

UMore Park Update – March 2011

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See details at www.umorepark.umn.edu

Public invited to contribute ideas to sustainability plan for UMore Park

The public is invited to participate in a forum on Thursday, April 7, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the Rosemount Community Center that will focus on sustainability goals for the new community at UMore Park and the potential action steps to achieve those goals. The forum provides an opportunity for individuals to contribute their thoughts and ideas for sustainability at UMore Park in ten key areas: zero carbon, zero waste, sustainable transport, sustainable materials, local and sustainable foods, sustainable water, land use and wildlife, culture and heritage, equity and local economy, and health and happiness. The University seeks to identify performance targets for social, environmental and economic sustainability to better inform planning and development for UMore Park.

- The sustainability goal-setting process is led by BioRegional, an international environmental nonprofit organization. BioRegional's *One Planet Community* program is an internationally recognized sign of the highest achievement in sustainable community design and operation. With the input of local citizens and organizations, the sustainability goal-setting process will be completed in late summer with the publication of an action plan for sustainability at UMore Park.
- Because refreshments will be served, members of the public are asked to RSVP to attend. Visit www.umorepark.umn.edu/news/sustainability for details and to RSVP.

Remedial investigation underway at UMore Park property

Following a competitive bid process, the University selected Barr Engineering Company to conduct an assessment of environmental conditions on its UMore Park property. The assessment includes 3,500 acres of the UMore Park property, portions of which comprised the former Gopher Ordnance Works (GOW) property, a World War II gunpowder manufacturing facility established by the United States government in 1942. Barr Engineering will evaluate soil and groundwater conditions to assess any potential environmental impacts from historical uses of the property.

- The University will host a public meeting in May 2011 to inform citizens about the environmental investigation of the UMore Park property. Information and updates on the remedial investigation will be made available on the UMore Park website at www.umorepark.umn.edu.
- The assessment complies with all Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) requirements. Field work is anticipated to begin in summer 2011. The investigation will tentatively conclude in late 2011.

U dedicates portion of UMore Park property to Rosemount for ballfields

The University Board of Regents approved the transfer of 27.5 acres of the UMore Park property to the City of Rosemount for joint-use ballfields. The transfer serves as a credit of public park land, meeting state requirements, as the UMore Park community is developed. The site is located east of Akron Avenue and adjacent to the Dakota County Technical College property. The land is anticipated to be developed into baseball and softball fields by the City of Rosemount for children, youth and adult play.



Ongoing faculty and student initiatives

Wind energy research and education. Field work tentatively begins in spring 2011 to ready acres on the eastern edge of the UMore Park property for construction of a 2.5 megawatt wind turbine. EOLOS, an industry-academy wind energy research consortium, will utilize the turbine for research and education focused on innovations in design of wind turbines for increased efficiency. The project is funded by the U.S. Department of Energy. Construction of the turbine is anticipated to be completed mid-summer.

Computer modeling for effective land use planning. Graduate students in the U's Humphrey School of Public Affairs are exploring scenarios for future development at UMore Park in a *Computer Applications for Land Use Planning* course. The class provides students with hands-on experience with software used to simulate models for land use planning and design of neighborhoods, cities and regions. The students' simulations can support effective design decision-making by identifying the impacts of proposed development scenarios on indicators such as greenhouse gas emissions, density targets, transportation, groundwater and others.

The business of energy. Graduate MBA students in the U's Carlson School of Management are exploring business development opportunities at UMore Park through the Carlson Ventures Enterprise program. Student teams are identifying best practices and approaches for developing energy-efficient affordable housing and conducting a market analysis of an innovative ground-source heating and cooling technology, respectively. Recommendations from their work can support the University's goals for developing a diverse community at UMore Park with a variety of housing types, and incorporating technologies that achieve energy efficiency and reduce the carbon footprint.

Environmental review process to assess scenarios for land use, planning at UMore Park

The University, in conjunction with the City of Rosemount, launched a broad environmental assessment called an Alternative Urban Areawide Review (AUAR) in January, an important step toward first phase development at UMore Park. The AUAR process includes the production of future development scenarios for the property to identify the impacts across key community features such as utilities, groundwater, surface water, and transportation, among others. Outcomes from the public process will help to identify amendments or changes to Rosemount's comprehensive plans. Information on the AUAR is available on the City of Rosemount website at www.ci.rosemount.mn.us/umore/.

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:

- Recreation. Enjoy the crisp air as you hike throughout Vermillion Highlands' prairies and wooded areas. The Lone Rock Trail is groomed for cross-country skiing throughout the winter. Trail conditions permitting, the Lone Rock Trail will open to horseback riding April 1. 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.
- Hunting and Trapping. Furbearer trapping season continues through March 15, 2011. The spring turkey hunting season at Vermillion Highlands is scheduled April 13 to May 26. Visit www.vermillionhighlands.umn.edu for additional hunting season information, or contact the DNR area manager at 651-322-4643.

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.