

UMore Park Update – November 2010

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See details at www.umorepark.umn.edu

U concludes two-year sand and gravel EIS

At its November 12 meeting, the University of Minnesota Board of Regents determined that the final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for proposed mining at UMore Park adequately addresses all potential environmental issues and concerns in accordance with Minnesota statutes. The assessment identifies a phased mining plan and the proposed location of ancillary facilities on approximately 1,722 acres on the western edge of the UMore Park property in the City of Rosemount and Empire Township, Minnesota.

- Evaluating dust, noise, traffic and fourteen other subjects, the final EIS identifies ways to minimize and avoid potential impacts of mining and responds to the public and agency comments submitted on the draft EIS.
- The Record of Decision, which documents the EIS process, is available at www.umorepark.umn.edu/planning/sand/.

U to execute agreement for phased mining at UMore Park

The Board of Regents also authorized the U administration to execute a 40-year lease agreement to Dakota Aggregates, LLC, a partnership between Cemstone Products Company and Ames Construction, Inc., for 1,722 acres of the UMore Park property. Dakota Aggregates proposes to conduct phased gravel mining and locate ancillary facilities at UMore Park. The terms of the agreement limit gravel mining to a total of 160 acres at any given time. Following local jurisdictional approvals, preparation work for mining activities would tentatively commence in late 2011.

- Net revenue from royalties on the sale of mined materials will be placed in the Legacy Fund established by the board in October 2009. The fund is designated for long-term support of special academic pursuits not adequately funded by state, federal or tuition resources. Based on tons of material mined, Dakota Aggregates will also contribute funds toward scholarships for students in geology, civil engineering, land use planning and related disciplines.

Ongoing faculty and student initiatives

Groundwater monitoring. Groundwater monitoring continues to contribute to baseline data on groundwater conditions at UMore Park through the work of graduate students in the Department of Geology and Geophysics in the U's College of Science and Engineering. The opportunity to collect data, including groundwater temperature, elevation, flow and recharge, for two years or longer is a unique pre-development opportunity. Monitoring the characteristics of groundwater prior to development will provide data against which future potential changes can be evaluated. Continued monitoring over the long term can generate important scientific data and also provide valuable information for the region.

Department of Design, Housing and Apparel curriculum. Faculty members in the Department of Design, Housing and Apparel in the U's College of Design are developing three courses for the spring 2011 semester—two undergraduate courses and one graduate course—to include an emphasis on retail, housing and branding for



the planned community at UMore Park. Combining research and theory, practical skills and the planned community at UMore Park as a case study, students will develop a multi-family housing development proposal, generate recommendations for retail at UMore Park and explore the influence of community branding and identity in decision-making.

Vision for UMore Park featured at regional higher education meeting

The annual policy summit of the Midwest Higher Education Compact featured UMore Park as an example of university partnerships that support economic development. The overall theme of the November 16-17 meeting in Detroit, Michigan was Higher Education's Role in the Economic Transformation of Communities. Carla Carlson, executive director of the Office for UMore Park Academic Initiatives, described goals for public private collaborations that can result in attracting R&D based companies, creating jobs and related business opportunities.

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 for information and updates on recreation and hunting activities at Vermillion Highlands, including:

- **Hunting and Trapping.** Deer hunting concludes at Vermillion Highlands with muzzleloader season November 27 through December 12. Pheasant hunting takes place December 13 through January 2, 2011. Goose hunting is permitted at Vermillion Highlands December 13 through December 25. Furbearer trapping season is October 23 through March 15, 2011. Visit www.vermillionhighlands.umn.edu for additional hunting and trapping information.
- **Recreation.** Enjoy the crisp air as you hike throughout Vermillion Highlands' prairies and wooded areas. The Lone Rock Trail is closed to recreational uses for the duration of deer gun hunting season. Conditions permitting, the Lone Rock Trail will open to cross-country skiing and hiking 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.

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 development of a unique, vibrant, sustainable community of 20,000 to 30,000 people is under way.