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## Big box developer pulls out of Northeast Portland

Posted by [The Oregonian](#) February 05, 2008 15:32PM

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A Canadian developer has pulled out of a proposed big box development on Northeast 82nd Avenue after bitter opposition from neighborhood groups that feared construction of a Wal-Mart across from Madison High School.

SmartCentres, a shopping center developer, allowed its 3-year-old purchase and sale agreement for the property to expire on Jan. 31, forcing the parcel's owner to look for new buyers.

Mike Hashem, who has owned the 25-acre property for 11 years, said today that a SmartCentres project could have brought up to \$200 million in development and business to the empty lot at Northeast 82nd and Siskiyou.

He blamed the city for dragging out the approval process for SmartCentres and driving the developer away.

A SmartCentres spokesman did not return phone calls this afternoon.

But a neighborhood advocacy group that opposed the development thinks Hashem can now help create a neighborhood-friendly development with local, environmentally conscious businesses.

"This could be a great opportunity to build a new neighborhood around a central retail core," said Dawn Rasmussen, president of Save Madison South, a nonprofit group formed last year to rally against the big-box deal.

-- Stephen Beaven

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