



Creating a new, sustainable community on the University's 5,000-acre property

About the University of Minnesota's UMore Park Property

www.umorepark.umn.edu

Vision

- The University of Minnesota Outreach, Research and Education (UMore) Park is a 5,000-acre site owned by the University and located in Dakota County.
- The vision for the UMore Park property is for development of a unique, sustainable community where people can live, work and play.
- Development of the University-founded community of 20,000 to 30,000 residents would take 25 to 30 years.
- The community would be differentiated by innovations in renewable energy, health and wellness, education and life-long learning, environmental quality, transportation, arts & culture, diversity, international linkages, housing, technology and other University mission strengths.
- The community would contribute to a vital regional economy characterized by enriched communities, thriving businesses, and educational, social and natural amenities.

Property Location

- In Dakota County, the third most populous county in Minnesota and one of the fastest growing.
- Fifteen minutes from the Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport, and near the Highway 52 corridor between the Twin Cities and Rochester.

Planning and Development

Comprehensive planning and assessment of development impacts. The University collaborates closely with the City of Rosemount, Empire Township and Dakota County to update (amend) the comprehensive plans of the local jurisdictions to reflect the development of the UMore Park property. Comprehensive plan amendments will address land use, transportation, housing, parks and open space, economic development and infrastructure. In an important step toward comprehensive plan amendments, the City of Rosemount and the University launched a broad environmental assessment called an Alternative Urban Areawide Review (AUAR) to identify the potential impacts of development on the property and surrounding area. The AUAR includes development scenarios for UMore Park and is anticipated to be completed in fall of 2013.

Sustainability action plan. The UMore Park team is developing an action plan for sustainability with participation from community leaders and experts from local jurisdictions, nonprofit organizations, state and federal agencies, and private sector organizations, and citizens. The action plan identifies goals and strategies to achieve sustainability across ten key areas including health, sense of community, culture, job creation, energy, water, the landscape and others.

Management and endowment. The Board of Regents approved the UMore Development Limited Liability Company (LLC) in October 2009 to manage the development of the property. A nine-person Board of Governors was appointed to direct the company. The University's Board of Regents also authorized the creation of the UMore Park Legacy Fund, an endowment for income generated by activities on the property that will help to ensure long-term support for special academic research,

education and public engagement opportunities not adequately funded by state, federal or tuition resources.

Academic mission. The Office for UMore Park Academic Initiatives is responsible for integrating research, learning and public engagement into the fabric of the new community. Led by Executive Director Carla Carlson and supported by the UMore Park Academic Mission Advisory Board, the office complements the planning and development work of the UMore Development LLC, with the overarching goal to bring innovation, quality of life and economic benefits to future residents and the broader region through publically-engaged research, education and outreach. To date, the Academic Initiatives office has fostered projects on wind energy research, smart grid design, affordable housing, sustainable housing design, ground source heating and cooling, groundwater quality, and others. Special initiatives lend support to undergraduate learning opportunities and interdisciplinary scholarship.

Gravel resources. In June 2011, the University completed a 40-year lease agreement with Dakota Aggregates, LLC, for phased aggregate mining on 1,722 acres of its UMore Park property in Dakota County. The agreement follows the University Board of Regents approval of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and authorization to execute the lease agreement, both in November 2010. Approval of mining permits for Dakota Aggregates was approved by the Rosemount City Council in December 2012. A September 2008 geotechnical assessment of UMore Park confirmed substantial deposits of commercial quality sand and gravel particularly on the western edge of the property. Following extraction, mining sites can be transformed into amenities such as lakes and ponds that would enhance the landscape.

Concept master plan. The University's UMore Park team completed a concept master plan for the 5,000-acre property in November 2008, in conjunction with a consultant planning and development team. The concept master plan was approved by the Board of Regents in December 2008. The plan captures the intent for a diverse community with significant open space and natural amenities, neighborhood commercial and retail, office and light industrial space, recreation and relaxation, a wide range of single- and multi-family dwellings, and energy efficiencies – while incorporating future market flexibility.

Public engagement. Ideas from citizens and organizations continue to inform the UMore Park team. Opportunities to contribute input and comments in 2011 included public forums on sustainability for the community at UMore Park as well as on potential scenarios for development on the UMore Park property. Nearly 1,000 citizens contributed ideas both during the development of the final concept master plan in summer 2008 and during six Listening Sessions in September 2007, which helped to establish priorities for the vision for the new community. Comments are welcome at any time via the UMore Park website at www.umorepark.umn.edu.

Public natural area. In March 2010, concept master plan was completed for the 2,822-acre *Vermillion Highlands: A Research, Recreation and Wildlife Management Area*, located on the southern edge of the UMore Park property. The property is under joint management by the University and the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, in conjunction with Dakota County and Empire Township. By action of the legislature and the Governor in May 2006, the University will deed this segment of the property to the State of Minnesota in 2032, to be maintained as a natural area for public access. The University has rights in perpetuity for research, education and public engagement on the property.

For information, contact: Allie Klynderud, Public Engagement Assistant
Phone: 612-626-4794, E-mail: klynd002@umn.edu