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Ecotrust buys building in inner Portland to create food business hub

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Ecotrust, in taking control of a former machine stamping building and warehouse, could help launch Portland as a food manufacturing epicenter.

Ecotrust wants to build out the Central Eastside Industrial District site, at 831 S.E. Salmon St., as a manufacturing and production space and commercial hub for innovative food enterprises. At least part of the building could serve as a food industry incubator.

"We hope to more deeply connect local businesses in Portland with the abundance of resources in the region," said [Spencer Beebe](#), Ecotrust's founder and chairman, in a release. "One area we will be actively focused on is scaling a robust regional food system. To that end, we will be looking to the wider food community and to Ecotrust's unique expertise in food systems and ecology to guide the ultimate direction of the building."

Ecotrust will work with Redside, a boutique real estate investment and services firm that seeks to develop energy-efficient green buildings.

Ecotrust has enlisted Walsh Construction, OPSIS, and Green Gables architects to work on the project, which will be called "The Redd," after "the nest of gravel where salmon eggs are fertilized, nurtured by cold water, and hatched."

That is, the building looks to nurture a range of growing tenants.

The 16,000-square-foot industrial building was erected in 1918.

[Ecotrust has worked on food and farms issues](#) for well over a decade.

"Our hope is to use the Redd to vault the regional food system forward by providing mixed-use space to producers, particularly from the richly contoured rural areas of our region," said [Amanda Osborne](#), VP of Food and Farms at Ecotrust. "For our food system to nourish us and our

economy to sustain us, we need good producers to make real money, and to do that, many of them need to grow. We want the Redd to help them do that.”