

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: (DATE)

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Centra Homes Helps Turn a Weed Patch into a Community Asset

COON RAPIDS, Minnesota – (date) –

Centra Homes is happy to announce the purchase and development of 30 acres of land in Coon Rapids, MN. Development of the parcel, which has been sitting vacant for 20 years, will begin in the spring of 2019.

According to Centra Homes CFO, David Pattberg, this particular piece of land was an old strip mall that the city bought to redevelop. But when the market crashed, so did the development plans.

“Other developers have taken a look at it over the years,” says Pattberg. “However, no one was able to come up with a plan that worked. And to be fair, this was a difficult site for the city to develop. Fortunately, we were able to come up with a creative solution that worked for everyone involved.”

The site will eventually include 145 residential lots and homes, with three different house styles to choose from, and geared mostly toward empty-nesters and young families. Not to mention a host of public improvements to the neighborhood. Which helps address a growing problem in this country.

According to a 2016 study by the Journal of Urban Design, on average, 16.7% of U.S. cities are considered vacant, which is up nearly two percent since 1998. It’s an unfortunate, yet familiar, aspect of the urban landscape in America. But also, one with a lot of untapped potential.

“This project in Coon Rapids,” says Pattberg, “is just another example of how we partner with cities to help them develop vacant land that could be labeled as

challenging. Plus, we really enjoy working with cities. And there's nothing more gratifying than taking a weed patch and transforming it into a community asset."

Home construction for this project will begin in late summer 2019, with the entire development and construction process expected to last three to five years. And after two decades of false starts and dashed hopes, that's music to everyone's ears in the city of Coon Rapids.

"We helped them solve a problem," says Pattberg. "But we also listened to everything the city had to say, and with their input, came up with a plan that everyone was happy with. It was definitely a collaborative effort."

About Centra Homes

Centra Homes has been building high-quality homes in Minnesota since 2011. If you're looking for a builder who listens intently to what you want, provides creative solutions to difficult problems, and completes all work on schedule, you're looking for Centra. They also make the entire process as pain-free as possible, as they handle all the purchase and development details from start to finish. For more information, visit: www.CentraHomes.com.