



*Creating a new, sustainable community on the University's 5,000-acre property*

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## **U pursues environmental review studies of sand and gravel on 5,000-acre property**

Contact: Julie Bodurtha, External Relations Coordinator, at [jgb@umn.edu](mailto:jgb@umn.edu) or 612-626-8431

See details at [www.umorepark.umn.edu](http://www.umorepark.umn.edu)

MINNEAPOLIS (6/16/2009) – The University of Minnesota Outreach Research and Education (UMore) Park project has completed a key step in the sand and gravel Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) process on its 5,000-acre property in Dakota County. The University's Board of Regents approved the document that outlines the scope of the 1,608-acre proposed sand and gravel extraction project and identifies key areas to be studied.

UMore Park is a 5,000-acre site 25 miles southeast of the Twin Cities at the suburban-rural interface, near Rosemount. The University's vision is to build a new, sustainable community for 20,000-30,000 people over the next 25 to 30 years on the UMore Park property.

The Scoping Decision Document identifies possible adverse environmental impacts and project alternatives for in-depth study in the EIS. Comments from the public, state agencies and local jurisdictions informed the drafting of the document.

The University's Board of Regents serves as the Responsible Governmental Unit for the sand and gravel project. The board provides oversight to ensure the environmental review process is thorough, accurate and consistent with the State's Environmental Quality Board guidelines.

“With an approved Scoping Decision Document, we will proceed to conduct studies and analyses that will help to shape the EIS document,” said Charles C. Muscoplat, vice president for Statewide Strategic Resource Development and the University's responsible officer for UMore Park. “We look forward to engaging the public as the EIS document is developed and finalized over the next 12 months.”

Preparation of a draft EIS document is the next step in the process and is expected in December 2009. A public comment period is anticipated in January 2010. The project team will then revise the EIS in response to the comments. The final Environmental Impact Statement will be submitted for board review in the summer of 2010.

Muscoplat noted that the environmental review process does not result in a decision to mine on the UMore Park property. Rather, it identifies and studies potential environmental effects of the project and efforts that can be made to avoid or diminish those impacts. The segment of the property designated for potential sand and gravel mining is distant from areas of proposed initial residential and commercial development.

Visit [www.umorepark.umn.edu](http://www.umorepark.umn.edu) to view the Scoping Decision Document, the Board of Regents June 2009 resolution and related information.