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City of John Day Receives LOC's Excellence Award

BEND, Ore. – During its 94th Annual Conference Friday evening in Bend, the League of Oregon Cities (LOC) presented its 2019 Award for Excellence to the city of John Day for its Innovation Gateway and Riverfront Recreation Area. The award recognizes progressive and innovative city operations and services.

About the Innovation Gateway and Riverfront Recreation Area.

The city's ambitious economic redevelopment plan involves the revitalization of the former Oregon Pine Mill site, and the restoration of more than 90-acres of brownfields surrounding the John Day River. The area will house the city's new wastewater treatment plant and will feature: a community pavilion adjacent to a 6,000-square-foot hydroponic greenhouse; a new city shop; a future conference center & hotel; and opportunities for in-city camping and riverfront recreation. The city council felt this project would reinvigorate the local economy, as the loss of three timber mills has resulted in a 15% decline in John Day's population since it peaked in the early 90s. The city worked closely with multiple state and federal agencies on this project and has invested more than \$1.5 million in public funding for Phase 1.

About the League of Oregon Cities

Founded in 1925, the LOC is a voluntary association representing all 242 of Oregon's incorporated cities. The League helps city governments serve their citizens by providing legislative services, policy setting, intergovernmental relations, conferences and training, technical assistance and publications.

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