

UMore Park Update – *March 2010*

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See details at www.umorepark.umn.edu

Wind energy research project poised for launch at UMore Park

With an agreement finalized with the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), the U now begins focusing on a wind energy research program at UMore Park that uniquely complements the emphasis on energy and sustainability within the new community. The U will host future public forums to provide information on the research project. With contractors in place, evaluation and determination of the site for a wind turbine on the UMore Park property would commence summer of 2010.

- Research and education focuses on cutting-edge turbine technologies to reduce the cost of wind energy through increased reliability, more durable component parts and more efficient operations. Training for U students, practicing engineers and graduate and undergraduate students across the U.S. is a key component, contributing to workforce development and job creation.
- The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funding for the U-led research consortium will consist of up to \$7.9 million for the research project to support the DOE goal to increase the wind power contribution to the U.S. electricity supply to 20% by 2030. Read details of the wind energy research grant award at www.umorepark.umn.edu/WindEnergyResearchConsortium.

UMore Park cosponsors lecture at the U on designs for human health

The U's Center for Spirituality and Healing will host a lecture on April 16 featuring Kent Lawson, health and wellness lead at international design firm, IDEO. His presentation will highlight human-centered, modern design strategies for health and healing. The event, cosponsored by the UMore Park team, is part of the Ellerbe Becket Optimal Healing Environments Lecture Series. The lecture will be held from 3 to 5 pm at the Mayo Auditorium on the University of Minnesota east bank campus. To register, visit <https://www.tickets.umn.edu/> and select Center for Spirituality and Healing Registration.

Sand and gravel draft EIS available for public comment in summer 2010

The next step in the UMore Park sand and gravel resources project is public comment on the draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The draft EIS presents the results of all studies, reviews, consultations and coordination conducted regarding the potential social, economic and environmental impacts of the proposed project on approximately 1,720 acres on the western edge of the property. The draft EIS will be available for comment and a public forum will be planned in summer 2010. Learn more at www.umorepark.umn.edu/GravelResources&Assessment.

New committee strives to expand academic contributions

A new committee of the UMore Park Academic Mission Advisory Board is continuing efforts to create opportunities for faculty and students that will enrich the planned community at UMore Park. The committee is exploring ways to generate cutting-edge research, develop curricula and engage with the community through the creation of a Community of Scholars program for UMore Park. Committee recommendations on the structure and characteristics of an UMore Park Community of Scholars program are anticipated in summer 2010. Read more at www.umorepark.umn.edu/Academic_Mission.



Students, faculty add value to UMore Park planning and development

Design, Housing and Apparel plan for community-engaged research and education. Faculty and students in the Department of Design, Housing and Apparel will assess housing needs and desires at UMore Park, evaluate how retail can be connected successfully with the development and explore how identity is perceived and desired in the community, through a program funded by the U's Office of Public Engagement and UMore Park. The Engaged Department Grant will support a faculty team and students from the housing studies, retail merchandising, graphic design and urban studies disciplines in activities contributing to the planning and development of UMore Park through case studies, focus groups, research and teaching activities.

Architecture class pilots studio project featuring UMore Park. During the fall 2009 semester, 18 undergraduate students worked on neighborhood concepts and residential building designs for UMore Park in an architecture design studio class. Utilizing the concept master plan for UMore Park as the springboard for plans, the students' work encompasses a variety of housing and building models that demonstrate unique ideas.

Student groundwater monitoring project provides data to inform future development. A U graduate student in the Department of Geology and Geophysics completed a segment of an envisioned long-term monitoring study on the characteristics of groundwater at UMore Park. The work complements the sand and gravel Environmental Impact Statement process. The student has gathered data on groundwater temperature, elevation, flow and recharge, which provides baseline monitoring of groundwater conditions at UMore Park.

UMore Development LLC Board of Governors commence work

The founding members of the Board of Governors for the UMore Development Limited Liability Company (LLC) convened their first meeting in early February 2010. Appointed by the U's Board of Regents at their December 2009 meeting, the nine-member Board of Governors consists of four University governors and five community governors. Providing oversight for the planning and development of UMore Park, the board members bring private sector and University expertise in planning, finance, real estate and transactional law to the planning and development process. In a March 2010 meeting, the Board of Governors approved Charles Muscoplat and Carla Carlson as President and Vice President, respectively, of the UMore Development LLC. Muscoplat and Carlson have led the U's UMore Park project since 2005.

Vermillion Highlands Updates

Concept master planning for Vermillion Highlands. The concept master planning process for *Vermillion Highlands: A Research, Recreation and Wildlife Management Area* is scheduled to conclude this spring. The final report and illustrations will be available at www.umorepark.umn.edu/VermillionHighlands.

Activities at Vermillion Highlands. Visit www.umorepark.umn.edu/Vermillion_Highlands for information updates on recreation and hunting activities at Vermillion Highlands, including:

- Recreation. The Lone Rock Trail's scenic trails are 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 the above website.
- Wildlife management. The spring turkey hunting season at Vermillion Highlands is scheduled April 14 to May 27. Hunt lottery winners have already been notified. For hunting season information, visit the above website 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's 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.