



Fact Sheet

Title: McCormick & Baxter Superfund Site

About the Site

DEQ and EPA have worked on the McCormick & Baxter Creosoting Co. Superfund Site cleanup for many years. The site is in North Portland between the University of Portland's Franz River Campus and Metro's future Willamette Cove nature park, which includes 41 acres of land along the Willamette River and 23 acres of in-water habitat.

The Site was heavily contaminated with creosote, metals and other contaminants over decades of industrial use. In 2005, cleanup was completed and included excavation and off-site disposal of contaminated upland soil, construction of a clean soil cap over the entire site, extraction and treatment of contaminated groundwater, construction of an underground groundwater barrier wall to prevent migration of pollution from the site to the river and capping contaminated sediment in the Willamette River. Long-term protections and environmental monitoring are ongoing.

Current Status

The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality proposes to enter into a Prospective Purchaser Agreement with Portland Botanical Gardens to facilitate the purchase and redevelopment of the former McCormick & Baxter Creosoting Co. property located at 6900 N. Edgewater Ave. in Portland.

Portland Botanical Gardens plans to develop research and education focused botanical gardens on a portion of the property, a public greenspace along the waterfront which will include a new segment of the Willamette River greenway, interpretive native plant gardens, and an open gathering space. DEQ is holding a formal comment period on the proposed Prospective Purchaser Agreement through January 30, 2026.

Program contacts

Project Manager:

[Sarah Miller](#)

503-863-0561

Media and Community:

[Michael Loch](#)

503-737-9435

Tribes, Community and Cleanup Program:

[Annie Rohlff](#)

503-706-3681

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800-452-4011 | TTY: 711 | deqinfo@deq.oregon.gov