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## University Of Minnesota Dakota County / U details vision for sustainable community

Light rail, homes for 30,000 in plan

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Two years after unveiling a grand vision for a "life-enriching" community in Dakota County, University of Minnesota officials Thursday put a little more meat on the dream.

Leaders of the effort to develop the university's UMore Park tract laid out four building scenarios, including one they clearly favored — a "new, sustainable community" of as many as 30,000 people near Rosemount, linked to St. Paul by a light-rail line.

The plan consists largely of sketches on paper, though officials expect to have a detailed proposal in place by the end of 2008. Public forums are planned next week in Minneapolis, St. Paul and Rosemount.

The U hopes to finance the costs of early planning and development by mining and selling gravel on the property. Eventually, it would sell the land to developers who'd be expected to build in a way consistent with the U's vision, which includes a mix of housing and prices.

Obstacles remain. Besides a possible future light-rail fight, questions linger about the removal of polluted soil from the remains of a World War II Army gunpowder plant on the site. Officials believe the land can be developed responsibly over 20 to 30 years in a way that would make money for the U while preserving its research needs and principles.

The university is moving ahead with environmental reviews on water quality and on the possible impact of gravel mining.

University President Robert Bruininks said the potential transformation of UMore could be one of the current board's major legacies.

UMore (University of Minnesota Outreach, Research and Education) Park's 12 square miles, larger than the city of Oakdale, were deeded to the U by the U.S. military in 1947.

The site is now home to university research operations in agriculture and other disciplines. The U also leases land to tenants, including a police gun range and broadcast tower.

If You Go

In Dakota County, the public can view UMore Park proposals and comment on them at forums starting at 6 p.m. June 19 and June 23 at the Rosemount Community Center, 13885 S. Robert Trail, Rosemount. Go to [www.umorepark.umn.edu](http://www.umorepark.umn.edu) for more information.

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