



**PORTLAND  
BOTANICAL**  
Gardens

# *A Botanical Garden by the River*



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# About PBG

Portland Botanical Gardens (PBG) formed in 2020 as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit with a mission to **bring plants and people together** and provide an immersive space for *knowledge, community, and collaboration*.

PBG hopes to purchase the **McCormick & Baxter Superfund Site** in the Portland Harbor, located on the Willamette River between Metro's Willamette Cove Natural Area and University of Portland's Franz River Campus.

# Vision for the Garden

To create a preeminent botanical garden in Portland with Oregon's first conservatory, the state's largest collection of native plants, and its most comprehensive vocational & research program in climate resilience, plant habitats and responsible horticulture, all within a living laboratory.



## Traversing Oregon

Representative plant communities of every ecoregion in the Pacific Northwest



Diagram by Steven Garcia, UOLA 2025

## Walking the World

Comparing PNW plant communities with analog ecosystems to showcase similar plant adaptations & relationships.



# Vision for the Garden

## Education

K-12 Field School,  
Community Workshops,  
and Green Workforce  
Development



## Research

A Living Laboratory for  
Multi-Institutional Research  
Partnerships

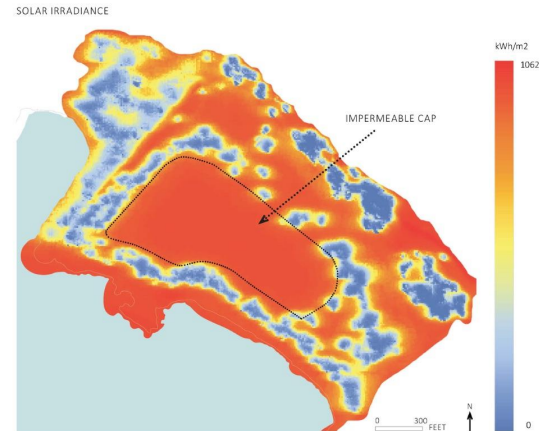


Diagram by Jen Ginn, UOLA 2025

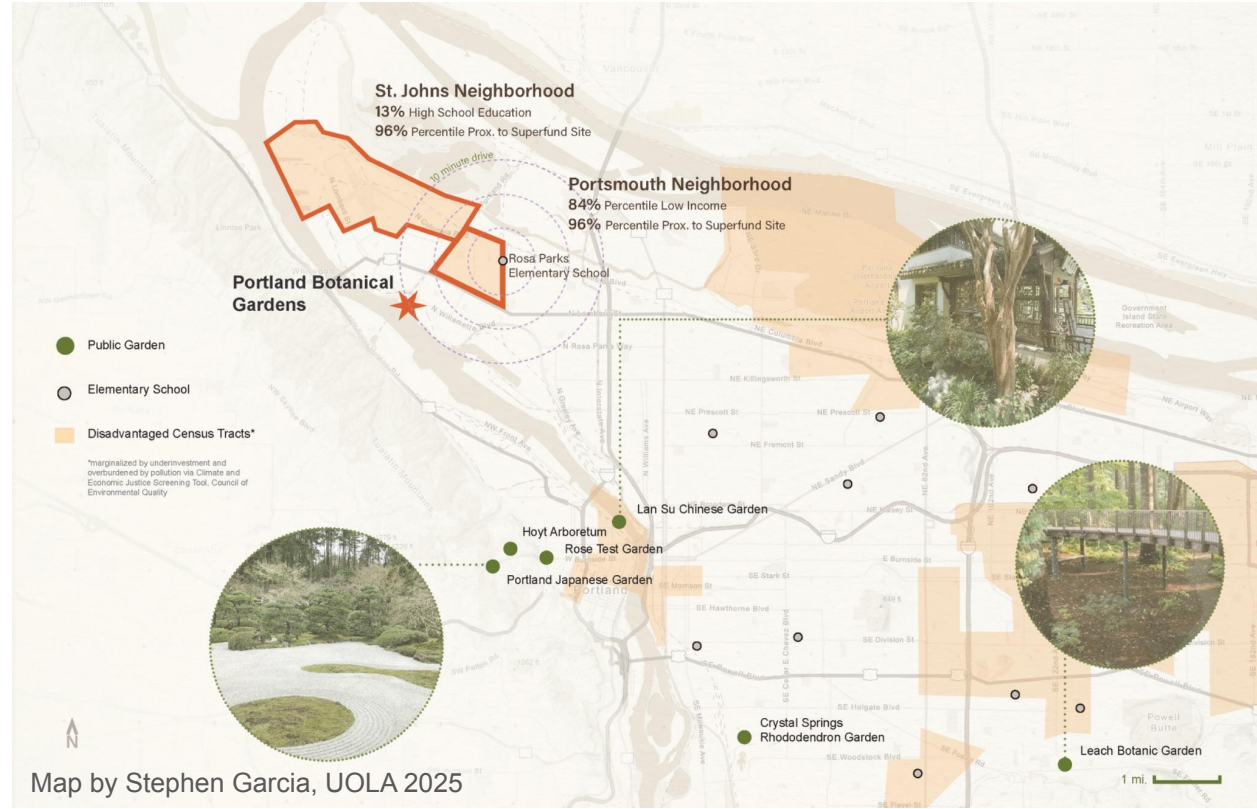
## Walking the World

Citizen Science and Universal  
Access along the Riverfront  
Greenway



# Where to Grow a Garden?

PBG began its search for a garden location in 2020. The McCormick & Baxter site, a 59-acre riverfront property, was identified as a prime location due to its size, cleanup history, and proximity to the metro center.



## ***Tribal History and Contributions***

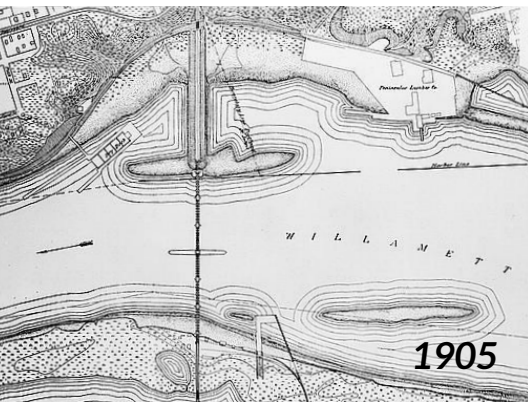
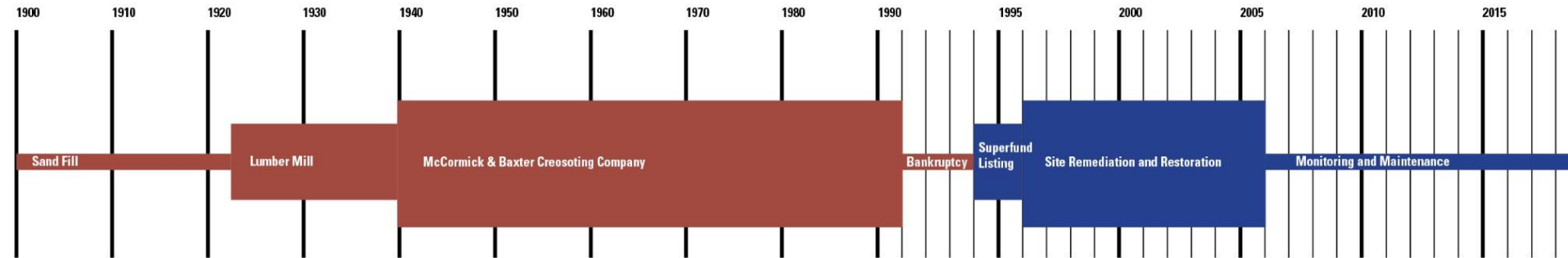
This territory has been home to Chinookan people and visited by Tribes from across the northwest, who are still strongly connected to the river and serve as Portland Harbor Natural Resource Trustees.

PBG is proposing to partner with tribal authorities, public agencies, and conservation groups to steward the native riparian landscape, and provide permanent public access to ~10 acres of greenway & shoreline.

Before being filled, the site was predominantly wetland and open water. According to the 1850 vegetation map, the river terraces immediately up and down river were prairie, an important cultural landscape

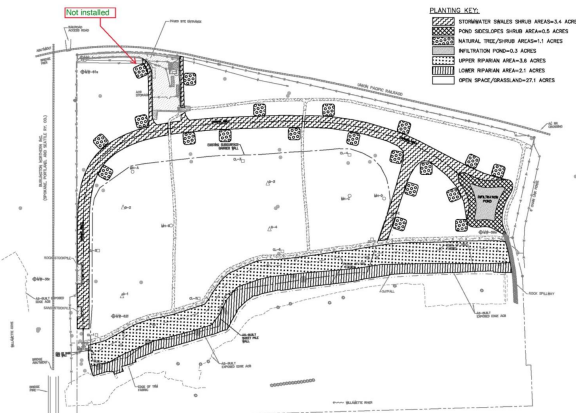


# Industrial History



# A Living Laboratory

Superfund cleanup was completed in 2005 and many of the restoration plantings have matured, allowing to site to provide critical insights for other restoration projects in the Portland Harbor.



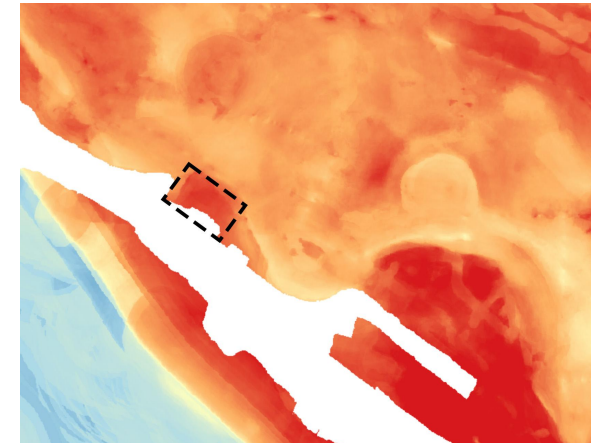
## Hot and Dry

Extreme heat and drought, and a remedy designed to shed water, is favoring an Oak Savanna plant community, similar to the 1850 xeric prairie



## A Garden for North Portland

Mitigating the urban heat island effect is an important environmental justice concern, and botanical gardens have been found to be the coolest parts of a city.



# Proposal

After over a year of due diligence, planning, and direct public and Tribal outreach, PBG has updated our initial proposal with a Conceptual Master Plan



Conceptual Programming



# Growing a Garden

## Phase 1

*Conservation, Adaptive Management,  
Learning & Planning*

How can we make this site a  
community asset in the *first year*?



## Phase 2

*Foundational Garden and  
Greenway Completion*

How can we build the research and  
educational capacity to become a  
resource for the entire Metro area?



## Phase 3

*Full Garden & Destination for All*

How can the Garden showcase  
PNW bioregions and climate  
-adapted plants to visitors from  
around the globe?



# Botanical Garden Benefits

In addition to creating public open space and a beautiful garden destination, the Portland Botanical Gardens will provide significant environmental, economic, and community benefits:

1. **Preserve and adaptively manage habitat and showcase environmental healing and restoration.**
2. **Increase green jobs, workforce development, and local economic activity.**
3. **Provide environmental education and research, with a focus on endangered plant conservation and climate resilience.**

Community engagement will continue beyond the possible acquisition, and PBG looks forward to hearing and integrating your feedback to create a ***Portland Botanical Gardens for All***.

