

UMore Park Update – October 2011

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See details at www.umorepark.umn.edu

Public Wind Turbine Commissioning set for Tuesday, October 25th

The University of Minnesota-led Wind Energy Research Consortium will host a public commissioning event on Tuesday, October 25, from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. to celebrate the completion of the 2.5 megawatt wind turbine located on the northeast corner of the UMore Park property. The event will include brief remarks by University and U.S. Department of Energy leaders on the significance of this wind energy research and education project – one of three in the nation – to support cutting-edge, industry-academy research partnerships. Attendees can visit informational stations on the field site on October 25 and talk with resource people about aspects of the U.S.-made *Liberty* turbine and planned research and education activities. To RSVP for the ceremony, please visit <http://eolos.umn.edu/rsvp>.

Sustainable Communities Interdisciplinary Lecture

Over 200 people attended a lecture by internationally renowned landscape architect and artist Herbert Dreiseitl, founder of Atelier Dreiseitl in Ueberlingen, Germany. The lecture focused on Dreiseitl's 30 years of experience designing sustainable waterscapes for livable cities throughout the world. He emphasized how communities can embrace water and integrate it in ecologically sound, meaningful and artistic ways to enhance public spaces. Dreiseitl is also contributing to the integration of sustainability goals for planning at the UMore Park property.

Ongoing faculty and student initiatives

Accessible communities for lifelong living. Undergraduate students in the U's Department of Design, Housing and Apparel are exploring housing needs of older adults and persons with disabilities in the fall 2011 course *Promoting Independence in Housing and Community*. Students use the envisioned community at UMore Park to assess how housing design and community planning facilitates or inhibits the quality of life for persons with special needs.

Promoting healthy eating and local foods. Students in the U's Carlson School of Management are exploring community and business development opportunities for local foods activities and gardening at UMore Park through the Carlson Ventures Enterprise program. The student team is conducting a feasibility study to assess potential opportunities for research and demonstration gardens, community gardens, a farmers' market, and educational and special events related to healthy lifestyles, food and nutrition. Partnerships across University departments and with local organizations are a key component of the assessment.

In brief: Engagement and partnerships

- Members and friends of the University are contributing ideas in October forums. The Stillwater and Dakota County chapters of the University of Minnesota Alumni Association will hear presentations and engage in discussion surrounding University research opportunities and plans for the development of a sustainable community at UMore Park.
- The Office for UMore Park Academic Initiatives is a patron of the 2011 Healthy Foods Summit: Optimizing Food Systems for Human Health, presented by the University of Minnesota Healthy Foods, Healthy Lives Institute and the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum, held on October 10 and 11.



Site preparation launches for Rosemount ballfields in UMore Park

At its October meeting, the Rosemount City Council approved a contract for grading and site preparation this fall for new baseball and softball fields for children, youth and adult play. The joint-use ballfields are proposed on a 27.5-acre site of land adjacent to Dakota County Technical College and the UMore Park property, acquired in August 2011 through a pre-dedication agreement with the University of Minnesota. Initial site preparation is supported by an in-kind donation from SKB Environmental Inc. to the City of Rosemount. In addition, the Rosemount City Council authorized the creation of plans and specifications for the first phase of the project, which will include two ballfields, irrigation, parking and other utilities. Construction documents are anticipated to be prepared in early winter, followed by a bid process in early 2012. The City hopes to begin construction of the site in the spring of 2012.

New member appointed to UMore Development LLC Board of Governors

The Board of Regents approved the appointment of Allen S. Levine, Dean of the College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences, as a University Governor and member of the UMore Development LLC Board of Governors at its September meeting. Levine replaces outgoing Governor Kathryn F. Brown, University Vice President. Levine will join eight founding members of the board, three of whom were also approved for reappointment at the meeting. Sarah B. Harris, chief operating officer, Minneapolis Downtown Improvement District; Michael O'Keefe, president emeritus, Minneapolis College of Art and Design; and David Sellergren, attorney, Fredrickson & Byron, P.A., each continue their service on the board for additional three year terms. The Board of Governors provides oversight for the planning and development of UMore Park. The members bring private sector and University expertise in planning, finance, real estate and transactional law to the planning and development process.

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:

- Lone Rock Trail closes to equestrian use October 31. Conditions permitting, the trail will be open for cross-country skiing on December 12. For the most up-to-date information on trail conditions, visit the Dakota County Web site.
- 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.

Augsburg College Biology Class. Undergraduate students in an Animal Behavior course at Augsburg College will be observing animal patterns and behavior on the Vermillion Highlands property. Students will place observation cameras on the site this fall to capture images of animals to research the ecological factors influencing mammal habitat use and movement in the Vermillion Highlands. The students are advised by an Augsburg College faculty member and the activities will be conducted in conjunction with the Minnesota DNR. University of Minnesota faculty are also exploring collaborative opportunities for students to participate in animal behavior studies in Vermillion Highlands.

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.