

UMore Park Update – December 2012

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See details at www.umorepark.umn.edu

Economic development opportunities

The UMore Development LLC is exploring ways that activities on the 5,000-acre UMore Park property can contribute to economic development in the region. Student research assistants from the Department of Applied Economics and the Carlson School of Management analyzed economic data and conducted case studies in order to better understand the best climate for attracting business and creating new job opportunities on the property. The analyses will inform discussions about economic development among partners in the region. The two reports, available at www.umorepark.umn.edu/research/projects/projectrepository/, provide a comprehensive assessment of the current market as well as recommendations for future initiatives based on real estate development case studies in other regions of the country.

Activities in conjunction with local partners

AUAR process continues to Fall 2013. The UMore Development LLC is working with the City of Rosemount, Empire Township and others on a public process, an Alternative Urban Areawide Review (AUAR), that will identify ways to avoid, minimize or mitigate environmental impacts on the 5,000-acre UMore Park property as future development occurs. The City of Rosemount leads the process, which is conducted under the auspices of the state's Environmental Quality Board. Based on three scenarios, the AUAR will include information and analyses on traditional elements of required infrastructure including water, sanitary sewer, stormwater drainage and transportation, for example. The baseline scenario for the AUAR is the UMore Park concept master plan. The AUAR will tentatively conclude in early Fall 2013. Information on public meetings related to the process can be found on the City's Web site at <http://www.ci.rosemount.mn.us/index.aspx?NID=188>.

Sustainability reports now available

Defining sustainability. The *Sustainable Community at UMore Park: Aspirational Goals and Action Plan for Sustainability* and the companion *Sustainability Summary* are the products of a two-day UMore Park sustainability workshop in 2011 and a facilitated process in partnership with the international nonprofit BioRegional. The reports emphasize economic, social and environmental sustainability. They capture the ideas and best practices that emerged from discussions among 80 individuals during the workshop, citizen contributions from a public forum following the workshop and the additional creativity of those who volunteered to draft and review sections of the report. Both reports are available at www.umorepark.umn.edu/planning/SelectPublications/sustainability2012/.

Integrating concepts. The *Integration Plan: Infusing Sustainability into Planning and Development at UMore Park* integrates the overall vision for the property with the aspirational goals for sustainability outlined in the above report. Joachim Eble Architektur held workshops and planning sessions with participants from the University, external consultants and local partners to infuse the goals for sustainability into the original concept for the property. Based on timelines and site characteristics, a phasing project with differentiated main character areas was developed, focusing on the glacial landscape. The report offers renderings and recommendations for planning and development and can be viewed at www.umorepark.umn.edu/planning/SelectPublications/2012integrationplan/.



UMore Park Academic Initiatives

Architectural Theory. Graduate students in the College of Design completed projects that focused on applying various architectural theories to planning and design of the UMore Park site. Students studied influential architectural theorists and proposed a design strategy for the site based on the ideas of each theorist, keeping history and future plans for the site in mind. Select projects from the Fall 2012 semester are available on the student project page at www.umorepark.umn.edu/research/projects/projectrepository/.

Resilient and Intelligent Communities. A group of graduate and undergraduate students in an intensive summer seminar through the College of Design researched sustainable community precedents through a series of case studies and site visits. The students identified design patterns and documented innovative development approaches to inform development plans at UMore Park. Student contributions from the course are available at www.umorepark.umn.edu/research/projects/projectrepository/.

Progress Report. The 2012 Progress Report highlights the contributions to date of the 220 students and many faculty members who have contributed analyses and creativity to aspects of UMore Park planning and development through class projects, capstone courses, internships and collaborative research. The report chronicles the academic foundations of UMore Park and the partnerships, events and reports that have enhanced planning. View the report at www.umorepark.umn.edu/research/initiatives/2012progress/.

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:

- Conditions permitting, Lone Rock Trail will be open for cross-country skiing after January 1. The trail closed to hiking and equestrian uses on October 31. For the most up-to-date information on trail conditions, visit the Dakota County Web site at www.co.dakota.mn.us/parks/Pages/trail-conditions.aspx/.
- Late season hunting is available in the Vermillion Highlands starting on December 10. Late season goose hunt runs through December 28, 2012. Late season pheasant hunt concludes on January 1, 2013 and is available on a first-come, first-served basis by designated parking spaces. To view the schedule, rules and regulations please visit www.vermillionhighlands.umn.edu/mgmt/wildlife/.

Initial spending approved for Whitetail Woods Regional Park. Dakota County commissioners approved \$4.7 million at their October 2012 board meeting to begin improvements on the Whitetail Woods Regional Park, set to open in early 2014. The commissioners directed county staff to concentrate the initial spending in a commons area that includes an observation point overlooking Empire Lake, picnic grounds, a lighted sledding hill with a multi-purpose warming house, playgrounds, a 100-person shelter, art, restrooms and a parking lot. The Vermillion Highlands Joint Steering Committee works in conjunction with Dakota County on aspects of the planning for Whitetail Woods. The 460-acre Regional Park abuts Vermillion Highlands on the east and the UMore Park property on the north. Details about the Whitetail Woods are available at <http://www.co.dakota.mn.us/parks/parksTrails/WhitetailWoods/Pages/default.aspx/>.

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.