
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 the Interstate 5. With a current population of 31,740, it is the county seat of Josephine County and serves as the major commercial center for the county population of more than 82,390.

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 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, and 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. These volunteers are now turning their effort to complete Redwood Park, the first neighborhood park in the Redwood area. 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.

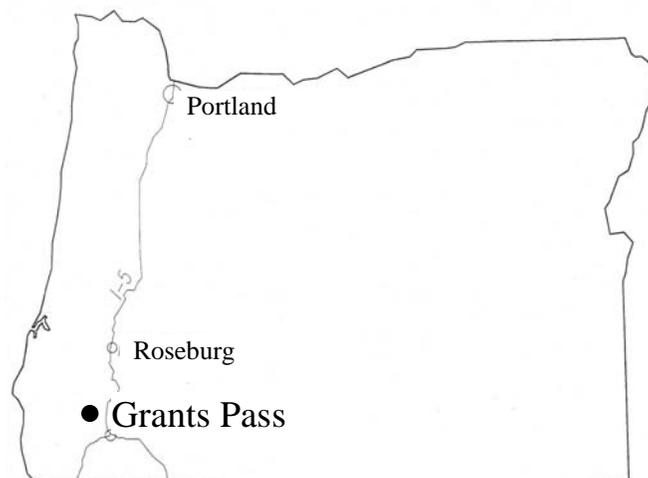
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While not immune to the decline in the construction industry, Grants Pass continues to expand and diversify its employment base. The leisure and hospitality sectors experienced a gain of 190 jobs along with a gain of 200 jobs in the health care and social assistance sectors. This growth countered the decline of 250 jobs in federal, state and local government, primarily generated by Josephine County layoffs last summer. Other reductions in the workforce have resulted mainly from the decline in the housing market. A net decline of 110 jobs in Josephine County led to an increased in the unemployment rate from 6.5% to 6.7% for the twelve month period ending June 30, 2007. This statistic remains far more positive than the County's annual average unemployment rate during the early-mid 1990's when it was close to 10 percent. . The labor force has increased 28 percent from 1999 to 2007, growing by more than 7,350 and bringing the total to 33,455 by June, 2008.

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 as well as many local employers seeing continued expansion and job growth. Some of these increases were led by Fire Mountain Gems with the construction of a 68,800 square foot warehouse, the opening of Deardorff Corners, a 27,400 square foot shopping plaza, the addition of 9,300 square feet to the Ramsey Medical Professional Office, and the opening of the Wheeler Toyota Complex, a 38,800 square foot facility off Union Avenue. Encore Ceramics added a 22,000 square foot warehouse to their facility in the Spalding Industrial Park, while the Guild Complex completed construction of two of its four planned buildings for professional and medical offices on Williams Highway.

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 5,710 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	92°	59°
January	47°	38°
Annual Precipitation 2007	27.40"	

Education:

Grants Pass School District #7 (April, 2008)	
Attendance centers	10
Student/Teacher ratio	18:1
Total enrollment	5,710

Population:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>% Increase</u>
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	

Elections (November 2007):

Registered voters	17,663
Ballots cast	9,384
Percentage voted	53.13%

Fire Protection:

Stations	2
Employees	28
Interns	4

Police Protection:

Employees (sworn)	44
Volunteers (Auxiliary)	29
Volunteer hours 2007	4,029

Taxes:

Sales tax	None
Consolidated property tax rate (per \$1,000 assessed value)	\$14.26

Assessed Property Value:

(In thousands of dollars)	
2007	\$2,207,029
2006	2,065,308
2005	1,728,992
2004	1,446,214
2003	1,350,701
2002	1,253,169
2001	1,180,905

Recreation and Culture:

Parks	16
Green Spaces	4
Museums	2
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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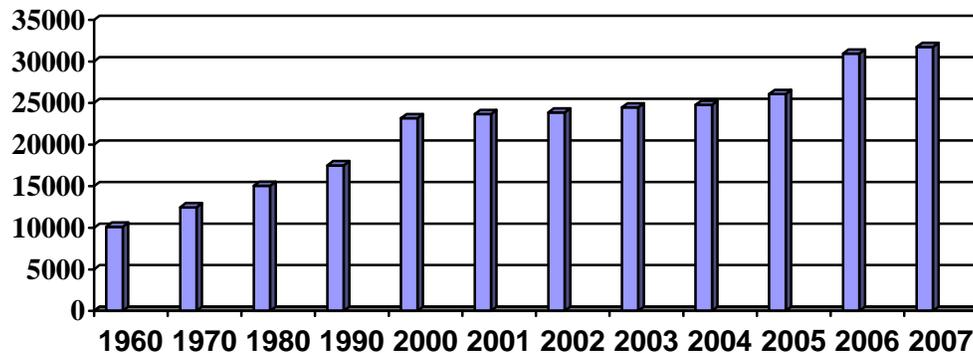
Mortgage:

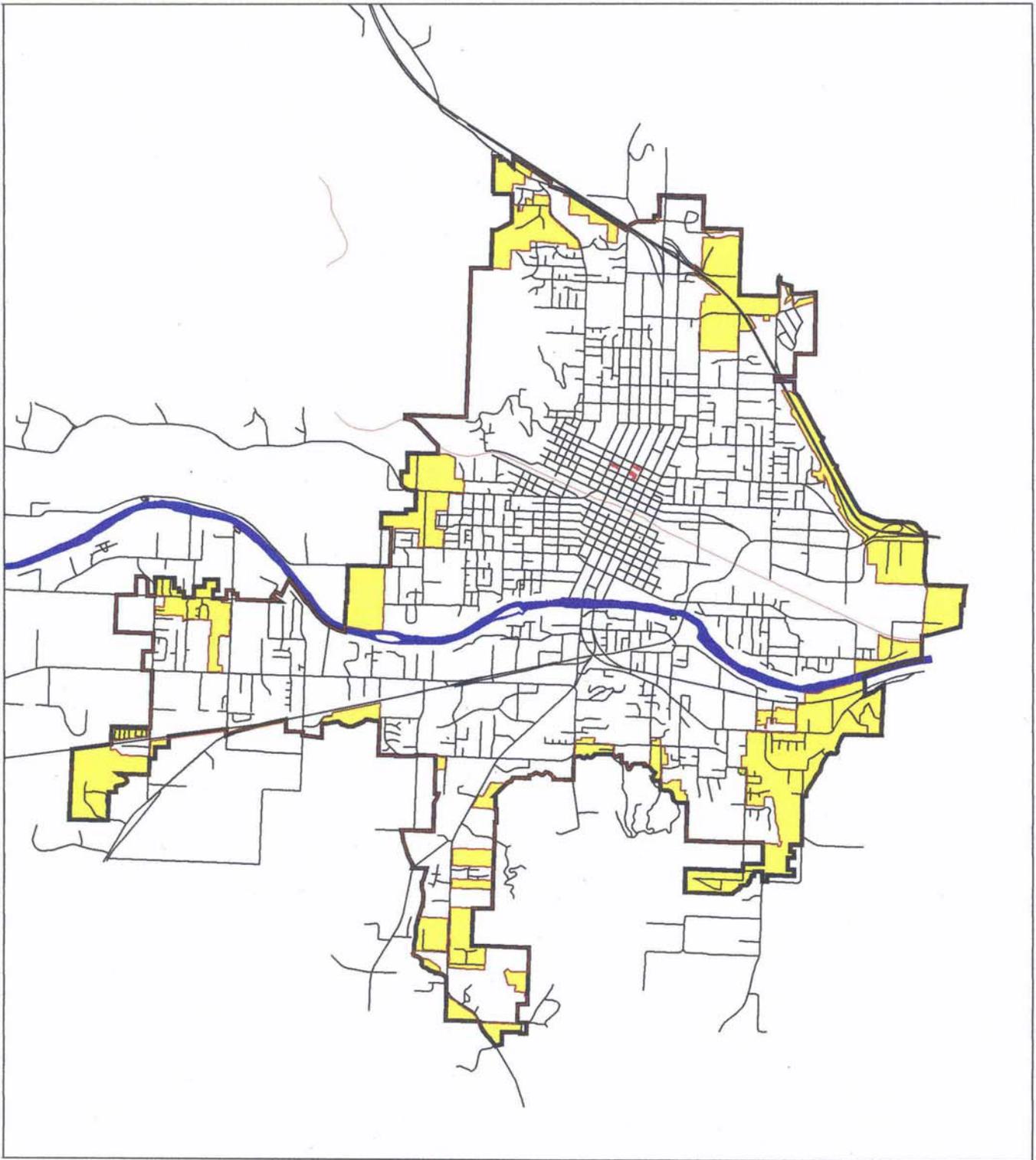
Median Monthly Owner Costs	\$861
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Gross Rent:

Median Gross Rent	\$531
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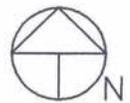
Population Growth





LEGEND

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



1" = 5000'

WHERE THE ROGUE RIVER RUNS



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