



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ReScape Award Ceremony Celebrates Transformation of Sites Using Innovative Solutions to Significant Environmental Issues

SAINT PAUL, Minn. – (November 13, 2015) – Minnesota Brownfields ReScape Award was given to four projects demonstrating innovation, collaboration, and exemplary results in revitalizing formerly contaminated land. Awards were given in the categories of Economic Impact, Community Impact, Environmental Impact and Small City Impact at a ceremony that took place at Union Depot in Saint Paul on November 12, 2015, from 4:30 – 7:30 p.m. “The Mac”, an individual award named after industry visionary, Maclay “Mac” Hyde, was awarded to an individual that demonstrated high ethical standards; commitment to serving the community and the environment; excellence in brownfields redevelopment; and a genuine interest in helping and mentoring others in the field.

The call for project nominations closed on September 17. From the project nominations, 12 finalists were selected and showcased at the ReScape Awards ceremony. Winning projects featured transformation of abandoned or underutilized sites using innovative solutions to significant environmental issues.

AWARD WINNERS

ReScape Community Impact Award winner: Trout Brook Nature Sanctuary

Trout Brook Nature Sanctuary (formerly the Trillium Site) is a 42-acre brownfield within a heavily urbanized area transformed into a regional recreation amenity with a regional trail and stormwater system of ponds, wetlands and a reestablished daylight stream. The project – located on a narrow strip of land just west of Interstate 35E north of downtown St. Paul — is the culmination of long awaited vision of the North End community to create a nature sanctuary on an old railroad yard that fosters environmental education. To realize this goal, the highly-contaminated Trout Brook site required significant collaboration, planning, community support, and funding sources. The Trout Brook Nature Sanctuary epitomizes the triple bottom line of Green Infrastructure planning, where the social needs of the community overlap with the environmental aspirations to protect and restore key natural resources, along with the economic vitality of the neighborhood. Benefits of this project to the surrounding neighborhood will only increase in the future.

ReScape Economic Impact Award winner: Surly Destination Brewery

Surly Brewing Company is one of the leaders of the Minnesota craft-brewing industry. After

Minnesota Brownfields ReScape Award Winners

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maximizing brewing capacity at their Brooklyn Center facility, Surly searched for a site where they could expand production and create a destination brewery with amenities such as a beer hall, restaurant, event center, and beer garden. After looking at 80 potential sites across the Twin Cities metro area, Surly selected an 8.5-acre industrial site near the University of Minnesota on the Minneapolis-St. Paul border. Surly was well aware of the industrial nature of the site, which had been vacant for approximately three years, and its long environmental history, including petroleum leaks, RCRA actions, and various activities in the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA)'s Brownfield and Superfund programs. Working closely with the grant funders, local government, and the MPCA, Surly made the business decision to move forward and remediate the site's contamination to prepare the property for their destination brewery. Since opening in December, 2014, the brewery has added over 200 full time jobs, and over \$200,000 per year to the tax base.

ReScape Environmental Impact Award winner: CHS Field

CHS Field, located in Lowertown St. Paul, is the new home of the St. Paul Saints baseball team. The new stadium, which replaced the existing 30-year old Midway Stadium, was built on a vacant and polluted industrial property that historically operated as a coal gas manufacturing plant and most recently as a manufacturing facility. The new ballpark has taken advantage of transit and other downtown infrastructure, while still serving state and regional needs for youth, amateur, and the St. Paul Saints baseball. This publicly-owned and privately supported ballpark is anticipated to host over 160 events and entertain approximately 400,000 visitors per year. CHS Field is the first sports venue to meet Minnesota's B3 Sustainable Building 2030 Energy Standards, which is "an energy conservation program design to significantly reduce energy and carbon in [the state's] commercial, institutional, and industrial buildings." The result of CHS Field's sustainable features has dubbed the stadium as the "greenest ballpark in America", using more green practices than any other stadium.

ReScape Small City Impact Award winner: Northern Stacks 1

The former Naval Industrial Reserve Ordnance Plant, located in Fridley, was constructed to produce advanced weapons systems with the onset of World War II. The property was owned by the Navy, operated by Northern Ordnance, Inc. and later BAE Systems, which has operations at the facility today. Notable operations associated with the facility included welding, vapor degreasing of metal parts and products, painting, plating, annealing, etching, bulk gasoline and fuel oil storage, chemical storage, and on-site waste storage and disposal. The site was added to the National Priorities List in 1989. Partners Hyde Development & MA Mortenson worked to remediate and partially delist the property from Superfund status. Doing so required extensive partnerships with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the City of Fridley, the Minnesota Department of Employment & Economic Development, Metropolitan Council, and the U.S. Navy. Smaller cities like Fridley have fewer surplus dollars than larger cities with deeper property tax bases, which made it far more difficult to assemble the necessary funds to complete the redevelopment. Additionally, Anoka County does not have an Environmental Response Fund Grant Program like Hennepin and Ramsey counties—which meant one less source of remediation funding. The redevelopment was further complicated by the enormous cost to redevelop such a large and complex site. When completed, the entire redevelopment is expected to create 3,000 new jobs, and Northern Stacks I alone will create over 200 new jobs. The entire redevelopment will add over \$100 million in new property tax base and over \$3 million in new property taxes annually. The first building, Northern Stacks

I, will add over \$10 million in new property tax base and over \$400,000 in new annual property taxes.

The Mac Hyde Individual Award of Brownfields Leadership (“The Mac”) winner: *Heidi Timm-Bijold of the City of Duluth*

The Mac Hyde Award is given annually in the name of the late Maclay Hyde, a pioneering environmental attorney who died in 2013. The “Mac” Award honors an individual who demonstrates some of Hyde’s unique traits: high ethical standards, commitment to serving the community and the environment, excellence in brownfields redevelopment, and a genuine interest in helping and mentoring others in the field. This year’s winner, Heidi Timm-Bijold has been a driving force for economic redevelopment in the City of Duluth. She has demonstrated creativity and risk-taking in working to revitalize Duluth's brownfield properties, as well as serving as a mentor for professionals entering the field of redevelopment. Duluth Mayor Don Ness described Timm-Bijold as “one of the finest public servants I have worked with and this recognition is very well deserved.”

About Minnesota Brownfields

Minnesota Brownfields is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization whose mission is to promote, through education, research, and partnerships, the efficient cleanup and reuse of contaminated land as a means of generating economic growth, strengthening communities and enabling sustainable land use and development. For more information about Minnesota Brownfields, visit www.mnbrownfields.org.

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