

Troutdale site selected for urban land use case study

by Christina Williams
Sustainable Business Oregon

A triangle of land in Troutdale will become the site of a collaboration on sustainable land use between the United States and Germany, the latest phase in an effort that's been in place between the two countries since the 1970s.

Last week, two German architects and urban planners visited the 20-acre Troutdale site, located behind the city's outlet stores and bordered by Interstate 84 and the Sandy River. They will spend the next year vetting various options for the site's development, using a Web-based risk analysis tool called [Optirisk](#).



German planners Ingo Quaas, left, and Kersten Roselt, right, talk with Troutdale Mayor Jim Kight about plans for site development.

The City of Troutdale has been considering redevelopment options for the site for several years. By working with the [U.S. German Bilateral Working Group](#), the city gets the opportunity to take advantage of international expertise at no cost.

"There's nothing like the Optirisk program in the United States," said Doug MacCourt, a partner at Ater Wynne LLP and a member of the bilateral working group.

Troutdale beat out Kansas City for the privilege of participating in the program. The site, home of a former wastewater treatment facility and tannery, has some environmental contamination.

"The local authorities in Troutdale were interested and organized and the technical standard is very high," said Ingo Quaas, one of the visiting architects who runs his own firm in eastern Germany.

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