

9 May 2008

## UMore Park Update

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)

### **U unveils concept scenarios for University-founded community at UMore Park, seeks public comment**

The University of Minnesota's vision for a new community on its 5,000-acre UMore Park property in Dakota County moves to the next phase with the June presentation of concept scenarios that offer visuals of what the property might look like over 25 to 30 years.

- Options for the jointly managed 2,822-acre natural area called Vermillion Highlands will also be on view, under the auspices of the Department of Natural Resources and the U, in conjunction with Dakota County. Vermillion Highlands is adjacent to the UMore Park property to the south.
- Forums to engage public discussion and comment will be held at the Rosemount Community Center the evenings of June 19 and June 23. Forums on the Twin Cities campus are scheduled for June 16 and 17. Look for details and RSVP on the UMore Park website at [www.umorepark.umn.edu](http://www.umorepark.umn.edu).

### **U research, education, engagement benefits the region**

The vision for the new community at UMore Park is distinctive through the integration of the U's strengths in research and education that can benefit citizens of the new community and support economic development in the region.

- To best serve surrounding communities and the region, the U is creating new opportunities through both the Rosemount Research and Outreach Center, located on the UMore Park property, and its Southern Research and Outreach Center in Waseca. The new UMore Park director of operations, Forrest Izuno, also serves as head of both research and outreach centers. In conjunction with community priorities and needs, new research synergies can address agricultural and horticultural innovation, foods that promote health, renewable energy, natural resource management and other key areas.
- The U is establishing an academic mission advisory board of 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 the UMore Park property and Vermillion Highlands.

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## U takes steps to ensure responsible land management

- The U is currently reviewing proposals for an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to be conducted on the UMore Park property, and plans to award a contract for the work in late May. The results of the EIS will help the University to determine whether to mine gravel from the property.
- The United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) is completing its assessment of potential contamination on portions of the UMore Park and Vermillion Highlands properties. The properties were home to the Gopher Ordnance Works, a smokeless gun powder facility operated by the federal government during World War II. The USACE report is due this summer, and will better inform the University on appropriate next steps.

## Joint management of southern property results in added value

Vermillion Highlands, a 2,822-acre research, recreation and wildlife management area south of UMore Park, is jointly managed by the U and the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources in conjunction with Dakota County. The individual strengths of the partner organizations combine to provide high-quality research, recreation and hunting opportunities.

- Activities on the property include U research, hiking, cross country skiing, horseback riding and bird watching.
- Hunting and other wildlife management activities managed by the DNR commenced on the property for the first time in November 2007. Contact the DNR for details on hunting, trapping and permits at 651-322-4643.
- Learn more at [www.umorepark.umn.edu/vermillion\\_highlands](http://www.umorepark.umn.edu/vermillion_highlands).

### *Your ideas are important! Please participate.*

#### CAMPUS FORUMS

Minneapolis

June 16 • 9:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.  
Campus Club, Coffman Union, 4<sup>th</sup> Fl.

St. Paul

June 17 • 12:00 noon – 4:30 p.m.  
North Star Ballroom, Student Center, 2<sup>nd</sup> Fl.

#### PUBLIC FORUMS

Rosemount Community Center

Thursday, June 19  
and  
Monday, June 23  
5:30 – 9:00 p.m.

RSVP at [www.umorepark.umn.edu](http://www.umorepark.umn.edu) or by calling 612-626-3976

**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, 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.