



City of Tigard Press Release

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Tigard Awarded U.S. EPA Brownfields Grant

The City of Tigard has been awarded two U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) grants totaling \$400,000 to inventory, assess, and conduct planning and community involvement activities related to brownfield sites. The awards, announced today by the EPA in the highly competitive Brownfields Assessment Grants Program, will accelerate Tigard's goal of cleaning up contaminated land for redevelopment.

The successful application was developed by the city's Economic Development Division and was bolstered by letters of support from several community organizations, including the Tigard Downtown Alliance, Tigard Area Chamber of Commerce, Westside Economic Alliance, Hispanic Metropolitan Chamber, the Center for Intercultural Organizing, Tualatin Riverkeepers, Community Partners for Affordable Housing, City Center Advisory Commission, and Portland Community College. The project was also championed by Senator Merkley and received strong support from Senator Wyden and Representative Bonamici.

"Addressing brownfields is a key component in encouraging economic development and promoting public health," said Community Development Director Kenny Asher. "These properties tend to be strategically located and redevelopment is necessary for Tigard to become a more interesting and walkable place. But the contamination needs to be solved first."

The EPA grant is crucial for advancing the city's Brownfield Initiative, which is a proactive program of engaging property owners and residents to facilitate assessments on contaminated properties and plan for their productive reuse. The city will focus the grant funds in its downtown, as well as sites in the city's 1,100 acres of industrial and employment land.

"The city is looking forward to working with its community partners to address the key issue of contaminated properties, and creating a more livable, walkable, and economically resilient community" said Mayor John Cook.

A brownfield site is an industrial or commercial property that is potentially contaminated, especially one considered for redevelopment.