

# UMore Park Update

July 2008

Contact: Sara Harwood, External Relations Coordinator, at [harwoods@umn.edu](mailto:harwoods@umn.edu) or 612-626-3798  
See details at [www.umorepark.umn.edu](http://www.umorepark.umn.edu)

## **Planning scenarios debuted, public encouraged to comment**

The public viewed four concept scenarios for UMore Park and a draft concept master plan for Vermillion Highlands at forums and open houses in June. As part of the ongoing effort to inform the planning process for the properties, citizens are encouraged to view the plans and submit comments at the UMore Park Web site through August.

About 300 campus and community members participated in the forums and open houses at the Minneapolis and St. Paul campuses and the Rosemount Community Center. The events included a presentation of the history of the properties, progress reports, proposed plans and the opportunity to ask questions and provide comments. Attendees viewed graphics depicting the four concept scenarios for UMore Park and the draft concept master plan for Vermillion Highlands, and representatives from the U, Minnesota DNR, Dakota County and planning consultants were on hand to answer questions. Additionally, the scenarios and draft plans were presented to the Rosemount City Council, the Dakota County Board of Commissioners and the Empire Town Board.

View the plans and share comments specific to them through August at:  
[www.umorepark.umn.edu/UMore\\_Park\\_Concept\\_Scenarios](http://www.umorepark.umn.edu/UMore_Park_Concept_Scenarios) (*UMore Park*)  
[www.umorepark.umn.edu/Vermillion\\_Highlands\\_Concept\\_Master\\_Plan](http://www.umorepark.umn.edu/Vermillion_Highlands_Concept_Master_Plan) (*Vermillion Highlands*)

General comments about UMore Park and Vermillion Highlands are welcome any time by calling 612-626-3798 or visiting [www.umorepark.umn.edu/Comments](http://www.umorepark.umn.edu/Comments).

## **Environmental assessments underway at UMore Park**

Citizens in the UMore park area will see new activities under way on the property this month.

Short Elliott Hendrickson Inc. was contracted through a competitive process in June to perform an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) pertaining to sand and gravel mining at UMore Park.

Also, a complementary environmental investigation has been launched, with a focus on environmental mitigation measures for groundwater and soil quality. The competitive contract for this work, to be performed by Barr Engineering Company, was approved in July 2008.

These processes will engage the public in an impartial discussion of the environmental status of the property and the environmental impacts of potential mining. Outcomes will inform the Board of Regents on the likelihood of mining.

Environmental stewardship is a priority. The University is committed to the best management of the property, its natural resources and its future uses. Look for periodical updates and additional information on environmental assessment activities at [www.umorepark.umn.edu/Current\\_Planning](http://www.umorepark.umn.edu/Current_Planning).

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## U establishes Academic Mission Advisory Board

The U is establishing an academic mission advisory board comprised of U students, faculty and staff members to help ensure that opportunities for faculty research and student learning provide highest quality outcomes throughout the planning and development of UMore Park and Vermillion Highlands.

A nominations process generated an overwhelming interest in participation on the 12- to 15- member board. Appointments will be completed in August, and the board will be convened in September.

## Vermillion Highlands

### Draft plan announced

Representatives from the U, Minnesota DNR and Dakota County presented the draft concept master plan for Vermillion Highlands in June. Key features of the plan include visitor and interpretive facilities, trails for horseback riding, hiking and cross-country skiing, designated University research, and hunting and trapping. Comments on the draft plan will be accepted through August at

[www.umorepark.umn.edu Vermillion\\_Highlands\\_Concept\\_Master\\_Plan](http://www.umorepark.umn.edu/Vermillion_Highlands_Concept_Master_Plan).

### Archery deer hunt application available

The 2008 archery deer hunt application for Vermillion Highlands is now available. Sixty applicants will be selected to participate in the hunt which will take place September 13 - November 2, 2008. The deadline for applications is August 15. Visit [www.umorepark.umn.edu/Vermillion\\_Highlands](http://www.umorepark.umn.edu/Vermillion_Highlands) for a copy of the application, and call the Vermillion Highlands Wildlife Office at 651-322-4643 for more information.

### *You're invited to the* **UMore Park Open House**

Thursday, August 14 • 4:00-8:00 p.m. • 1605 160th Street W, Rosemount

- View planning scenarios for UMore Park and Vermillion Highlands, and comment.
- Take part in free, fun activities for the whole family.
- Enjoy complimentary lemonade and corn-on-the-cob.
- Participate in Master Gardener garden tours and "Ask a Master Gardener."
- Learn about the ways University research is improving lives and the regional economy.

Call 651-423-2455 or visit [www.umorepark.umn.edu](http://www.umorepark.umn.edu) for more information.



**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, near Rosemount, Minnesota. 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 November 2006. The concept master planning phase of development for a unique, vibrant, intellectually and culturally rich, sustainable community of 20,000 to 30,000 people is under way.

**Vermillion Highlands.** Vermillion Highlands is a research, recreation and modified wildlife management area, located directly south of UMore Park. The 2,822-acre property is jointly managed by the University of Minnesota and the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources in conjunction with Dakota County. Activities on the property include research, education, trails and recreation, and wildlife management and hunting. Vermillion Highlands will be maintained as a natural area for public access.

### **Vermillion Highlands**

**A Research, Recreation and  
Wildlife Management Area**

jointly managed by:

