



News Release

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RICE CREEK COMMONS DEMOLITION WINS NATIONAL AWARD FOR ENVIRONMENTAL EXCELLENCE

Arden Hills, Minn. – Carl Bolander & Sons Company, which is responsible for demolition and environmental remediation at Rice Creek Commons (the former Twin Cities Army Ammunition Plant site), has been selected as the recipient of the National Demolition Association’s Environmental Excellence Award. This annual award is given to companies that have made a significant impact on the quality of life in their community. Carl Bolander & Sons received the award on March 23, at a ceremony in Nashville, Tenn.

“We are thrilled about the recognition this award brings to Rice Creek Commons,” said Mark Ryan, president of Carl Bolander & Sons. “Our company is grateful for the opportunity to work on such an important, transformative project for the community. Redevelopment of the site will drive economic growth and improve the region’s quality of life.”

At the time of Ramsey County’s purchase of 427 acres of land in 2013, Rice Creek Commons was the upper Midwest’s largest Superfund site due to widespread environmental contamination resulting from years of disposing solvents and other ammunition production by-products. The site is one of the largest undeveloped tracts of land within a major metropolitan area in the country.

Cleaning and clearing the site of contaminants will provide significant economic and social opportunities for Ramsey County, Arden Hills, and the entire Twin Cities through the redevelopment of the Rice Creek Commons site.

“The Bolander team is very worthy of this award,” said Ramsey County Commissioner Blake Huffman. “Their expertise has been critical in transforming hundreds of acres of blighted land into a safe, clean place to live, work and play.”

Work is progressing quickly on the Rice Creek Commons site. Demolition of Building 502 – the last of the 44 buildings onsite when Ramsey County purchased the site – is nearly complete. The first stage of hazardous soil removal is 90% complete. Crews will remove the remaining non-hazardous soil from underneath Building 502 in the next two months. Environmental remediation is anticipated to be completed by summer 2015.

By the numbers: Demolition and remediation

Beginning in the 1970s, Bolander was the first contractor in the Twin Cities to recycle concrete from demolished buildings and reclaimed pavements. The company's leadership helped pave the way for this practice to become an industry standard. As a part of this project, Bolander recycled 100% of non-impacted concrete and steel and 85% of the non-treated wood on the Rice Creek Commons site. This is a much higher rate than the average demolition project would obtain.

- More than 13,000 tons of steel, 400,000 tons of concrete and asphalt, and 250,000 board feet of Douglas fir will be recycled and reused
- More than 300 24-inch steel beams of high-grade steel have been carefully removed and saved to be reused in new construction projects
- Miles of asbestos-coated pipes beneath the ground were safely removed
- More than eight miles of railroad tracks were salvaged and are being reused throughout the country

About Rice Creek Commons

Rice Creek Commons is a 427-acre development at the former Twin Cities Army Ammunition Plant in Arden Hills. In April 2013, Ramsey County purchased the site, which was the largest superfund site in the state. The site is expected to be cleaned to residential standards by fall 2015. The redevelopment will include a mix of residential, commercial, and open spaces. When completed, the project will create thousands of jobs and generate millions of dollars annually in county and state property taxes. More information is available at RiceCreekCommons.com.

About Carl Bolander & Sons Company

For 90 years, Carl Bolander & Sons Co. has been successfully completing specialty construction projects in the Upper Midwest. Formed in 1924 as a small commercial and residential excavating contractor, Bolander has expanded to provide excavation, soil remediation, earthen retention, deep foundation systems, demolition, and underground utilities for all types of site development. Bolander has in-house capabilities to provide all types of soil remediation services. In urban brownfields and superfund clean-ups, the company's specially trained crews are accustomed to working safely and effectively to meet the unique needs of each site.

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