locked and unaccessible. I would love to see a community center, where we have a safe and affordable entertainment for all ages.*

Slow development, create a clearer long-term plan where Camasonians can have a say in decision-making.

*We need more community input for decisions that are being made.*

Neighborhood watch.

*Quit allowing building permits and reserve some of this land while we can.*

Find solutions for the homeless.

*More community rooms for small and large groups.*

Community center with pool, gym and tennis courts.

*More connected, better information.*

The traffic is bad near the high school.

*More family-oriented events on evenings and weekends.*

A multi-use facility.

*Love having things to do in the winter.*

Bathrooms in all the parks.

*Farmers market brings the community together.*

Be forward thinking about traffic.

*More events focused on diversity and different cultures.*

# Community Survey

## QUESTION 5 CONTINUED.

*More sidewalks.*

Camas seems to be getting too big for its britches. Perhaps include a paper form for comments.

*More effort for diversity.*

More bike lanes.

*Better communication.*

Continue to prioritize education.

*Keep small-town values in the midst of growth. But how?*

Open Garver Theater to wide variety of events.

*Invite more businesses to ensure a diversity of shops.*

Multi-purpose pool to keep everyone active.

*Well-lit sidewalks and trails.*

Glad didn't build retirement community. Remember Camas history and keep it in mind.

*Pool.*

Support green spaces, Parks & Rec.

*More parks and trails.*

Community must stay involved.

*Curb growth and do it smarter.*

New pool.

*Keep First Friday going.*

More difference in food choices.

*People need to talk to each other more.*

More downtown events.

*More events for seniors.*

More involved voters.

*Outdoor pool.*

More community mental health behavior programs.

*More partnerships between Camas and Washougal.*

Adapt to growth and still keep small town feeling.

*Pool.*

More neighborhood events.

*Better communication.*

More street fairs, parades, and get people out more.

*More restaurants.*

More focus on community.

# Community Survey

## QUESTION 5 CONTINUED.

*More events that get people out and aware.*

No more building, no new houses.

*Keep home prices manageable.*

Keep up the infrastructure.

*Affordable housing.*

Take time for usable roads.

*Citizens should speak up more.*

People working together toward a common goal.

*Less screen time.*

More civic-minded people in government.

*More patrolling in the public parks.*

Rain-friendly activities.

*Talk to each other.*

Kids events at the same time as events for adults - act as day care.

Need fun events to look forward to.

Respect for all viewpoints.

*Community center with sports opportunities in high school for all kids.*

Put devices down.

*Traffic needs to be worked on.*

Pool.

*Not so many homeless people by Goot Park - they are camping.*

More outdoor / free activities.

*Stronger security in schools.*

More involved voters.

*Educate people on our natural resources.*

Drug and alcohol sales are a problem.

*More community events.*

More accessible community gardens.

*Town pool.*

Recreational facility year round, inexpensive for parents with kids

*No box stores.*

Add another high school.

*Include community members in planning events.*

Park area downtown - play area to connect with other families.

# Community Survey QUESTION 5 CONTINUED.

More baby, youth, young adult programs like the swimming pool.

*Basic politeness campaign - we're all in this (town) together!*

Community events that practices in compassion building, more of the "Camas Cares" types of campaign.

*I think people need to be taught how to appreciate what we already have, & how much we benefit from sharing ideas, experiences and resources*

Keeping the community informed, offering classes or lectures on art, music, aging etc.

*Getting to know your neighbors and community members can lengthen your life, would love even more ideas on getting people together to enjoy each other!*

I'm proud of our educational system here however, as a retired high school teacher, I sense a growing stress level in our Camas students. I'm hoping the system will improve its mental health response to this.

*Create a community that is inclusive and welcoming.*

How can we attract an open and more accepting culture in our town?

*City government needs to focus on families, slowing development, and maintaining quality of life.*

Keep on keeping on with the Community Events... Farmer's Market, Camas days, the Kid's day in crown park a few weeks back, summer reading, etc. All of these things get people out there!

*Plan for low income housing.*

Keep the City population to a minimum.

*More bike lanes.*

More community members visiting schools, more inviting public events involving a larger variety of community members, outreach to isolated members.

*More tech resources.*

Helping people of different backgrounds learn about each other so they appreciate each other. No matter income, religious, cultural, or ethnic backgrounds.

*Don't let greed and expansion ideals dictate the livability of the city.*

Community events that impact the immediate community, easier access to information regarding what's happening in our community.

*Communicate in all forms.*

Drug and alcohol sales are a problem.

*More affordable housing options for families, resources for those in need in our community.*

New adjustment, exceptance of the many different "ideals", purposeful conversation.

*More conversations, more exposure to different concepts and types of people.*

We need to create an environment that is safe for people from other cultures we need to work hard at being friendly and finding ways to help each other which includes accepting help from others when we could use some help.

*Stop building so many new homes.*

Our homeless could be better served.

*City Council needs to reflect the voices of the citizens instead of serving special interests and selling out our beautiful city.*

More leadership from those in charge.

*More online presence in neighborhood group (NextDoor).*

# Community Survey QUESTION 5 CONTINUED.

*Stop developing so much. Keep Camas small.*

More community giving to worthy causes.

*The vast amounts of money in elections must be exposed, addressed and changed so that a positive member of our wonderful little town who is of meager means and no significant wealth, is equally contributing to conversations about the future of our society, as is the affluent homeowner.*

Have a wider variety of activities for all groups - singles, couples, young families, older couples, retired folk- not everyone has children or is a part of a couple.

*We all need to slow down and be more present - less harrowed.*

Continued support of our first responders and schools.

*STOP all the big developments. I can't avoid construction no matter where I go around this town.*

Encourage diversity.

*Education and community events to discuss how we can listen and support each other.*

Wider choices in housing, services for those who need them, new medium-sized employers, a performance space and maybe some art studios at low rent.

*An easier way to walk from downtown Camas area over to the waterfront area at the port.*

Creating more local business so that people can work here and not in Oregon.

*People are people no matter the color, religion or sexual preference.*

More parades- Christmas, Fourth of July, homecoming. This is just one idea of adding more to community.

*Take a breath and simplify before adopting change to keep up with the Joneses'.*

Events for newcomers hosted by people in the community to welcome them in.

*Cessation of mega developments when the area has not the infrastructure to support that kind of population influx. Stop being so greedy!*

Maybe grants for historic home improvements near downtown?

*Encourage diversity.*

More affordable housing options for families, resources for those in need in our community.

*Staff fire trucks appropriately.*

Equality.

*Keep green spaces, encourage common spaces, plug in for electric cars.*

People need to understand the culture of the community they're moving into and decide they want to adopt that culture

*Stop the developers.*

Celebrate the history, create affordable activities that all can enjoy, create a learning and growth mindset.

*Better roads.*

Slow housing market.