

## UMore Park Update – October 2013

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**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 mixed-use community at UMore Park, a 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.

### **City of Rosemount on schedule to complete AUAR**

The Alternative Urban Areawide Review (AUAR) is on schedule to go before the Rosemount City Council for approval on October 15. The meeting follows a 10-day review and comment period that was held September 3 – 14, and final reviews by the Rosemount Planning Commission and the Empire Township Planning Commission. The State of Minnesota process, led by the City in partnership with Empire Township and the University of Minnesota, identified ways to avoid, minimize, or mitigate environmental impacts on the 5,000-acre UMore Park property by assessing three scenarios for mixed-use development with up to 30,000 residents over approximately 30-years. The draft AUAR and additional details are posted on the City of Rosemount website.

### **Board of Regents presentation set for October 11**

The UMore Development LLC will provide an update on UMore Park activities to the University of Minnesota Board of Regents on Friday, October 11. The presentation includes a summary of activities completed to date and anticipated next steps. The UMore Park update will cover the creation of a concept master plan and subsequent work with the City of Rosemount on the Alternative Urban Areawide Review (see above), as well as the 2012 remedial investigation, management of aggregate resources, and broad public engagement. The UMore Development LLC, with a 9-member Board of Governors, was established by the Regents in 2009 to manage real estate development and business opportunities on the property.

### **City of Rosemount celebrates opening of two new ball fields at UMore Park**

The City of Rosemount held a celebration for the opening of two of the five new ball fields at UMore Park on September 3. The University's Board of Regents authorized the agreement to convey 27.5 acres of the property to the City of Rosemount in 2011 for active recreational purposes as a pre-park dedication. The ball fields are the first tangible product of the partnership between the City and the University and an amenity that helps meet a need in the community.

### **AUAR presented at September American Planning Association conference**

The City of Rosemount was invited to make a presentation on the UMore Park Alternative Urban Areawide Review at the American Planning Association's Upper Midwest Planners Conference in Rochester, Minnesota, held September 19. The panel presentation included UMore Development LLC executive director Carla Carlson and the LLC's consultant Mark Kogler, HKGi. The UMore Park AUAR is of interest due to the sheer size of the property and its ownership by the University. The AUAR process is common to Minnesota but not frequently used in other states.

### **Dakota County Board authorizes Easement Agreement for Whitetail Woods**

The Dakota County Board of Commissioners authorized an agreement with the University of Minnesota in partnership with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources for the Whitetail Woods Regional Park Road and Trail Easement at their July 30 meeting. The agreement helps to ensure seamless access, through Vermillion Highlands, for the public via a road and trails. Related long-term plans include the Vermillion Highlands Greenway and Rosemount Greenway Regional Trails that would link Lebanon Hills Regional Park to Whitetail Woods Regional Park and Spring Lake Park Reserve. Improvements on the 460-acre Whitetail Woods Regional Park are currently under way.



## Vermillion Highlands Updates

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**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 2,840-acre 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](http://www.vermillionhighlands.umn.edu) for information and updates on recreation and hunting activities at Vermillion Highlands, including:

- Lone Rock Trail is open for hiking and equestrian use through November 8. As an added safety precaution during the archery deer hunt, which continues through November 3, trail users should dress in blaze orange. There are no fees required to access the trail; hours of operation are between 10:00 a.m. and sunset. Information on expanded access points is available on the Vermillion Highlands website.
- Lone Rock Trail will be closing for equestrian and hiking use on November 9. The trail will re-open for hiking and cross-country skiing on December 16. Please refer to the Dakota County website <http://www.co.dakota.mn.us/parks/Pages/trail-conditions.aspx> for cross-country ski trail conditions.
- Pine Loop, a portion of the Lone Rock Trail [[link to trail map](#)], will be closed during a special shotgun deer hunt for handicapped individuals on October 26 and 27. A link to the trail map can be found on the website at <http://www.vermillionhighlands.umn.edu/mgmt/activities>.
- Special permit applications have closed for the fall and winter season, see hunting dates below:
  - September 14 – November 3: Archery Deer Hunt (special permit only) – LONE ROCK TRAIL OPEN
  - October 26 – 27: Handicap Shotgun Deer Hunt – PINE LOOP CLOSED
  - November 9 – 22: Shotgun Deer Hunt (special permit only) – LONE ROCK TRAIL CLOSED
  - November 3 – December 15: Muzzleloader Hunt (special permit only) – LONE ROCK TRAIL CLOSED
  - December 16 – January 1, 2014: Pheasant and Goose Hunting – TRAIL OPEN (for cross-country skiing)