Tannery Site Assessment Fact Sheet - July 2015

Sherwood Receives Brownfield Cleanup Grant!

The City of Sherwood was awarded a grant from the United States Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Brownfields Program to assess and prepare a plan to clean up two of the six lots associated with the contaminated Frontier Leather Tannery site. Major clean up has already accured on the other lots comprising the Tannery Site. The City is interested in acquiring the two lots totalling approximately 25 acres to facilitate clean up and redevelopment of the developable portions of this vacant industrial property. One possibility the City is considering is to relocate the public works yard from Old Town to this location. The City anticipates cleaning up the former tannery site will benefit the Sherwood community in many ways. In addition, relocating the public works yard will provide an opportunity to redevelop the existing space in line with the vision for the Old Town area and provide economic opportunities and improve community health.

Background

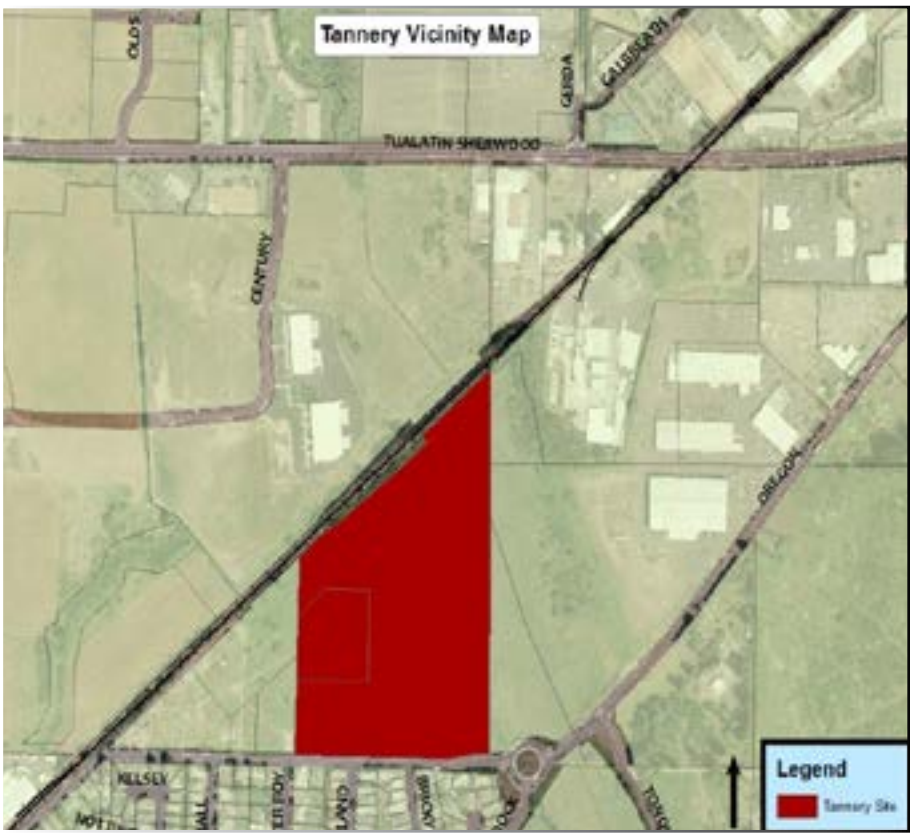
The Frontier Leather Co. was in operation from 1947 to 1988. To prepare hides for sale, they were tanned using chromium before being split into halves. The valuable halves of the hides were sold and the less valuable "hide splits" were buried on-site. Tannery operations also included wastewater treatment in two 3.4-acre sedimentation lagoons. Water treatment sludge was buried on-site with the hide splits.

The Tannery Brownfield Site Assessment will focus on two of the six parcels that comprise the former tannery. The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) added the tannery to its orphaned site list in 2002 and conducted an investigation of the parcel containing sedimentation lagoons. The investigation identified some soil contamination, but no concerns for people or public health. However, since this work was completed, clean up standards have changed and additional testing is needed to assess risk. The EPA grant will be used to complete the assessment of impacts from the tannery's operations. This information will allow the City to develop cleanup alternatives, estimate cleanup costs and better understand the potential liability and cost impacts it would assume if the property is acquired by the City. This work will be done with DEQ oversite throughout the process.

What is a Brownfield?

A Brownfield is a property that is underutilized due to the presence or potential presence of contamination that makes reuse of the property more complicated. Former dry cleaners, gas stations, warehouses, older homes with underground storage tanks, and even parking lots are common brownfields.

Cleaning up and reinvesting in brownfield properties protects health, removes blight, creates new economic opportunities, improves safety, and reduces harmful environmental impacts. Additionally, redevelopment can offer an opportunity to integrate health considerations into many aspects of a community.



Project Schedule

The Tannery Brownfields Site Assessment project is expected to take approximately two years to complete. Much of the work is "behind the scenes." Community members will see some people and equipment at the property over the next 12 months as the City progresses through the field work
portion of the project. The City encourages community members to attend a series of meetings for the public to engage in the process:

- The first public meeting is at the Planning Commission public work session on July 28. This is an opportunity to learn more about the project and discuss issues and opportunities for brownfield redevelopment.
- The second meeting is scheduled for late spring 2016, when initial site assessment findings will be presented and participants will discuss how site redevelopment can be managed to address any issues.
- The third meeting will be held in late winter 2017 to present the draft cleanup plan and to provide comment.

	Spring 2015	Summer 2015	Fall 2015	Winter 2016	Spring 2016	Summer 2016	Fall 2016	Winter 2017	Spring 2017
Project Kickoff									
Finalize Work Plan									
Field Work									
Assessmsnet Report									
Draft Clean Up Plan									
Public Outreach/ Engagement	★				★			★	
	Website page and new updates ongoing								

What's coming up next?

Please join Planning Commissioners on Tuesday July 28 from 7 to 8:30 PM to learn more about the project and discuss issues and opportunities for brownfield redevelopment

Planning Commission Public Work Session
Tuesday July 28, 2015
Sherwood City Hall
22560 SW Pine Street
7:00 PM -8:30 PM

For more information or to be added to the project mailing list, contact Julia Hajduk, Community Development Director, at 503-625-4204 or HajdukJ@SherwoodOregon.gov or visit the project website at www.sherwoodoregon.gov/Tannery.