

Online Property Information - Historical Sources

Oregon Map – ORMAP

ORMAP is a statewide, digitized, property tax parcel map resource for real .tif map images.

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

Oregon Historical Society – Research Library

OHS Research Library has one of the most comprehensive collections of local, state, and regional history in the country, with holdings that chronicle the history of the Oregon Country from early exploration to the present day. Research Library contains more than 32,000 books, 25,000 maps, 12,500 linear feet of manuscripts, 4,000 serials titles, 6,000 vertical files, 18,000 reels of newspaper microfilm, 8.5 million feet of film and videotape, 10,000 oral history tapes, and more than 2.5 million photographs. I recommend conducting an online search and then contacting the Research Librarians at OHS to further refine your request.

<http://librarycatalog.ohs.org/eosweb/opac/>

Multnomah County Library

Multnomah County maintains an extensive collection of searchable databases, some more useful than others, a few related to property information such as Sanborn and Metzger Maps. You must have a Multnomah County library card to access their database; however it is worth the effort, particularly if you are interested in Sanborn historical maps (you can view these directly online).

<http://www.multcolib.org/ref/a2z.html>

University of Oregon Library

The UO Map Library is the largest repository of aerial photographs in the state. A search and scan fee applies but is well worth the money for a great collection of aerial photographs for your property (great coverage for most cities beginning in 1935).

<http://libweb.uoregon.edu/>

City of Portland's PortlandMaps website

This great website from the City of Portland has metro area information on property including historical building permits and maps. You can find a lot of information about your property here including assessment and tax information, recent aerial photographs, building foot prints and permits, elevations, natural hazards, and underground storage tanks, among others.

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

Oregon Electric Railway

This website is a good starting point for identifying corridors along railways. Given the often complex ownership history of most railways, historical societies dedicated to railroads are a great first stop in getting route, use, and ownership information straight from railroad historians. They can also point you in the right direction for other resources.

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

Portland District – US Army Corps of Engineers

The US ACOE has an extensive collection of 9"x9" contact prints of aerial photographs, including many as stereo pairs. If you need to do some intense scrutiny of an aerial photograph, make an appointment with the US ACOE map library to visit the aerial photograph collection in person.

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

NETROnline

This is an interesting website that portrays itself as a one-stop shop for real-estate information. You can access reports, parcel maps, document images, and more from hundreds of counties nationwide. I have not used this website; however it looks like you need a pass code to use the database and there may or may not be a fee. I included it for those who wish to try it out.

<http://datastore.netronline.com/>

Online Resources for Property Information
Oregon Brownfields Conference
April 6-7, 2010
Provided by Jennifer Kuiper, AMEC Earth & Environmental, Inc.

Online Property Information - Natural Resource and Environment Sources

Oregon State University

OSU's comprehensive natural resources digital library is easy to use and provides a wealth of information on anything from threatened and endangered species to geological hazards, all based on address data that you input. The website also provides helpful links to other areas that may be of interest to you.

<http://oregonexplorer.info/>

US Fish and Wildlife Service

Online Wetlands Mapper integrates digital data with other resource information and produces easy to view good quality National Wetland Inventory maps.

<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 maintained at the Oregon DSL.

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

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Online source of soil survey information by state and county. Easy to use and very informative.

<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. DOGAMI has a link to the Nature of the Northwest Information Center. This Center provides information on Oregon earthquakes volcanic eruptions and other geologic curiosities. The Center also has great recreational maps for outdoor enthusiasts.

<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

StreamNet is a data project focused on fisheries and aquatic related data and data related services in the Columbia River basin and the Pacific Northwest. The data are maintained and disseminated through the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission (PSMFC). Lots of good information on what streams have documented fish and what kinds of species (endangered or not); fish passage obstructions; even photographs of the obstructions (in some cases).

http://www.streamnet.org/query_intro.html

The Oregon Flora Project

This website is a resource for all vascular plants in Oregon. You can access and download plant checklists, review an online plant atlas that maps locations of common and rare plants, provides photographs of plants, and includes a rare plant library.

<http://www.oregonflora.org/>

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Online Property Information - Environmental Condition Sources

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

The US EPA's MyEnvironment search application provides a great overview of environmental information based on the address that you input into the application's search engine. Find out general information for your property vicinity such as air and water quality data, toxic releases, superfund sites, brownfields sites, and hazardous waste cleanup located near your property.

<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

Oregon State Fire Marshal

Maintains statewide information on hazardous substances incident reporting

http://www.oregon.gov/OSP/SFM/CR2K_Incident_Database.shtml

Environmental Data Resources, Inc.

A 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/>

Other Sources Data Sources

Data.gov

Data.gov provides descriptions of the Federal datasets (metadata), information about how to access the datasets, and tools that leverage government datasets. I have not spent much time this website; however it looks interesting as a clearinghouse for other databases that you may find useful.

<http://www.data.gov/>

RSOE EDIS AlertMap

If you are really paying attention, then here is a treat. My favorite website for real-time information on natural and manmade disasters all over the world. No, it is not a property information source, per se, but rather a great way to keep up with what is going on in the world around you without relying on traditional media sources. I added this for fun and interest. It is maintained by a group out of Hungary. Just click on the part of the world that holds your interest and wait for the map to show up. The events will automatically populate the map.

<http://hisz.rsoe.hu/alertmap/>