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Ramsey County to acquire 93 acres for Rice Creek Trail segment through Rice Creek Commons

Arden Hills, Minn. – Ramsey County announced today that it will acquire 93 additional acres of the former Twin Cities Army Ammunition Plant to build a bike and pedestrian trail adjacent to Rice Creek Commons. The multi-use trail will connect the Rice Creek North Regional Trail and the Highway 96 Regional Trail.

The remediation of the future trail is expected to cost \$1.88 million. The Metropolitan Council awarded the county a \$1.7 million grant for remediation work on October 28, and the Ramsey County Board of Commissioners today allocated \$716,000 to complete the necessary remediation efforts as well as remove building structures, fencing, railroad tracks, and utility poles.

“Our goal has always been to make Rice Creek Commons a pedestrian and bike friendly development, and this connection to the Rice Creek Regional Trail will be an important asset as we seek developers and property owners,” said Ramsey County Commissioner Blake Huffman, who represents the area surrounding Rice Creek Commons.

As a part of the Federal Lands to Parks Program, the county will not need to purchase the land, but will be responsible for environmental remediation on the site before it is fully acquired from the federal government. Remediation, which is expected to be finished in 2016, will be completed by Carl Bolander and Sons.

This land runs between the Rice Creek Commons development and the Arden Hills Army Training Site.

Remediation on the Rice Creek Commons development is nearing completion. Crews are awaiting final soil testing to ensure that the 427 acres are cleaned to residential standards. The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency and the Environmental Protection Agency will certify the work over the next several months.

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.

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