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## PROFILE OF THE CITY OF GRANTS PASS

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Grants Pass is located in the “Sun Belt” of Southern Oregon astride the banks of the Rogue River, one of America’s premier white water rivers. Nestled among a series of mountains giving the valley a scenic backdrop, Grants Pass is situated in Southwestern Oregon on the Interstate 5. With a current population of 24,790, it is the county seat of Josephine County and serves as the major commercial center for the county population of more than 78,600.

Grants Pass and its surrounding valleys had a colorful past forged by the Native Americans, trappers, loggers, gold panners, celebrities, and writers who were attracted to the river and contributed to its legends. The first inhabitants of the region were the Takilma and Shasta tribes, frequently referred to by Hudson Bay trappers as "The Rogues" because of their willingness to fight for their rights. Josephine County was named for Josephine Rollins Ort, who came to the Illinois Valley with her father in 1851 and was credited with the first discovery of gold in Southern Oregon. This event was the catalyst for a major migration to Southern Oregon. The promise of gold caused Grants Pass, named to honor General Ulysses S. Grant's success at Vicksburg, to grow quickly. Farming began in order to meet the miner’s needs. Besides the gold, timber was a major product of the county. From cigars and bricks, to pine needles, industry in Grants Pass started to boom. Well established by the 1900’s, the commercial salmon fleets added one more reason to draw people, even to this day, to the area.

The community is very volunteer oriented as evidenced by its selection in May 1997 as one of thirty finalists nation wide in the All America City competition. Public and private enterprise working in unison with citizens completed a ten-year project of building a 50-acre community park “for all ages”. Named the All Sports Park, this complex boasts baseball diamonds, soccer fields, horseshoes pits, basketball and tennis courts, passive trails, viewing ponds, playgrounds, and picnic and shelter areas created through thousands of volunteer hours and donated services. This volunteer spirit continues with the newest city park, Centennial Park, currently under construction by volunteers on donated land. These projects, along with many others too numerous to list, exemplify the pride of the local citizens.

Once a timber based community, manufacturing, tourism, recreation, and service industries now provide the major sources of employment. Josephine County’s reliance on logging and timber products manufacturing has decreased over the past two decades. Despite this, new jobs continue to be added. And, while the county’s industrial base has diversified to include high technology, medical care, tourism, retirement services, retail trade and other service and manufacturing sectors, the wood products industry is still a major force in the county. Many of the top manufacturers in the county, including those producing wood products, continue to expand and add employees. In fact, a state economist has determined Josephine County to rank highest among non-metro Oregon counties in terms of economic diversification.

Total employment in Josephine County hit an all-time high in December of 2004 as the year closed out, as the state and nation finally began to climb out of a recession that largely had little impact on Southern Oregon. In 2004 the Fire Mountain Way project completed, aiding in the expansion of local employer Fire Mountain Gems, which has added over 200 jobs since it moved to Grants Pass in late 2001. Josephine County added over 1,000 jobs during 2004, an increase of 2.8 percent over 2003 – a rate higher than the state or the nation. Of the 32 labor markets in Oregon, Josephine grew at the fourth fastest rate in 2004. In the past five years, the county has added 4,979 new jobs at a rate of 19.6 percent, or an annual job growth rate of over 3.9 percent.

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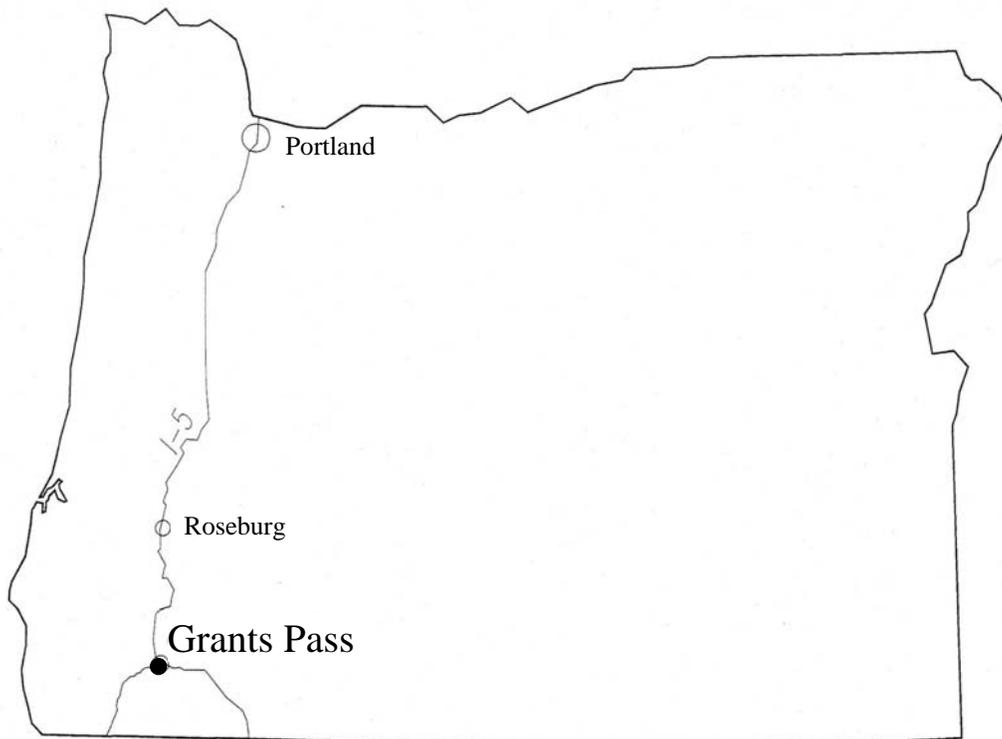
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Our mild climate, lower cost of living and proximity to California attracts many retirees, making our community's percentage of population over age 65 among the highest in Oregon. Medical and retirement facilities continue to expand. In June 2001 a 179,000 square foot three story state-of-the-art hospital complex opened, replacing two older, outdated campuses. This 98-bed acute care facility also includes a cancer treatment center, bringing the latest in medical technology to the community.

Rogue Community College, a two year accredited public community college, provides excellent educational opportunities to all in the community. It boasts a student population of more than 10,000 full or part-time, catering not only to transfer programs but also offering technical and vocational programs, adult basic education, and recreational learning. Southern Oregon University, one of nine state university campuses, is located just 40 miles south of Grants Pass in Ashland. School District #7, serving students in the city limits, provides education to 5,707 students at ten school sites made up of six elementary, two middle, one high school and one alternative school. There are also over 20 private and parochial schools.

The recreational opportunities of the Rogue River are many: jet-boat trips, rafting, kayaking, fishing, water skiing, swimming, hiking, or gold panning. In addition to the world famous Rogue River, nearby mountains provide high-mountain recreational experience, including snow skiing at Mt. Ashland. Cultural activities center around the Oregon Shakespeare Festival in Ashland and the historic town of Jacksonville. Other scenic attractions include: Crater Lake National Park, Oregon Caves National Monument, and the Redwoods that stretch from San Francisco to Southern Oregon.



# COMMUNITY PROFILE DETAIL

**Location:**

**Southern Oregon off of I-5, Exit No. 55 & No. 58, 68 miles south of Roseburg and 6 miles north of Rogue River, 240 miles south of Portland and 407 miles north of San Francisco.**

**Date of Incorporation:** 1887

**Elevation:** 960'

**Climate:**

Average Temperature:	<u>High</u>	<u>Low</u>
July 2004	92°	59°
January 2005	45°	35°
Annual Precipitation 2004	26.03"	

**Education:**

Grants Pass School District #7 (01/04)	
Attendance centers	10
Student/Teacher ratio	20.53:1
Total enrollment	5,707

**Population:**

<u>Year</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>% Increase</u>
2004	25,423	3.9
2003	24,470	2.5
2002	23,870	.9
2001	23,670	2.2
2000	23,170	32.4
1990	17,503	16.5
1980	15,032	20.7
1970	12,455	23.1
1960	10,118	

**Elections (November 2004):**

Registered voters	15,242
Ballots cast	12,734
Percentage voted	83.55%

**Fire Protection:**

Stations	2
Employees	18
Interns	6

**Taxes:**

Sales tax	None
Consolidated property tax rate (per \$1,000 assessed value)	\$13.54

**Police Protection:**

Employees (sworn)	43
Volunteers (Auxiliary)	27
Volunteer hours 2004	3,597.5

**Assessed Property Value:**

(In thousands of dollars)	
2005	\$1,579,311
2004	\$1,446,214
2003	1,350,701
2002	1,253,169
2001	1,180,905
2000	1,129,100

**Recreation and Culture:**

Parks	13
Museums	2
Libraries	1
Swimming Pool	1

# COMMUNITY PROFILE DETAIL

## 2000 Census Information

### Age Composition\*:

Under 5 years	1,613	(7.0%)
5 to 19 years	4,986	(21.7%)
20 to 44 years	7,180	(31.3%)
45 to 64 years	4,760	(20.6%)
65+ years	4,464	(19.4%)

\*Based on population of 23,003 -  
Census 2000 Demographic  
Profiles

### Median Age:

2000	38
1990	37
1980	32
1970	36
1960	34

### 2000 Housing Occupancy:

Total housing units:	9,885
Occupied units	9,376
Rental vacancy rate	4.7%

### Housing Units:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>% Increase</u>
2000	9,885	32
1990	7,480	22
1980	6,117	36
1970	4,491	

### 2000 Housing Tenure:

Occupied housing units:	9,376
Owner occupied	4,986
Renter occupied	4,390

### Income in 1999:

Median Household Income	\$29,197
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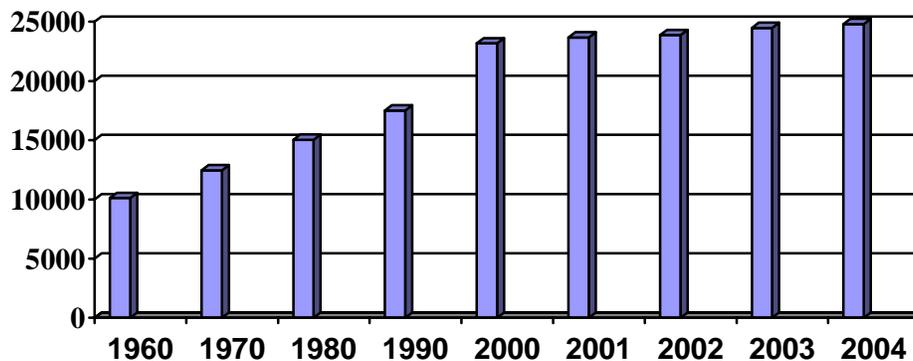
### Mortgage:

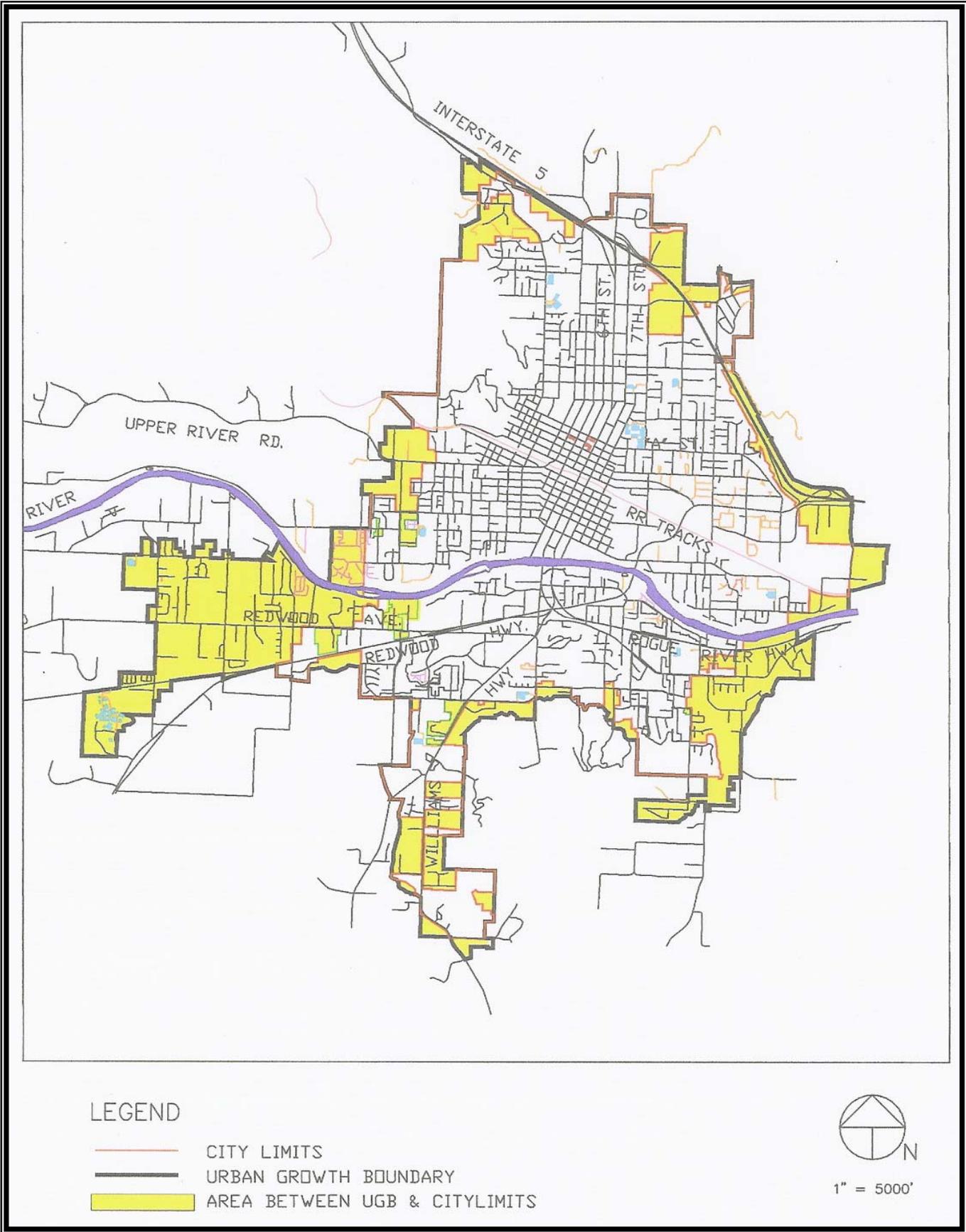
Median Monthly Owner Costs	\$861
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### Gross Rent:

Median Gross Rent	\$531
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## Population Growth





**WHERE THE ROGUE RIVER RUNS**



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