
PROFILE OF THE CITY OF GRANTS PASS



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 Interstate 5. With a current population of 33,225, it is the county seat of Josephine County and serves as the major commercial center for the county population of more than 83,665.

Grants Pass and its surrounding valleys have a colorful past forged by 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 national finalists 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 Reinhart Volunteer Park, this complex boasts baseball diamonds, soccer fields, horseshoes pits, basketball and tennis courts, passive trails, viewing ponds, playgrounds, picnic and shelter areas, created through thousands of volunteer hours and donated services. This volunteer spirit continued with the 8.37 acre Morrison Centennial Park. This park, dedicated in February 2005, was created by volunteers on donated land. Volunteers continue to work on both new and older projects such as Redwood Park and adding adjacent property to Reinhart Volunteer Park. 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. 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. In fact, a state economist has determined Josephine County to rank highest among non-metro Oregon counties in terms of economic diversification.

Grants Pass has not been immune to the current economic crisis affecting the country and world as a whole. Most major industries lost workers over the last year, with the exception of Government, mostly based on the

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judicial ordered rehire of the health care workers and Federal Government. Gaining employees last year were Leisure and Hospitality, Educational Services and Wood Products Manufacturing. The wood products manufacturing was caused by the closure of a mill in White City and production being moved to the Grants Pass site. Since March of 2009, Josephine County, in the smallest regional study area that includes Grants Pass, has seen a loss of 470 jobs and a decrease in the unadjusted unemployment percentage from 16.0% in March 2009 to 14.1% in March of 2010. Josephine County also saw a decrease in the Civilian Labor Force from 35,527 in March of 2009 to 35,072 in March of 2010. This decrease, along with a drop in employment from 29,830 in March of 2009 to 29,760 in March of 2010, lead to a total unemployment number of 5,312 in March of 2010 compared to 5,697 in March of 2009.

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. The Grants Pass/Josephine County Chamber of Commerce Business Retention and Expansion Survey, completed in March of 2008, revealed that 35 of the 78 businesses surveyed planned to expand or remodel in the near future. For a majority of these companies, expansion plans have been postponed until the economy stabilizes. Despite hard economic times, some companies did expand. Rivertown Auto moved from its 1.07 acre site on F Street to a 3.2 acre site on Redwood Highway. Rogue Pro Industrial relocated from Rogue River to the Spalding Industrial Park. Also, the Guild Complex finished construction on the final two buildings of its four building complex. Finally, two other local companies are adding new buildings to increase their work flow this year.

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 5,660 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 Rogue River provides many recreational opportunities such as: jet-boat trips, rafting, kayaking, fishing, water skiing, swimming, hiking and gold panning. Nearby mountains provide high-mountain recreation, including snow skiing at Mt. Ashland. Other scenic attractions include: Crater Lake National Park, Oregon Caves National Monument and the Redwoods that stretch from San Francisco to Southern Oregon. Cultural activities include the Oregon Shakespeare Festival in Ashland and the historic town of Jacksonville.



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

Climate:

Average Temperature:	<u>High</u>	<u>Low</u>
July	90°	59°
January	46°	34°

Annual Precipitation 2009 22.2"

Elevation: 960'

Population:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>% Increase</u>
2009	33,225	2.9
2008	32,290	1.7
2007	31,740	2.6
2006	30,930	18.6
2005	26,085	2.6
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	

Taxes:

Sales tax	None
Consolidated property tax rate (per \$1,000 assessed value)	\$14.43

Education:

Grants Pass School District #7 (April, 2010)	
Attendance centers	10
Student/Teacher ratio	20:1
Total enrollment	5,660

Elections (September 2009):

Registered voters	18,625
Ballots cast	7,724
Percentage voted	41.77%

Fire Protection:

Stations	3
Employees	30
Interns	9

Police Protection:

Employees (sworn)	47
Volunteers (Auxiliary)	14
Volunteer hours 2007	4,002

Recreation and Culture:

Parks	17
Green Spaces/Trails	6
Museums	2
Swimming Pool	1

Assessed Property Value:

(In thousands of dollars)	
2010	\$2,409,615
2009	\$2,318,500
2008	\$2,207,029
2007	2,065,308
2006	1,728,992
2005	1,446,214
2004	1,350,701
2003	1,253,169

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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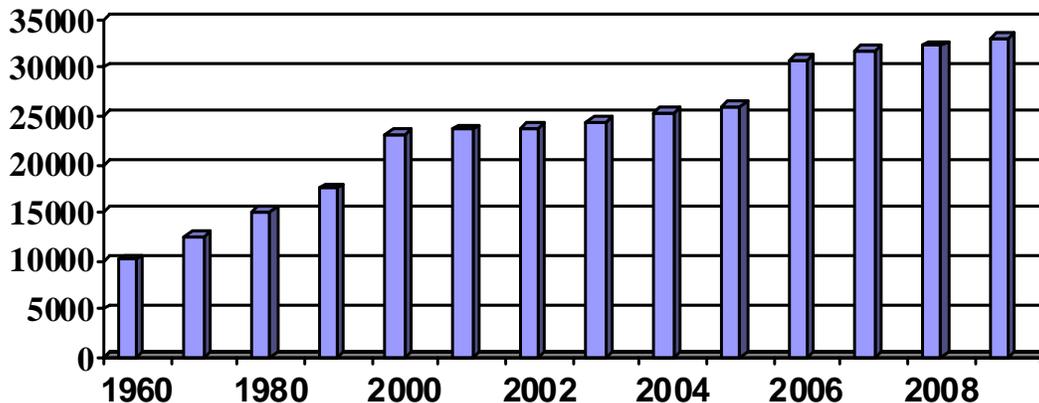
Mortgage:

Median Monthly Owner Costs	\$861
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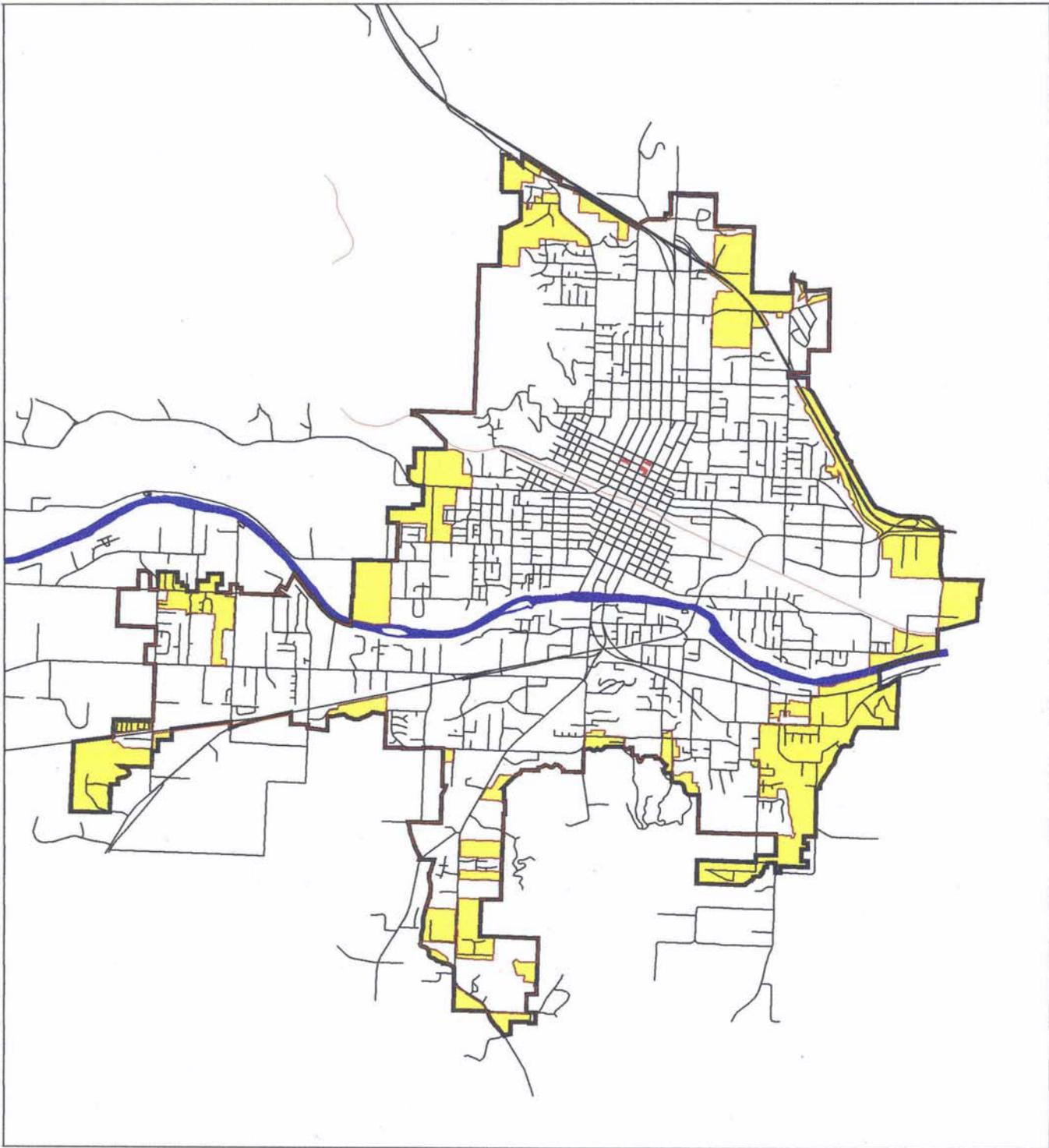
Gross Rent:

Median Gross Rent	\$531
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Population Growth



Map of the City of Grants Pass and the Urban Growth Boundary Area



LEGEND

-  CITY LIMITS
-  URBAN GROWTH BOUNDARY
-  AREA BETWEEN UGB & CITYLIMITS



1" = 5000'

WHERE THE ROGUE RIVER RUNS



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