

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

## Research, Education and Public Engagement at UMore Park Serving the University of Minnesota's Academic Mission

The University of Minnesota offers unique opportunities to integrate research, education and public engagement into planning, development and the evolution of the UMore Park property as well as innovative opportunities for the community and region over time. Outcomes from the planning and development of the 5,000-acre UMore Park property support the University's goal of becoming among the top public research institutions in the world.

Established in the fall of 2008, the UMore Park Academic Mission Advisory Board helps to identify and support integration of University research, education and public engagement into the planning and development of the UMore Park property.

### Academic contributions

The planning and development of a University-founded community at UMore Park is inseparable from the institution's academic mission in two distinct ways:

1. **For the citizens.** Research, education and public engagement, the three elements of the University's land grant mission, will be integrated into the development of the community and benefit citizens through technological innovation, economic development, learning opportunities, and social and cultural enrichment – contributions toward an improved quality of life; and
2. **For University faculty and students.** All phases of planning and development of the property offer unique research opportunities and research-based learning opportunities for faculty members and students. Few other academic institutions in the world can provide a research and learning platform that engages basic and translational research with the natural resources, infrastructure, design and social fabric of a community that will grow to 25,000 to 30,000 people.

### Elements of Academic Mission

The elements of academic mission – the tripartite land grant mission – are described as:

- **Research.** The planning and development of the UMore Park property offers faculty members and students opportunities to pursue questions in a vast range of fields in order to find answers that will contribute to new knowledge. UMore Park is an asset that can uniquely serve the University of Minnesota's special emphasis on interdisciplinary research, which bridges multiple disciplines to create new knowledge and addresses the complexities of societal issues.
- **Education.** Undergraduate and graduate students' learning experiences can be integrated into the planning and development of the community at UMore Park. Research and learning that engages classes as well as individual students or teams through projects offers mutual benefits – to students and to the community.
- **Public engagement.** The University is committed to “extend, apply, and exchange knowledge between the University and society by applying scholarly expertise to community problems, by helping organizations and individuals respond to their changing environments, and by making the knowledge and resources created and preserved at the University accessible to the citizens of the state, the nation, and the world.” The University's commitment to public engagement and the common good can permeate planning and development at UMore Park.

## **Academic Mission Guiding Principles**

The academic mission goal for the development of UMore Park is to ensure that the envisioned new community at UMore Park is innovative and distinctive through the University's unique imprimatur of education and discovery that brings quality of life to citizens.

The following seven overarching principles are intended to ensure that the new community at UMore Park will be rooted in the University's academic mission and to maximize the benefits of those endeavors for residents of UMore Park, the University, students and faculty over the long term.

- Advance the mission of the University.
- Contribute to the long-term success of the project.
- Engage the community and promote community involvement.
- Promote environmental, social and economic sustainability.
- Ensure that projects are relevant, addressing major topics of the day.
- Advance and steward new knowledge.
- Institutionalize UMore Park as a unique platform for community-engaged research, teaching and outreach.

## **Coordination of Academic Mission Activities**

The University's commitment to integrating academic mission into planning and development at UMore Park is supported by the work of the UMore Park Academic Mission Advisory Board to create new academic opportunities for faculty, students and staff that enhance research, learning and outreach. The work of the board complements the planning and development efforts of the UMore Development LLC, with the overarching goal to ensure that new knowledge and innovation from academic efforts benefit planning, development, community engagement and economic vitality in the region. To date, academic projects have included wind energy research, smart grid design, affordable housing, sustainable housing design, ground source heating and cooling, groundwater quality, and others. Special initiatives support undergraduate learning opportunities and interdisciplinary scholarship.

**For information, contact:** Allie Klynderud, Public Engagement Assistant  
Phone: 612-626-4794, E-mail: [klynd002@umn.edu](mailto:klynd002@umn.edu)