
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 30,930, it is the county seat of Josephine County and serves as the major commercial center for the county population of more than 81,125.

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.

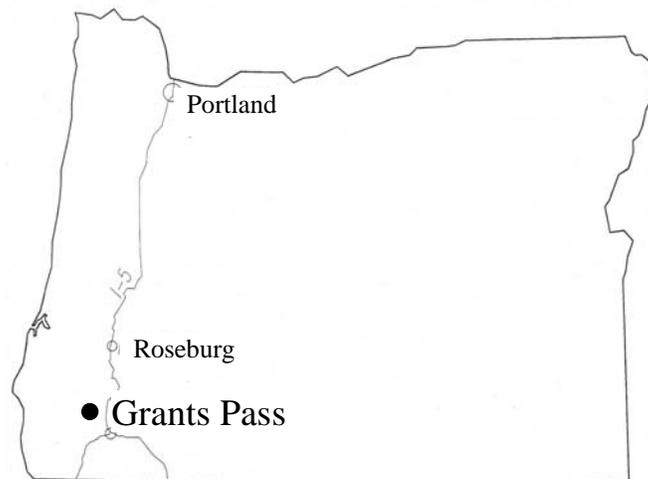
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Total employment in Josephine County continued to grow during 2006, with 1,385 jobs added. Increases in the construction trades, transportation, and utility sectors were slightly hampered by declines in education and health services and local government ending the fiscal year at a 6.1% unemployment rate. In the past two years, the County has added 1,708 new jobs at a rate of 5.3%. The county has seen broad based job gains in a variety of sectors, proving the benefits of a diversified local economy. Josephine County's annual average unemployment rate has been decreasing since the early-mid 1990's when it was close to 10 percent, falling to 7.1 percent in 2005. The labor force has increased 27 percent from 1999 to 2006, growing by more than 7,350 and bringing the total to 34,000 by June, 2006.

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 December, 2005 a 12,000 square foot natural food market, Gooseberries, opened at the Parkway Village shopping center, a new 60,300 square foot facility located off the Parkway. Hellgate Jetboat Excursions opened a new second story, a 4,000 square foot showroom space featuring upscale gifts and home décor items, in the spring of 2006. Several new restaurants, both locally owned and national franchises, have opened in the area. Ross, a national clothing store, broke ground in April, 2007 on a 39,000 square foot retail building. A 27,000 square foot complex of 18 possible retail spaces, called Deardorff Corners, had a ground breaking in November, 2006. Its first tenant is expected to open in June. Another complex, Terry Lane Center, is proposed for 16 retail units totaling 18,000 square feet.

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 5,689 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 2005	39.92"	

Education:

Grants Pass School District #7 (01/04)	
Attendance centers	10
Student/Teacher ratio	24:1
Total enrollment	5,689

Population:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>% Increase</u>
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 2005):

Registered voters	17,531
Ballots cast	11,487
Percentage voted	65.52%

Fire Protection:

Stations	2
Employees	18
Interns	6

Taxes:

Sales tax	None
Consolidated property tax rate (per \$1,000 assessed value)	\$14.02

Police Protection:

Employees (sworn)	43
Volunteers (Auxiliary)	28
Volunteer hours 2006	2,500

Assessed Property Value:

(In thousands of dollars)	
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	15
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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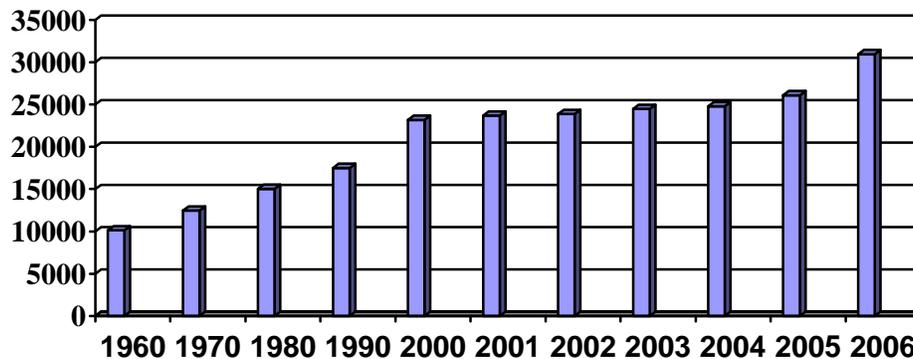
Mortgage:

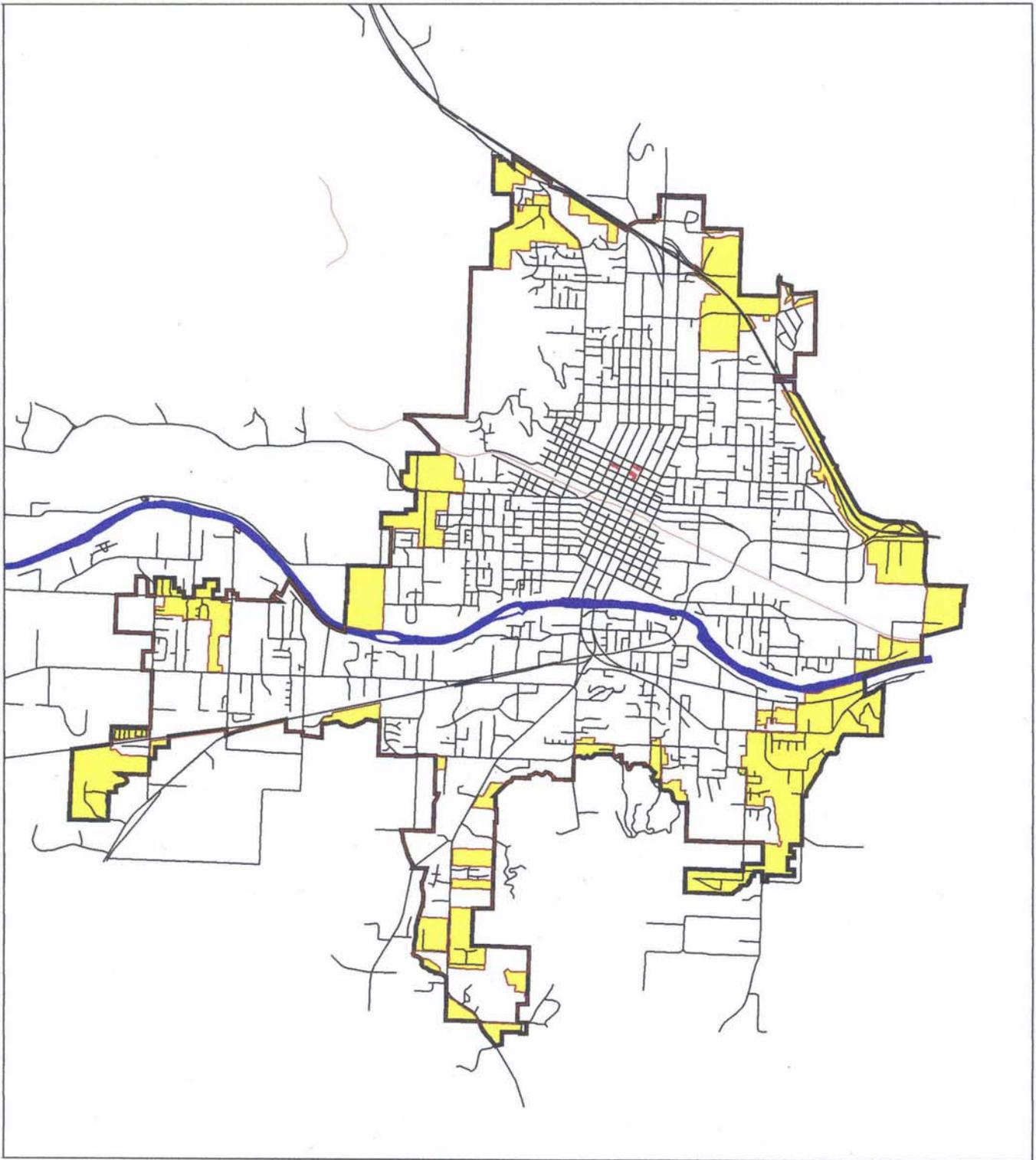
Median Monthly Owner Costs	\$861
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Gross Rent:

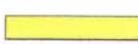
Median Gross Rent	\$531
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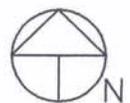
Population Growth





LEGEND

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



1" = 5000'

WHERE THE ROGUE RIVER RUNS



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