

April 2009

UMore Park Update

Contact: Julie Bodurtha, External Relations Coordinator, at jgb@umn.edu or 612-626-8431
See details at www.umorepark.umn.edu

U launches collaborative planning with local jurisdictions

The U is working with City of Rosemount, Dakota County, and Empire township representatives on comprehensive plan amendments that incorporate elements of the concept master plan for the 5,000-acre property into existing jurisdictional comprehensive plans. Comprehensive plans address land use, transportation, housing, parks and open space, economic development and infrastructure. The comprehensive planning and anticipated environmental review processes are assisted by the U's consultant Hoisington Kogler Group, Inc. Comprehensive planning and environmental review follow the Board of Regents' approval in December 2008 of the concept master plan for the UMore Park property. View the 263-page detailed concept master plan book including appendices for various plan components at www.umorepark.umn.edu.

- In addition, the Board of Regents directed the U to frame a Limited Liability Company (LLC) to manage development of the property and to pursue the formation of a U legacy fund that would capture revenue from future development to support academic mission pursuits.
- The UMore Park concept master plan has been named the recipient of a 2009 Honor Award by the Minnesota Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects.
- The City of Rosemount and UMore Park staff will host an American Planning Association National Conference session on April 29 to highlight the integration of downtown Rosemount development and the phased development of the UMore Park property.

Advisory Board integrates academic mission into planning, development

Academic Mission Advisory Board members are developing guiding principles to ensure that research, education, and public engagement are incorporated into the development of the new community at UMore Park. Forefront will be research that supports innovation in the community to benefit citizens and enhance economic development in the region.

- Several U faculty are at work on research that will better address heating and cooling systems and energy-efficient housing solutions to significantly reduce energy costs to residents.
- Consistent with the goal of fostering hands-on research opportunities for U students, a hydrology student's groundwater monitoring project is contributing to groundwater modeling that is part of a sand and gravel environmental impact statement (EIS).

- The UMore Park team encourages U faculty to view UMore Park as a platform for research opportunities. Current emphases include topics such as innovative housing design, affordable housing, sustainable building practices consistent with Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) criteria, natural resource management, energy generation and distribution systems and next-generation technologies.
- Research projects that engage faculty and students from the breadth of the U will ultimately contribute to education and lifelong learning, health and wellness, transportation, transit, arts and culture, and community and economic development. Research could be supported through economic stimulus grant awards in the short-term but also through grants from federal agencies and other funding organizations.

Sand and gravel Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) engages public

UMore Park staff and U contractor SEH, Inc. are reviewing agency, local jurisdiction, and public comments to prepare the Final Scoping Decision Document in advance of drafting the EIS for the sand and gravel resource project. The Scoping Decision Document defines the project, communicates the project's purpose and need, identifies the alternatives considered and identifies the key potential project effects to be addressed in the EIS. This process follows steps defined in the state Environmental Quality Board guidelines. The draft EIS will tentatively be available by the end of September 2009 followed by a public comment period and community meetings planned for September/October 2009. The EIS process is slated for completion in early 2010.

Vermillion Highlands Updates

- The Vermillion Highlands Steering Committee was established by legislation in 2006 to provide management and oversight of the 2,822-acre property. Joint management is under the purview of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the U in conjunction with Dakota County. The Steering Committee is scheduled to conclude concept master planning efforts for Vermillion Highlands in the fall of 2009. A plan draft is available at www.umorepark.umn.edu/Vermillion_Highlands.
- Lone Rock Trail opened to equestrians April 1. Season passes are available for \$25 at the Administration Building (1605 160th St. W, Rosemount). Visit the Recreation page at www.umorepark.umn.edu/Vermillion_Highlands for further information and directions to the Trail Head for access to the Lone Rock Trail.
- The spring turkey hunt will take place April 15 through May 28 throughout Minnesota including Vermillion Highlands. Hunt lottery winners have been notified by the DNR. For additional information on hunting at Vermillion Highlands, contact the DNR Wildlife 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, 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 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.