

## Living in Cottage Grove

The first experience most new-comers to Cottage Grove have is that people they don't yet know will look them in the eye and speak with them on the street. The next observation is the recognition of the quality and diversity of the people that have chosen to settle here. Because the area is so attractive, individuals and families from all over the country have been drawn to the community. From laborers to professionals to artisans, many of these individuals boast accomplished careers and represent a cross-section of the United States in microcosm. In Cottage Grove you'll find people compatible with you, your business and your family.

Maintaining a high quality of life is essential to the community of Cottage Grove. This is reflected in features such as a local Growers Market, art galleries, Concerts in the Park, numerous neighborhood parks, a 16-mile paved bicycle trail into the mountains, festivals unique to our town and history, historic downtown, and a series of public murals. It is certainly noteworthy that Cottage Grove is the only city in Lane County and one of a small percentage of cities nationwide to twice be awarded the status of All America City. In 2014, Cottage Grove was additionally recognized an Oregon Heritage All-Star Community.

## Location

Cottage Grove is in the middle of Western Oregon at the southern tip of the Willamette Valley. It is at the center of the Oregon market (population of 4,256,350) as well as at the center of the fast growing Northern California-Pacific Northwest region. Located on the region's major north-south interstate highway (Interstate 5), Cottage Grove has a direct link to the main west coast rail network and is within 90 miles of a major seaport. Oregon's three major population centers are located within 125 miles. Cottage Grove enjoys an excellent position to take advantage of future economic growth.

## Population

The Cottage Grove market area consists of the City of Cottage Grove, adjacent unincorporated areas of southern Lane County, and parts of northern Douglas County. The city's population is 10,005, making it the third largest city in Lane County. With the combined populations of the surrounding areas, the total population in the immediate labor market area is over 35,000.

## Statistics

### *Population*

Cottage Grove.....	10,657 (2021)
Lane County.....	389,103(2021)

### *Income (per capita)*

Cottage Grove.....	\$22,943
Lane County.....	\$29,705

### *Income (median family)*

Cottage Grove.....	\$47,752
Lane County.....	\$52,426

### *% with 4-Year College Degree*

Cottage Grove.....	18%
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## Climate

Cottage Grove's climate is largely controlled by maritime air from the Pacific Ocean and periods of extremely hot or cold weather are usually short lived. The average high temperature in July and August is 83 degrees. Average low temperatures on summer nights are in the 50s. The coldest month is January, with an average low of 35 degrees and highs in the 40s. Cottage Grove's elevation of 641 feet and our mild weather gives us an average of 268 frost-free days each year and an average of 269 sunny days. Annual precipitation is 46 inches of rain.

Oregon has a reputation for heavy rain, but Cottage Grove's annual rainfall is actually the same as in the Great Lakes, northeastern and New England States, and less than is typically found in the southeastern states. There are almost no thunderstorms, and rain tends to be gentle enough not to disrupt most outdoor activities. In winter, early morning fog and overcast skies are common. Summers are sunny and dry, with rain on only three or four days in July and August. Snow is rare, but the nearby mountains accumulate a snowpack that enhances the view from the city and provides winter recreation areas close at hand.

## Get Involved

All of the major service clubs, fraternal organizations and veterans' groups are active in Cottage Grove. There are also more than 30 churches, representing a broad range of denominations. Following is a partial list of organizations and meeting dates:

American Legion		
1st Tuesday	7:30PM	541-942-5991

American Veterans of Foreign Wars		
1st Saturday	3:00PM	541-942-7099
Bohemia Sunrisers Kiwanis		
Wednesdays	7:00AM	541-520-2818
Coast Fork Kiwanis Club		
Wednesdays	Noon	541-942-5920
CG Historical Society		
3rd Saturday	10:00AM	541-942-5022
CG Lions Club		
2nd & 4th Thursday	Noon	541-221-7685
Elks		
Thursdays	7:30PM	541-942-3554
IOOF (Oddfellows)		
1st & 3rd Thursday	7:30PM	541-844-8080
Masonic Lodge #51		
1st & 3rd Wednesday	7:00PM	541-942-2353
Prospectors & Goldiggers		
3rd Tuesday	7:30PM	541-942-3773
Rotary Club of Cottage Grove		
Thursdays	Noon	541-554-6946

## Recreation

A variety of indoor and outdoor, year-round, organized recreation activities are offered for the youth in South Lane County through South Valley Athletics (SVA) and South Lane School District. Seasonal activities include soccer, baseball, T-ball, pee-wee baseball, girls' softball, volleyball, flag football and basketball. South Lane School District also provides year-round recreation swimming for all ages at the Warren Daugherty Pool. Adult programs are offered on a limited basis.

Outdoor recreation opportunities abound in the Cottage Grove area. There are two lakes located just ten minutes from town. Dorena Lake and Cottage Grove Lake offer fishing, swimming, boating, water skiing and camping. Tennis courts, maintained by the Cottage Grove Tennis Association, are available to community residents and three public golf courses in the area. Cottage Grove is located at the southern tip of the Willamette Valley, where the Cascade Mountains touch Oregon's coastal mountain range. In ten minutes you can be in the forest. In 30 minutes you can be in wilderness. The Bohemia Mining District, 30 plus miles southeast, offers visitors a look at the area's historic mining culture.

Opportunities for cycling, fishing, hunting, hiking, camping, horseback riding, skiing, snowmobiling, four-wheeling and wilderness exploring are plentiful, and may prove irresistible to outdoor enthusiasts. The Row River Trail is a 16 mile, paved multi-use pathway that begins inside the city limits and follows an old railroad bed past Dorena Lake into the Cascades. The recent paving of forest service roads extends road cycling to Oakridge and to Blue River on the McKenzie by way of the Aufderheide Scenic Byway.

As the Covered Bridge Capital of the West, Cottage Grove is home to six covered bridges including the last remaining covered Railroad Bridge West of the Mississippi River. The Chambers Railroad Bridge is on the National Registry of Historic Places and was fully restored in 2011. There is also a State of Oregon Covered Bridge Scenic Byway as well as the Covered Bridges Scenic Bikeway, which is incredibly popular with cyclists and pedestrians alike. If you're a bicycle enthusiast, check out area bicycle rides at <https://jimh22854.wixsite.com/website/area-rides>. The covered bridges can be toured easily and are less than 20 minutes from the Historic Downtown area. Even if you aren't the physically active type, just basking in the area's natural beauty is refreshing recreation. The unspoiled Oregon Coast is only 90 miles away, featuring sand dunes, beaches and rocky shorelines. There are a number of excellent restaurant venues in the Cottage Grove area, some offering live entertainment.

The Cottage Theater's annual repertoire includes everything from drama to musicals to children's plays. Local musical productions cover a full range of listener tastes. Opal Center for Arts and Education, named after local legend Opal Whitely, exists to provide affordable opportunities for citizens to participate in artistic, educational and cultural activities.

Annual community events include Concerts in the Park during the summer months, Art Walk on the last Friday of the month April – October, Cottage Grove Rodeo, Bohemia Mining Days, Chili Cook-Off, Cottage Grove Home Show, KNND’s Rock, Roll & Rumble Car Show and Street Dance, the Heritage Fair & Lumberjack Show at the Western Oregon Exposition Fairgrounds, the Cottage Grove Halloween Howl, Cottage Grove Christmas Kick-off and tree lighting, Ice Cream Social and many others throughout the year.

## **Local Economy**

More than 500 retail, trade and service businesses work hard to serve the public in Cottage Grove’s historic downtown business district, two shopping centers and other commercial areas. Be sure to visit our antique, curio and specialty shops. Restaurants, cafés and art galleries provide a full day of activities.

Once thought of as a timber-dependent community, Cottage Grove is successfully diversifying its economy. Cottage Grove has been designated an Enterprise Zone by the state, offering incentives to businesses that expand or locate in the community. Our largest employers are South Lane School District, the City of Cottage Grove, PeaceHealth Cottage Grove Community Medical Center, Weyerhaeuser Company, Starfire Lumber, Pacific Yurts, Walmart, Safeway and Kimwood Machinery, Inc. PRT Cottage Grove offers a full range of standard seedling products and related nursery services for all commercial tree species planted in the Pacific Northwest. In the secondary wood products industry Pacific Yurts is known worldwide. Other businesses located in Cottage Grove’s industrial parks include Wright Machine Tool, Territorial Seed Co., and King Estate Cottage Grove Warehouse.

Other industries, including manufacturing, health and medical services, professional services and a variety of agricultural businesses also provide many jobs in the community.

## **Housing**

Housing for every lifestyle is available in the Cottage Grove area. There are modern homes being built in standard subdivisions and on scenic hillside lots, as well as historic and older homes, many of which have been restored.

Outside of town, vacant and built-upon lots range in size from half an acre to more than 50 acres, with views of hills, trees and rivers.

## **Transportation**

Halfway between San Francisco and Seattle, Cottage Grove has excellent access to western markets. The city is on Interstate-5, the main north-south highway connecting all major West Coast cities. This positions Cottage Grove on the main lines of several trucking firms. Federal Express and United Parcel Service operate daily in Cottage Grove.

Cottage Grove Airport, a state facility, has a 3,200-foot paved runway to accommodate small aircraft, including corporate jets. Commercial airline service is provided through the Eugene Airport.

Local Dial-A-Ride services are available through CG Classic Taxi and South Lane Wheels which utilizes lift-equipped vehicles to satisfy the needs of elderly, disabled and general public. South Lane Wheels also provides medical trips daily to the metro area and Public transportation throughout Lane County is provided by Lane Transit District’s bus system. Cottage Grove also has good access to two major ports for shipping to the Pacific Rim. The Port of Portland, one of the most active on the West Coast, is 125 miles to the north with excellent rail and highway links to Cottage Grove. The Port of Coos Bay, 90 miles to the southwest, is easily accessible. Rail service is provided by Central Oregon and Union Pacific Railroad.

## **Education**

South Lane School District serves nearly 2600 students across ten schools. The district operates two high schools, both of which have received a number of statewide honors. Cottage Grove High School has been the highest graduation rate of any comprehensive high school in Lane County three out of the last four years. The district also has one middle school, three K-5 elementary schools, two K-8 schools and two district sponsored charter schools. In the fall of 2018 SLSD opened the new Harrison Elementary on Taylor which replaced the aging school

The District is scheduled to reopen the Warren H. Daugherty Aquatic Center in the fall, 2019. The modernization project includes a new 25-yard pool, renovation of the interior/exterior of the facility, and the addition of a Warm Water Recreation and Therapy Pool.

Peggy’s Primary Connection and the South Lane School District’s Family Resource Center moved into the remodel Early Learning Center adjacent to the new Harrison Elementary. Both programs offer supports and services to parents, families and young children in our community. The District operates two pre-school classrooms funded by the Oregon Pre-School Promise grant and an English Language Program for children age’s three to five. The Cottage Grove area offers an array of pre-school opportunities including Head Start, Family Relief Nursery and Early Childhood Cares (Special Education) serving eligible pre-school children and families.

Lane Community College (LCC) has a Cottage Grove Center that offers an array of educational courses to help students transform their lives through learning. The Cottage Grove Center is a resource for community members working on a degree, completing a

certificate, enhancing jobs skills or seeking personal enrichment. The campus is an official testing site for the National Career Readiness Certificate. The campus also hosts South Lane School District's Children's Dental Clinic. LCC's main campus is located 20 miles north of Cottage Grove and offers two-year degree programs and university transfer programs.

The University of Oregon is also located 20 miles north of Cottage Grove and, as a major research university, offers numerous academic programs of study. Oregon State University is in Corvallis, 60 miles north of Cottage Grove. Each university has about 20,000 students.

## **Government**

Cottage Grove has the council-manager form of government. The city council has a record of innovation and of demanding cost-efficient government. The quality of the City staff is remarkable. Opportunities to participate in local government take the form of citizen advisory committees that study local issues and provide recommendations to the staff and city council. This includes the monumental 30-year community planning effort known as Vision 2037. More information can be found on the city's website at [www.cottagegrove.org](http://www.cottagegrove.org).

## **Medical Care**

PeaceHealth Cottage Grove Community Medical Center is one of the Top 100 Critical Access Hospitals in the United States, according to the National Rural Health Association. It is a 14-bed, 40,000-square foot Critical Access Hospital located in an area of south Lane County, Oregon, that is known for its historic covered bridges and forested natural beauty. Major medical services include 24-hour, 7-days a week emergency department with bedside ultrasound diagnostics and pediatric crash cart, Walk-in Clinic Monday through Saturday, all-digital imaging/radiology department, including digital mammography and a 64-slice CT scanner, physical therapy services, electronic medical record and medical social work department. PeaceHealth Cottage Grove has been providing expanded access and more affordable care to the communities of Creswell, Dexter, Cottage Grove and North Douglas County since 1998. We promote an environment of healing for the mind, body and spirit through a comprehensive spectrum of care.

PeaceHealth Medical Group has seventeen physicians and providers from three clinics and four specialties with more than 200 medical staff. Providers care for more than 400 patients annually and treat more than 11,000 patients every year in its 24-hour emergency department.

Nova Health Primary Care is a multi-specialty health clinic located in Cottage Grove. The clinic provides easily accessible medical care to the community and surrounding areas. They provide medical care six days a week. Walk-ins are welcome. Primary care is provided by Family & Internal Medicine, Women's Care, Work-comp and Occupational Medicine. They offer lab (Quest Diagnostic) and x-ray. By working together, PeaceHealth, Nova Health Primary Care and Cottage Grove citizens are ensuring the future of a strong healthcare system for South Lane County.

Complimenting and rounding out the community's providers are chiropractors, acupuncturists and one naturopath. A nice assortment of dentists, optometrists and ophthalmologists also practice in Cottage Grove. Emergency Medical Service is operated by South Lane County Fire and Rescue. They have three new ambulances, are staffed by full-time paid paramedics, and are equipped with advanced life support systems.

## **Media**

Cottage Grove has its own weekly newspaper, since 1889, and a radio station. The weekly Cottage Grove Sentinel has won numerous awards in state and national newspaper competitions. KNND 1400AM, offers diverse and eclectic programming. The primary format is country, but KNND also features Cottage Grove High School and OSU Beavers sports, and Oregon's longest running talk show, the ever popular Swap 'n' Shop. Also very popular are specialty programs of Classic Country, Polka, '50s and '60s rock 'n' roll obscurities, listener requests and Sunday morning spiritual programming. KNND also streams their programming 24/7. For more visit the KNND web site at [www.knnd.com](http://www.knnd.com). As these two media serve their readers and listeners, they help bind the South Lane and North Douglas area into one community. Daily newspapers from Eugene and Portland are available as is a full range of radio and television programming from Eugene. South Lane Television provides over-the-air channel rebroadcasting at no direct cost to local residences.

## **Utilities**

Electric service is provided by Pacific Power, an investor-owned utility, and Emerald People's Utility District (EPUD), a publicly owned utility. Lane Electric Cooperative also operates in the greater Cottage Grove area. Charter and CG Wi-Fi are available throughout the city and can provide internet service for businesses and residences. Natural gas is available from Northwest Natural. Charter provides local cable, internet, and phone services. A private garbage company, Cottage Grove Garbage, has a franchise to pick up trash and recycling materials. The City of Cottage Grove provides water and sewer service inside the City and partial service to some adjacent areas. A fiber optic Wi-Fi system was built throughout the City to provide internet service for businesses and residences and telephone service is provided by CenturyLink. Cellular and paging services are available from a number of providers.

## Cottage Grove Halloween Howl

One of Cottage Grove’s signature events is a full afternoon of seasonal celebration! Activities for children and families include a “Downtown Trick or Treat” in the lovely Historic District of Cottage Grove. Children parade in costume from business to business to receive Halloween treats and goodies. Other activities take place such as a costume contest, pumpkin carving contest, and business window display contest. The Cottage Grove Halloween Howl is a family friendly event that people of all ages can enjoy!

## Wine Country

Cottage Grove is the gateway to Oregon wine country. Uniquely situated on the divide between the Willamette and Umpqua Valleys, Cottage Grove is within 5 to 45 minutes of 13 different wineries and is closer to more wineries than any other city in the area.

Cottage Grove area wineries range from King Estate, having one of the largest vineyards and wineries in the state, to smaller boutique wineries such as Saginaw Vineyard which specializes in hand-crafted artisan wines. Willamette Valley wineries defeated many of the finest French burgundies in blind tastings during the late 1970s which gave world-wide recognition to the valley’s Pinot Noir. While the Willamette’s Pinot Noir and Pinot Gris are top-notch wines similar to those from Burgundy, France; the Umpqua Valley is similar to Bordeaux, France, and produces top-notch Cabernet, Merlot and Red blends. Having such a variety of fine wines so close to town is a great attraction for both visitors and residents and creates unique opportunities for businesses to create experiences for their clients and colleagues that they will never forget.

## Local Vineyards/Wineries open to the public include:

### *South Willamette Valley    North Umpqua Valley*

Chateau Lorane	Anindor
Iris Vineyards	Bradley
King Estate	Brandborg
Saginaw Vineyards	MarshAnne Landing
Silvan Ridge	Rivers Edge
Sweet Cheeks	Sienna Ridge
	Triple Oak

The draw of local wineries when combined with Cottage Grove’s great shops & restaurants, our historic character, bicycle trails, covered bridges, and wilderness recreation opportunities makes Cottage Grove a “must visit” destination.

## Cottage Grove is Bike Friendly

Bicycle-related tourism contributes \$400 million to Oregon’s economy – approximately \$1.2 million per day! Travel Oregon’s statewide Bike Friendly Business program is the first of its kind in the nation, and is geared to help Oregon businesses reach out to this fast growing segment of our tourism economy. All Oregon businesses are eligible to participate in the program. Travel Oregon will officially recognize businesses as Bike Friendly that demonstrates a commitment to serving visitors who ride bikes and who provide specific amenities they may need. Participating businesses receive special recognition and marketing exposure through Travel Oregon’s advertising network. Learn more at [Industry.TravelOregon.com/BFB](http://Industry.TravelOregon.com/BFB).

## Newcomer Information

Century Link.....	800-244-1111
Charter .....	866-731-5420
City of Cottage Grove .....	541-942-5501
Cottage Grove Community Center.....	541-942-1185
Cottage Grove Garbage Service .....	541-942-8321
Cottage Grove Library .....	541-942-3828
Cottage Grove Senior Center.....	541-942-8751
Emerald People’s Utility District.....	541-746-1583
Lane Community College - Cottage Grove Center.....	541-463-4202
Lane Electric Cooperative.....	541-484-1151
Northwest Natural Gas Company.....	541-342-3661
Pacific Power .....	888-221-7070
PeaceHealth Cottage Grove Community Medical Center.....	541-767-5202
South Lane Television.....	541-942-9804
South Lane County Fire & Rescue/Fire Med.....	541-942-4493
South Lane School District.....	541-942-3381

**We are excited to provide you with our Cottage Grove Chamber of Commerce Membership Directory and Community Profile!**

Cottage Grove is a special place because of its natural beauty, friendly people, recreation and business opportunities. There is so much to explore here, from the scenic beauty of our lakes, streams and covered bridges to our golf courses and unique historic areas. We are deeply impressed with the pride, commitment and volunteer effort so many have shown to enhance the quality of life in Cottage Grove. We hope you will reflect on the many ways the Chamber provides leadership, as your partner, in building a strong and vital business community, and we encourage you to get involved, strengthen the organization and benefit from the many opportunities of Chamber membership.

## **Chamber Ambassadors**

Our Ambassadors aid the Chamber in welcoming new business people and their firms to the greater Cottage Grove Area. However, the all-volunteer group consisting of Chamber members in good standing as well as their employees does so much more. The Ambassadors also promote business-to-business networking, welcome delegates to special events or conventions held within the community, and do fundraising for educational scholarships. Interested in joining? Please call the Chamber at (541) 942-2411 for more information on The Chamber Ambassadors.

## **Ribbon Cuttings**

New or established companies that have reinvented themselves deserve a ribbon cutting! This is one of the mantras of The Chamber Ambassadors. It is a great first-public-relations-move in letting the community know your firm is opened or that your business has changed its venue. You'll meet fellow Chamber members and your event is highlighted in the Chamber's newsletter.

## **Business After Hours**

The best hours of any business day! The Chamber Ambassadors sponsor this monthly event where a Chamber member is able to highlight their company to fellow members. Held on the third Thursday of the month. It's a way to promote your company, network in a casual environment, and just plain enjoy the end of the business day with friends, old and new. If you're a chamber member in good standing and would like your business to participate, please contact the Chamber of Commerce at (541) 942-2411.

## **What Your Chamber Membership & Participation Can Do For You**

Annual Awards Banquet offers the community's highest recognition for achievement and success.

Chamber News keeps you current on committee activities, new members, business topics and community events.

The Chamber Membership Directory provides you with a free listing to help potential customers find your services and products locally. Two thousand copies are distributed within and outside the community.

Business After Hours (BAH) provides you with an informal setting to make those important business contacts. A member business hosts this monthly program. Plan to attend many of our networking opportunities.

The Chamber Office & Visitor Information Center is often the first place a potential business or customer stops for local business information. These casual contacts can bring new revenue to you and our local economy. Approximately 5,000 visitors each year can access your brochure in our lobby.

Annual Chamber Supported Community Events provide entertainment, fun, and cultural opportunities. For sponsors, it allows the opportunity to brand products or promote organizations in positive manners.

Our ability to attract new businesses and enhance existing businesses in cooperation with partners such as the State and County economic development offices, City Community Development office, EBID Economic Development Committee and Lane Community College SBDC makes us truly a full-service operation by expanding business learning and financial opportunities in our community.

There are many additional benefits of Chamber membership and we are always looking for new ways to serve our members. Please contact us with your suggestions.

## **Enhanced Membership**

Enhanced membership is a Chamber benefit for those members that are truly involved and active in the Chamber and community, who wish to make their membership dollars go further while at the same time provide continuing support for the Chamber.

Enhanced Members support:

- Summer Concerts in the Park
- Business after Hours
- Chamber Awards Banquet
- Cottage Grove Christmas Kick-off

- Chamber Newsletter
- Chamber Forums

The Cottage Grove Area Chamber of Commerce thanks these Chamber Members who have chosen to enhance their memberships by participating in and supporting Chamber events, activities and programs for 2020.

To find out how you too can become an enhanced member please contact the Chamber office. We encourage you to support and thank these businesses:

**PLATINUM MEMBERSHIP**

Cottage Grove Sentinel

**GOLD MEMBERSHIP**

Pacific Power

The Chronicle

**SILVER MEMBERSHIP**

Banner Bank

City of Cottage Grove

Emerald People's Utility District (EPUD)

Lane Community College, Cottage Grove Campus

Lane Electric Cooperative

Northwest Natural

Peace Health Cottage Grove Community Medical Center

South Lane School District

Walmart

Weyerhaeuser