

UMore Park News

UMore Park concept master plan to receive award

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MINNEAPOLIS (04/22/2009) - The UMore Park concept master plan has been selected to receive an Honor Award by the Minnesota Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects (MASLA).

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 of 20,000-30,000 people at UMore Park, a 25- to 30-year endeavor, was affirmed by the University's Board of Regents in December 2006. The Board approved the concept master plan in December 2008.

Minneapolis-based University consultant Hoisington Koegler Group, Inc. submitted the project to MASLA under the Planning and Research award category which includes master plans, policy work, and environmental review and theoretical research documents. The UMore Park concept master plan, developed in conjunction with a consultant team led by Aspen-based Design Workshop, Inc., was considered by a jury from the Great Plains Chapter in a blind peer review process evaluating the entry using the following criteria: execution of theme(s), innovation and uniqueness in approach, aesthetics of documents, target audience comprehension, adaptability, ease of use, and ability to act as a model for future work.

The Minnesota Chapter will present the awards at an April 24 banquet in Minneapolis. Winning submissions will be featured at public venues as well as in MASLA publications throughout the following year, including *_Scape* and the MASLA Web site www.masla.org.

Charles C. Muscoplat, Vice President for Statewide Strategic Resource Management, is the University's responsible officer for the UMore Park planning and development.