

UMore Park Update – June 2012

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See details at www.umorepark.umn.edu

Remedial Investigation completed, Public Forum June 28

Findings from a year-long remedial investigation (RI) of the eastern portion of the UMore Park property will be summarized at a public forum in Rosemount on June 28. The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) and the University of Minnesota are hosting the forum to inform the public and respond to questions about the findings on Thursday, June 28, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Rosemount Community Center, 13885 South Robert Trail, Rosemount, MN. As part of the investigation, the University's contractor, Barr Engineering, collected over 590 samples of soil and groundwater for laboratory analysis to assess any potential environmental impacts associated with historical uses of the property. The MPCA provided regulatory oversight during the investigation. The findings of the RI are documented in the Remedial Investigation Report, which is available at the UMore Park website.

UMore Park-related student research projects

Students present to Rosemount City Council. Four graduate students in the Humphrey School of Public Affairs completed a capstone research project in conjunction with the City of Rosemount that focused on sustainable development case studies. The students evaluated 10 existing developments by the topic areas of land use and the environment, energy, stormwater management, water resources, solid waste, economic and community development and financing. Their report provides a comprehensive assessment of options for implementing sustainability over the long term. Students presented their findings to the Rosemount City Council at a work session on May 9. Their report *Rosemount and UMore Park: Sustainable Development Case Studies and Lessons Learned* is available on the UMore Park website.

Spring semester projects. An additional six classes completed UMore Park-based projects during the Spring semester. The classes focused on a variety of topics including: sustainable and intelligent communities, ecosystems of wellbeing, materials performance in sustainable building, energy and indoor environmental quality in sustainable design, environmental law and brownfield redevelopment, and housing development and management. To date, 187 students have participated in UMore Park-related classes and projects.

Economic analyses. Students from the Department of Applied Economics and the Carlson School of Management are analyzing data over the summer that will better inform discussions about economic development among partners in the region and the UMore Development LLC.

Activities in conjunction with local partners

AUAR update. The City of Rosemount, in partnership with Empire Township and the University of Minnesota, has launched an Alternative Urban Areawide Review (AUAR) that will be conducted on the 5,000-acre UMore Park property. The AUAR is an environmental review process that is regulated by the State of Minnesota. Through evaluating three development scenarios, the AUAR will assess potential impacts from future development to the surrounding community and infrastructure. The City Council approved the three scenarios on June 5. The AUAR process is scheduled to be completed in Summer 2013.



Gravel ordinance passed by City Council in May. A gravel mining ordinance was passed by the Rosemount City Council at their May 15 meeting. Dakota Aggregates LLC will now formally apply for a mining permit, a process that requires a series of public meetings prior to final approvals. Dakota Aggregates LLC is under a 40-year lease agreement with the University of Minnesota for gravel mining on 1,722 acres of the western edge of UMore Park.

Carlson appointed UMore Development LLC Executive Director

At its quarterly meeting in May, the UMore Development LLC's Board of Governors named Carla Carlson executive director. The LLC was established by the University of Minnesota to manage day-to-day business operations, planning and future development of the UMore Park property. In her role as executive director, Carlson's priorities include the LLC's initiative on economic development, in conjunction with partners in the region, as well as overseeing the LLC's contributions to the Alternative Urban Areawide Review.

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 is now open for horseback riding. Daily use passes are \$5.00 and are available by placing the fee in the box provided at the trail head. Annual use passes are \$25.00 and are effective through March 31, 2013.
- Hunting and Trapping. A limited number of permits are available for deer hunting on the Vermillion Highlands property. The application deadline for archery hunt is August 15; shotgun and muzzleloader hunt is September 6. Visit the website for information on fall 2012 hunting application instructions and season dates, or contact the DNR area manager at 651-322-4643.
- Whitetail Woods. The Vermillion Highlands Joint Steering Committee is working in conjunction with Dakota County through their public process of developing a master plan for a new regional park. The 460-acre Whitetail Woods Regional Park abuts Vermillion Highlands on the east and the UMore Park property on the north. Details about the Whitetail Woods are available at www.co.dakota.mn.us/LeisureRecreation/CountyParks/Locations/WhitetailWoods/.

Vermillion Highland Joint Steering Committee. The University of Minnesota has appointed two representatives to serve on the Vermillion Highlands Joint Steering Committee. Carla Carlson and Bob Stine will begin their service on July 1, 2012. Carlson manages activities related to the planning and development of the UMore Park property as the Executive Director for the UMore Development LLC. Stine brings 25 years of experience in forest genetics research and outreach at the University and currently serves as Associate Dean for Academic Programs in the College of Continuing Education. Previous representatives were Charles Muscoplat, Chair of the Committee for Pharmaceutical Development, and Deborah Swackhamer, Professor of Environmental Health Sciences, School of Public Health and Co-Director of the Water Resources Center. The Joint Steering Committee convenes quarterly to set broad direction and ensures the inter-organizational cooperation regarding management of the Vermillion Highlands property.

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 future development is under way.