



City of Grants Pass Urban Renewal Agency Owl Plaza Pilot Program (August 14, 2026 – February 14, 2027)

Purpose

Owl Plaza is a hybrid off-street parking and outdoor gathering space in the heart of downtown Grants Pass that supports community and economic vitality. The City of Grants Pass Urban Renewal Agency (GPURA) funded its construction as part of the Urban Renewal Plan (Goal 3, Objective 5 and Project 15) to provide and improve public amenities and create an attractive environment for residents while also providing an environment that supports existing and new businesses. With an emphasis on walkability, the plaza complements, protects, and promotes the continued growth and vitality of downtown.

The purpose of the Owl Plaza Pilot Program is to establish guiding standards and procedures for its use for a period of 6 months beginning August 14, 2026 and ending February 14, 2027. Throughout the week from sunrise to 5:00pm, the space will continue to provide off-street public parking. However, with proper scheduling and notice, the space may be transformed and used for community events and activities. Following the pilot, GPURA will evaluate the program and determine if changes are needed before formalizing a long-term use policy.

Plaza Amenities

Whether the use is parking or event space, the Owl Plaza offers attractive amenities to welcome and engage the community. Large shade sails and trees provide shade throughout, benches provide seating along the perimeter, and bike racks accommodate bicyclists. The curb-less design creates an accessible, walkable footprint for expanded event space. It is easily convertible for street closures with removable safety bollards that protect and manage pedestrian flows. Electrical service (150-amp) via three outlets is available for event use.

Owl Plaza Event Footprints and Limits

Two footprints for events in Owl Plaza are available. Tier 1 is a smaller event space and includes closure of the parking lot space only. Tier 2 is a larger event space and includes closure of both the parking lot space and 5th Street between G and H Street. Tier 2 also includes closure of the commerce alley on the west side of 5th Street and the east side of the Owl Plaza. During the pilot program, there will be a limit of 12 events allowed. Each footprint, Tier 1 and Tier 2, will allow up to 6 events within the 6-month pilot program, with the exception of Main Street Grants Pass's First Friday events, which are exempted from the event cap.

Tier 1
Parking Lot Only



Tier 2
Parking Lot + 5th between G & H



Fee Schedule

Set fees are established for Tier 1 and Tier 2. Space can be rented for a partial day after 5:00pm on weekdays or on a per day rate. Neither Tier 1 or Tier 2 can be rented for a partial day before 5:00pm on weekdays in order to preserve off-street parking spaces for local businesses. No fee waivers will be considered during the pilot program.

Category	Use Fee
Tier 1 - Half Day	\$160 / 5pm-10pm
Tier 1 - Full Day	\$350 / 8am-10pm
Tier 2 - Half Day	\$280 / 5pm-10pm
Tier 2 – Full Day	\$500 / 8am-10pm
Refundable Deposit	\$250 flat fee
Electricity	\$25 flat fee

Pilot Program Use Policy

The following list of restrictions are conditions required for the use of Owl Plaza. Please ensure that your event meets these requirements prior to making an application / reservation.

- ☐ Demonstrate that adequate safety, first aid, sanitation, and waste disposal facilities have been obtained. Depending on the size of the event, an applicant may require traffic control services, portable toilets, and trash receptacles.
- ☐ Provide proof of insurance and name City as an additional insured. The insurance requirement shall be set by the City Manager during the application review process.

- ☐ If alcoholic beverages are available at other than regularly licensed and permanently located establishments, the applicant shall be required to obtain required federal, state, or local permits or licenses and additional insurance to that otherwise required. Local permits for alcohol service and consumption within the plaza require City Council approval.
- ☐ Advance notice to neighboring landowners and businesses within 1 block in each direction must be provided by the event applicant. For Tier 1 events, an applicant must provide 30-day advance notice. For Tier 2 events, an applicant must provide 45-day advance notice. Event organizers must provide notice via text, mail, email and in-person communications, where contact information is available and reliable. City staff will provide an opt-in contact list, but notice is required to all properties within a 1 block radius. See attached notice map.
- ☐ Notice of public parking lot and street closures must be posted onsite 48-hours prior to the start of the event. A notice template will be provided upon approval.
- ☐ Tier 2 event organizers will be responsible for installing city-provided bollards to close 5th Street and the commerce alley. A liability waiver must be signed.
- ☐ Plaza space and the public right-of-way must be cleaned and returned to pre-event conditions by 9:00am the following day.
- ☐ Set-up and clean-up times are included in the established time blocks in the fee schedule.
- ☐ Amplified sound systems are allowed between 10:00am-10:00pm.
- ☐ For Tier 2 events only, a maximum of 2 food trucks is allowed. Food trucks are not permitted to park under the shade sails.

Surface Protection Requirements:

- ☐ No ground staking. Pop-ups and other temporary structures must be secured with weighting systems.
- ☐ Grease mats are required in cooking and serving areas.
- ☐ Only non-residue adhesives can be used (e.g. gaffer's tape).

Application and Approval Process:

Applications / reservations can be made by calling the City Parks and Recreation Program Coordinator, 541-471-6435. Tier 1 applications must be made no later than 60 days prior to the scheduled event. Tier 2 applications must be made no later than 75 days prior to the scheduled event. City staff have 30 calendar days to process the request and will inform applicants of the status of their application within 30 days.

Data Tracking:

City staff will provide a follow-up survey to the event coordinator to help collect data about Owl Plaza use during the pilot program. Neighboring property and business owners will also have the opportunity to provide feedback. City staff may use other data tools to assess event numbers, business attraction, and other impacts of event activity.