

Zidell begins \$20 million waterfront cleanup

Contaminated soil cleared from Zidell site

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BY: [Nick Bjork](#)

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Even though no construction is taking place, Portland's next big development site is moving forward.

Zidell Marine Corp., the Portland barge maker that owns a 30-acre site along the city's southwest waterfront, has completed the first phase of a \$20 million cleanup on the site. The company now has plans to clean up the shores and river-bottom on the site during next summer's in-water work window.

While the company still manufactures barges on the site, it's been [targeted for commercial mixed-use development](#) for years by the company, developers and the city because of the site location. The property is sandwiched between the edge of downtown Portland and the new South Waterfront neighborhood.

This summer's work included removing or capping 17,000 cubic yards of contaminated soil. Additionally, the project included putting a two-foot soil cap near the bank edge where the city of Portland's future greenway trail will run.

Len Bergstein, a local lobbyist working on behalf of Zidell, said the company will push forward with the work on the banks and in the water next summer to meet the state mandated deadline. The project will be especially intriguing, Bergstein said, because the cleanup will take place at the same time as the construction of [the new light-rail bridge](#) that will go across the Willamette River near the project site.

"If you want to talk about project staging, this is going to be quite the orchestration during a short in-water work period," he said.