Tony and Molly Deis founded Trackers Earth in 2004 with the belief that kids as well as adults should have real adventures in the natural world.

Tony, who spent his nearly 30-year career developing programs for outdoor education, modeled a wide variety of courses from blacksmithing to folk craft for campers and adults to learn from and enjoy.

Trackers Earth utilized a 2016 SBA 504 loan to purchase a facility as well as adjacent land with the business operation on approximately 179 total acres in Sandy, Oregon.

This is where soap, spirit, and shoe making are courses taken by adults and campers learn about archery, naturally delicious foods, and skills for outdoor safety.

504 loans have supported 17,859 jobs in the OR economy

$1.07 billion in financing to help OR small businesses

1,552 entrepreneurs in OR have benefited from program

A Sample of OR 504 Borrowers

The Prodigal Son Brewery
Riverbend Eyecare
Best Baguette
Stone Works International

Source: U.S. Small Business Administration

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504-FINANCED LAND CREATES EFFICIENCY AND PROFIT OPPORTUNITY FOR SMALL MANUFACTURER

In 2002, Andrew Millican acquired Portland Container Repair Corporation, where he had served as Terminal Manager since 1993. Three years later, Millican utilized an SBA 504 loan to finance the company’s new headquarters in Portland, Oregon. In 2007, the company purchased a piece of equipment using a 504 loan, which allowed Millican and his team to better serve clients and achieve steady growth until 2017, at which point the company outgrew its 504-funded facility. Portland Container needed significantly more space to reduce operational inefficiencies and accommodate more trucks, trailers, and containers.

At this point, Millican turned to the SBA 504 Loan Program for the third time, acquiring 10 additional acres of land and expanding its headquarters. The additional space allowed Portland Container to house additional servicing departments, improve workflow, rent to private contractors and improve overall conditions for its ever-growing workforce.