



GP NOW

Live Rogue



The City gets a distinctive new brand

The City has adopted new "Branding" and we have a new City logo.



The City Council has focused attention on refreshing the City's image and logo and made that project a part of the City's work plan. We have something really distinctive here in Grants Pass and we want to tell our story and get people to come visit and share it with us. Adopting a brand that identifies and promotes the unique experiences in and around Grants Pass will help market the City and the region.

We think active explorers and adventure seekers are the ideal target audience for Grants Pass. They love to get out and explore, are curious travelers, and seek unique experiences that really give them an authentic sense of the people and place they are visiting.

The logo reminds us of the Rogue River and of the exciting and independent lifestyle we live. Its tag line, "Live Rogue" is inviting and creative. This really is the climate in so many ways and we have something special to share with the world.



You will see City vehicles, signs, stationery and business cards displaying our new logo. The logo is designed to help Grants Pass share the spirit of our people and the spirit of the Rogue River.

This is a good time to make a change. It is the beginning of the tourist season and many of the older signs with the "River Guide" were in need of repair or replacement. The new signs will help the City look clean and bright, provide good help and direction for visitors, and will make a better positive impression on everyone visiting Grants Pass.

Invite your friends and family from outside the area to come visit the Rogue River and see some of the things that make Grants Pass great.



June 2016



As summer approaches, the Grants Pass Department of Public Safety would like to provide some clarification of when motor vehicles are required to stop for pedestrians at crosswalks.

At the outset, it needs to be understood that there is a crosswalk at every road intersection, whether it is marked or not (ORS 801.220). In between city-block intersections, there are no crosswalks. Attempting to cross the street in those locations deprives a pedestrian of crosswalk rights and protections.

The offense of failure to stop and remain stopped for a pedestrian is spelled out in ORS 811.028. Oregon law defines a pedestrian as “any person afoot or in a wheelchair” (ORS 801.385). One respected commentator has noted that this broad definition “probably includes people on foot as well as foot/wheel combinations: walkers, runners, bladders, skateboarders and persons using a foot on the ground to propel a scooter or bicycle, as well as people rolling in a wheelchair.” Ray Thomas, “Oregon Pedestrian Rights” (2008).

With that definition in mind, we turn to when motorists must yield to folks in crosswalks. When they are well into the roadway at the marked and unmarked crosswalks that border every intersection, motorists need to stop and remain stopped for them. But what about people on foot lingering by the side of the road?

The 2011 amendment to ORS 811.028 improved protections for non-motorists by saying: “A pedestrian is crossing the roadway in a crosswalk when any part or extension of the pedestrian, including but not limited to any part of the pedestrian’s body, wheelchair, cane, crutch or bicycle, moves onto the roadway in a crosswalk with the intent to proceed.”

When a non-motorist is merely on a sidewalk or the edge of a road outside of it, but has not placed any part of their body or equipment into a crosswalk, there is no duty to stop. Indeed, motorists trying to be courteous, who stop and stay stopped, when confronting ambiguous intentions of a non-motorist can be doing more harm than good to the reasonable flow of traffic. If the pedestrian wanted to

cross the roadway, some part of their body or equipment needs to be in the crosswalk, with the intent to cross.

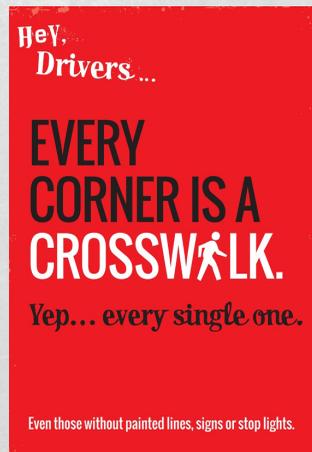
It is also important for motorists to wait until the non-motorist is out of the lane and the one adjacent to it. There are additional requirements for vehicles turning where you must wait for the non-motorist to be out of the lane and at least 6 feet into the next before proceeding. In general, if a motorist provides a lane and adjacent lane of cushion, it will satisfy Oregon law.

To avoid confusion and potential injury, it is recommended pedestrians that are unsure of how to communicate their intent to use the crosswalk to oncoming cars use one hand straight out (pointing across the street) as further indication that the driver needs to stop.

Oregon law also has requirements for pedestrians. One such Oregon law applies when a pedestrian fails to yield to a motor vehicle. Under this statute, non-motorists may not “suddenly leave a curb or other place of safety and move into the path of a vehicle that is so close as to constitute an immediate hazard.” It also states that, unless walkers are in an intersection (i.e. in a crosswalk) they must yield to motor vehicles at all times. There are exceptions (e.g. blind or deaf pedestrians) to this law as well.

As for bicyclists, they are governed by the rules that apply to motorized vehicles in most instances, but are exempted from those that wouldn’t make sense to apply (e.g. traveling too slowly). They also receive some of the protections for non-motorists. For example, they are allowed to ride in crosswalks as long as they are not traveling faster than “walking speed” when motor vehicles are present (ORS 814.410(1)(d)).

In closing, the Grants Pass Department of Public Safety, along with the Bikeways/Walkways Committee would like to remind citizens of the increased numbers of motorists and non-motorists sharing the road as summer approaches.



Student firefighters help enhance services to citizens



Since 1996, the Grants Pass Department of Public Safety Fire Rescue Bureau has worked in partnership with Rogue Community College to provide career development opportunities to regional students enrolled in Fire Science or Emergency Medical Technology Associate Degree programs at the college.

The program goal is to provide practical hands-on training for local students while finding a cost-effective and innovative way to enhance emergency services delivery to City residents.

The Department provides the equipment and pays for the tuition and books for the nine program participants. In return, students work 10 24-hour shifts per month alongside career firefighters at one of the three Public Safety Stations. As part of the Public Safety team, students receive high quality on-the-job experience and one-on-one mentorship while earning their degrees. In return, the students add an economical depth to the Department's emergency response capability and enhanced service to the community.

To enter the program, a student must apply through a competitive process as space in the program is limited. Once accepted into the program, they are enrolled at Rogue Community College and a plan of coursework is outlined to achieve their Associates Degree in either Fire Science or Paramedicine. Students must carry at least 9 credits per term and maintain at least a 2.5 grade point average.

Our goal is to find students who have a strong work ethic and the skills and abilities to move forward into a full-time career positions. Many other fire departments and EMS services have benefited from our Student Firefighter Program by hiring them as they complete our program. In fact, several other departments, after seeing the success of our program, have started their own Student Firefighter Programs.

This successful program has contributed to providing a high level of service to our community while at the same time helping to control costs. It provides us with a pool of well-trained and enthusiastic firefighters at a very low cost to the taxpayers. In addition, and maybe most important, it provides an opportunity for our local young adults to pursue a career in their hometown, while performing service to their community.



Does the City of Grants Pass have an Urban Renewal Agency in its future?

Rundown buildings, inadequate streets or infrastructure, underdeveloped or underutilized properties are examples of blight. An Urban Renewal Agency can help fix these things. The State has authorized a process for cities to implement "Urban Renewal" plans to help eliminate blight.

The components of an urban renewal plan include: descriptions of urban renewal projects to be undertaken, a map and legal description of the urban renewal areas (URA), and an outline for the development or implementation of the plan within the identified renewal areas. An urban renewal plan must be accompanied by an urban renewal report. Once activated, an Agency may last for 25 to 30 years; this is determined by the results of the feasibility study and the projects that are identified in the plan.

The Agency is funded by Tax Increment Financing (TIF). Taxes on the increased value provide funding for Agency projects. Through the use of TIF, municipalities use future property tax revenue increases for economic development projects in the community.

In February 2016, with the assistance of Elaine Howard Consulting and the Urban Renewal Task Force, the Grants Pass Urban Renewal Feasibility Study was completed. The study identifies boundaries, potential projects and assumptions used in the financial analysis.

The last time an Urban Renewal Agency was formed in Grants Pass was in 1988. It was known as the Parkway Redevelopment Agency. Major projects included: the construction of transportation infrastructure improving access to and from I-5, transportation projects around Union and Ringuette streets and the extension of Agness Avenue across the railroad tracks that allowed for Spalding Industrial Park. Other accomplishments include the award-winning Pedestrian Bridge and development of Baker and Tussing parks.

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The Pedestrian Bridge

Don't Blow It; Keep Clippings and Other Yard Debris in Your Yard...Not In the Street!

Landscape debris, when disposed of improperly, can be a significant source of environmental pollution. Grass clippings, leaves and branches have a very high nitrogen and phosphorous content which can actually serve as a natural fertilizer when applied back onto your lawn or when composted properly.

These same materials can become a problem, however, when the waste is washed into our streets and storm drains or dumped into our many creeks and rivers. The waste products act as a fertilizer, promoting excess algae growth and depletes the waters natural oxygen content. Additionally, these materials fill up our catch basins requiring them to be cleaned more frequently. Plugged catch basins can lead to neighborhood flooding in relatively small rain events.



Instead of blowing or sweeping your yard debris into the street, consider using a mulching mower to take advantage of the natural fertilizing benefits of these materials by directly composting them back into your lawn. Composting the debris in a pile in your backyard is also a great option that creates a rich, nutrient soil amendment that can be added to your lawn and planting beds to keep them healthy and growing strong.

In addition to these environmentally friendly options, our local trash haulers offer services to haul away your yard debris for you. The collected materials are then used to create compost on a large scale which is then returned to the community as a soil amendment.

So before you blow those clippings into the street, next time remember the impact that it can have on our storm drains and on our natural environment and sweep them up to be recycled.

Urban Renewal Agency continued.

These projects may not have happened if it were not for the Redevelopment Agency.

Many new businesses came to Grants Pass, bringing new jobs with them, because of the assistance provided by the Parkway Redevelopment Agency.

A new Urban Renewal Agency can help the City attract job-producing businesses and industries and have a positive impact on the vitality, prosperity, and economic growth in the City of Grants Pass. The City Council will consider adopting an urban renewal plan in the near future.

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Vacant

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

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