

## Information Everywhere

A Sleuth's Guide to Online Property Information



## Information Everywhere

### Today's Common Questions on Properties

#### ■ Property History

- What were the historical uses of my property?
- What were the historical uses of adjoining properties?
- Former buried gas lines, water lines, areas of fill?
- Historical topography?



Courtesy of Oregon Historical Society



Courtesy of Oregon Historical Society



Courtesy of University of Oregon

## Information Everywhere

Today's Common Questions on Properties:

- **Natural Resource and Geological Conditions**
  - Wetlands or streams on or near the property?
  - Natural resource issues associated with the property?
  - Geologic hazards associated with the property?



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Today's Common Questions on Properties

- **Environmental Conditions**
  - Soil and/or groundwater contamination?
  - Environmental issues associated with adjoining properties?
  - Liens or encumbrances listed for property or adjoining properties?



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Developing an understanding of the history and basic environmental setting of your property can

- Assist in defining what professional services will be needed
- Save time and money regarding property decisions
- Result in better decisions regarding property acquisition from enlisting joint venture partners to applying for state or federal funding for redevelopment
- Be used to supplement, but may not replace, independent study and verification by qualified professionals.

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### ▪ Property History

- Oregon Map – ORMAP  
Statewide, digitized, property tax parcel map  
<http://www.ormap.com/>
- Oregon Historical Society – Research Library  
Old photographs, newspaper articles, Metzger maps, Sanborn Maps  
<http://librarycatalog.ohs.org/eosweb/opac/>
- Multnomah County Library  
Search old Sanborn and Metzger Maps online  
<http://www.multcolib.org/ref/a2z.html>
- University of Oregon Library  
Map and Aerial Photograph Library largest in the state  
<http://libweb.uoregon.edu/>



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### Property History

- PortlandMaps

Portland Metro area info on property including historical building permits and maps

<http://www.portlandmaps.com/>



- Oregon Electric Railway

Historical information on railways, photographs of development along rail lines

<http://oerhs.org/index.html>



- Portland District – US Army Corps of Engineers

Aerial photographs of major transportation areas and corridors including waterways, highways, and cities

<http://www.nwp.usace.army.mil/ec/ap.asp>



- Other Property History Sources Listed on Handout

## Information Everywhere

### Property Natural Resource and Geological Conditions

- Oregon State University

Comprehensive natural resources digital library

<http://oregonexplorer.info/>



- US Fish and Wildlife Service

Online Wetlands Mapper integrates digital data with other resource information

<http://www.fws.gov/wetlands/Data/Mapper.html>

Online searchable database for querying threatened and endangered animal and plant species

<http://www.fws.gov/endangered/wildlife.html>



- Oregon Department of State Lands

Online Local Wetland Inventory Maps

<http://www.oregonstatelands.us/DSL/WETLAND>



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### Property Natural Resource and Geological Conditions

- Natural Resources Conservation Service

Online source of soil survey information by state and county  
<http://www.or.nrcs.usda.gov/technical/soil/index.html>



- DOGAMI - Oregon Geologic Data Compilation

Maintains updated information on earthquakes and other natural hazards in Oregon  
<http://www.oregongeology.org/sub/earthquakes/earthquakehome.htm>



- Metro Data Resource Center

Searchable database of GIS data for earthquake, flooding, and landslide hazards  
<http://www.metro-region.org/index.cfm/go/by.web/id=15113>



- StreamNet

A cooperative information management and data dissemination project focused on fisheries and aquatic related data  
[http://www.streamnet.org/query\\_intro.html](http://www.streamnet.org/query_intro.html)



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### Property Environmental Conditions

- Oregon Department of Environmental Quality

Facility Profiler database tracks Oregon sites listed on numerous state environmental databases  
<http://deq12.deq.state.or.us/fp20/>



- US Environmental Protection Agency

New online database, MyEnvironment, tracks all manner of environmental information by state  
<http://www.epa.gov/>



- Oregon Water Resources Board

Searchable online database on water resources including water wells and drilling records  
[http://www.wrd.state.or.us/OWRD/about\\_us.shtml](http://www.wrd.state.or.us/OWRD/about_us.shtml)



## Information Everywhere

### ■ Property Environmental Conditions

#### ■ Oregon State Fire Marshal

Maintains statewide information on hazardous substances incident reporting

[http://www.oregon.gov/OSP/SFM/CR2K\\_Incident\\_Database.shtml](http://www.oregon.gov/OSP/SFM/CR2K_Incident_Database.shtml)

#### ■ Environmental Data Resources, Inc.

An comprehensive online service that provides historical and environmental information such as historic manufactured gas plants, former service station and dry-cleaning facilities, and Sanborn fire insurance maps

<http://sanborn.edrnet.com/demo1/>



## Information Everywhere

For More Information, please feel free to contact our presenters:

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