Centennial Mills represents one of Portland’s greatest chances to create a community-defining riverfront open space while preserving a unique piece of the city’s history.

In May of 2005, responding to pressure from neighborhood and broader community interests, the Portland City Council directed the Portland Development Commission (PDC) to work with the Bureau of Planning and interested stakeholders to develop a plan that would clarify the public’s aspirations for the redevelopment of the Centennial Mills site. The public process that would create the Centennial Mills Framework Plan began in spring 2006 and included a Citizen Advisory Group made up of local residents, designers, developers and representatives from local businesses and neighborhood associations.

The Centennial Mills Framework Plan does not prescribe a specific design or redevelopment solution for the site. Instead, the plan emphasizes the significant opportunity for innovation and creativity that the riverfront site offers, and describes five principles that provide direction for the site’s redevelopment:

- Provide Open Space
- Capture History
- Define Community Focal Points
- Strengthen Connections
- Embrace Sustainability

A forthcoming Request for Qualifications (RFQ) will solicit ideas and programming strategies from design and development teams, using the Centennial Mills Framework Plan as the basis for reviewing and assessing the responses. A short list of respondents will be asked to further develop their proposals, and a team will be selected in spring 2007.

For more information on the site, 2006 planning process, the Centennial Mills Framework Plan or the upcoming RFQ process, visit PDC’s website: www.pdc.us/centennialmills.

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