



UMore Park Update – July 2009

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

See details at www.umorepark.umn.edu

Sand and gravel Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) proceeds following approval of scoping document

The Board of Regents approved the Scoping Decision Document (SDD) for the sand and gravel EIS at a June 12 meeting. An important step in the environmental review process, the SDD outlines the scope of the 1,608-acre proposed sand and gravel extraction project and identifies subjects and alternatives to be studied in further detail in the EIS.

- A draft Environmental Impact Statement is anticipated in December 2009 with a public comment period to follow in January 2010. Following revision, the EIS will go to the Board of Regents for review in summer 2010.
- The EIS process does not result in a decision regarding mining at UMore Park but rather identifies and evaluates potential environmental effects of the proposed project and plans to mitigate those impacts.

Research, education are core to planning and development

Academic mission activities engage faculty and students and continue to support planning and development opportunities at UMore Park.

- UMore Park will be featured at the American Association for the Advancement of Science annual meeting in February 2010. The symposium session will address how research and education infused into a sustainable, master-planned community can contribute to community engagement, quality of life and economic development, as well as provide a model for development of future communities. The session includes Charles Muscoplat and Carla Carlson from the University of Minnesota, as well as Frederick Merrill of Sasaki Associates, Inc. in Boston, and Joachim Eble of Joachim Eble-Architektur in Tübingen, Germany.
- The UMore Park Academic Mission Advisory Board launched three committees July 2009 to explore ways to ensure that research, education and public engagement are incorporated into planning and development at UMore Park over time. The committees are focusing on faculty incentives and rewards, student opportunities, and guiding principles for the board. Reports will be completed in fall 2009.

Dakota County transportation study offers short list of transportation options

Dakota County hosted an open house and public comment meeting June 29 featuring potential transportation options for the region. The study seeks transportation solutions to meet the future traffic demands of a growing population. Dakota County leads this effort with participants from City of Rosemount, Empire Township, University of Minnesota, and Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.



Spring restoration and sustainability research efforts enhance Vermillion Highlands

Several plant species were introduced in locations throughout *Vermillion Highlands: A Research, Recreation and Wildlife Management Area*, located directly south of UMore Park. Consisting of 2,822 acres of natural area for public access, the property is jointly managed by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and the University of Minnesota, in conjunction with Dakota County.

- In May, six native prairie grasses and more than 30 varieties of Minnesota wildflowers were restored to 110 acres of the property. Fully established in approximately five years, the grasslands will provide habitat and cover for game species such as pheasant and turkey as well as songbirds and butterflies.
- Two willow plant species were introduced on four acres of Vermillion Highlands for agricultural and wildlife research. Studies of this fast-growing plant include usage as biomass for energy production, extraction of high phosphorous and carbon content from the soil, as well as protection for wildlife in its dense canopy.

Summer recreation, education events at UMore Park and Vermillion Highlands

UMore Park

- Attend the annual UMore Park Open House on August 20, 2009 from 4-8 pm. The open house features:
 - Research coordinated by the University's Rosemount Research and Outreach Center
 - Displays and information on the UMore Park concept master planning and research innovation
 - Free fun activities for the whole family and complimentary corn-on-the-cob and lemonade
- Learn about various gardening topics at Tuesday Evenings in the Garden at the Master Gardeners Education and Research Display Garden at UMore Park. The classes are held most Tuesday evenings from 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm, May to September. For additional information and registration instructions, visit <http://www.mggarden.umn.edu/>.

Vermillion Highlands

- Hike or horseback-ride around the scenic loops of the 11-mile Lone Rock Trail throughout the summer. The trail head provides access to the Lone Rock Trail as well as vehicle and horse-trailer parking, restrooms and horse watering facilities. Purchase a trail day pass (\$5 per vehicle) or a season pass (\$25 per year) at the trail head or at the UMore Park Administration Building.
- Lottery applications can now be submitted for the deer archery hunt, September 19-November 1, 2009. The deadline for the deer archery hunt lottery is August 15, 2009. All fall hunting dates will be finalized by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) in late summer 2009. Home to a variety of wild game, Vermillion Highlands offers seasonal hunting and trapping opportunities. Archery lottery information and tentative fall season dates are available at www.umorepark.umn.edu/Vermillion_Highlands or contact the DNR directly 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.