

UMore Park Update – June 2011

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See details at www.umorepark.umn.edu

University lease agreement launches mining activities on UMore Park property

The University of Minnesota and Dakota Aggregates, LLC, executed a 40-year lease agreement in early June for phased aggregate mining on the University property in Dakota County. This agreement follows the completion of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and authorization by the University Board of Regents to execute the lease on 1,722 acres of its 5,000-acre UMore Park property, both in November 2010. Net proceeds from the sale of sand and gravel will be held in the Regents-established Legacy Fund and designated for long-term support of academic pursuits not adequately funded by state, federal or tuition resources.

- Following local jurisdictional approvals, mining preparation activities are anticipated in late 2011, with phased aggregate mining anticipated in spring 2012. The terms of the agreement limit mining to a total of 160 acres at any given time.

UMore Park sustainability action plan sets goals for future community

The University is incorporating citizen input from the April 7 Public Forum on Sustainability and ideas provided by community leaders and experts from local jurisdictions, nonprofit organizations, state and federal agencies and private sector organizations into an action plan for sustainability in the future community at UMore Park. The April event helped to identify goals and strategies to achieve sustainability across ten key areas including health, sense of community, culture, job creation, energy, water, the landscape and others. The goal-setting process, led by international nonprofit BioRegional, will be completed in late summer 2011 with the publication of the UMore Park Sustainability Action Plan.

Field work for remedial investigation begins on UMore Park property

Following review of the Remedial Investigation (RI) Work Plan and authorization to proceed from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA), the early stages of field work for the RI on the eastern 3,500 acres of the UMore Park property is anticipated to begin mid-summer 2011. Field work will include soil borings, test trenches and soil and groundwater sampling across the property to identify environmental conditions resulting from historical use of the property, including as the former Gopher Ordnance Works (GOW), a World War II federal gunpowder manufacturing facility. The assessment complies with all MPCA requirements. The investigation will tentatively conclude in late 2011. Information and updates on the remedial investigation will be made available at www.umorepark.umn.edu.

Ongoing faculty and student initiatives

Sustainable housing—which nest is best? Researchers in the Center for Sustainable Building Research at the U's College of Design are exploring best practices for energy-efficient, sustainable housing in Minnesota in a summer 2011 research project. The study includes a cost benefit analysis of design innovations in residential developments such as the Passivhaus approach—maximizing solar orientation, high efficiency windows and insulation, and airtight construction to reduce or eliminate the need for heating and cooling—and other emerging technologies. Outcomes from the project will support development of key housing and energy systems goals for the future UMore Park community.



Setting the stage for wind energy research. Work begins mid-summer to prepare a foundation for construction of the 2.5 megawatt wind turbine on the UMore Park property. The turbine and related infrastructure will be the focal point of research and education programs led by the U's EOLOS team, an industry-academy wind energy research consortium, which seek to increase wind turbine efficiency through innovations in turbine design and control. A commissioning event is anticipated for fall 2011. For information, visit www.eolos.umn.edu.

Advisory Board welcomes new members, chair. Twelve individuals, including faculty, staff and students from across the University, begin terms July 1 as new members of the UMore Park Academic Mission Advisory Board. In addition, Allen Levine, Dean of the College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences, assumes the position of Advisory Board Chair. The Advisory Board helps to ensure that the University's publicly-engaged research, education and outreach strengths are integrated into the planning and development of the envisioned community at UMore Park. Additional details on academic initiatives and names of the Advisory Board members are at www.umorepark.umn.edu/research/.

August 18 open house at UMore Park highlights University research, education

The Rosemount Research and Outreach Center located on the UMore Park property is hosting its annual Open House on Thursday, August 18 from 4:00 to 8:00 p.m. This family-friendly event provides an opportunity to learn about the University's many research and educational activities. Tour the gardens and get answers to your questions from Master Gardeners; sample foods that help to prevent cancer and other chronic diseases; taste wine made from University-bred grapes; hop on a wagon-ride research tour; and eat your fill of corn-on-the-cob! The Research and Outreach Center is a unit of the College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences. For more information, visit the events page at <http://rroc.cfans.umn.edu>.

UMore Park Academic Office contributes to ISD 196 strategic planning effort

Independent School District 196 (Rosemount-Apple Valley-Eagan) launched strategic planning efforts to develop a 5-year plan and blueprint for student education. Charged with reframing the district's mission, vision and goals and identifying measures of success, the strategic planning committee will conduct its work over the summer of 2011, and recommend a strategic plan to the School Board for approval. Academic Office Executive Director Carla Carlson notes that UMore Park planning strives to foster synergies in the region, including collaborative opportunities to support the goals of the school district, community organizations and others.

Vermillion Highlands Updates

Vermillion Highlands: A Research Recreation and Wildlife Management Area lies adjacent and to the south of the UMore Park property. Established in 2006 by the Minnesota State Legislature, the property is jointly managed by the University of Minnesota and the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) in conjunction with Dakota County and Empire Township.

Recreation and wildlife management. Visit www.vermillionhighlands.umn.edu for information and updates on recreation and hunting activities at Vermillion Highlands, including:

- **Recreation.** Experience the sights and sounds of summer as you hike throughout Vermillion Highlands' prairies and wooded areas. Or horseback ride the more than 11 miles of the Lone Rock Trail. The trail head is the sole access point for the Lone Rock Trail. Day- and season-pass information for equestrian users is available at www.vermillionhighlands.umn.edu.
- **Hunting and Trapping.** Visit www.vermillionhighlands.umn.edu for information on fall 2011 hunting application deadlines and season dates, or contact the DNR area manager at 651-322-4643.

UMore Park. The University of Minnesota Outreach, Research and Education (UMore) Park is a 5,000-acre site 25 miles southeast of the Twin Cities at the suburban-rural interface in Dakota County. It is among the largest contiguous properties in the United States that is owned by a land-grant university. The vision to build a University-founded community at UMore Park, a 25- to 30-year endeavor, was affirmed by the University Board of Regents in December 2006. Work based on the concept master plan for development of a unique, vibrant, sustainable community of 20,000 to 30,000 people is under way.