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Port of Bremerton Remediating Contaminated Soil at Bay Street Properties

The Port of Bremerton purchased a stretch of property on Bay Street, located in downtown Port Orchard, in 2020. After review, the Port found that the soil of these properties was contaminated, marking the properties as ‘brownfield’ sites. In an effort to remediate the neglect of past owners, the Port is working with the US Environmental Protection Agency to clean the site. To date, in partnership with the EPA & the Washington State Department of Ecology, the Port has completed test drilling of the site. Work on these properties is paid for by a grant awarded to the Port by the EPA in 2023.

Moreover, the Port has worked with the two prior leasers, Western Washington Center for the Arts and Air Anderson, Inc., to move their operations. Both buildings of these prior tenants are slated to be removed so soil remediation can commence, and the project is estimated to be completed by the end of 2024.

“It has been a real team effort working with our partners at both the Environmental Protection Agency and Washington State Department of Ecology on this project. We look forward to the positive impact this might have in our Port district,” says Jim Rothlin, Port of Bremerton CEO. “Our staff have been working diligently to make this process as seamless as possible for the prior tenants and the community, and we look forward to seeing what these properties can become once remediation is completed.”

The Port is committed to practicing safe and sustainable operations at all of their facilities and recognize the additional responsibility when operating waterfront properties. This remediation is in line with efforts of ‘going green’ and being stewards of the community. The Port has no plans of what these properties may become once the site is cleaned – stay tuned to their biweekly Commission meetings for further information.

“With my personal connection to the community of Port Orchard, it’s really special to see the impact our work at the Port can accomplish here,” says Port Commission President Gary Anderson. “There are so many opportunities these sites have, and ones that will truly impact this city and waterfront. The first step to anything will be having a good foundation, and that’s why we’re both proud and excited to be truly commencing on this soil remediation project.”

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