



GP NOW

Live Rogue



Fire District Feasibility Study



Parkway Public Safety Center

The City of Grants Pass is initiating a study focused on the feasibility of forming an independent fire district within the City of Grants Pass and potential funding mechanisms for delivery of fire and emergency services.

The purpose is to determine if the formation of an independent fire district is a realistic alternative to the existing system and if

it will provide those services with increased effectiveness while realizing a fiscally-efficient and cost-contained system. It is imperative to the City to determine the most effective use of current and potential public dollars while achieving the goal of providing effective and efficient fire and life safety services.

Municipal fire, police, records and dispatch services are provided through a hybrid public safety model. Each discipline is housed within the Grants Pass Department of Public Safety and share a common budgetary and administrative system. Current Fire Rescue Bureau services include fire suppression, emergency medical response, fire and life safety, prevention education, fire inspection and code enforcement.

The City has acquired the services of Matrix Consulting Group, which provides analytical services to local and state governments. The Feasibility Study will provide a fiscal analysis to determine the cost of providing the current levels of service as a standalone independent fire district. It will include findings and support reason(s) for recommending or rejecting the project. The study is scheduled to be completed in September 2016.

Stakeholder participation and citizen involvement is an important aspect of this project. It is likely a steering committee will be formed with citizen appointments. Any citizen interested in this volunteer opportunity is encouraged to contact the City of Grants Pass Administration Office for further details.

Capital Improvement Projects - What's New in the City?

The City of Grants Pass is currently involved in a number of "Capital Improvement Projects" which will improve utility and street infrastructure and add recreational facilities to our parks. Projects currently under construction include Redwood Avenue Phase III, Gilbert Creek Bridge Replacement and the Booth & Isham streets intersection.



Construction on Redwood Avenue

Redwood Avenue Phase III widens Redwood Avenue from east of Pansy Lane to west of Redwood Circle to a three-lane road with bicycle lanes, sidewalks and pedestrian refuge areas. Improvements to Allen Creek Road between Redwood Avenue and Redwood Highway are also being installed to facilitate vehicle turning movements onto and off of Redwood Avenue. This project will provide a connection for bicyclists using the Pedestrian Bridge to Rogue Community College.

The Gilbert Creek Bridge Replacement is located on NW Savage Street between Hawthorne and Prospect. The project will replace the old narrow bridge, which did not have adequate facilities for pedestrians or bicyclists, with a wider bridge across Gilbert Creek. The project addresses fish passage, hydrologic capacity and utility constraints.

The Booth and Isham streets project includes the relocation of a small water main and the installation of permanent barricades and fixtures, to include sidewalks, signage, storm drain improvements and landscaping. This intersection was closed off with temporary barricades following requests from neighbors. The closed intersection eliminates the conflicting traffic movements with the adjacent Booth, Pine and G streets intersection, providing safer pedestrian and vehicular traffic.

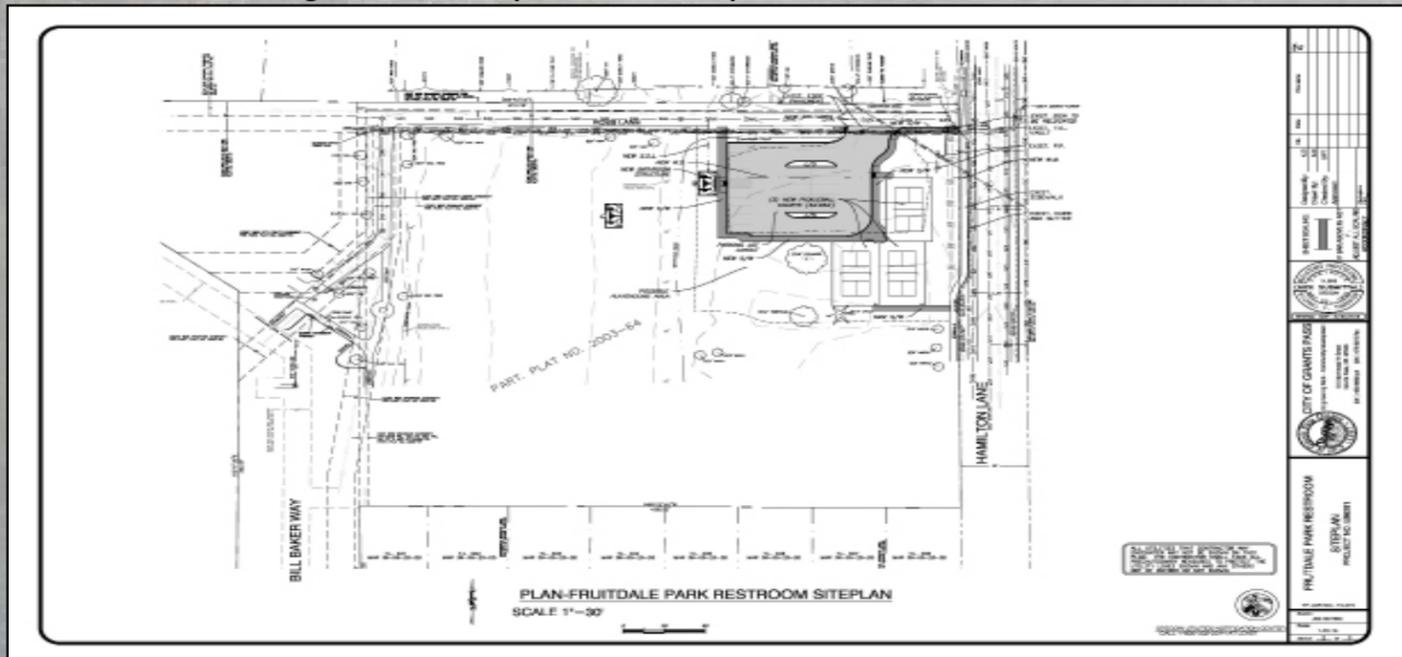


Gilbert Creek Bridge Project

The City is working on several park/trail improvement projects to include repairing the Allen Creek Trail near Allen Dale Elementary School and the Greenwood Pedestrian Path leading to Reinhart Volunteer Park. A new pedestrian trail is being installed along the perimeter of Eckstein Park connecting to Riverside Elementary School out to Portola Drive.

Improvements are currently being designed for Fruitdale Park, located off Hamilton Lane. New features will include the installation of pickle ball courts, a parking lot, restrooms, associated lighting and landscaping. This park is used widely by youth soccer. The pickle ball courts are being added to meet the demands for this expanding sport.

Drawing shows the site plan for the new pickle ball courts and other features.



Why Master Plans are Important to Your Utilities



Master plans are critical to the success of your public utilities. Water, wastewater, storm water and transportation all rely on thoughtful, well-executed master plans to ensure services can be provided to all customers in an orderly and cost-effective manner. Master plans are the blue-print to future infrastructure expansion and the instruction manual on how to fix current deficiencies that face the City.

When master plans are updated, staff and consultants take a complete inventory of all the Utility assets and assess their current condition to determine the remaining useful life of the asset. In the case of pipelines, buried deep underground, making them hard to assess, numerous inputs are used to help make these complex assessments: When was the pipe installed? What is the pipe constructed of? Have there been failures on the pipe in recent history? Have other utilities had failures with similar material constructed during the same era?

Staff and consultants also spend considerable time examining current and projected system demand. How much water will be needed in the next five, ten or thirty years? How much sewage will flow through a given pipe in the system? This is a critical part of the master planning process that helps develop the size of the assets that are installed. If the calculations are not correct, a pipe could be installed that is too small and unable to serve the area it was intended to. Or, it could be oversized; not only wasting financial resources but possibly leading to service issues because the pipe cannot serve as intended. Good master planning efforts save valuable financial resources because the right-sized assets are installed at the right time.

Grants Pass is not unique in the fact that its critical infrastructure is aging and portions of it are nearing the end of its serviceable life. It is estimated that, in Oregon alone, there are \$9.4 billion in infrastructure needs for water and wastewater in the next 20 years (American Society of Civil Engineers 2013 Report Card for America's Infrastructure); a trend mirrored in every state in the nation. Like Grants Pass, communities are struggling with how to fund needed improvements while balancing the costs of those much-needed projects to their rate-payers. Master plans help Council and staff see a full picture of the needs of your utilities and make more informed decisions about which improvements are most critical and provide the most benefit to the community.

Currently, the City is in the process of adopting revised master plans for water distribution, wastewater collection and storm water. The plans describe current system conditions, service levels and future project requirements to serve existing and future citizens. Projects described in the plans ensure that City utilities can continue to provide excellent services to its rate-payers for years to come. If you would like to review the draft master plans that the Council is currently considering, direct your web browser to: www.grantspassoregon.gov/1030/DRAFT--Master-Plans

Want to Serve on the Urban Tree Advisory Committee?

Applications are being accepted for 4 positions on the Urban Tree Advisory Committee due to expiring terms. This working committee develops, implements, and reviews programs and activities which promote, protect, and enhance the urban forest as part of the Tree City, USA program. In addition, they act as an advisory committee to the City. There are no special qualifications for this committee other than to have an interest in the program.

Applications for this committee must be received no later than Monday, September 12, 2016. Appointments will be made by the Council at the City Council meeting on Wednesday, September 21, 2016.

Applications are available at the City Administration Office, 101 N.W. A Street, or our website, www.grantspassoregon.gov/committee-application.

ODOT to Update I-5 Exit 55 Signs



Current ODOT sign at exit 55

There are two freeway exits for the City of Grants Pass, Exit 55 and 58. Soon you will see a change at Exit 55 for both northbound and southbound.

Currently, the sign at Exit 55 identifies "Ocean Beaches" and "Crescent City". ODOT will update the signs to read "S. Grants Pass" to identify the southern portion of our community.

This will be a welcome change for the City and its residents as well as assist visitors to their destinations.

City Council Has Two Open Positions

In the upcoming General Election, the City's registered voters will have the opportunity to elect or reelect persons to fill the following positions: Mayor and four City Councilor positions whose terms of office will expire December 31, 2016.

The Councilors are elected at large from four geographic wards pursuant to the City Charter. Each serves their community in an unpaid capacity. The City of Grants Pass operates under a Council/Manager form of government. The City Council acts as the governing board, establishes law, develops policy, and adopts financial and economic strategies for the community. The City Manager serves as the chief executive, carrying out Council's ordinances and policies, making recommendations to Council, and managing the daily operations of the municipal corporation.

Serving on the Council is both challenging and rewarding. Effective service demands a substantial time commitment as shown in the following schedule highlights:

- Council meetings on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of every month beginning at 6:00 pm in the Council Chambers, usually lasting 2 to 3 hours.
- Council workshops every Monday at 11:45 am, lasting approximately 1 1/2 hours.
- Councilors and lay members of the Budget Committee meet four evenings during May and two to three other times during the year.
- Council Strategic Planning, scheduled in January, involving three full days.
- Each Councilor also serves as a liaison to one or more City committees.
- Participation in the annual League of Oregon Cities conference, a 3-day event in September held in Eugene, Portland, Salem or Bend.

Voters will elect or reelect persons to the positions held by the following persons:

Mayor: Darin Fowler

Councilors: Ward 1 - Dan DeYoung, Ward 2 - Valerie Lovelace, Ward 3 - Ken Hannum, Ward 4 - two vacancies.

The last day to file with the City for election is August 30, 2016. If you are interested in running for Council, contact the City Recorder at 541-450-6010.

Mayor Darin Fowler 541-660-3696 dfowler33@hotmail.com

Ward 1

Council President Dan DeYoung 541-660-0342

mayorcouncil@grantspassoregon.gov

Councilor Roy Lindsay 541-291-0346

rlindsay@grantspassoregon.gov

Ward 2

Councilor Valerie Lovelace 541-479-0952

vlovelace@grantspassoregon.gov

Councilor Rick Riker 541-479-7333

councilriker@charter.net

Ward 3

Councilor Ken Hannum 541-659-4579

kenhannum@live.com

Councilor Dennis Roler 541-479-4272

droler@grantspassoregon.gov

Ward 4

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City Council Meetings

1st & 3rd Wednesdays at 6 pm

City Council Workshops

Each Monday at 11:45 am

City Council Chambers, 101 NW A Street

Meetings are televised on Charter Cable

Channel 183 and posted online at

www.grantspassoregon.gov.

Listen live to Councilors and Staff discussing local issues on KAJO (1270 AM) the 1st and 2nd Tuesdays each month at 9:30 am



City of Grants Pass
Local Government

www.grantspassoregon.gov