City of La Grande and La Grande Main Street

Community Profile

Population | 13,095
Location | La Grande

Position Description

Sponsor | City of La Grande and La Grande Main Street
Supervisor | Charlie Mitchell
Community and Economic Development Director

Assignment | The City of La Grande has a population of 13,095 and was incorporated in 1885. The City has a Council-Manager form of government, with six city councilors and a mayor elected by the citizens. The RARE participant works in the Community & Economic Development Department and concentrates on downtown revitalization.

The RARE participant placed with the City of La Grande will coordinate and manage various components of the City’s newly developed Main Street Program. The participant will be involved in all aspects of the project, including but not limited to daily administration, long-range planning, stakeholder engagement, and various special projects. Additionally, the participant will assist with carrying out components of the La Grande Urban Renewal Plan; the most likely components will be related to streetscape improvement and further developing public-private partnerships with property owners.

RARE Participant

Alana Garner grew up in the small town of Ivor, Virginia. She recently received a Bachelor of Science in Public and Urban Affairs from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University. As a student, Alana was active in the student-run planning club where she was able to help the Virginia Tech community as well as the Town of Blacksburg reach a common agreement on an array of pertinent issues. Upon attaining her Degree in Public and Urban Affairs, Alana moved to Washington DC where she has been working with a mid-sized patent law firm. Following her year with the RARE Program, Alana plans on attaining a Masters in Urban Planning with a focus on economic development.