



CITY OF JOHN DAY

Newsletter – Spring 2022

Dear Residents,

My name is Corum Ketchum, and I am the City of John Day's newest hire. I am here first and foremost to support local efforts in investing in ourselves and our community. *Read more about my background and what the City is doing this spring and summer.*

Introducing Corum Ketchum, Community Development Director

My family arrived in John Day in the late 60's. My grandfather Ron Ketchum worked at the Prairie City office of the Forest Service. My grandmother Mickey, or Miss Ketchum, taught business and writing among other subjects at Grant Union High. My dad and his siblings remember learning to swim here, and how grandpa would take them down whipping Forest Service roads, only ever feeling pavement when they happened to cross the highway. They are all proud to see me on the East Side!



Corum Ketchum, City of John Day

Growing up in Eugene, I attended the University of Oregon where I achieved my BS, majoring in Planning, Public Policy, and Management; returning to earn my Master of Public Administration, focusing on economics, policy and building public-purpose organizations. Between schooling, I spent two years doing entrepreneur support work through AmeriCorps Resource Assistance to Rural Environments [RARE], volunteering at the City of Veneta, OR.

I am honored to be serving Oregon's most caring and innovative community.

The Growing Rural Oregon Program

The Growing Rural Oregon [GRO] program is a big part of what brought me to John Day and is half of my workplan. For residents, this means solving local business needs is my biggest priority.

What is the GRO Program?

GRO exists to lower the barriers to starting and operating a business by helping entrepreneurs navigate the tricky process of identifying market opportunities, financing operations, managing a business and more. We are doing this by providing programs catered to local and youth business talent development, like classes, workshops, and one-on-one mentoring.

The program is a partnership of the Ford Family Foundation and expert advisors at Network Kansas and Entrepreneurial Ecosystems [e2], supporting Oregon's rural communities. It currently includes: John Day, Klamath Falls, and Independence, with more cities expected to join. Visit growingruraloregon.org to learn more about this statewide program.

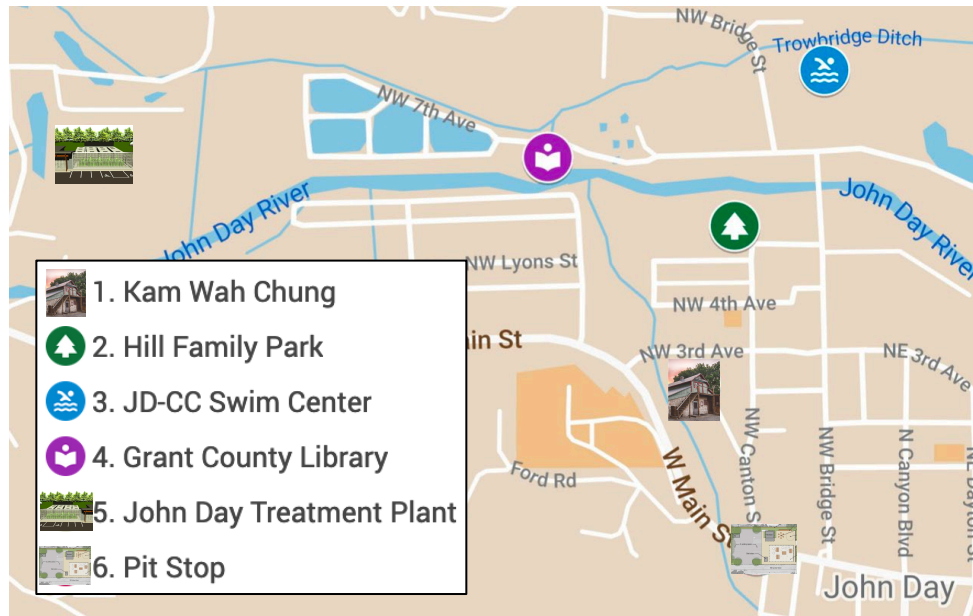
GRO provides a unified framework for organizing our economic development service providers, like the City, Grant County Economic Development Office, and Oregon RAIN, by developing strategic goals and initiatives in consultation with residents and community members.

What is GRO's Track Record?

Our program seeks to replicate the tremendous success Network Kansas and e2 have had creating business-and-entrepreneur friendly communities in Kansas and across the Midwest. Last year in Kansas, Network Kansas engaged almost 900 high school students in business skills programs, while partnering with e2 to provide trainings to build up the toolkits of the entrepreneurs they work with.

Since 2006, the organization has raised and directed over \$500 million in direct investments in small businesses and entrepreneurs. Learn more:

<https://www.networkkansas.com/about/impact>



Key Dates Calendar **Dedication Ceremonies** **June 10th**

Kam Wah Chung
Swim Center
Grant County Library
Wastewater Treatment Plant

Project Completion Dates

Hill Family Park and Trail
System– June 2022
The Pit Stop – Sept. 2022
Treatment Plant – Fall 2024

Events

Grant County Fair - Aug. 10
Cycle Oregon Century Classic
September 10 - 17

Map of Projects Happening in John Day, Spring – Fall 2022

Spring and Summer Projects – From the City and our Partners

The **Kam Wah Chung State Heritage Site** is North America's largest collection of Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM). The operators of the expanded Kam Wah Chung Heritage Site will be able to display a greater portion of the location's one-of-a-kind collection, while providing more opportunities for guests to learn about this unique chapter of John Day's history.

The **Hill Family Park** was sold for community enjoyment to the City of John Day by Celeste and Colleen Hill, whose family has lived in John Day for generations. Aside from open space, restrooms, trails and a picnic area, the park is planned to host campers and provide safe access to the John Day River, pending other City projects. The park will be completed in June. The **Trail System** connecting parks to the river will be completed in June as well.

Pending voter approval, the new **John Day-Canyon City Swim Center** will offer opportunities for swimmers of all ages and abilities to enjoy the water. The City of John Day is managing the construction of the Center, after which point it will be transferred to the John Day – Canyon City Parks and Rec. District.

The repairs to **SW 4th Avenue** are expected to begin this summer. Full closure of that portion of the road is expected for several months; through traffic will need to utilize alternative access routes to Airport Road and Industrial Park Road. We will provide notice of the closure on our website, on the radio, and on either end of the closure. Residents in the area with questions can contact City Hall for additional information.

The new **Wastewater Treatment Plant** replaces its more than 74-year-old predecessor and is now permitted by DEQ. In addition to expanding capacity to handle future residents and businesses, the Treatment Plant reclaims and repurposes water through the City's "purple pipe" system, which will reduce the demand on the John Day River and our water table, providing more water for businesses, communities, water rights holders and the environment. Construction will begin this year on the new facility.

The **Pit Stop** is coming to Canton and Main Street! The space provides the community and outdoor living room designed to meet the needs of residents and visitors. The plaza will feature restrooms, seating, and utilities for food trucks, live music, and other community events. For our cyclists and visiting bikers, the space will offer bicycle lockers and repair stations. The Pit Stop will be open in time for the **Cycle Oregon Century Classic** bike race, which will be in town starting September 8th, with races beginning September 10th, running through September 17th.