

## UMore Park Update – *September 2010*

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See details at [www.umorepark.umn.edu](http://www.umorepark.umn.edu)

### **U to host sustainable communities lecture on September 28**

Germany's "grandfather of green building," Joachim Eble of Joachim Eble-Architektur in Tübingen, Germany, will present at a Sustainable Communities Interdisciplinary Lecture on Tuesday, September 28, hosted by the Office for UMore Park Academic Initiatives and other U cosponsors. Attendees will learn about sustainable, "healthy" design of communities and eco-cities as Eble shares from his experience on projects throughout Europe and Asia. The event will open with an introduction and summary of the University's vision for a sustainable community at UMore Park by Carla Carlson, executive director of the Office for UMore Park Academic Initiatives. Following Eble's lecture, a reactor panel, featuring Thomas Fisher, dean of the College of Design; Laurie McGinnis, director of the Center for Transportation Studies; and Allen Levine, dean of the College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences; will share their expertise and perspectives on issues around economic, environmental and social sustainability.

- The event will be held on Tuesday, September 28, from 3:30 to 5:00 p.m. at the 3M Auditorium in the Carlson School of Management on the University of Minnesota's West Bank Minneapolis campus. A light reception will follow the lecture. For those unable to attend, the lecture will also be aired live on the Web.
- The event is free but individuals are requested to register. Visit [www.umorepark.umn.edu/news/Eble/](http://www.umorepark.umn.edu/news/Eble/) to register or view additional information about the lecture.

### **U prepares for environmental assessment of UMore Park property**

The U is preparing to launch an environmental assessment to investigate any potential contamination on its UMore Park property from the former federal government use of the property. The assessment will include 3,500 acres comprising the Gopher Ordnance Works (GOW), a World War II smokeless gunpowder manufacturing facility. Vice President for University Services Kathleen O'Brien said, "Given the future plans for UMore Park, we need to make sure we understand the full impact of past activities there, before the University owned it. As a good steward of its property and a good neighbor in the region, the University will determine the level of contamination at the site, and after reviewing the outcome, will evaluate next steps toward remediating the site."

- The Phase II Environmental Site Assessment will include collection of samples of soil, groundwater and building materials to be analyzed for various potential contaminants. The assessment will comply with all Minnesota Pollution Control Agency requirements.
- The competitive public process to identify the contractor that will conduct the technical assessment will tentatively conclude in October 2010, with work commencing immediately following the selection of the contractor. The assessment is anticipated to be completed in October 2011.

### **Master of Science capstone project to explore smart grid at UMore Park**

Four graduate students in the Management of Technology program through the U's Technological Leadership Institute in the College of Science and Engineering are analyzing issues and opportunities for the design and implementation of an innovative power distribution system or "smart grid" for the new community at UMore



Park. A smart grid system combines extensive monitoring, communication and control technologies with power distribution to increase the reliability and security of the system while allowing end-users to participate in reducing their energy use and carbon footprint. This unique capstone project will take place over the 2010-2011 academic year, and result in analyses of smart grid architectures and innovative technologies, risks and benefits, strategic recommendations and a proposed implementation plan.

- The team of students brings a combined 45 years of industry expertise to the capstone project and are advised by Massoud Amin, professor and director of the Technological Leadership Institute, and Dennis Polla, director of Graduate Studies for the Technological Leadership Institute's Management of Technology program.

## In Brief

- The UMore Park team is partnering with the Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program (UROP) to create additional opportunities for faculty and students to utilize UMore Park as a unique, hands-on research and education platform. UROP has offered research and learning opportunities for students since 1985.
- The University's vision for a new sustainable community at UMore Park will be showcased in a presentation at the 2010 Upper Midwest Regional Planning Conference taking place September 22-24 in Mankato, Minnesota. The event is affiliated with the national American Planning Association.
- UMore Park's regionally significant aggregate resources and the University's plans for the property were featured at a keynote presentation to geology and earth science teachers in August at the Minnesota Minerals Education Workshop in St. Paul, Minnesota.
- Two undergraduate students will present the results of their summer 2010 UMore Park affordable housing analyses to the City of Rosemount Planning Commission in a public meeting on October 26. Both students are completing degrees in the U's College of Design.

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## 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 in conjunction with Dakota County and Empire Township.

**Activities at Vermillion Highlands.** Visit [www.vermillionhighlands.umn.edu](http://www.vermillionhighlands.umn.edu) for information updates on recreation and hunting activities at Vermillion Highlands, including:

- **Hunting and Trapping.** The fall hunting season launches at Vermillion Highlands with deer hunting—archery (September 18-October 31), shotgun (November 6-19) and muzzleloader (November 27-December 12)—followed by pheasant hunting (December 13-January 2, 2011). Goose hunting on the Vermillion Highlands is permitted during the December (late) season only. Visit the Vermillion Highlands website at [www.vermillionhighlands.umn.edu](http://www.vermillionhighlands.umn.edu) for additional fall 2010 hunting information.
- **Recreation.** Enjoy the fall color and discover abundant wildlife as you hike throughout Vermillion Highlands' prairies and wooded areas. The Lone Rock Trail's scenic trails will be open to horseback riding through October 31. Conditions permitting, the Lone Rock Trail will open to cross-country skiing on December 13. The trail head is the sole access point for the Lone Rock Trail. Day- and season-pass information is available at [www.vermillionhighlands.umn.edu](http://www.vermillionhighlands.umn.edu).

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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 University-founded community at UMore Park, a 25- to 30-year endeavor, was affirmed by the University's 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.