



GP Now

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July 2021

Grants Pass, OR FREE

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Art Along The Rogue Will Return in October

The popular community event will occur in downtown Grants Pass Oct. 1-3.

The City of Grants Pass Committee on Public Art (CoPA) will present the 2021 Art Along The Rogue Oct. 1-3, as the popular event returns to Grants Pass after having to be cancelled last year due to COVID restrictions.

At their June 28 workshop, the Grants Pass City Council voiced unanimous support for the return of the event under the CoPA umbrella and committed to providing partial financial sponsorship of the event with a minimum of \$10,000.

A subcommittee of members of CoPA has been delegated by committee Chair Sulaiha McDougall to serve as administrators of the event. The Art Along The Rogue Committee will soon be seeking additional sponsors and volunteers to help support and facilitate planned activities.

City Manager Aaron Cubic has assigned Information Coordinator Steven Sabel to work with committee members as their city staff point of contact. Sabel assisted the city with co-



ordinating last year's Holiday Plaza festivities in downtown.

This year's Art Along The Rogue event is expected to include many of the features and attractions that have made the traditional event so popular with local residents, including sponsored chalk artists, local street artists, and chalk art squares available to the public for demonstrating their own skills.

In addition, event organizers hope to open the event to other forms of art displays and interactive activities, such as plein

air painting, watercolor painting, jewelry making, pottery, sculptures, music, dance, and spoken word performances.

Additional information will soon be available at www.artalongtherogue.com. Potential sponsors, volunteers, and vendors can contact Sabel at (541)450-6011.

"Every child is an artist. The problem is how to remain an artist once we grow up."

– Pablo Picasso

Final Steps in Works for Skate Park RFP

The Skate Park rehab project is expected to cost between \$80,000 and \$100,000.

The City of Grants Pass Parks Division is busy completing the final steps to issue a request for proposals to rehabilitate the city's Skate Park.

The Parks Division has been working for several months to assess the necessary repairs, compose a scope of work, seek input from other cities with similar issues, and identify contractors with the specific qualifications required to complete this very specialized work.

"Most people don't understand the steps that are required to perform this kind of work, including specialized materials and scope," said Parks Superintendent Wendy Giordano.

After completing an engineering assessment and evaluation of the needed repairs at the park, Giordano's team reached out to the City of Hillsboro to obtain information about repair work their city recently completed at their Reedville Creek Skate Park.

Giordano and Assistant Public Works Director Wade Elliott determined the Grants Pass Skate Park required a very

similar scope of work to that of the Hillsboro park. An informal request for quotes was issued to multiple specialized companies to determine the financial range required to complete the work.

"It is very specialized work, and we are looking at potentially an \$80,000 to \$100,000 project," said Giordano.

That cost range requires the city to issue a formal request for proposals and follow proper, legal bidding processes to identify and select a qualified contractor.

"As stewards of taxpayer funding, it is our duty to make sure the repairs are completed properly and will last as long as possible," Giordano said.

Elliott said the process could be ready for issuing proposals and selecting a contractor as early as this fall. It is likely the work could begin in the spring of 2022. The location of the park suffers from high groundwater issues, making it impossible to conduct the work during the rainy months of the year.

The repair process includes cleaning and grinding of the surfaces before installation of special tubes used to pressure inject special repair materials into trouble spots. The tubes are then cut off at the surface, and the hardened material is sanded (See "SKATE" page 5)

www.GrantsPassOregon.gov

Conduct a Citizen Alert Wellness Check

Josephine County Emergency Management encourages local residents to conduct a Citizen Alert wellness check.

Citizen Alert is the county's emergency notification system used when emergencies happen to help notify residents of important information.

Creating a profile at the online system takes less than 10 minutes. Residents are encouraged to ensure that each mem-

ber of their household managing their own mobile device has their own profile.

Residents with existing profiles can change or update their password from the login page.

Members should also be sure their information is updated, including address, mobile phone number, work phone number and other pertinent information.

Make sure your address geocodes to the correct location on the map.

Users can also enter more than one address, including a family member's home, work address, or another property they may own.

Each user should make sure they have filled in their SMS text number field in order to receive instant text messages about emergency alerts.

Accurate email addresses are

also important in case of interrupted cellular service.

Users are encouraged to provide at least two different forms of contact.

Citizen Alert is also served by the Everbridge mobile application, which users can download to their mobile devices and select to receive push notifications to the app.

Members can also use the app to update their information, and see a history of notifications sent.

Visit: <https://member.everbridge.net/1332612387832182/login>

Anyone with questions or seeking additional information can call Josephine County Emergency Management at (541)474-5300 or email: em@josephinecounty.gov.



Use this QR Code to access the Citizen Alert login page to conduct your Citizen Alert wellness check today!



“Success depends upon previous preparation, and without such preparation, there is sure to be failure.”
– Confucius

Contacting The Council

The mayor and councilors are volunteers and do not keep regular office hours. They can be contacted by:

Phone, email, or by regular mail at 101 NW A Street, Grants Pass, OR 97526.

The City Council appreciates hearing from citizens. Your questions are handled as follows:

Questions sent by email that are technical in nature will receive a direct response from staff.

Questions regarding policy decisions will be referred to Council for their consideration and response. The mayor and council members can be emailed collectively at: mayorcouncil@grantspassoregon.gov.

Council will only respond to emails with a disclosed name and address.

Please note that all emails become a part of the public record.

City Hall

Administration:

541-450-6000

Utility Billing:

541-450-6035

Community Development:

541-450-6060

Parks:

541-450-6060

Public Works:

541-450-6110

GP Now

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www.GrantsPassOregon.gov

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City Council Meetings

1st & 3rd Wednesdays at 6 pm

in the City Council Chambers, 101 NW A Street

City Council Workshops

typically held Mondays at 11:45 am

(Holidays will alter this schedule)

Any televised meetings are on Charter Cable Channel 183 and stream live on our website

Listen live to City Councilors & staff on KAJO (1270 AM) the 1st and 2nd Tuesdays each month at 9:30 am

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TYPO TALLY!

A wise old editor once said: “Typos are here for those who won't be happy until they find one.”

Thousands of words composed of thousands of letters means we are bound to get a few out of place. Let us know when you find them!

We didn't hear from anyone about any typos in the June issue.

Can you find any typos in this July issue?

Email us to let us know, and we'll thank you in print right here in the next issue!
ssabel@grantspassoregon.gov

City Voice Response System Now Online

The City of Grants Pass Customer Service and Utility Billing Department's Interactive Voice Response (IVR) system came completely online June 30.

Utility customers are encouraged to update their information in the system in case of the need for notification.

IVR systems are designed to route customer calls to the correct person or department, and generally provide automated call assistance.

They can also be used to take payments over the phone and provide important additional

information to customers when necessary.

"The implementation of this system will allow us to get important notices to customers via a calling campaign," said Customer Service Supervisor Kimberly Gasperson.

"Please make sure that your information is up to date so that should we need to notify you the system will have the correct contact information," she said.

For additional information, call the Customer Service and Utility Billing Department at (541)450-6035.

Economic Development Committee Vacancies

Applications are being accepted for two positions on the Collaborative Economic Development Committee (CEDC) due to expiring terms. These are three-year appointments.

The CEDC is an advisory committee to the City of Grants Pass and Josephine County responsible for the implementation of the joint Economic Development Strategic Plan adopted by the Grants Pass City Council and Josephine County Board of Commissioners.

The Economic Development Strategic Plan can be found on the city website: <https://www.grantspassoregon.gov/1103/Economic-Development-Strategic-Plan>

Target areas include services, infrastructure, and workforce development topics. All

members of the CEDC must be at least 18 years of age and reside within the boundaries of Josephine County.

The open positions seek members with special qualifications in manufacturing/industrial work and finance/commercial lending/real estate. Residents in these fields are encouraged to apply.

Applications are available at the City Administration Office, 101 N.W. A St., or online at www.grantspassoregon.gov/committee-application. Applications must be received no later than 5 p.m. Friday, July 16. Applications will be reviewed by the committee, Thursday, July 22. Appointments will be made by the city council at their meeting Wednesday, Aug. 4.

Council Community Connection

Join members of the Grants Pass City Council for discussion and conversation about various city programs, agenda items, and other issues of public interest at Council Community Connection events 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. on select Fridays each month.

Each Council Community Connection session will feature two city councilors who will be available to answer questions, receive comments, and exchange ideas with members of the public.

The next event is July 16 at the City Hall Ridge Room #108, 101 NW A St. Refreshments will be served.

For more information, visit the city's website: <https://www.grantspassoregon.gov>.

Housing Policy & Code Updates Survey Results

Results of a public survey conducted by the City of Grants Pass Community Development Department regarding housing policies and code updates are now available at the city's website for public review.

The 13-question survey asked members of the public to provide feedback to the department on issues such as land use, lot sizes, and parking requirements.

Members of city staff and members of the city's Housing Advisory Committee will

now review the survey results to glean public perceptions and preferences regarding housing policies and potential future changes to development codes aimed at addressing the city's housing needs.

To access the survey results, members of the public can use the following link:

<https://bit.ly/35HSKBe>

For additional information, contact the Community Development Department: (541)450-6060.

2021 Citizen's Public Safety Academy

The Grants Pass Department of Public Safety will be conducting its 30th annual Citizen's Public Safety Academy beginning Tuesday, Aug. 24.

This 12-week academy is designed to educate the public about the Grants Pass Department of Public Safety and to involve citizens in an interactive opportunity.

The academy will provide instruction in department history, the hiring process, community policing, details of the police and fire departments, fire rescue, fire prevention, fire size-up and fire spread, criminal law, search and seizure, arrest procedures, ethics, community service officers, gang and youth related issues, extrication and airbag rescue systems, patrol procedures, traffic enforcement,

firearms, pursuits, high-risk vehicle stops, defensive tactics, crime scene investigations, officer survival, crime prevention, drug and alcohol enforcement, dispatch, K-9 units, fire extinguishers, fire attack, emergency medical services, drones, crime scene processing, technical rescue, auxiliary volunteers, polygraph, hostage negotiations, and more.

Citizens interested in attending the academy should live in, work in, or be a current student within the City of Grants Pass.

All interested citizens must complete an application, pass a criminal background check, agree to participate in at least nine of the 12 sessions, and be at least 18 years of age with a valid driver's license.

Applications are due by 5

p.m. Aug. 6.

Applications can be picked up at all Grants Pass Department of Public Safety locations, or may be completed online at: <https://bit.ly/3yYxjJB>.

Academy sessions will be held 6-9:30 p.m. Tuesdays, Aug. 24 through Nov. 2. Graduation will be held Tuesday, Nov. 9.

Four optional Saturday classes will be held Sept. 11, Oct. 2, Oct. 16, and Nov. 6.

Classes will be held at the Grants Pass Public Safety Center, Hillcrest Public Safety Station, or Parkway Public Safety Center. Dinner and beverages will be provided at each class.

For additional information, contact Sgt. Ken Frownfelter at (541)450-6322, or Kelly Busch at (451)450-6200.

LIVE! ON THE AIR

Listen live to city council members and city staff discussing local issues on KAJO 1270 AM radio, 9:30 a.m. the 1st and 2nd Tuesdays of every month.

You can also call in during the live broadcast to speak directly to council or staff on the air.

Rising Star of Tourism

Information Coordinator Steven Sabel was honored by the state for achievement.

City of Grants Pass Information Coordinator Steven Sabel was recently honored by the state of Oregon with a 2020 Travel and Tourism Industry Achievement Award as the Rising Star of the Southern Oregon region.

The award was presented to Sabel at the annual Governor's Conference on Tourism in Portland June 15.

The Rising Star Award is presented to individuals who have shown "leadership, commitment, and a passion for Oregon's tourism industry," said Travel Oregon CEO Todd Davidson.

Sabel, who has an extensive background in public relations and marketing, was asked to assist the city with maintaining active tourism promotion activities beginning July 1, 2020, after the city's destination marketing contractor resigned.

Over the past year, he has been operating the tourism promotions division while the city has pursued supporting the creation of a new, nonprofit destination marketing organization.

"Steven accepted the challenge," said Petra Hackworth, vice president of Global Sales for Travel Oregon.

Hackworth said Sabel was selected for the Tourism Achievement Award for demonstrating excellence in tourism marketing through a global pandemic that imposed unprecedented challenges.

"He helped overhaul the Travel Grants Pass website, established a consistent brand,



TRAVEL OREGON CEO TODD DAVIDSON, INFORMATION COORDINATOR STEVEN SABEL, AND OREGON TRAVEL COMMISSION CHAIR SCOTT YOUNGBLOOD AT THE ANNUAL GOVERNOR'S CONFERENCE ON TOURISM.

instituted social media campaigns, and devised promotional campaigns to support the city's Welcome Center," said Hackworth.

"His efforts have led to unprecedented web exposure and traffic, and increased visitation," she said.

Sabel was one of seven Rising Star Award recipients. Each award-winner represented a different Oregon state tourism region.

"I am honored and humbled to be recognized and included in the company of the other rising stars throughout the state."

"I am honored and humbled to be recognized and included in the company of the other rising stars throughout the state," said Sabel.

In accepting his award, Sabel thanked City Manager Aaron Cubic and City Recorder Karen Frerk for trusting in his experience and abilities to fulfill the

needs of the tourism operations division over the past year. He also thanked his colleagues in various divisions and departments at City Hall who have supported tourism promotion activities, as well as the employees of the downtown Welcome Center.

"They are truly the frontline of Travel Grants Pass," Sabel said.

Sabel also brought attention to the local content contributors and creators who helped generate content for use across the Travel Grants Pass website and social media platforms, and he thanked local Grants Pass businesses and their employees for staying open "as much as possible, whenever possible throughout changing restrictions and conditions all year long."

"They truly have made Grants Pass what Expedia calls one of the 20 friendliest cities in America," said Sabel.

"It has been my great pleasure to be the representative of Travel Grants Pass and the Grants Pass community as the true hub of Southern Oregon," he said.

Artists Wanted For Art Box Project

The City of Grants Pass in partnership with Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) seeks artists interested in submitting artwork to be used as part of a community beautification project that will feature local art on utility boxes in the city.

Interested artists must submit proposed artwork to the city by Aug. 5 for consideration. Proposals will be reviewed by the city's Committee on Public Art for recommendation to the city council and ODOT for final approval. Selected artists will receive a \$250 stipend.

Artists shall provide existing artwork that can be converted to a vinyl wrap or produce color renditions of proposed art to be painted directly on the utility box by the artist. The painting process will require more coordination with ODOT and the artist.

If the painting method is chosen, the artist will coordinate with a city representative and receive appropriate paint materials provided by the city.

The artwork should focus on nature-based elements and enliven the area, transform the street, and reflect the neighborhood or area where the utility box is located. The art should

be visible from a distance, therefore artists may choose to utilize bold colors and designs. Artists may submit more than one concept.

Full application details and art specifications can be found at the city's website: <https://bit.ly/3gMD6uB>

For additional information contact Business Advocate Susan Seereiter at (541)450-6014, or by email: sseereiter@grants-passoregon.gov.

Sign Up For Digital News

Members of the public who wish to be notified about breaking city news, can join the city's email subscriber list, where preferences regarding the receipt of notices can be personalized by each recipient.

Choose to receive information regarding COVID updates, street closures, public safety information, street sweeping, burn windows, city agendas, job postings, press releases, committee openings, public forums, community surveys, requests for proposals, and so much more!

All past and current city newsletters dating back to 2017 are available at the city's website, where new issues will also be posted each month: <https://www.grantspassoregon.gov/604/City-Newsletters>.

Members of the public who wish to be notified when new issues of GP Now are available at the website, can also join the city's email subscriber list:

<https://www.grantspassoregon.gov/list.aspx>

DID YOU KNOW?

The Grants Pass City Website is home to multiple interactive maps you can use to take a park tour, a tree tour, public art tour, locate bikeways & walkways, and so much more! <https://bit.ly/2N1Pz1r>

Hazardous Fuel Reduction Work at Dollar Mountain

Hazardous fuel reduction work will continue at Dollar Mountain this week as crews begin thinning out dense underbrush and cutting lower limbs off trees.

The work began June 29 and continues through July 15. General work hours may fluctuate and occur as early as 5 a.m. on some days.

The work is being conducted through a grant obtained by the city's Firewise Coordinator Rick McClintock in coordination with Tyler Averyt and the Oregon Department of Forestry. The \$438,000 grant was the largest awarded in the state through the ODF program.

Averyt will work in coordination with contractors to complete the work. The material will be gathered in piles to dry out over the summer and then safely burned during the winter months.

For additional information, contact McClintock at (541)450-6212.



GRANTS PASS SKATE PARK.

Illegal Skate Park Install Caused Closure

The City of Grants Pass Parks Division was obligated to close the city's Skate Park for a few days at the end of June due to necessary repairs caused by the unauthorized installation of unapproved structures. City staff discovered the cinder block and concrete structures June 28.

The unapproved structures presented a potential hazard to Skate Park users and were not covered under the city's liability policies. The park remained closed for four days, until city staff was able to procure a local contractor to safely remove the structures and restore the park to its approved condition.

The structures were cemented into place and had to be dismantled with sledgehammers

and concrete tools in order to return the location to proper distance requirements for the safe operation of the park. The park was specifically designed and engineered to meet safety standards and liability requirements.

Unapproved alterations or installations to or on city property are against the law. Violators can be charged with a crime and made responsible for covering the costs of removal and/or repairs.

Anyone with information regarding the unapproved installation at the city's Skate Park is encouraged to contact the city's Parks Division at (541)450-6161.

Caveman Pool Potential Intermittent Closures

The City of Grants Pass would like to alert residents to potential intermittent closures of Caveman Pool operations.

The Grants Pass YMCA, which operates the pool for the city, continues to struggle to find lifeguards to staff the pool.

In addition to the staffing shortage, a recent shutdown of a major chlorine chemical plant in Washington state has caused a chlorine chemical shortage across the West Coast. Required

muriatic acid is also becoming harder to come by at this time.

City staff is working diligently to procure more of the required chemicals to keep the pool operational, but residents should be aware that there may be intermittent closures of the pool.

"Our swimmers' safety is our highest priority and we know that with this heat many people are looking forward to cooling off at the pool," said Parks Su-

perintendent Wendy Giordano.

"I encourage people to take advantage of our spray parks at Riverside and Morrison Parks," she said.

For additional information about pool operating hours and days, please contact the Grants Pass YMCA.

Anyone interested in applying to become a Caveman Pool lifeguard, should also contact the YMCA: (541)474-0001.

Skate...(from page 1)

smooth.

A portion of the scope of work includes a special sealant to protect the surfaces, as well as training of city staff on how to apply the sealant under recommendations the surfaces receive a new coat of sealant every year.

Take A Tree Walk
Use this interactive map at the city's website to take a Tree Walk through 77 specimens at historic Riverside Park:
<https://bit.ly/3rwMZPX>

Seeking a New Career?

The City of Grants Pass is a High Performance Organization that has well-defined Mission, Vision and Values providing the framework for our organizational culture. We believe that the best solutions come from empowered teams with the knowledge and shared vision of the community's goals.

We promote a legacy of excellence through a culture of trust, collaboration, and encouragement of personal growth and the celebration of our achievements. We seek to attract adaptable, creative and motivated individuals who share our community pride and dedication to exceptional public service.

Apply Online Today!

<https://www.governmentjobs.com/careers/grantspassor>

Planning Manager Opening

The city is seeking a planning manager (classification title: principal planner) to lead the Planning Division within the Community Development Department.

This position will oversee a \$1.2M division budget, six staff, and current and long-range planning in the city, including development and updates for all land use programs, complex planning projects, the Comprehensive Plan, and Development Code.

The planning manager will serve as staff liaison to the Ur-

ban Area Planning Commission and oversee staffing of the Housing Advisory Committee and Historical Buildings and Sites Commission.

Additionally, this position will direct consultants and oversee their projects, review and present staff reports, connect with other regional partners, and keep informed of legislative changes that may impact planning and land use in the State of Oregon.

The ideal candidate will demonstrate a high level of emotional intelligence and po-

litical savvy, effectively lead and develop staff, break down silos and work effectively across other departments and divisions, keep informed of and apply for appropriate grants, leverage resources and technology to continue to improve processes and efficiencies, and engage the community to ensure they are informed on what is happening within their community and neighborhoods.

Desired qualifications include Oregon planning experience.

Minimum qualifications include a high school diploma or GED, and one year of general office experience; or an equivalent combination of education and experience sufficient to successfully perform the essential duties of the job such as those listed in the job description.

Licensing requirements include Law Enforcement Data System Certificate within 30 days of appointment and Typing Certificate of 40 words per minute with a minimum 95 percent accuracy.

Computer Services Tech

The city is seeking a dynamic, customer service-driven professional to join our Information Technology Team.

Job duties for this position include hardware and software installation, maintain equipment, troubleshoot and solve internal customer computer problems, resolve equipment and application problems in consultation with other IT professionals, maintain the VoIP system, and

provide network security.

Minimum qualifications include an associate's degree in computer science or a related field and three years of IT support experience in a networked environment; or an equivalent combination of education and experience sufficient to successfully perform the essential duties of the job such as those listed in the job description.

Lateral Police Officers

We are seeking lateral police officer candidates to join our Department of Public Safety.

Minimum Qualifications: Graduation from high school or GED and one year of work experience; or an equivalent combination of education and experience sufficient to perform the essential duties of the job.

Must be 21 years of age at time of hire. Must meet physical standards as set by the Department of Public Safety on Standards and Training (DPSST).

Current certified police officer in Oregon or another state with reciprocity is also required.

Application materials must be turned in by the closing date in order to be considered for this position. Any application missing required materials will not be considered.

The ranking and selection of applicants to proceed in the process for our Public Safety Department includes: experience, education, responses to supplemental questionnaire, and meeting minimum qualifications of the position.

Reasonable accommodations may be made upon request prior to the application deadline to enable individuals with disabilities to participate in the job application process.

The city's Veterans' Preference Form is available on the city's website and you may attach veteran's preference documentation to your application.

Applications open until filled.



Public Safety Records Specialist

The city's Public Safety Department is seeking a dynamic customer service individual to join the Records Division. This position provides administrative/clerical support to the Public Safety Department and non-emergency call taking for citizens.

This position is responsible for non-emergency police support services including administration of records and customer service. Duties include public counter and telephone customer service, data entry, review and maintenance of records,

electronically routing and filing records and reports, records checks, processing warrants and sealed records, and other general office support activities.

The position works varied shifts from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m., 7 days a week, including weekends and holidays.

Upon successful completion of application review, those invited to move forward will complete a written examination on July 22 or Aug. 10; observe the position Aug. 11-13; and interview Aug. 17.

**Apply
Online
Today!**
<https://www.governmentjobs.com/careers/grantspassor>

Work Begins at Replacement Water Treatment Plant Site

By Lisa Beutler
Special to GP Now

Take a quick drive down J Street to check out the activity underway at the site of the city's Replacement Water Treatment Plant (RWTP).

Slayden Construction Group out of Stayton, Oregon, is leading the cleanup job and making progress. Their work includes demolition, clearing, and site clean-up. They are also establishing stormwater controls, erecting security fencing, and creating site access controls.

Slayden is a regional contractor. Some of their recent projects are in Lake Oswego, Forest Grove, and Portland. They've also completed quite a bit of work in Medford.

For this project they've been reaching out to Grants Pass businesses and suppliers to participate. They expect to wrap up the cleanup effort by September. Their efforts will provide a clean slate at the site for the next construction phase.

Another key milestone of the project was checked off with the release of a Request for Proposals and the bidding for a progressive design-build team is underway. The selected team will complete the plant design and lead construction of the RWTP.

Design-build contracting is the fastest growing and most popular method used to deliver construction projects in America.

Progressive design-build is a step-by-step form of design-build contracting. Some of its features make it particularly attractive for the RWTP project. According to the Design-Build Institute of America (DBIA),

progressive design-build allows the design and construction team to collaborate from the earliest stages of project development to the final project completion.

DBIA lists a number of benefits to this approach. They found it typically results in better pricing, and with just one contract, the design-builder assumes the project risks. This facilitates better cost controls and enhances the opportunities for local subcontractors and suppliers.

A high degree of ongoing communications and streamlined decision making also makes it easier to stay on schedule, and expedite parts of the project, if necessary. The contracting format also reduces city administrative costs and supports better quality control.

Four well-known contractor-led teams are in the city's final selection process. After a rigorous proposal and qualification evaluation, each team interviewed June 25.

Key selection criteria include cost, overall qualifications, and experience in constructing lake or river-fed water treatment plants of a similar size.

The bid reviewers also assessed each team's commitment to the community and local workforce. Prior to even submitting their proposals, several bidders reached out to the community to find ways to utilize local resources.

Altogether, around 75-100 good-paying local jobs are expected to be available during the project.

After the design-build team is selected, the city will complete the contracting process. This will then launch the design

and cost development for the new plant sometime in September. This phase includes final selection of a preferred treatment technology and capacity.

Once the selections for technology and capacity are made, a detailed design will be completed.

Plans for plant construction, pipeline installations and improvements to the source water intake are scheduled to begin in 2023. The goal is for all construction to be completed in 2025, and the RWTP is scheduled for full commissioning in the first half of 2026.

"It is exciting to see progress on this long-awaited project. The city has an incredible water legacy," said Public Works Director Jason Canady.

"This is one more contribution to that legacy. To be able to do work that will benefit future generations is something the entire water utility team finds gratifying," he said.

The Dollar Value of Water

Consider the value of water in comparison to the average cost of other household services.

The average Grants Pass Utilities bill is \$76.

Water unit charges account for approximately \$26 of each monthly bill.

The average monthly trash collection bill in Grants Pass is \$35 per month.

The average monthly electric bill is \$99 per month.

The average monthly fee for Cable TV and internet access is \$144.

New "Do Not Flush" Law Will Result in City Savings

A new Oregon law will result in financial savings for the City of Grants Pass and municipalities across the state. House Bill 2344, approved by lawmakers and signed this week by Governor Kate Brown, will require "Do Not Flush" labels on all disposable wipes sold in the state.

Grants Pass is just one of many cities in Oregon and across the country that has suffered costly repairs and committed untold labor hours as a result of so-called "flushable wipes" clogging wastewater collection systems.

This past year, the ongoing problem worsened due to pandemic conditions which saw an increase in the public's use of disposable wipes.

The new law will take effect in July of 2022, giving manufacturers and retailers time to properly prepare for the new labeling requirement.

Once in effect, the new measure calls upon local governments to first issue a written warning to retailers if they sell the wipes without the new label, followed by a series of potential fines of up to \$10,000.

Grants Pass city officials remind residents to do their part as well in preventing the costly clogs that result from flushing improper materials into the wastewater system.

City employees regularly find wipes, diapers, sanitary napkins, and other inappropriate items in wastewater pipes, pumps, and water restoration plant filters and equipment.

Grants Pass
LIVE ROGUE
Oregon

DON'T TRASH WHERE WE SPLASH!

Our local rivers are our community's greatest assets, and the City of Grants Pass is committed to protecting our natural resources. Keep our rivers clean.

#LiveRogue
#KeepItClean

grantspassoregon.gov