



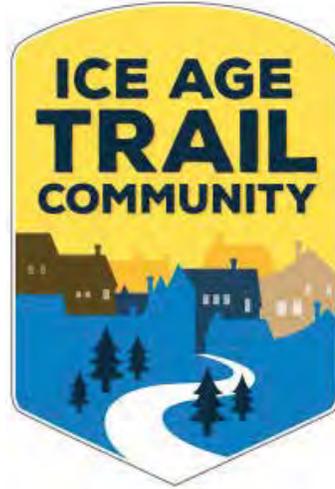
CITY OF VERONA



COMPREHENSIVE OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN

2016 - 2021, DRAFT





ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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ADOPTION RESOLUTION
To be inserted upon plan adoption

TABLE OF CONTENTS

7	Introduction 1.1 Plan Purpose 1.2 Planning Process 1.3 The Role of City Parks
11	About: Verona 2.1 Local & Regional Context 2.2 Transportation & Circulation 2.3 Demographics 2.4 Physical Character and Environmental Resources 2.5 Existing Land Use 2.6 Future Land Use
21	Park, Open Space and Recreation Inventory 3.1 City-Owned Facilities and Existing Recreation Programs 3.2 Privately-Owned Facilities 3.3 School Facilities 3.4 County Parks 3.5 Regional Parks and Recreation Facilities
33	Analysis of Needs and Demands 4.1 Quantitative Analysis 4.2 Geographic Analysis 4.3 Qualitative Analysis 4.4 Regional & State Trends
39	Goals, Objectives and Policies 5.1 Goals & Objectives 5.2 Policies
43	Recommendations 6.1 Existing Park Facilities 6.2 New Park Facilities 6.3 Recreational Trails 6.4 Other Recommendations
57	Implementation 7.1 Tools & Mechanisms to Fund Implementation
63	Appendix A Survey Results
69	Appendix B Park & Open Space Classification/Guidelines
75	Appendix C Park & Recreation Maps



Chapter 1:

INTRODUCTION

1.1 PLANNING PURPOSE

Parks, recreation and open space are important elements in the quality of life for all communities. Not only do parks and open space provide a safe and healthy place to recreate, they also serve to beautify, protect the natural environment and influence the patterns of development in and around the City.

The City of Verona realizes the importance and benefits its parks and open space system has on the City's character and quality of life and is committed to providing for the recreational needs of its current and future residents. This plan intends to guide the continual improvement of the City's park and open space system and to maintain the City's eligibility for State and Federal park and recreation grants. This plan envisions a connected system of parks, open spaces, and trails throughout the community, related to the city's natural resources, geography and neighborhoods.

The plan is also intended to be a support document and component of the City of Verona Comprehensive Land Use Plan. This plan along with the City's other long-range plans and development-related ordinances, will be used to implement the City's parks and recreation program.

1.1 Planning Purpose

1.2 Planning Process

1.2 The Role of City Parks

Specifically the plan provides:

- Information regarding demographic trends
- An inventory of existing park and recreational facilities,
- An analysis of parkland and recreational needs and demands,
- General policy direction regarding park and open space planning and maintenance,
- Recommendations for improving existing park facilities,
- Recommendations for park and open space acquisition and (re) development projects, and
- Implementation strategies.

This plan identifies conceptual locations and recommendations for different types of parks, trails, natural areas, and recreational facilities. In nearly every case, more detailed planning, engineering, study, budgeting, and discussions will be necessary before decisions are made to actually acquire land or construct recreational facilities.

1.2 PLANNING PROCESS

Recreation planning has been an essential component of long-range community planning in Verona. The City has a long-standing tradition of recreation planning that dates back to 1972 when the first plan was adopted, titled *An Outdoor Recreation Plan for Verona*. Verona's first parks were Harriet Park (early 1960's), Fireman's Park (mid 1960's) and the first natural resources park was West Park (1984). Today, the Parks and Recreation Department consists of 31 parks and special use areas. This CORP functions as an update to the 2007 plan and proposes recreation improvements for the next five years, to 2021.

In 2016, the city contracted with MSA Professional Services, Inc. to assist with an update to the 2007 CORP. Preparation and adoption of this plan occurred over a seven month period. Assistance was provided by City staff and the Parks, Recreation and Forestry (PRF) Commission.

Early in the planning process the Parks and Forestry Department facilitated an online community survey to gather citizen feedback on desired public park and recreational facilities (Refer to Appendix A).

It's the City's intention to update this plan every five years, in-part to remain eligible for park and recreation grants (see side bar), and as best practice to ensure that the plan remains relevant to the community's needs. This plan was developed following the Guidelines for the Development of Local Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plans of the 2011-2016 Wisconsin State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) created by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR). The plan content and format have been tailored to fit the needs of the community.

CORP and Grant Funding

The Wisconsin Legislature created the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program (Stewardship) in 1989. Named for two of Wisconsin's most revered conservation leaders, Warren Knowles (Governor 1965-1971) and Gaylord Nelson (Governor 1959-1963, U.S. Senator 1964-1981), the purpose of the program is to preserve valuable natural areas and wildlife habitat, protect water quality and fisheries, and expand opportunities for outdoor recreation. The conservation and recreation goals of the Stewardship Program are achieved through the acquisition of land and easements, development of recreational facilities, and restoration of wildlife habitat.

The Stewardship grant program is the most widely used recreational grant program in the state. Eligibility for the program requires that a community maintain a local comprehensive outdoor recreation plan (CORP), updated every five years, and that the project for which grant funding is sought is described in the CORP. Many other similar state and federal recreational grant programs have similar requirements or have shown a tendency to favor those grant applications which are supported through previous community planning efforts.

This plan identifies conceptual locations and recommendations for different types of parks, natural areas, and recreational facilities. In nearly every case, more detailed planning, engineering, study, budgeting, and discussions will be necessary before decisions are made to actually acquire land or construct recreational facilities.

1.3 THE ROLE OF CITY PARKS

Proper planning is essential for the City’s park and open space system to continue to meet the recreation needs of the community, as well as to continue to preserve valuable natural areas. Whether the City is experiencing a bear or bull period of economic growth, it is important to remember the many benefits that park and recreational facilities provide the community.

COMMUNITY IMAGE

Local parks provide opportunities for formal and informal social gatherings. Community festivals, organized recreational events, or chance meetings between City residents at local parks, all provide opportunities for residents to socialize with people they might not otherwise meet. In addition, having excellent park and recreation facilities can be a source of pride for a community. These factors contribute to the image of the City as “A great place to live, work, stay and play.”

COMMUNITY HEALTH

With the raising national trend in obesity, especially among children, the City’s park and recreational facilities play a vital role in maintaining and improving the health of residents in the community and aiding in the physical development of children. Parks also provide sanctuaries and places for residents to mentally recharge.

ECOLOGICAL HEALTH

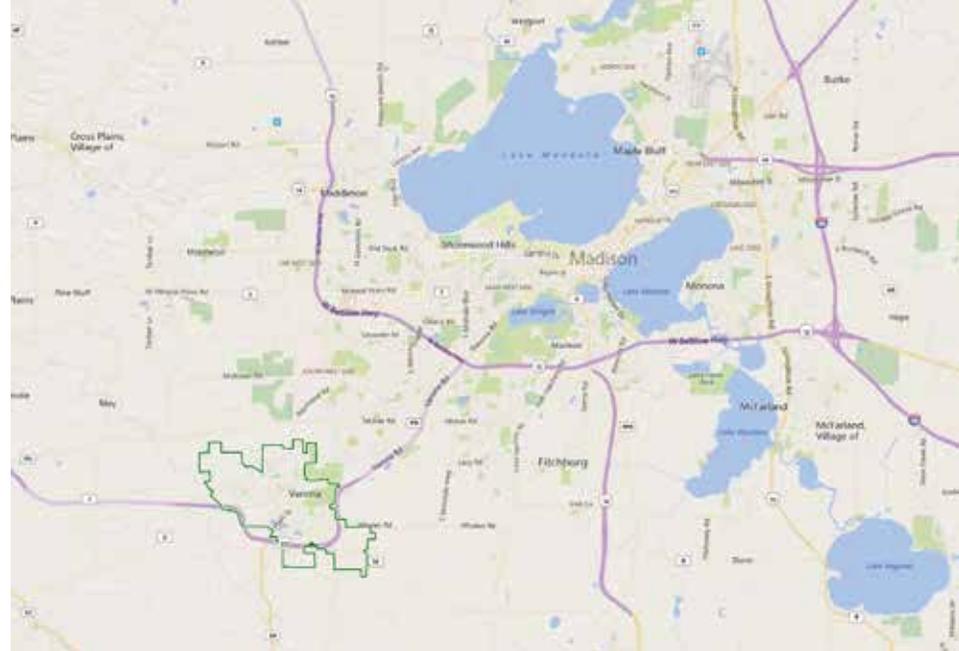
While park and open spaces provide opportunities for improvements to the health of residents, they also contribute to the greater ecological health of the City. Local parks are often tied together with environmentally sensitive areas such as wetlands, floodplains, surface waters, or significant woodlands. These areas provide food and shelter for local wildlife and natural stormwater retention. Individual parks can provide important “rooms” of natural resource activity; however, they become even more functional when they can be linked together by environmental corridors, or “hallways.” Wildlife, plants, and water all depend on the ability to move freely within the environment from room to room.

ECONOMIC PROSPERITY

Leisure time is an important component of everyone’s lifestyle and increasingly people are choosing locations to live based on quality-of-life amenities such as the amount and type of recreational facilities a community can offer. The ability to retain or attract new residents has direct economic benefits to the City. Studies have also concluded that property values generally increase the closer residential lots are to a park facility. In addition, if a local parks system is designed with regional amenities, or connections to regional destinations, it can serve to bring additional visitors to the City. The additional tourism can be a significant benefit to local businesses.

PROJECT MILESTONES

March 2016	PRF Commission Meeting - Survey Development
May 2016	PRF Commission Meeting - Analysis of Needs
July 2016	PRF Commission Meeting - Draft Plan Review
August 2016	PRF Commission Meeting - Plan Recommendation
September 2016	Common Council Meeting - Plan Adoption



Chapter 2: ABOUT: VERONA

Photo Credit: Bo Mertz (Creative Commons License on Flickr)

2.1 LOCAL & REGIONAL CONTEXT

The City of Verona is located in southwest Dane County, WI located just 12 miles from the State capital. The City shares boundaries with the Town of Verona and City of Madison. The City of Verona is a growing, vibrant community with many recreational, cultural, and business amenities. Residents enjoy a high quality of life, excellent schools, and the small-town feel of Hometown U.S.A. Verona is a center for recreation in the region. It serves as a crossroads for the Military Ridge State Bike Trail and the National Ice Age Trail. These trails, which run right through the heart of the City, provide a wonderful natural setting with bicycle and walking connections to Madison and other area communities. Hundreds of acres of parkland are located in and around the City along with Reddan Soccer Park, the Eagle’s Nest Ice Arena, and Ceniti Park – a baseball, football, and lacrosse complex on East Verona Avenue.

Verona also offers many excellent public facilities including an impressive library, a popular senior center, numerous park shelters, and a swimming beach located at Fireman’s Park. The Verona Area School District has a strong reputation for providing quality education and is home to the Verona

- 2.1 Local & Regional Context
- 2.2 Transportation & Circulation
- 2.3 Demographics
- 2.4 Physical Character & Environmental Resources
- 2.5 Existing Land Use
- 2.6 Future Land Use

Performing Arts Center and Natatorium. Verona is also a great place for business from the specialty shops in Downtown to the corporate headquarters of a worldwide healthcare software company, EPIC Systems.

2.2 TRANSPORTATION & CIRCULATION

Verona is located near a major transportation corridor for the region (US 151/18) which connects directly to the Madison beltline (US 14/18).

For non-motorized travel, downtown Verona is considered a desirable and walkable community. New subdivisions have been required to install sidewalks; however, many older portions of the City lack sidewalk facilities. In addition to sidewalks located along City streets, Verona serves as a crossroads for two major trails in Wisconsin; Military Ridge State Bike Trail and the National Ice Age Trail. Refer to Section 3.5 of this plan for additional information on these facilities.

Snowmobile trails expand the range of seasonal recreational opportunities available in Dane County, providing attractions during winter which promotes year-round tourism. A County-funded snowmobile trail runs through Verona.

The City of Verona is currently served by the Madison Metro’s fixed route bus system, by routes 55 and 75. Both routes come into Verona on US 151/18 and connect directly to the Epic Campus. Epic is the end of both routes. Although the Metro’s route through Verona is very direct, the Military Ridge Park & Ride (2565 Old PB Co. Road near E. Verona Ave.) makes it easier for residents to take advantage of this transportation service to and from Madison.

2.3 DEMOGRAPHICS

This section describes some of the historic demographic trends for the City of Verona as it pertains to population, age composition, housing, and school enrollment. This includes data from the U.S. Census Bureau’s American Community Survey (ACS) which is reported as a rolling average over a 5-year period. ACS data where the margin of error exceeds 10% will be **bolded** and *italicized* in tables.

POPULATION

The most recent population estimate for the City is 11,871 for year 2015 (Wisconsin Department

Table 2.1 Population History & Projections

Source: US Census, American Community Survey, and WI Department of Administration

Population History & Projections			
City of	Verona	Dane County	Wisconsin
1970	2,334	290,272	4,417,821
1980	3,336	323,545	4,705,642
1990	5,374	367,085	4,891,769
2000	7,052	426,526	5,363,715
2010	10,619	488,073	5,686,986
2010-2014 ACS	11,353	502,984	5,724,692
Projections			
2020	12,800	530,620	6,005,080
2025	13,960	555,100	6,203,850
2030	15,070	577,300	6,375,910
2035	16,010	593,440	6,476,270
2040	16,850	606,620	6,491,635
Change			
1980-2014	8,017	179,439	1,019,050
2014-2040	5,497	103,636	766,943
Percent Growth			
1980-2014	240.3%	55.5%	21.7%
2014-2040	48.4%	20.6%	13.4%

Table 2.2 Age Composition, 2010-2014

Source: American Community Survey

Age by Range		
Age	Total	Percentage
0-9	1,662	14.6%
10-19	1,560	13.7%
20-29	1,122	9.8%
30-39	1,425	12.5%
40-49	1,898	16.7%
50-59	1,937	17.1%
60-69	847	7.5%
70-79	276	2.5%
80+	626	5.5%
Median	39	

Table 2.3 Housing Statistics

Source: US Census, American Community Survey

Verona Housing Statistics	
Households	
2000	2,591
2010	4,223
2010-2014 ACS	4,800
Average Household Size	
2000	2.68
2010	2.50
2010-2014 ACS	2.35
% of Households with individuals under 18	
2000	46.2%
2010	39.4%
2010-2014 ACS	33.7%

of Administration). From year 1980 to 2014, the population of Verona grew by 240.3%, greatly outpacing the percentage growth of both the County and the State. According to the WDOA, from 2010 to 2015 the City of Verona rank seventh in population percentage growth out of all Wisconsin cities, villages, and towns. Much of the recent growth can be attributed to the growth of EPIC Systems.

According to the WDOA population projections, the City is expected to add an additional 5,497 residents between 2014 and 2040. This represents a 48.4% increase over a 26 year period, or 1.86% annual growth. These projections are double the growth projected for the County and nearly four-times the rate expected for the State. New park lands and facilities will be necessary to continue meeting the demands of new neighborhoods.

AGE COMPOSITION

Age composition is an important consideration in park and recreational planning as needs and desires of individuals will vary based on their interests and physical abilities. The table on the left summarizes the age composition of the City's population from 2010-2014 ACS estimates. Approximately 28.3% of the population is considered youth (<20 years old) which is below the 2000 Census count (33.1%). Approximately 15.5% of the population is considered at retirement age (>60 years old), which is higher than the 2000 Census count of 12.4%. This number is projected to grow as Baby Boomers continue to age. Similar trends are being seen across the nation. The median age of the City has risen from 36.5 in year 2000 to 39.0 in year 2010, which is slightly above the State median (38.8).

HOUSING

Based on 2010-2014 ACS estimates, there were 4,800 households in the City, 33.7% of which include at least one child under 18 years old. The total number of households was up 2,209 since the year 2000; however, the number of households with at least one child under 18 years old declined from 46.2% of all households in year 2000. The average household size is 2.35 individuals, down from 2.68 in the year 2000. These trends are consistent with national trends over the past several decades and can be attributed to smaller family sizes, increases in life expectancy, and increases in single parent households.

In total there were 5,149 housing units in the City based on 2010-2014 ACS estimates; 4,800 occupied housing units plus an additional 349 vacant units.

Of the occupied units, 3,127 (65.1%) are owner-occupied with the remaining 1,673 (34.9%) renter-occupied. Placement of future park and recreational facilities should consider where multi-family buildings are located or planned as these types of housing units generally lack access to green space and play equipment as compared to single-family lots.

SCHOOL ENROLLMENT

The City is part of the Verona Area School District. The public and private schools in Verona are listed in Chapter 3. The 2014-2015 enrollment for the entire district was 5,411 students.

2.4 PHYSICAL CHARACTER AND ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES

LAKES AND PONDS

There are three flooded quarries in Verona; one along CTH 'M' (Tsunehiro) and two on both sides of Paoli Street (Cleary and Fireman's Park). Whereas the Tsunehiro and Cleary quarries are privately owned, the Fireman's Park quarry is owned by the City of Verona. There are also other open water areas associated with the wetlands in the headwaters of Badger Mill Creek and some scattered ponds - such as Morse Pond adjacent to the University Golf Course in the northwest quadrant of the intersection of CTH's 'M' and 'PD' - in the Verona Area.

RIVERS AND STREAMS

While there are no rivers in the City, Badger Mill Creek (which is a tributary to the Upper Sugar River) runs through the City. The creek runs west through the southeastern part of Verona and joins the Upper Sugar River southwest of the City. Badger Mill Creek is designated as a Cold Water Fishery from its confluence with the Sugar River upstream to the Lincoln Street bridge. From the bridge to the Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District wastewater treatment plan outfall the Creek is designated as a Warm Water Forage Fish community with trout potential.

The water quality of Badger Mill Creek has been significantly improved through the implementation of storm water management systems in both Verona and Madison. Though non-point source pollution from construction site erosion and run-off from rooftops and pavement continues to threaten the Creek. Agricultural practices are less harmful to the Creek because much of the land in the Upper Sugar River watershed is not used for agricultural purposes.

NATURAL VEGETATION

Significant areas of woodlands are located in the northern part of the City north and south of Cross Country Road and east of North Nine Mound Road. Significant woodland also exists in the southern part of Verona, north of Highway 151/18 and west of Paoli Street. These areas are important to the natural beauty of Verona and provide important habitat for wildlife species, outdoor recreation, education and appreciation.

Grassland/prairie is also common in the area. Tall grass prairie and related oak savanna are now the most decimated and threatened plant communities in the Midwest and in the world. A prioritized Grassland/Prairie Management Area site has been established southwest through northwest of Verona.

WILDLIFE

Some of the wildlife in the Verona area includes deer, fox, a variety of birds including ducks, geese, pheasant and owls. Local rivers and streams are also home to a variety of fish species, while amphibians and reptiles such as snakes, frogs, turtles and toads can be found in local wetlands, surface waters, and upland areas. Remaining plant wildlife in the Verona area includes native grasses and tree species.

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources maintains a Natural Heritage Inventory which locates and documents rare species and natural communities, including federal threatened and endangered species. A comprehensive list can be found through the WDNR's Natural Heritage Inventory (<http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/nhi/>).

The natural resources of the City are many and varied and provide an attractive character to the City and also the potential for varied recreation opportunities. Perhaps the greatest recreation potential for these environmental corridors will be as linear parks and trail corridors linking the City's recreation, employment, commercial and school sites.

2.5 EXISTING LAND USE AND ZONING

According to the United States Census Bureau, the City has a total area of 6.36 square miles of land and 0.06 square miles is water. Using 2010-2014 ACS estimates, the population density of Verona is 1,785.1 inhabitants per square mile.

Residential development is most dense north of the US 151 bypass; however, residential expansion south of the bypass has already occurred and is expected to continue.

Commercial land uses are scattered throughout the area. The downtown business and city services are in a compact area along Verona Avenue (Bus, 151) and Main Street (CTH M).

The industrial areas within the City are primarily located on the southwest side. This area includes the Bruce Street Industrial Park, Venture Court Industrial Park and Old Industrial Park. From 2000 to 2005, industrial development increased more than during any other 5-year period since 1970. The addition of the Technology Park subdivision on the City's southeast side at the intersection of CTHs M and PB account for more of this new/additional industrially-developed land.

The cumulative effect of the existing land use patterns and roadway system divides the community into geographic neighborhoods and can limit access to recreation facilities. The primary barriers in Verona include Badger Mill Creek and the state and county highways mentioned. Refer to the City's Zoning Map on the next page.

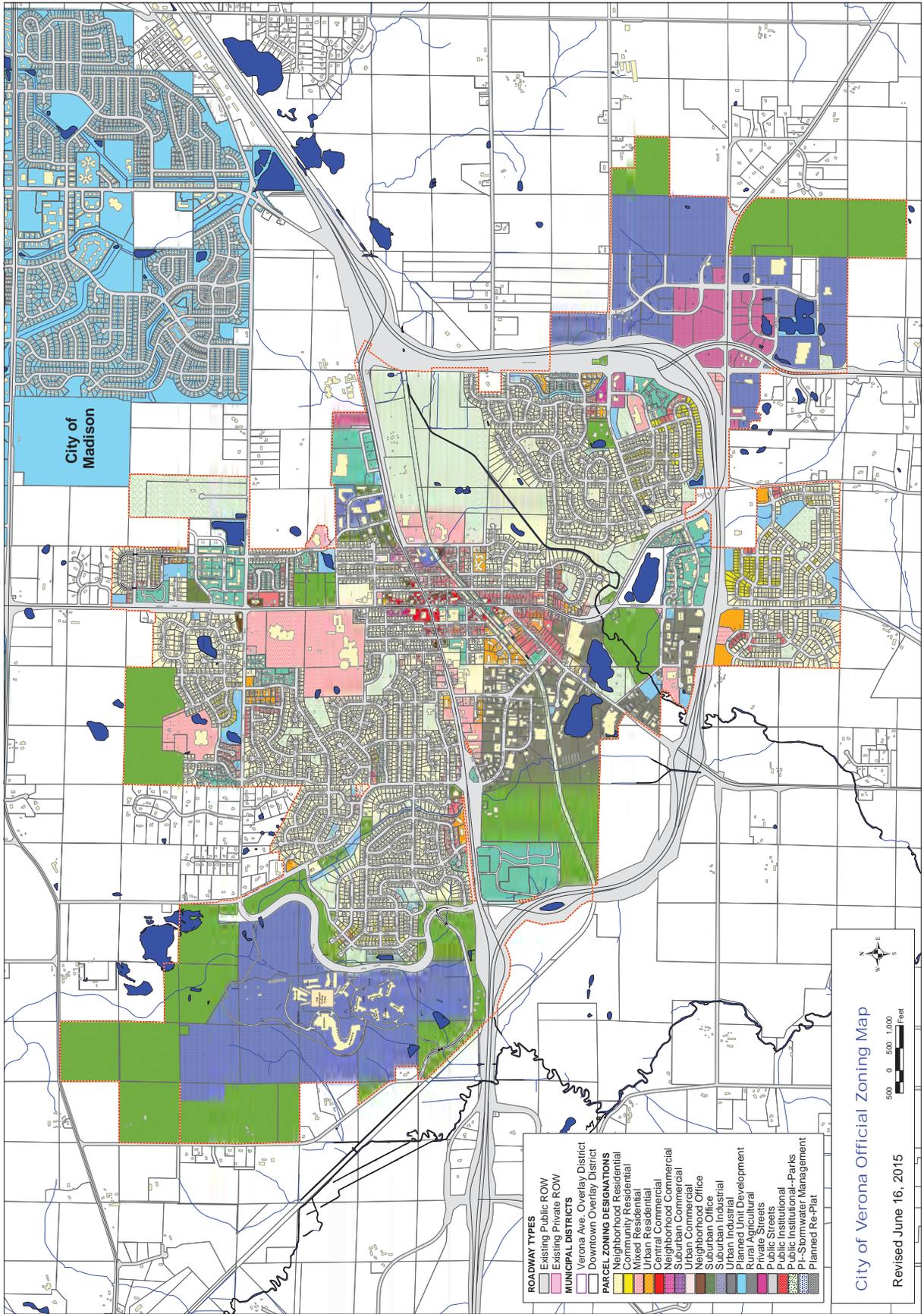
2.6 FUTURE LAND USE PLANS

The future growth of the City is guided by the City's 2009 Comprehensive Land Use Plan. The Plan sets forth the desired development pattern for the City over the comprehensive planning period. The plan also gives guidance to accommodate projected population, household, and employment growth; the infrastructure and institutions required to serve residential, commercial, and industrial uses in the City; and the City's agricultural and natural resource base. The Plan identifies five areas for future urban growth; however specific details to guide land use are provided through individual "neighborhood plans" adopted by the City.

The neighborhood plans which have been completed for Verona are discussed below:

The **North Neighborhood** is located primarily in the Town of Verona between the City of Verona to the south and Madison to the north and east. Most of the residential lands have yet to be developed within the

Figure 2.2. Verona Zoning Map (2015)



neighborhood. At least three (3) parks are planned for this area, including an expansion of the existing Country View Elementary School park facilities, a new park in the residential area and a new park in the quarry. See Figure 2.3. At the time, this plan was being developed the City was review a proposed subdivision plat for the areas north of Country View Elementary School, including a proposed neighborhood park (“Kettle Park”). While not proposed to be directly connected to existing school recreational lands, this proposed park is meant to serve as the smaller of the proposed parks in the North Neighborhood Plan.

The **Southeast Neighborhood** is bounded by Grandview Road on the north, the north-south line between the Town of Verona and the City of Fitchburg on the east, the planned corridor for the Ice Age Trail on the south and US 151/18 and Country Highway PB on the west. Residential development within the Southeast Neighborhood will occur further away from the county highways and US 151/18. The City has already platted residential subdivisions immediately west of this planning area - including the East View and Military Ridge subdivisions. The Southeast Neighborhood Plan’s Planned Land Use Map shows a planned neighborhood park near Borchert Rd and CTH M. See Figure 2.4.

The **Southwest Neighborhood** is bounded roughly by the Sugar River to the west, US 151/18 to the north and east and Locust Drive to the south. Residential development within the neighborhood will occur south and east of Badger Mill Creek. The City has already platted residential subdivisions immediately adjacent to the planned residential portions of the neighborhood - including the Scenic Ridge and Cathedral Point subdivisions. The Southwest Neighborhood Plan shows several opportunities for future park and open space areas. Parks are planned for existing wooded areas such as those found on either side of Locust Drive in the southeastern portion of the Neighborhood. See Figure 2.5.

Recreation lands and the future parks and recreation needs of planned residential areas should be considered as these neighborhood areas develop, including linkages to existing City neighborhoods, parks, and businesses via bicycle and recreational trails.

Figure 2.6 provides an overview of existing and planned on and off-road bicycle facilities. Additional recommendations regarding planned bike facilities are described in Section 6.3 of this plan.

In 2014, the City adopted a Downtown Mobility and Development Plan. The plan recommends increasing Hometown Junction Park to provide a larger Downtown social and event gathering space. This expansion is dependent upon land acquisition from Ellis Manufacturing, the current owner of the triangular parcel on the north side of West Railroad St. Refer to Figure 2.7.

More recently (2016) the City has adopted a boundary agreement with the Town of Verona (See Figure 2.8) which will help guide the growth of both communities in the future. Area ‘A’ is designated as City growth area, ‘B’ is City/Town interest area and ‘C’ is Town protected area.

The North Neighborhood plan will not be affected by the boundary agreement as the neighborhood planning area has already been identified in the City’s 2010 Comprehensive Plan as one of the best areas for growth for the City. The North Neighborhood is designated as City growth area in the boundary agreement map.

The Southeast Neighborhood plan includes areas designated as both City growth area and City/Town interest area in the boundary agreement map. The City and Town will need to collaborate to ensure the preservation areas and planned parks within the City/Town interest area are realized.

The planned parks within the Southwest Neighborhood plan fall within the City/Town interest area, so both communities will need to work together to realize these parks. Much of the land designated as preservation falls in the Town protected area on the boundary agreement map.

Figure 2.3 Verona North Neighborhood Plan Planned Land Uses

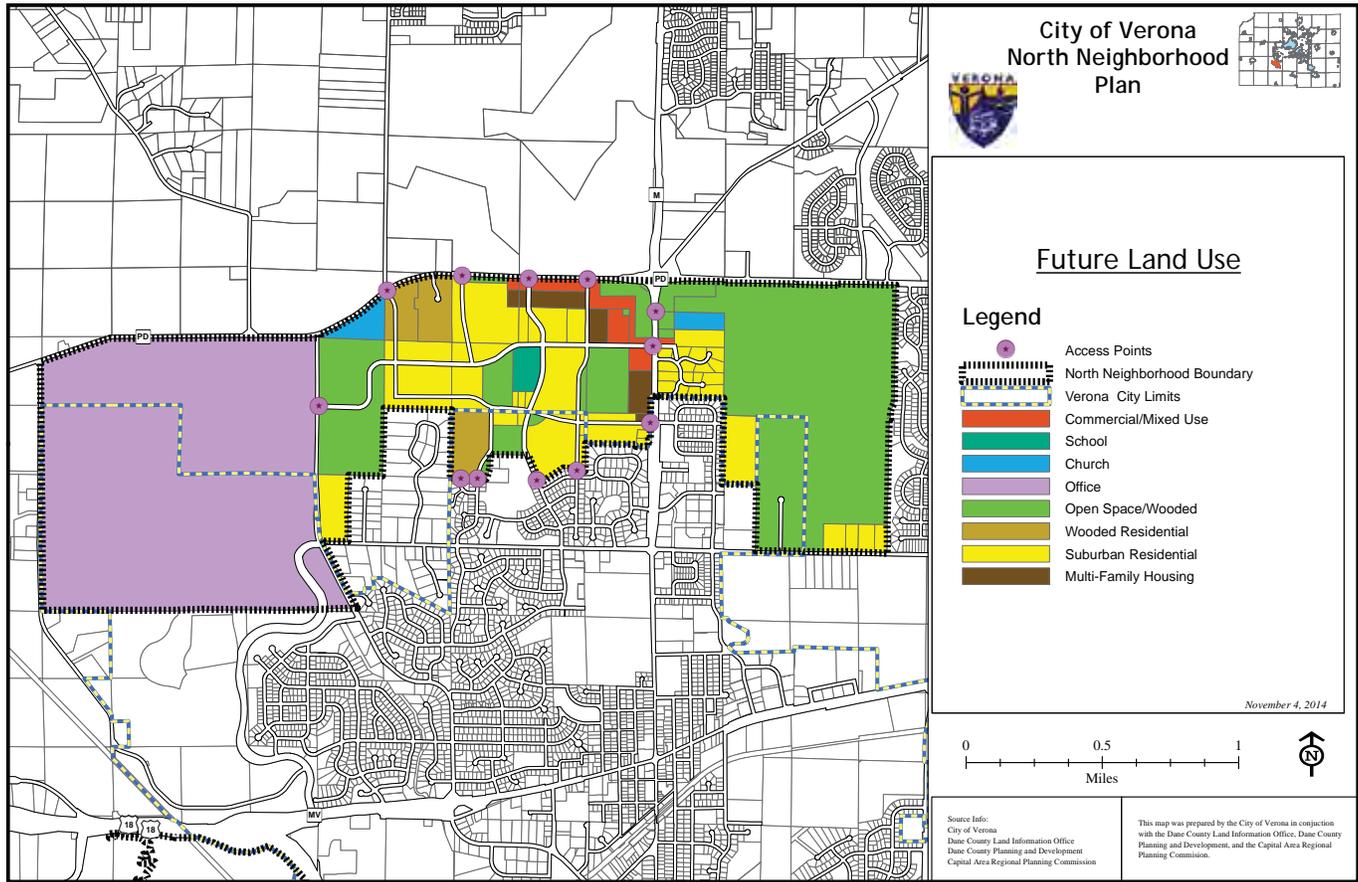


Figure 2.4 Verona Southeast Neighborhood Plan Planned Land Uses

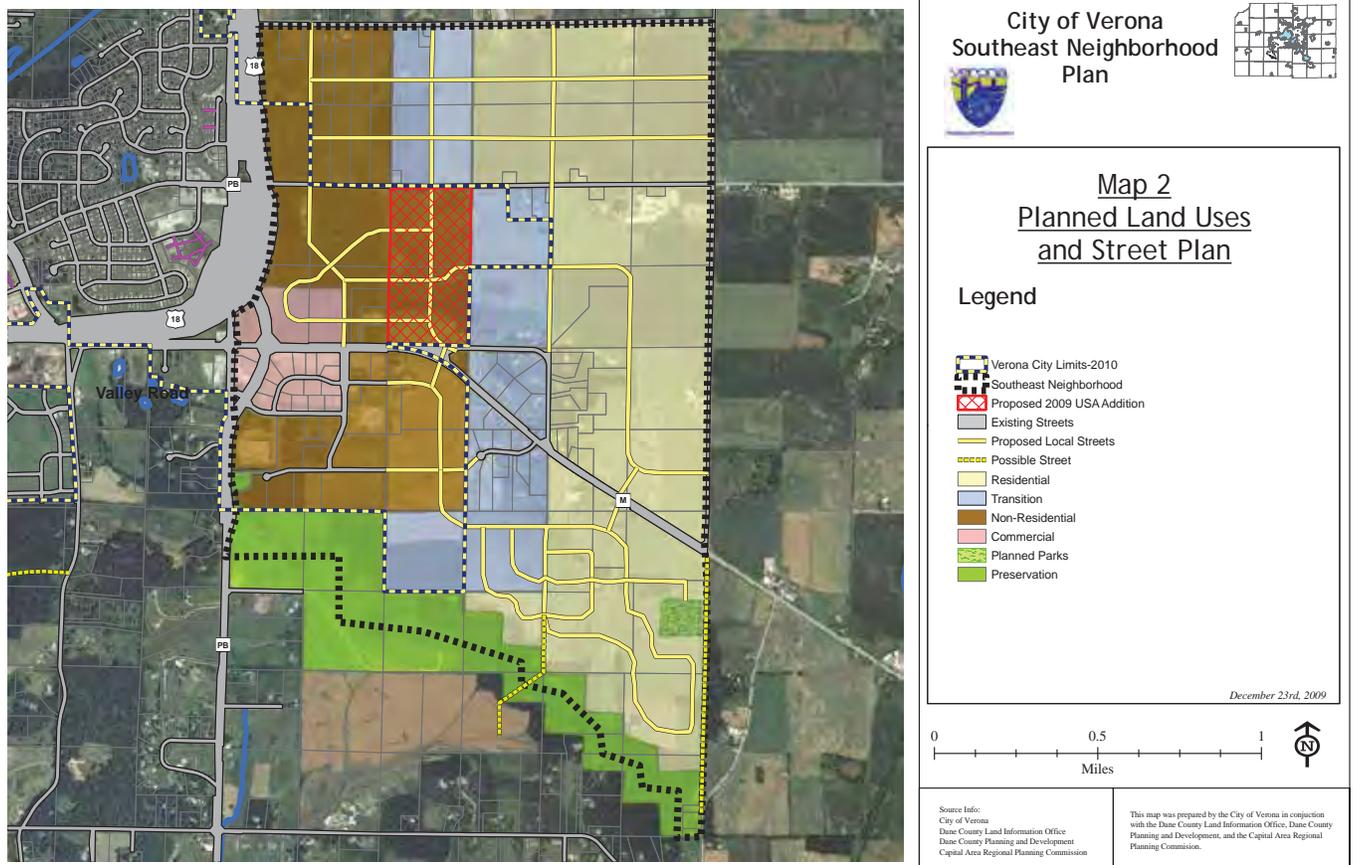


Figure 2.5 Verona Southwest Neighborhood Plan Planned Land Uses

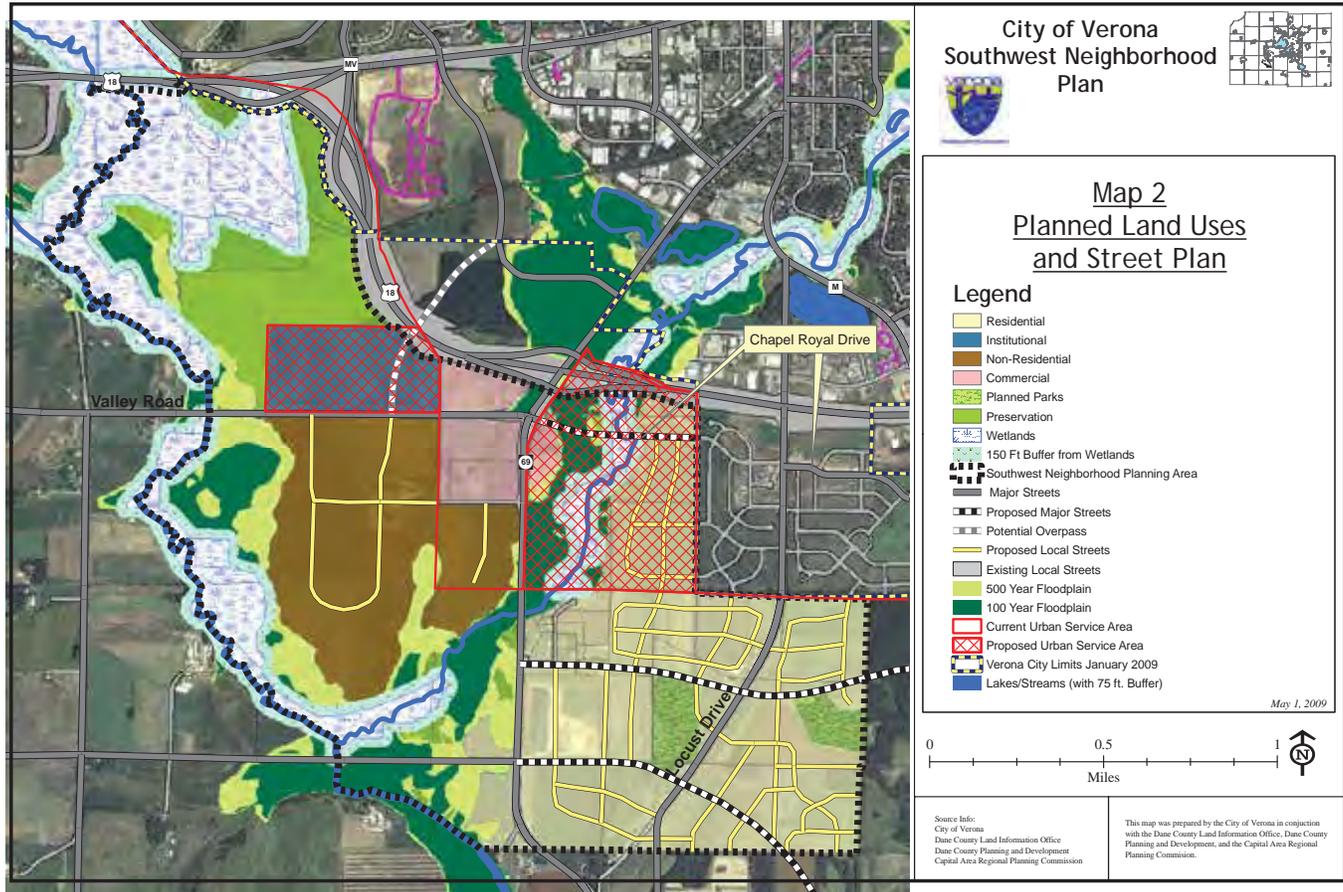


Figure 2.6 Verona Future Bike Facilities

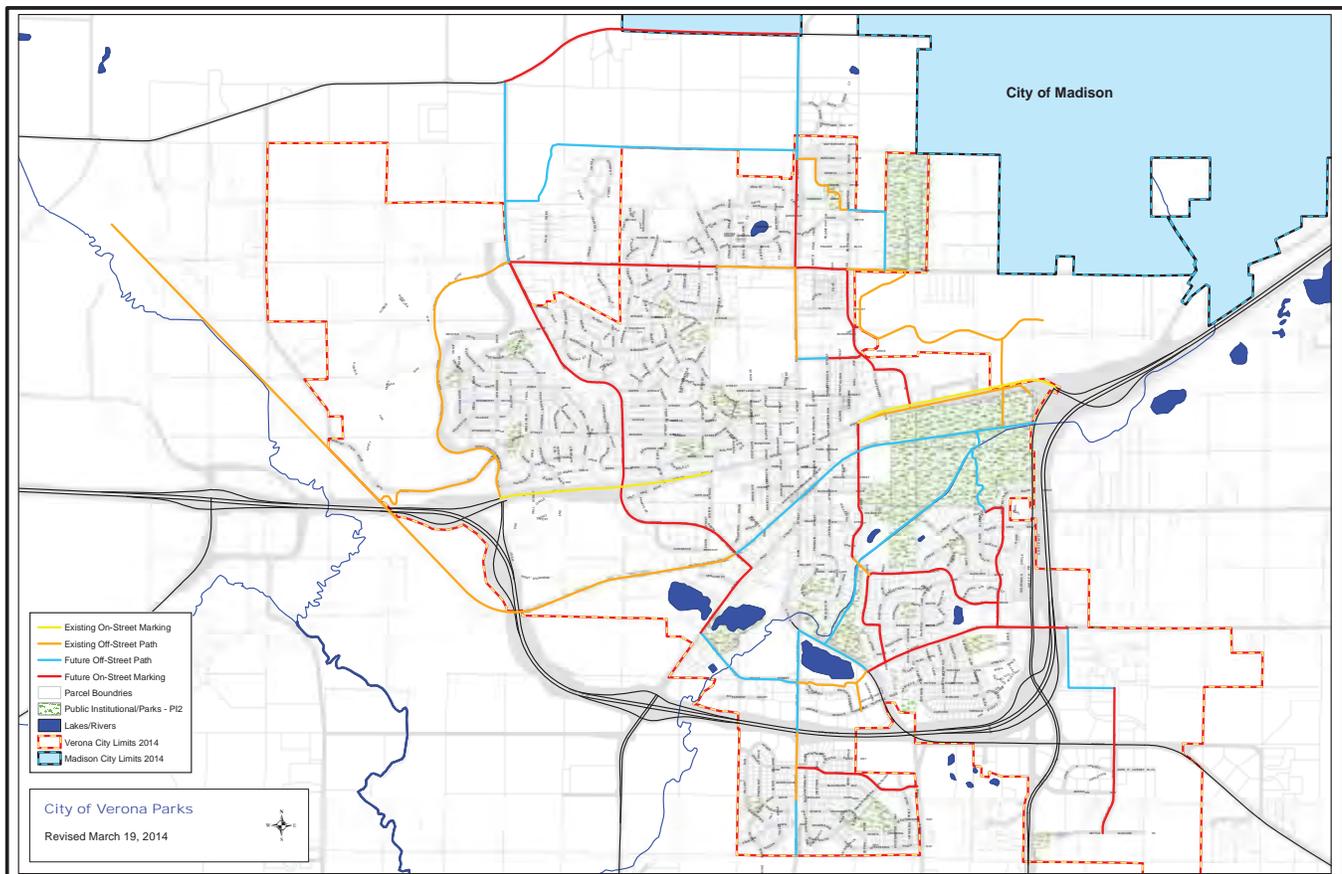
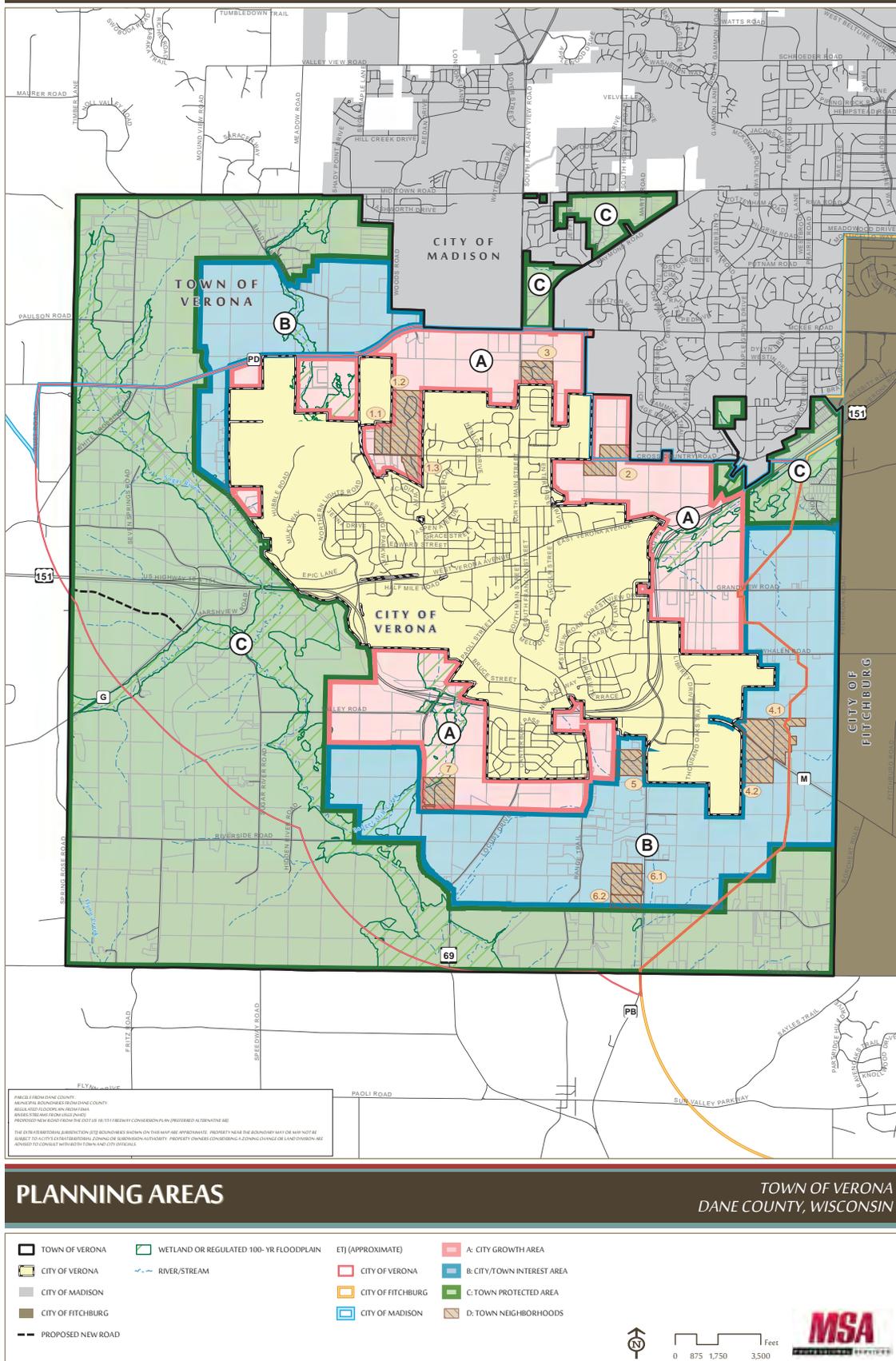


Figure 2.7 Proposed Expansion of Hometown Junction Park from Verona Downtown Plan (2014)



Figure 2.8 City and Town of Verona Boundary Agreement Map





Chapter 3:

PARK, OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION INVENTORY

3.1 CITY-OWNED FACILITIES & EXISTING RECREATION PROGRAMS

The Parks and Urban Forestry Department manages the City's 31 park facilities totaling 177 acres. The system is represented by seven types of parks: mini-parks, neighborhood playgrounds, neighborhood parks, community playfields, community parks, special purpose parks, and undeveloped lands. Refer to Appendix B for a description of the characteristics of each of these park classifications.

Table 3.2 (page 27) lists each City park, acreage, and amenities. The location of each park is shown on the Existing Parks and Recreational Facilities map in Appendix C.

CITY-OWNED FACILITIES

Behnke Park

A 2.6-acre neighborhood playground with limited access, reachable by easements from Mahogany Way, Spruce Circle, Hickory Court, Basswood Avenue and Maple Road. The park provides playground equipment and picnic tables.

3.1 City-Owned Facilities & Existing Recreation Programs

3.2 Privately-Owned Facilities

3.3 School Facilities

3.4 County Parks

3.5 Regional Parks & Recreation Facilities

Table 3.1 Verona Park Acreage

Mini Parks	0.5
Central Park	0.5
Neighborhood Playgrounds	9.5
Behnke Park	2.6
EPIC Park	5.2
Raywood Park	0.9
Thompson Park	0.6
Palmer Park	0.2
Neighborhood Parks	38.4
Cathedral Point Park	8.6
Cross Country Park	5.9
Harmony Hills Park	1.2
Kay Park	0.9
Meister Park	3.2
Neff Park	2.3
Prairie View Park	2.4
Scenic Ridge Park	2.1
Tollefson Park	5.1
Tower Park	2.6
Vande Grift Park	1.9
Westridge Park	2.2
Community Playfield	18.1
Ceniti Park/Connor Field	18.1
Community Parks	61.3
Community Park/Eagle's Nest Ice Arena	20.5
Fireman's Park	18.7
Harriet Park	7.1
Veteran's Park	15
Special Purpose Parks	42
East View Heights Nature Sanctuary	6
Hometown Junction	0.5
Military Ridge Reserve	27.8
Silent Street Pond	4.5
West Park	1.1
Whalen Pond Outdoor Laboratory	2.1
Undeveloped Parks	7.4
Kettle Creek Retention Pond	7.4
South Main Park	8.2
TOTAL	177.2

Cathedral Point Park

An 8.6-acre neighborhood park located at Westminster Way and Chads Crossing. A more recent addition to the park system, the park currently includes playground equipment, a basketball court, shelter and picnic tables.

Ceniti Park/Connor Field

An 18.1-acre community playfield located on East Verona Avenue. Facilities at the park include an enhanced baseball/softball diamond, football/la crosse field, walking trail, off-street parking, shelter, restroom, concession stand, drinking water and picnic tables.

Central Park

A 0.5-acre mini- park located at the intersection of Paoli and Main Streets. The park is generously landscaped with shrubs and perennials and has a walking trail and drinking water. Its location, near the Verona Senior Center, offers a nice amenity for the senior residents.

Community Park/Eagle's Nest Ice Arena

A 40.2-acre community park located along East Verona Avenue, is Verona's largest park and has the most facilities. Existing facilities include: year-round indoor skating and hockey at the Eagle's Nest Ice Arena; outdoor skating, next to the arena in winter; walking/jogging paths; a picnic shelter; restrooms; drinking fountains; Verona Little League Park with four lighted fields; a concession stand; Stampfl Baseball Field; two baseball/softball fields; soccer fields; a skate park; and off-street parking.

Cross Country Park

A 5.9-acre neighborhood park with limited access, reachable by easements from Basswood Avenue, Aspen Avenue and Linden Street. Facilities include playground equipment, picnic tables, backstop, and soccer field goals.

East View Heights Nature Sanctuary

A 6-acre special purpose park located at the south end of Lincoln Street which can also be accessed from South Hillcrest Drive. It provides a walking trail and connection to Badger Mill Creek and the Ice Age National Trail. The site has a bridge across the Creek. Habitat restoration is also underway.

EPIC Park

A 5.2-acre neighborhood playground located at Meister Drive and Westridge Parkway. A more recent addition to the park system, the park currently includes playground equipment and picnic tables with the potential for future park facilities to bring this park from a neighborhood playground to a neighborhood park.

Fireman's Park

An 18.7-acre community park located along Paoli and Bruce Streets on the City's southwest side. Existing facilities associated with fenced quarry swimming include: a lifeguard on duty; beach; diving platform; slides; diving boards; restrooms; drinking fountain; and a playground. Outside of the swimming area are paths, a shelter, soccer fields, boat ramp and fishing.

Harmony Hills Park

A 1.2-acre neighborhood park located south of Ineichen Drive on the north side of Verona. Facilities include a playground, full-court basketball, shelter with picnic tables, drinking fountain and it is on the proposed City bike loop with an off-road path passing through the park.

Harriet Park

A 7.1-acre community park located along Mary Lou Street, Arthur Street, Westlawn Avenue and Harriet Street on the City's north side. It is consistently cited as the City's most-used park. Existing facilities include: two basketball courts; outside ice skating; a shelter with restrooms; a drinking fountain; two tennis courts; a soccer field; horseshoe pits; and a band shell.

Hometown Junction

A 0.5-acre special purpose park located in downtown Verona along the Military Ridge State Trail, at the intersection of Railroad Street and South Main Street. Facilities include a shelter with picnic tables, restrooms, a drinking fountain and off-street parking. The location and resultant character of Hometown Junction with the traditional depot styled shelter, lighting, flags and masonry makes the park a Verona focal point.

Kay Park

A 0.9-acre neighborhood park bordered by Gilman Street, Harriet Street and Loder Lane. Facilities include a playground, half court for basketball, picnic table and a grassy open space useful for field games and general play.



Behnke Park



Community Park



Cathedral Point Park



Cross Country Park



Ceniti Park



Epic Park



Central Park



Harmony Hills Park



Harriet Park



Neff Park



Scenic Ridge Park



Tower Park



Hometown Junction



Palmer Park



Silent Street Pond



Vande Grift Park



Kay Park



Prairie View Park



Thompson Park



Veterans Park



Meister Park



Raywood Park



Tollefson Park



West Park

Kettle Creek Retention Pond (undeveloped)

A 7.4-acre undeveloped park located between Cross Country Road and Country View Elementary School.

Meister Park

A 3.2-acre neighborhood park located along Breckenridge Road and Jenna Drive, on the City's west side. Park facilities include playground equipment, soccer field, shelter and picnic tables.

Military Ridge Reserve

A 27.8-acre special purpose park located within the 100-year floodplain and has a mix of restored prairie, wetland and forest. A bridge over the Badger Mill Creek provides connection, via a walking path, to the Ice Age National Trail and the Military Ridge State Trail.

Neff Park

A 2.3-acre neighborhood park located on the east side of Verona, in the Valley View subdivision along Holiday Court. Facilities include play equipment, a half court for basketball and picnic tables.

Palmer Park

A 0.2-acre neighborhood playground located along Melody Lane, in the south central part of Verona. Facilities are limited to playground equipment.

Prairie View Park

A 2.4-acre neighborhood park located along Forest View Drive & Harvest Lane. Park facilities include playground equipment, backstop, basketball court, soccer field, shelter, drinking water and picnic tables.

Raywood Park

A 0.9-acre neighborhood playground located in the Raywood subdivision, in the northwest part of the City along Acadia Way. Facilities include playground equipment and a picnic table.

Scenic Ridge Park

A 2.1-acre neighborhood park located on Scenic Ridge Drive and Whispering Pines Way. Facilities include playground equipment, a basketball court, shelter and picnic tables.

Silent Street Pond

A 4.5-acre special purpose park located on Silent Street and Enterprise Drive. Its primary use is as a retention pond; however, the grassy upland is mowed and has a picnic table so that it is also useful for passive recreation.

South Main Park (undeveloped)

An 8.2-acre undeveloped park located at the intersection of Whalen Road and South Main Street. The City currently uses this land to deposit fill material. The Ice Age National Trail already passes along this site.

Thompson Park

An 0.6-acre neighborhood playground located at the intersection of Thompson Street and Edward Street, on Verona's west side. Facilities include a picnic table and playground equipment.

Tollefson Park

A 5.1-acre neighborhood park located in the Hawthorn Hills subdivision at Gatsby Glen Drive and Whalen Road, in the southeast part of the City. It provides recreational space for the Glacier Edge Elementary School, as well as the adjacent neighborhood. Facilities include playground equipment, a tot-lot, paths, a shelter with picnic tables, restrooms, a drinking fountain, backstop, two soccer fields, two tennis courts and access to the City bike loop.

Tower Park

A 2.6-acre neighborhood park located in the Hawthorn Hills subdivision at Fairview Terrace and Marlow Bay Drive, in the southeast part of the City. Facilities include playground equipment, picnic tables and paths that access the City bike loop and the Ice Age National Scenic Trail.

Vande Grift Park

A 1.9-acre neighborhood park located in the Eastview Heights subdivision along Parkland Drive, in the southeast part of the City. Facilities include play equipment and a soccer field.

Veteran's Park

A 15-acre community park located south of Verona City Hall. Existing facilities include two basketball courts; a shelter and restrooms; two soccer fields; two softball fields; two tennis courts; paths and access to the Military Ridge State Trail and the City Bike Loop system; and off-street parking.

West Park

A 1.1-acre special purpose park located along Maple Road, just north of Basswood Avenue. This resource includes habitat restoration and a picnic table.

Westridge Park

A 2.2-acre neighborhood park located in the Westridge Estates subdivision, along Edward Street, in the west part of Verona. Facilities include play equipment, half-court basketball, a shelter with picnic tables, a drinking fountain, a tennis court and a backstop.

Whalen Pond Outdoor Laboratory

A 2.1-acre special purpose park located on Whalen Road & South Main Street. The park includes habitat restoration, environmental education, a shelter and walking trail.



Westridge Park



Whalen Pond Outdoor Laboratory

BICYCLE ROUTES AND TRAILS

Figure 2.6 (Refer to Chapter 2) provides an overview of existing on and off-road bicycle routes in the City. Additional recommendations regarding these facilities is described under Section 3.5 and Section 6.3 of this plan.

PROGRAMMING

The City's Recreation Department offers a wide variety of programming: 46 programs throughout the year for youth, adult and family. Programming varies by season. Between 2010 and 2015 Verona residents' total participation in recreation programming increased by 29%. More specifically, participation by adults decreased by 15% and participation by youth increased 47% during this time period. Examples of programming for youth include spring recreational soccer, babysitting class, Engineering for Kids and Kid's Kayaking. Examples of programming for adults include makeup workshops, adult softball, knitting/crocheting and exercise classes. For current offerings visit www.ci.verona.wi.us/265/Recreation.

Figure 3.1 City of Verona Recreation Programming Participation, 2010-2015

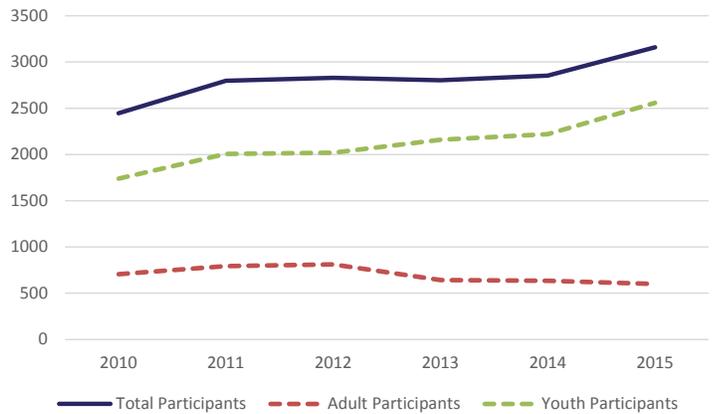


Table 3.2 City Parks & Amenities Inventory (highlighted cells indicate lighted facilities)

Park/Facility	Location	Acres	Swimming	Boat Ramp	Fishing	Playground Equipment	Backstop	Baseball/Softball Diamond	Basketball Court	Tennis Court	Volleyball Court	Soccer Field	Football/La Crosse Field	Habitat Restoration	Environmental Education	Skateboard Ramp	Ice Skating/ Hockey	Walking Trail	Horseshore Pits	Off Street Parking	Shelter	Restroom	Concession Stand	Band Shell	Drinking Water
Mimi Parks		0.5																✓							✓
Central Park	Paoli and Main Streets	0.5																							
Neighborhood Playgrounds		9.5																							
Behrke Park	Mahogany Way, Spruce Circle, Hickory Court, Basswood Avenue & Maple Road	2.6				✓																			
EPIC Park	Meister Drive and Westridge Parkway	5.2				✓																			
Raywood Park	Acadia Way	0.9				✓																			
Thompson Park	Thompson Street & Edward Street	0.6				✓																			
Palmer Park	Melody Lane	0.2				✓																			
Neighborhood Parks		38.4																							
Cathedral Point Park	Westminster Way and Chads Crossing	8.6				✓			✓												✓				
Cross Country Park	Basswood Avenue, Aspen Avenue & Linden Street	5.9				✓				✓											✓				✓
Harmony Hills Park	Ineichen Drive	1.2				✓			✓												✓				
Kay Park	Gilman Street, Harriet Street and Loder Lane	0.9				✓			✓												✓				
Meister Park	Breckenridge Road and Jenna Drive	3.2				✓			✓												✓				
Neff Park	Holiday Court	2.3				✓			✓												✓				
Prairie View Park	Forest View Drive & Harvest Lane	2.4				✓			✓												✓				✓
Scenic Ridge Park	Scenic Ridge Drive and Whispering Pines Way	2.1				✓			✓												✓				✓
Tollefson Park	Gatsby Glen Drive & Whalen Road	5.1				✓			✓												✓				✓
Tower Park	Fairview Terrace & Marlow Bay Drive	2.6				✓			✓												✓				✓
Vande Grift Park	Parkland Drive	1.9				✓			✓												✓				✓
Westridge Park	Edward Street	2.2				✓			✓												✓				✓
Community Playground		18.1																							
Centi Park/Connor Field	East Verona Avenue	18.1						✓													✓				✓
Community Parks		61.3																							
Community Park/Eagle's Nest Ice Arena	East Verona Avenue	20.5						✓				✓				✓				✓	✓				✓
Fireman's Park	Paoli and Bruce Streets	18.7				✓		✓				✓									✓				✓
Harriet Park	Mary Lou Street, Arthur Street, Westlawn Avenue & Harriet Street	7.1							✓			✓									✓				✓
Veteran's Park	Verona City Hall	15						✓		✓		✓									✓				✓
Special Purpose Parks		4.2																							
East View Heights Nature Sanctuary	Lincoln Street	6												✓											
Hometown Junction	Railroad Street & South Main Street	0.5																			✓				✓
Military Ridge Reserve	Military Ridge Drive & Old CTH PB	27.8																✓							
Silent Street Pond	Silent Street & Enterprise Drive	4.5																							
West Park	Maple Road	1.1																							
Whalen Pond Outdoor Laboratory	Whalen Road & South Main Street	2.1												✓							✓				✓
Undeveloped Parks		7.4																							
Kettle Creek Retention Pond																									
South Main Park	Cross Country Road & Country View Elementary School South Main Street	7.4 8.2																							✓

3.2 PRIVATELY-OWNED FACILITIES

Nearby University lands and non-profit private facilities provide valuable recreational facilities for Verona’s population. Furthermore, these lands serve as buffers to development, trail corridors and open space for wildlife. Continued cooperation between Verona and these valued neighbors will help to maintain the quality of life now enjoyed by the residents of Verona.

Gateway Estates Retention Basin

Gateway Estates Retention Basin (3 acres) is located near Gateway Pass, in the Gateway Estates subdivision on the north side of Verona. This is a private basin, surrounded by homes, that serves as open space for those living around the basin.

MAYSA’s Reddan Soccer Park

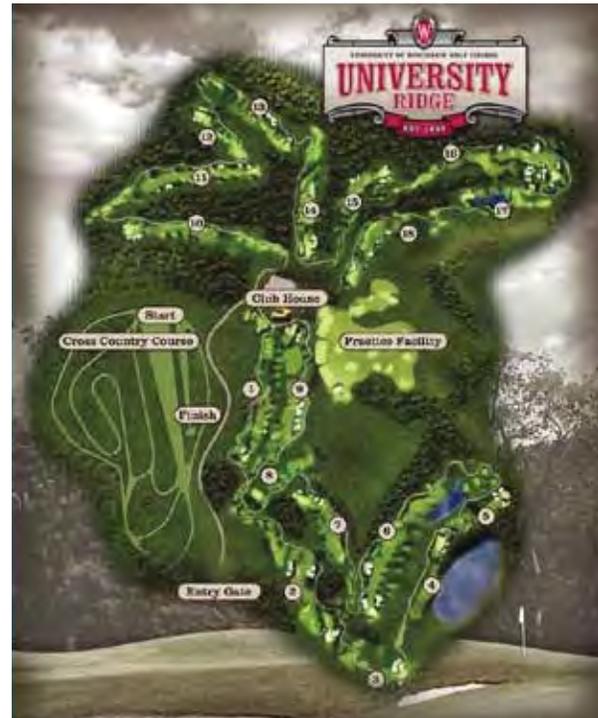
Reddan Soccer Park (40.5 acres) is located in the Ice Age Trail Junction Area north of Badger Prairie County Park along Cross County Road. Facilities owned and operated by the non-profit Madison Area Youth Soccer Association (MAYSA) include 16 soccer fields, concessions, restrooms and play equipment. The Ice Age National Scenic Trail passes through the property as well. Verona plans to explore a spur to connect Reddan Soccer Park to the City bicycle loop to encourage alternative methods of transportation.



MAYSA’s Reddan Soccer Park
Source: maysa.org

University Ridge Golf Course

University Ridge Golf Course (225 acres) is located in the Town of Verona off CTH PD. Owned and operated by the University of Wisconsin, it is a nationally ranked, 18 hole layout. It provides a valuable piece of open space for the Ice Age Trail Junction Area.



University Ridge Golf Course
Source: universityridge.com

EPIC On-Site Trails

EPIC’s on-site trails run along Northern Lights Drive from West Verona Avenue to Nine Mound Road and now along Nine Mound Road north to CTH PD. A spur also runs from Northern Lights Drive to Military Ridge Trail along Country View Road. These trails are open to the public. EPIC has additional on-site trails for their employees.



EPIC Campus
Source: madison.host.com

3.3 SCHOOL FACILITIES

Schools can provide many of the same facilities found in a recreational park, such as playground equipment and athletic fields. However, school properties are not completely interchangeable with park facilities because of student use when school is in session. Coordination of community recreation and school needs can lead to greater cost efficiencies. The Verona Parks Department recognizes the importance of providing safe routes to school, and is actively pursuing a bicycle and pedestrian system that permits safe travel to school. The Parks Department looks forward to continued cooperation and mutual support with the Verona Area School District. Generally, the School District uses Parks Department fields, while the Verona Recreation Department uses School District gyms for basketball and volleyball programs.

Country View Elementary School (12.7 acres) is located on the north side of Verona on Lone Pine Way and includes Wildcat Softball Park. Facilities include a playground, basketball nets and open fields for soccer and softball.



Country View Elementary School
Source: channel3000.com

Glacier Edge Elementary School (1.8 acres) is located along Kimball Lane and is adjacent to Tollefson Park in the Hawthorn Hills subdivision on the southeast side. Facilities include basketball courts, a playground and it is located along the City bike loop (see Section 6.3 Recreational Trails).



Glacier Elementary School
Source: schooldesigns.com

Legion Street Field (5.0 acres) is the Verona Area School District ball field, located along Legion Street and adjacent to Sugar Creek Elementary School. Facilities include a lighted softball field with bleachers. The field is no longer used by the Recreation Department.

St. Andrew's Playfield (3.7 acres) is located north of St. Andrew's Church and School, on the north side of Verona, along North Main Street. Facilities include 2 softball diamonds used by the Recreation Department for City youth leagues. The fields are leased to the City and maintained by the City.

Savanna Oaks Middle School (10.0 acres) is a Verona Area School District school that is located on the west side of the City of Fitchburg, next to Stoner Prairie Elementary School and along Lacy Road. The City leases the gym for volleyball and basketball leagues. Because it is located outside of Verona, the school land does not contribute to useful open space for the citizens of Verona, except when school children are present.

Stoner Prairie Elementary School (10.0 acres) is a Verona Area School District school that is located on the west side of the City of Fitchburg, next to Savanna Oaks Middle School and along Devoro Road. The City leases the gym for volleyball and basketball leagues. Because it is located outside of Verona, the school land does not contribute to useful open space for the citizens of Verona, except when school children are present.

Sugar Creek Elementary School (3.5 acres) is located in the central area of Verona along West Verona Avenue and adjacent to New Century School. Facilities include playgrounds, basketball courts and softball fields with backstops.

Wildcat Softball Park (2.1 acres) is located north of Country View Elementary School and adjacent to Zingg Park. Facilities include two high quality softball fields, concessions, restrooms and a drinking fountain. Verona Parks and Recreation plans to work with the Verona Area School District to determine how the fields can be responsibly used by the public for recreational leagues and programs.

3.4 COUNTY FACILITIES

Badger Prairie County Park

A 339-acre park located in the Town of Verona, just northeast of the City. It is accessed from Nesbitt Road near the intersection of CTH PB and USH 18/151, and from Enterprise Drive, near the Verona Library. Facilities include a trailhead and parking lot for the Military Ridge State Trail and access to the Ice Age National Scenic Trail. Other facilities include shelters with restrooms and drinking fountains, playfields, play equipment, an aero-modeling field, a mountain-bike trail and a dog exercise area. It also serves as a portion of the Ice Age Trail Junction Area.

Prairie Moraine County Park

A 160-acre park located two miles south of the intersection of CTH M and CTH PB at Wesner Drive. Facilities include the Ice Age National Scenic Trail along the Johnstown Moraine, and both on-leash and off-leash dog exercise areas.



Badger Prairie Park - Existing & Proposed Trails Plan
Source: Dane County Parks

3.5 REGIONAL PARKS AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

Verona is in the eastern portion of the WDNR’s South Central Region and is well served by regional parks and open spaces. There are a variety of other park and recreational facilities within close proximity to the City of Verona in public and private ownership. The following list provides the most significant facilities within the Verona region that residents most likely would use. It is not an exhaustive list, but provides a variety of recreational activities. For more information, contact the representative websites.

Badger Mill Creek Corridor

The approximately 300-acre corridor includes the wetlands and uplands along the Badger Mill Creek from the City of Verona to the Sugar River. The Verona Parks Department supports a partnership between the DNR, Dane County, the Town of Verona and conservation groups to create a project plan for the Corridor.

Ice Age National Scenic Trail

In 2016, the City of Verona officially became recognized as an Ice Age Trail Community. Planned as a 1,000-mile trail, the completed Ice Age National Scenic Trail will begin at Interstate State Park on the St. Croix River in Polk County, Wisconsin and extend to Potawatomi State Park in Door County. Nine of the fifty-five miles along the terminal moraine through Dane County have been acquired. In the Verona area, the trail passes through the Ice Age Trail Junction Area between Verona and Madison, Reddan Soccer Fields, Badger Prairie County Park, Community Park, East View Heights Nature Sanctuary, South Main Park, Tower Park and Prairie Moraine County Park. In addition to the Junction Area described below, parking for the Ice Age Trail is also available at Prairie Moraine County Park, Ceniti Park, the Military Ridge State Trailhead and Badger Prairie County Park.



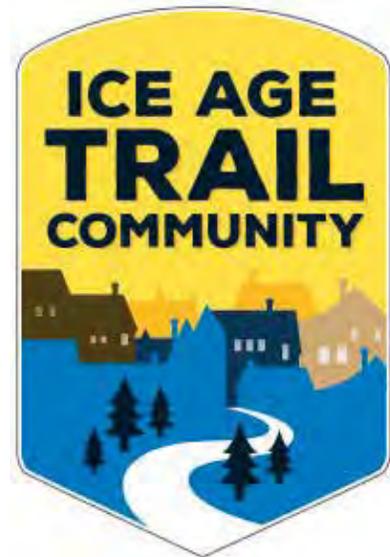
Ice Age Trail

Source: http://outsidemagazine.typepad.com/.a/6a00d83453140969e20154367279c0970c-pi_militaryridgemap.pdf

Trail Foundation.

Ice Age Trail Junction Area

An area of approximately 1,300 acres intended to create a corridor for the Ice Age National Scenic Trail and other resources in the area including the Military Ridge State Trail. The Ice Age Trail Junction Area includes the Madison Area Youth Soccer Association's (MAYSA) Reddan Soccer Fields. The Junction results from a partnership between the City of Verona, the National Park Service, the Wisconsin DNR, Dane County, the Town of Verona and the Ice Age Park and



Prairie Moraine Dog Exercise Area New Parking Lot & Entrance Relocation
Source: Dane County Parks

Madison School Forest

The 310-acre oak-hickory forest is located on the Town of Montrose border in the southwest corner of the Town of Verona, with 160 acres in the Town of Verona. The City plans to work with the Madison School District, the Friends of the Madison School Forest, DNR, Dane County, Town of Verona, Town of Montrose and conservation groups to expand the area.

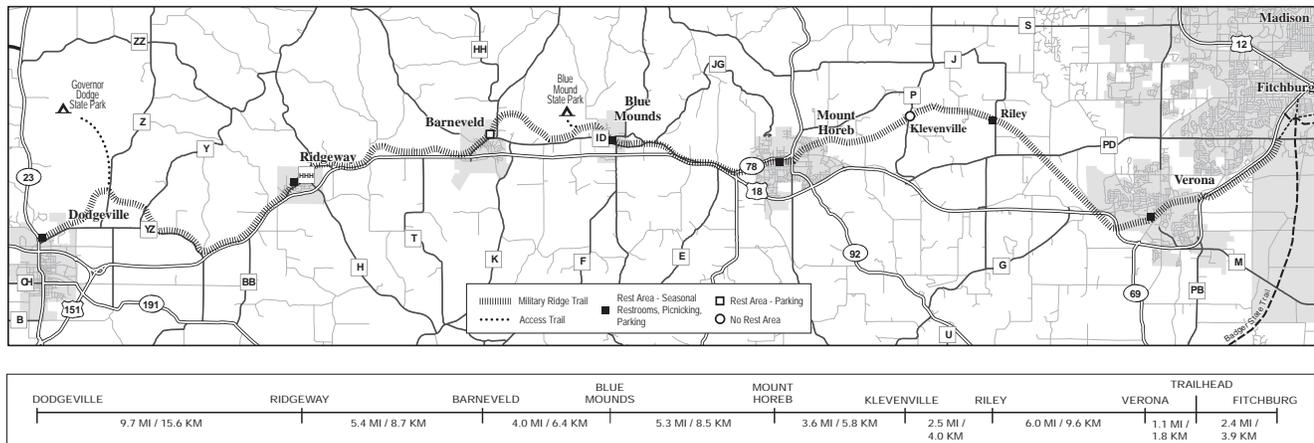
Military Ridge State Trail

The 40-mile trail from Mount Horeb to the Capital City Trail in Fitchburg was built on the old Chicago and North Western Railroad corridor. There are numerous access points and trailheads along the route. For the Verona Trailhead, take US 151/18 South to Exit 92 for County Highway PB. Go north on Old Highway PB for one mile. The trailhead with parking is on the left.

Scheidegger Forest

Scheidegger Forest is a 78.6-acre forest located in the Town of Verona at the intersection of Range Trail Road and Sunset Drive. The land has been restored from a former Dane County Sheriff shooting range to a managed forest of primarily oak and hickory. Facilities include car parking and public access, group camping, restrooms, reservable shelters, picnic areas, hiking/natural surface trail and archery hunting is permitted.

Military Ridge State Trail



Military Ridge State Trail

Source: <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/parks/name/militaryridge/pdfs/>



Chapter 4:

ANALYSIS OF DEMAND & NEED

This chapter presents an analysis of how well the City's existing park and recreational facilities satisfy current needs in the community. The adequacy of the City's existing park and recreation system are evaluated using the following methods:

- » Quantitative Analysis – a comparison of existing parkland acreage and population projections versus park and recreational facility service guidelines, including a review of the types and amount of parkland available to City residents.
- » Geographic Analysis – an analysis of the geographic distribution and accessibility of park facilities in the City.
- » Qualitative Analysis – a summary of public input regarding City parks and recreational facilities gathered through the community survey.
- » Regional & State Trends – a summary of the demand or trends in recreational amenities at the county and state level.

4.1 Quantitative Analysis

4.2 Geographic Analysis

4.3 Qualitative Analysis

4.4 Regional & State Trends

4.1 QUANTITATIVE ANALYSIS

An analysis of existing recreational land area is provided to determine if the recreational needs of residents are being met. This analysis is limited to an evaluation of the space, or land, devoted to recreational use.

Currently the City is providing approximately 170 acres of parkland, not counting school facilities, county facilities, or private facilities. This translates to .014 acres of parkland per person, or 14.0 acres per 1,000 residents. The amount of parkland per 1,000 residents is down from 17.0 acres in year 2000 and 16.4 acres in year 2007.

Table 4.1 summarizes the current and projected supply and demand for total parkland acreage based on City population. For the purpose of calculating anticipated parkland demand, a level of service of 10.5 and 17 acres per 1,000 residents was assumed. A loose target traditionally provided by National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) is 10.5 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents (0.5 acres for Mini-Parks, 2.0 acres for Neighborhood Parks, and 8.0 acres for Community Parks). Since year 2000 it has been the policy of the City to strive for 17 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents, as this was the actual ratio of parkland provided at that time.

Table 4.1 City Park Acreage Existing and Projected Surplus/Deficit

Total Park Acreage Surplus/Deficit (in acres)					
	Year	2014	2020	2030	2040
Population		11,353	12,800	15,070	16,850
Total Supply (acres)		169.8	169.8	169.8	169.8
Demand (10.5 acres/1,000)		119.2	134.4	158.2	176.9
Demand (17 acres/1,000)		193.0	217.6	256.2	286.5
Surplus (10.5 acres/1,000)		50.6	35.4	11.6	-7.1
Surplus (17 acres/1,000)		-23.2	-47.8	-86.4	-116.7

Table 4.2 City Park Acreage Existing and Projected Surplus/Deficit by Park Type

Park Acreage Surplus/Deficit by Type (in acres)					
	Year	2014	2020	2030	2040
Population		11,353	12,800	15,070	16,850
Mini-Park					
Low Standard (0.5 acres/1,000)		-5.2	-5.9	-7.0	-7.9
High Standard (1.0 acres/1,000)		-10.9	-12.3	-14.6	-16.4
Neighborhood Playgrounds/Parks					
Low Standard (2.0 acres/1,000)		25.2	22.3	17.8	14.2
High Standard (4.0 acres/1,000)		2.5	-3.3	-12.4	-19.5
Community Playfields/Parks					
Low Standard (8.0 acres/1,000)		-11.4	-23.0	-41.2	-55.4
High Standard (12.0 acres/1,000)		-56.8	-74.2	-101.4	-122.8
Special Purpose Park		No Standard Applicable			
Nature Preserve		No Standard Applicable			

Using a level of service standard of 17 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents the City currently has a deficit of 23.2 acres. Assuming the population projections are correct, and the City does not add additional parkland, the total deficit will grow to 116.7 acres by the year 2040.

Table 4.2 summarizes the current and projected supply and demand for parkland acreage by park types, using the lowest traditional service guidelines provided by the NRPA and a modified City standard of 1.0 acres of Mini-Parks, 4.0 acres of Neighborhood Playgrounds/Parks, and 12 acres of Community Playfields/Parks per 1,000 residents. It should be noted that the information in Table 4.2 groups neighborhood playgrounds within the neighborhood parks classification and community playfields within the community park classification in order to provide comparisons with the NRPA guidelines. For example, EPIC Park is currently classified as a neighborhood playground under this plan due to the presence of only playground equipment at the time this plan was developed; however, the park contains enough acreage to become a neighborhood park as more facilities are installed in the future.

The results of Table 4.2 indicate a projected deficit for Mini Parks and Community Playfields/Parks through 2040. The deficit in mini park acreages is expected as the City currently has only one mini park. It is important to note that the school-owned properties are not included in this analysis. The school-owned properties do indeed play a vital role in filling the community playfield needs of the residents of Verona; however, because access and maintenance are not regulated by the City these facilities were not included in the analysis in Table 4.1 and 4.2 nor were County or private recreational facilities mentioned previously.

Although the total acreage of park and recreation lands is an easy indicator of the presence of parks and recreation space, it is not the only indicator of whether a community is able to meet the park and recreation needs of its residents. The NRPA advocates that the location of parkland, and the types of recreational facilities offered on that land, are just as important as the total acres of parkland. A community with a lot of parkland, but few recreational facilities, is less likely to meet the needs of its residents than a community which has a lesser amount of parkland, but has a larger variety of recreational opportunities. Fortunately for Verona residents they have access to a wide range of recreational facilities as summarized in Chapter 3, Sections 3.1 - 3.5.

4.2 GEOGRAPHIC ANALYSIS

The location of park and open space facilities in relation to the City's residents is an important indicator of how well existing facilities are dispersed throughout the community. The National Recreation and Park Association advocates that all residents should live within a 1/4 - 1/2 mile of some type of public park or open space. The Park Service Areas map in Appendix C indicates areas of the City that are not currently served by a City park; that is, they do not fall within a 1/3-mile service area of any City park (refer to Policy 1, Section 5.3). The map also illustrates service areas based on park type, including 1.5-miles for community parks and 1/3-mile for all other park types. Areas currently zoned for neighborhood and urban residential uses that fall outside of these service areas are also highlighted.

The map indicates the following deficiencies in the location of parkland:

» Residential areas directly to the east and west of Country View Elementary School are underserved by City parks of all types with the exception of community parks. However the Elementary school does offer facilities including a playground, basketball nets and open fields for soccer and two softball diamonds.

» There are several urban residential lots to the west of Sugar Creek Elementary and New Century Charter Schools which are also underserved by all City park types excluding community parks. The Elementary Schools' facilities include playgrounds, basketball courts and softball fields.

In conclusion nearly 100% of the developed residential land base in the City of Verona is served by one or more of the park classifications.

An analysis of the distribution of specific amenities within the parks was also performed. The Park Facilities Distribution map in Appendix C shows that parks with the greatest number of amenities are currently located in the central part of Verona surrounding Verona Ave. Other highlights from the map include:

» Most of the enhanced community playfields (e.g. lighted ball diamonds, soccer fields, football fields, etc.) are located in the central portion of the City (near Verona Ave. and Main St.). Many of the neighborhood parks around the edge of the community offer some general purpose green space which can be used for informal soccer or baseball games.

» The neighborhood to the south of US 151/18 is currently served by Scenic Ridge and Cathedral Point Parks which offers limited facilities including a playground, basketball and shelter.

» Homes north of Cross Country Road and to the east of Country View Elementary School are served by Harmony Hills Park which offers limited facilities including a shelter, playground, drinking fountain and basketball court.

According to the 2011-2016 Wisconsin Statewide Outdoor Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP), approximately 88% of Wisconsin residents walk for pleasure. In addition to walking for pleasure, attending outdoor sports events and family gatherings are some of the top recreation activities Wisconsin residents participate in. Ensuring existing and future parks offer amenities conducive to these activities is important as the high rates of participation in these activities are not projected to change.

4.3 QUALITATIVE ANALYSIS

As part of the update to this plan, the Parks and Recreation Department administered an on-line community survey to gather resident's opinion regarding City park facilities and recreational programs. The City mailed 620 surveys to a random set of households. A total of 182 individuals completed the survey (29.4% return rate). The following is a summary of responses to key questions. Refer to Appendix A for the complete results.

GENERAL SATISFACTION

» 85% of respondents indicated they are either satisfied or very satisfied with City park and recreational services (parkland, equipment and programming).

» The majority of residents were either very satisfied or satisfied with the condition and maintenance of parkland and facilities. Few were dissatisfied or very dissatisfied.

SAFETY AND ACCESSIBILITY

» 95.3% of respondents indicated they do not have any safety concerns while using City parks.

GENERAL USE - RECREATION PROGRAMS

» 25.0% of respondents indicated someone in their household participated in a City sponsored recreation program in 2015.

» The programs that respondents primarily participated in include youth soccer, the playground program and adult activities. One suggestion on how to make the recreation programs better included earlier communication about program offerings.

GENERAL USE - PARKS

» The top three activities respondents/members of their households enjoy doing in City parks are walking/hiking, bicycling and using the playground.

» 16.7% of respondents have rented a park shelter in the last five years. On a scale of 1 (very poor) to 10 (excellent), 50.0% of those who rented a park shelter rated their experience as a 9 or 10. No respondents rated their experience as a 1-6.

» The top four parks that respondents visit most often are Harriet, Fireman's, Tollefson and Veterans Parks.

» Excluding winter months, 48.5% of respondents visit one of Verona's parks daily or once a week.



Farmer's Market at Hometown Junction
Source: www.livability.com

PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

» If additional funding was available, respondents' top priorities for where to direct money to include an **aquatic center/municipal pool, off-street paths and trails, spray park/splash pad, nature areas/passive recreation and landscaping/shade trees.**

4.4 REGIONAL & STATE TRENDS

INSIGHTS FROM THE WISCONSIN STATEWIDE OUTDOOR COMPREHENSIVE RECREATION PLAN (SCORP), 2011-2016.

The goals listed below are recommended by the Wisconsin SCORP to help provide Wisconsinites better access/awareness to outdoor recreation opportunities and to help improve public health and wellness:

Public Access to Land and Water – One part of this goal is awareness; there is access to land and water, but many times people don't know about it. Maps and signage that are easily readable would help increase public awareness. The other part of this goal can be realized by providing additional sites with access to the water for boating, fishing, and swimming.

Promote Outdoor Recreation as a "Get Fit" Initiative – Educate the public about the health benefits of walking, biking, nature study, etc. and develop programming and recreation facilities with health agencies.

Create Urban Parks and Community Green Space – Create connected urban parks and community green spaces to improve quality of life and increase opportunities for recreation in urban areas.

According to the SCORP, in Wisconsin there is a projected **stable future demand for low-intensity recreational activities such as walking, gardening, viewing nature centers, sightseeing, bicycling, and picnicking (listed in order of popularity).** Since these activities should experience stable growth in the future, opportunities to engage in these activities should be created and maintained.

Due to changing demographics, social trends, and other movements, the SCORP is projecting **increased demand for (generally) high-intensity recreational activities in the future such as kayaking, visiting dog parks, climbing, paddle boarding, playing outdoor soccer, RV camping, and BMX biking.**

Activities such as hunting, inline skating, skateboarding, softball and downhill skiing are projected to have a decreased demand in Wisconsin in the future also due to the changing demographics' preferences.

INSIGHTS FROM THE DANE COUNTY PARKS & OPEN SPACE PLAN (POSP), 2012-2017.

In its 2012-2017 POSP, the Dane County Parks Department compared recreation uses that require purchase of a permit in 2006 and 2010 to identify trends for these park uses. Findings included:

» An increase in number of nights camping from 2007 (7,119 nights) to 2010 (9,366 nights).

» **Lake access, dog exercise areas and camping** continue to be very popular uses on Dane County Park lands. **Disc golf, mountain bike and cross country skiing all showed significant use increases between 2006 and 2010.**

Dane County Parks staff also reported a strong increase in snowshoe use during the winter of 2010-11. Though this could have been attributed to a significant reduction in cost and increase in availability of snowshoes at most sporting good stores.

Overall, statewide hunting license sales showed slight declines between 2009 and 2010. This may have been partially attributed to hunter frustration with Chronic Wasting Disease in deer and increasingly complex hunting regulations.



Chapter 5:

GOALS, OBJECTIVES & POLICIES

This chapter describes the goals, objectives, and policies intended to provide context when making decisions regarding the development of subsequent parks, recreation and open space.

5.1 GOALS

1. Protect natural areas, including wetlands, wildlife habitats, lakes, woodlands, open spaces and groundwater resources.
2. Protect economically productive areas, including farmland and forests.
3. Preserve cultural, historic and archaeological sites.
4. Provide sufficient parks and recreational facilities to meet the needs of the people of Verona.
5. Preserve key natural and cultural resources of Verona in permanent open space.
6. Provide a safe, healthful and visually pleasing environment to enhance the quality of life for all Verona residents.

5.1 Goals

5.2 Objectives

5.3 Policies

5.2 OBJECTIVES

1. Preserve natural features and conserve natural resources associated with Badger Mill Creek and Sugar River watersheds for the benefit of the community.
2. Provide quality recreation and adequate open space lands and facilities for the community.
3. Provide coordination of public park and open space lands with other uses of land and other community facilities.
4. Provide a diversity of recreational opportunities so that residents of all ages have an equal opportunity to enjoy the park and open space system.
5. Provide residential areas of the City with good pedestrian, bicycle and vehicular access to all Parks and Recreation Department facilities.
6. Keep the cost of providing park and recreation facilities at manageable levels through policies that encourage partnership with other public agencies, governmental bodies, non-profit organizations, volunteer groups and private business.

5.3 POLICIES

LAND ACQUISITION AND PRESERVATION POLICIES

1. Seek to maintain a level of service of at least 17 acres per 1,000 people and all residential homes within a 1/3-mile or less distance from some type of public park and open space facility.
2. Coordinate the land acquisition, land use control and planning programs of parks and open space with appropriate federal, state, county and local agencies.
3. Verona should investigate all regulatory and acquisition tools available to preserve agricultural, natural and cultural resources.
4. Preservation of pristine lowlands, waterways, marshes and adjacent contributing uplands, including woodlands, in their natural state should receive special attention to ensure their maintenance as wildlife and fish habitats, as natural drainage areas, as areas for passive recreation and outdoor recreation, and as reservoirs for stormwater.
5. Conservancy lands, which can be adequately

and appropriately protected without public expenditure, should be preserved. Public funds should be used to acquire conservancy lands that cannot be protected through other means, or where public access is a high priority.

6. Cooperate with the Town of Verona to preserve highly productive agricultural lands.

DEVELOPMENT POLICIES

7. All new residential development in the City shall meet the park and open space standards and recommendations as outlined in this plan and implemented by the City of Verona Zoning Ordinance, Subdivision Ordinance, Official Map and Parkland Dedication and Improvement Ordinance. This shall include sufficient dedicated land for use as parkland and alternative transportation corridors of suitable quality.
8. Detention basins are not suitable as parks due to their intended use, but they should be managed in such a way as to maximize their utility and aesthetic value.
9. Guide the location and design of development to minimize potential adverse impacts on the quality of ground and surface waters.
10. Preserve the role of wetlands as essential components of the hydrologic system and valuable wildlife habitat. Protect floodplain areas to emphasize their value to the City as potential focal points of natural beauty and recreation.
11. Encourage special purpose parks, plazas and open spaces within commercial areas such as the Downtown to provide outdoor gathering places and aesthetic enhancements in these areas.

SITE DESIGN POLICIES

12. The park and recreation system should provide opportunities for all persons regardless of race, creed, age, sex, or economic status.
13. Seek to grow the diversity of recreational facilities and amenities available in the City through parkland acquisition and development.
14. Neighborhood parks should feature traditional park facilities such as play ground equipment and general open space. Other recreational facilities should be added based on the needs of the surrounding neighborhoods with consideration given to the types of recreational facilities already

offered in other nearby parks or school properties so as not to provide an overabundance of one type of recreational facility in various regions of the City.

15. Park and open space land should be located where it will most likely provide the greatest benefit to the population served.
16. Park development should be planned to avoid creating nuisance situations between neighbors and park users. Private development near parks should do the same.
17. Neighborhood parks should be sited and designed to enhance neighborhood cohesion and provide a common neighborhood gathering place.
18. All parks should have multiple access points from surrounding neighborhoods.
19. Verona should help private landowners acquire and locate plant buffers to maximize public and private assets when feasible. Recommendations on species and programs to help reduce the cost of purchase should be considered. Biodiversity, native and low maintenance species should be encouraged.
20. Park facilities and school facilities should be shared by both entities to be mutually beneficial to both when appropriate and feasible. This is most likely to occur through a cooperative relationship and through good communication between the Parks Department and School District.
21. Provide that all parks and open spaces be well planted with a variety of native trees, shrubs, ground cover, and where appropriate, restore indigenous plant communities and wildlife habitats.
22. Facility development must be reviewed with safety in mind, adhering to accepted standards prior to installation including applicable consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) standards, American Society for Testing Materials (ASTM) standards, and American's With Disabilities (ADA) standards.
23. Encourage public awareness of environmental and cultural resources by installing interpretative signage or historical markers within City parks.

COMPLYING WITH THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT

The ADA, enacted in 1990, clearly states the right of equal access for persons to local government services, including parks. On September 15, 2010 the Department of Justice published revised final regulations implementing the Americans with Disabilities Act. The 2010 Standards included new provisions for accessible design for recreational facilities such as playgrounds, swimming pools, fishing and golf facilities. Similar to when the original 1991 ADA Standards were adopted for public buildings, a community is required to complete a self-evaluation of their recreational facilities for ADA compliance by March 15, 2012. Those communities with 50 or more full or part-time employees are also required to develop a Transition Plan, which identifies what corrective work will be completed, when it will be completed, and the individual responsible for the corrective work. Any new recreational facilities designed, constructed, or shaped after March 15, 2012 are subject to the 2010 Standards. Any alteration (not simple maintenance, but something that changes the way the site is used) must make the element altered accessible and must create an accessible path of travel through the site or facility to that element.

There are some fundamental differences in how accessibility in the outdoors is accommodated compared to indoors or the built environment. While restrooms, shelters, interpretive centers, and parking lots, for example, need to follow detailed ADA guidelines, other improvements such as trails or swimming beach areas, for example, do not necessarily need to follow indoor or built environment ramp grades or surfacing requirements. A good rule of thumb for the City to follow is that anything constructed must not make the outdoor experience anymore difficult than what occurs naturally. Mother Nature does not have to comply with ADA, but the City does.

OPERATIONS POLICIES

24. Cooperate and coordinate with other governmental bodies, the School District, and non-profit organizations to achieve mutually agreed upon goals and objectives. For example, provide joint or shared recreation programs and services when possible.
25. Provide opportunities for year-round use of park facilities. Sledding areas should be designated where safe and appropriate to do so.
26. Establish the bike loop and on-road facilities, as shown in this plan that promote safe, healthy and enjoyable alternatives to motorized transportation.
27. Develop parks as multi-use fields when feasible. For example, a field could be designed so that it is useful for both football and lacrosse. Care should be taken, so that overuse of the field does not limit playability.
28. At a minimum, portable toilets should be available to all Recreation Department program participants.
29. Review and update this plan every five years as a matter of best practice and to maintain eligibility for state and federal park and recreational grant programs.

ADDITIONAL POLICIES, SPECIFICALLY RELATED TO MINIMIZING COST WHILE MAXIMIZING BENEFIT

30. Parklands in undeveloped areas should be acquired through land developer dedications where feasible.
31. Acquisition of park and open space lands should occur in coordination with development, to provide for reasonable acquisition costs and facilitate site planning for development. Alternative means of reserving lands required for open space use should be fully explored to ensure that lands are obtained at the lowest cost to the public. For example, consider the use of easement acquisition to protect sensitive lands.
32. Work with developers to develop design standards for development near parklands, path corridors and natural areas (such as along Badger Mill Creek).
33. Cooperate with other neighboring communities and non-profit organizations, to establish and manage new parkland and natural areas and to connect City parks and trails to regional parks and trails.
34. Encourage the establishment of special use groups that help to develop and maintain park facilities that they use. Fishing, disc golf, lacrosse, model boating and football groups are examples of possible special use groups that may benefit.
35. Establish and nurture volunteerism through an adult conservation, or a friends group, where members establish a long-term relationship with Verona Parks and Recreation staff and are capable of operating independently with minimal staff supervision. Their effort could be useful to advocate for funding, as well as provide valuable hours of service.
36. Seek financial support from State and County community assistance grant programs.
37. Consider seeking funding through private donations and corporate sponsorship of Parks and Recreation facilities and programs.
38. Explore other alternatives for funding of Parks and Recreation initiatives.



Chapter 6:

RECOMMENDATIONS

The quantitative, qualitative, and geographic analysis discussed in Chapter 4 reveals the need for improvements to existing facilities, as well as, the acquisition and development of new sites for future recreational use. It should be noted that some of the recommendations in this chapter may require considerable cooperation with others, including the citizens of Verona, local civic and business associations, neighboring municipalities, Dane County, and State agencies. In nearly every case, more detailed planning, engineering, study, budgeting, and/or discussion will be necessary before decisions are made to actually acquire land or construct recreational facilities. Where identified acquisition projects will be implemented through donation, dedication, purchase, or a combination thereof.

The recommendations of this plan are divided into four major sections: (1) recommendations for existing park facilities; (2) recommendations for new park facilities; (3) recommendations for recreational trails; and (4) other miscellaneous recommendations.

The timeline for completion of the recommendations is within the next five years, or the life of this plan. Due to budgetary constraints it is unlikely that all of the

6.1 Existing Park Facilities

6.2 New Park Facilities

6.3 Recreational Trails

6.4 Other

recommendations within this chapter will be implemented in the next five years. Maintenance and improvement projects to existing parks will be prioritized on an annual basis by the Parks, Recreation and Forestry Commission in conjunction with the City Council as part of the City's annual budget. Many of the recommendations regarding locating new park facilities will be coordinated with the annexation or approval of development proposals; therefore, the timing is much more variable.

While adding new park facilities is important to enhancing the City's park system, the City is committed to maintaining existing parks in satisfactory condition and providing sufficient funding for operations. Such maintenance and operations include providing sufficient budget for the following:

- » Maintaining and replacing existing facilities and equipment, as needed,
- » Maintaining the landscape at existing parks in good condition,
- » Providing sufficient resources in support of recreational programs, and
- » Maintaining a safe and accessible environment at all City parks.

As new lands are added to the park system, the City will need to budget additional funds for maintenance and operations to maintain the same level of service and quality facilities.

6.1 EXISTING PARK FACILITIES

The following is a bullet list of recommendations for improvements to existing parks. Some of the recommendations identified within this section are remnants from the 2007 CORP. These recommendations have been highlighted (*) where they occur.

MINI PARKS

Central Park

- Thin out/re-plant overgrown plant beds.

NEIGHBORHOOD PLAYGROUNDS

Behnke Park

- *Replace existing playground equipment.
- Install a new park sign.
- Improve the park's visibility from the street.
- Improve access to the park; extend pavement.
- Maintain or replace existing trees. Possibly add more trees.

EPIC Park

- Transition park from a neighborhood playground to a neighborhood park
- Park improvements (\$40k in 2017 CIP for open air shelter)
- Add a basketball court.
- Add a park sign.
- Extend pavement/path through park.
- Repair path along east side of park.

Thompson Park

- Clean up waterway.
- Remove and replace play equipment.
- Repair bench.
- Add more trees.

Palmer Park

- Replace existing play equipment.
- Better utilize the wooded hilltop.
- Add edging around the play equipment area.
- Make park ADA accessible.

NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS

Cross Country Park

- Replace entrance sign and bed plantings.
- Replace pavement at entrances.
- Improve maintenance of sand surrounding play equipment.
- Add more shade trees.

Harmony Hills Park

- Install higher quality turf.
- Add edging around the play equipment area.
- Add more trees.
- Repair court fencing.
- Repair path and sign bed.

Kay Park

- Replace existing playground.
- Replace trees.

Meister Park

- Buffer view of EPIC campus.
- Add more trees.
- Add mulch to playground.

Neff Park

- Replace existing play equipment.
- Add a path to Badger Mill Creek.

Prairie View Park

- Install a backstop and make other improvements to neighborhood ball diamond.
- Make park ADA accessible.
- Repair fencing around basketball court.
- Repair drinking fountain drain.

Scenic Ridge Park

- Install higher quality turf.
- Add more trees.
- Install a drinking fountain.
- Straighten the tornado siren (it appears to be leaning).

Tollefson Park

- Install higher quality turf.
- Add edging around the play equipment area.
- Repair the shelter - it has uneven settling.

Tower Park

- Install a path that goes through the park to the water tower.
- Add edging around the play equipment area.
- Add more trees.

Vande Grift Park

- Install additional benches.
- Improve park access and visibility.
- Remove older play equipment.
- Better maintenance on overgrown trees.
- Improve edging/wood chips in play equipment area.

Westridge Park

- Replace existing play equipment.
- Replace existing benches.
- Improve drainage in park.
- Add a sign bed.
- Add a drinking fountain.
- Improve maintenance of hitting wall on tennis court.

COMMUNITY PLAYFIELDS

Ceniti Park/Connor Field

- Add more off-street parking.
- Install higher quality turf.
- Do landscaping maintenance near entrance.
- Install play equipment.

COMMUNITY PARKS

Community Park/Eagle's Nest Ice Arena

- Replace softball backstops/fencing.
- *Add a larger play structure.
- Make bleachers ADA compliant.
- Improve grass in softball seating area.
- Add more shade trees.
- Install edging around the play equipment area.
- Repair pavement between fields and around shelter.
- Repair/replace skatepark ramps and surface.
- Repair/repave outdoor skating rink.
- Fix or remove water fountains.

Fireman's Park

- *Replace beach house. When replaced, restrooms should be accessible from outside of the swimming area.
- Add improved parking.
- Install access to playground.
- *Add additional land near Badger Mill Creek to park.
- Finish walking path around the perimeter of the property.
- Stock quarry with fish.
- Add a splash pad.
- Repair/replace two entrance signs and sign beds.
- Repair/replace fishing piers.
- Install a new bike rack.
- Remove brush to improve water views and access.
- Repair/remove fence.
- Add and improve existing slides.
- Maintain existing and add more trees to beach area.

(note at the time of development of this plan the City was preparing a park master plan for Fireman's Park to address many of these proposed improvements)

Harriet Park

- Replace/remove second playground.
- Replace small structure.
- Install additional benches.
- Install a security camera at the shelter.
- Consider installing a splash pad (secondary location if not built in Fireman’s Park).
- Construct a separate warming house for skating area.
- Replace overgrown trees.
- Improve horseshoe pits.
- Maintain/improve lower stormwater area.
- Provide off-street parking.

Veteran’s Park

- Improve turf on upper fields.
- Plant additional trees.
- Improve waterway/link path to Badger Mill Creek and Ice Age Trail.
- Install edging around play equipment area.
- Consider installing a splash pad (secondary location if not built in Fireman’s Park).
- Install a pickleball court.
- Install outfield warning tracks.
- Replace infield material with higher quality product.
- Install new roofs on the dugouts.
- Connect the existing path to the fairgrounds.

SPECIAL USE PARKS

Hometown Junction

- Continue development of trail system.
- Install bike signage.
- Expand park per Downtown Plan

Military Ridge Reserve

- *Continue conducting prairie burns every five years.

Silent Street Pond

- Develop park facilities.
- Improve pond.
- Install a walking path.

UNDEVELOPED PARKS

Kettle Creek Retention Pond

- Add trail around pond with benches.

South Main Park

- *Prairie restoration after the site is filled and leveled.

- *In the future consider converting to a park or an Ice Age Trailhead.

6.2 NEW PARK FACILITIES

The City should develop new park and recreational facilities in areas that are under served by existing facilities, where future City expansion is expected to occur, or where the acquisition of park and open space will advance the goals and policies of this plan or the City’s Comprehensive Plan.

The Potential Parks and Recreation Map in Appendix C identifies the general location for potential new or expanded park facilities, based in-part on adopted City neighborhood plans (see Section 2.6). These are generalized locations used for planning purposes only.

- **Sites A and B** are identified in the Southwest Neighborhood Plan as the location for future City parks. These are wooded sites that may not meet the criteria for placement in an environmental corridor through a future urban service area extension and has therefore been deemed a valuable resource that should be preserved through future parkland acquisition or dedication. In addition to preserving these wooded areas for passive recreational use (e.g. walking trails) this plan advises some additional active parkland be acquired or dedicated adjacent to these woodlands to provide space for traditional recreational facilities to serve residents in this planned neighborhood. The Southwest Neighborhood Plan identifies approximately 500 acres for future residential development. Using an average density of 4 units per acre, approximately 2,000 units could be built in this area. Based on the policies of this plan to continue to provide 17 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents, this neighborhood will need approximately 85 acres of new parkland. As shown in the neighborhood plan Sites A and B combined account for only 35 acres of land. Given the centralized location of Site A within this planned neighborhood, this plan recommends this site be expanded as a larger community park or community playfield. A larger community park will not only benefit the residents in this planned neighborhood but also serve as a community park for residents in the Cathedral Point and Scenic Ridge subdivisions. Other smaller neighborhood parks or neighborhood playgrounds, other than Sites A and B, will also likely be needed within the Southwest Neighborhood to serve the needs of this neighborhood.

- **Site C** is identified in the Southeast Neighborhood Plan as the location for a future City park. This is a 9 acre wooded site that may-not meet the criteria for placement in an environmental corridor through a future urban service area extension and has therefore been deemed a valuable resource that should be preserved through future parkland acquisition or dedication. In addition to preserving the wooded areas for passive recreational use (e.g. walking trails) this plan advises some additional active parkland be acquired or dedicated adjacent to these woodlands to provide space for traditional recreational facilities to serve residents in this planned neighborhood. The Southeast Neighborhood Plan identifies approximately 265 acres of land south of CTH M that is currently agricultural that is planned for new residential development. The neighborhood plan identifies approximately 1,060 housing units could be built in this area. Based on the policies of this plan to continue to provide 17 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents, this area will need approximately 45 acres of new parkland. To meet the needs of this area, this plan recommends Site C be expanded as a larger community park or community playfield.
- **Sites D-F** are generalized locations identified for future City community parks or community playfields as part of the development of the Southeast Neighborhood. The Southeast Neighborhood Plan identifies approximately 660 acres of land north of CTH M that is currently agricultural that is planned for new residential development. The neighborhood plan identifies approximately 2,300 housing units could be built in this area. Based on the policies of this plan to continue to provide 17 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents this area will need approximately 100 acres of new parkland.
- **Sites G-K** are identified in the North Neighborhood Plan as locations for future City parks. Site G is identified as the “Godshall property.” The Godshall property contains significant steep slopes making development difficult. The neighborhood plan recommends preservation of the majority of the Godshall property to provide a larger contiguous open space with adjacent Dane County Parks/ Reddan Soccer Park. Site H is identified as a neighborhood park. At the time this plan was being developed a residential plat was being considered in this area including a proposed 3.5 acre neighborhood park tentatively known as “Kettle Park”. Site I was recently purchased by the City and is planned as open space with the future potential

of athletic fields. In addition to athletic fields this site could also potentially serve as a City dog park, in addition to the dogs parks located at Badger Prairie and Prairie Moraine County Parks. Site J is approximately 25 acres in size and would serve as a community park for the north neighborhood. Site K is approximately 12 acres in size and would also serve as a potential community park or community playfield.

- **Site L** is an approximately 115 acre site currently owned by the Verona School District. This site may be used in the future for a new high school facility and associated athletic facilities. If a new facility is built the City should collaborate with the School District regarding potential joint recreational facilities at this location, including the potential for an indoor aquatic facility.
- **Site M** is 54 acres in size and is currently owned by the WisDOT. The City should seek to pursue acquisition of this property for recreational purposes. Approximately 41 acres of the site is wooded with steep slopes. Proposed uses that might be ideal for this site include a disc golf course and a mountain bike course. Currently the nearest disc golf course is in Elver Park in Madison. Access to the property could also be provided from the Military Ridge State Trail via collaboration with School District (Site L).

Site A-M represents those major future community park or community playfield sites identified in either existing City neighborhood plans or through this planning process. Other smaller neighborhood parks or neighborhood playgrounds, other than Sites A-M will also likely be needed to serve future residential development. The final locations of these parks will be determined during the plat review process under the land dedication policies of the City. In addition, the City will continue to require through land acquisition or dedication, environmental corridors which can provide opportunities for passive recreational use, trail corridors, canoe/kayak opportunities, habitat restoration and environmental education.

As new park lands are dedicated to the City individual park master plans should be developed in order to guide the installation of park facilities. All individual park master plans of the City should be adopted as appendices to this plan in order to maintain eligibility for state and federal park and recreational grants.

6.3 RECREATIONAL TRAILS

The City is currently in the process of conducting a Bike and Pedestrian Study. The purpose of the study is to identify bike routes throughout the City in order to connect key locations such as schools, parks and businesses. A total of six bike routes have been identified. Several bike route signs are also proposed to be installed to identify the bike route direction, as well as distance to key locations around the City. Maps of the six individual routes plus an overview map are included on the following pages. When completed, the Bike and Pedestrian Study will be adopted as part of this plan and as part of the Comprehensive Plan. Refer to the Study for specific recommendations.

1. Continue coordination with the Ice Age Trail Alliance. Complete Ice Age Conjunction Path Connection.
2. Complete Hometown Trail System. See Figures 6.2-6.8.
3. Pave Military Ridge Trail through the City.
4. Complete other trail extensions as depicted in adopted City neighborhood plans.
5. Create additional on and off road trails to new City parks. The Hometown Trail System should be added to whenever new parks are planned and developed.

6.4 OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS

Other non-specific locational recommendations include:

1. Replace aluminum soccer goals throughout City parks.
2. Construct an indoor recreation center with an indoor court space, exercise rooms, place for recreation offices and equipment storage.
3. Remove and replace ash trees found in City Parks in response to emerald ash borer infestation. Plant additional shade trees in existing City parks as needed.
4. Develop an aquatic center/indoor pool. Completion of this recommendation should be coordinated with the Verona School District to avoid duplication of facilities.
5. Update parkland dedication and impact fees as necessary to reflect the policies of this plan, new capital needs, and inflationary increases.
6. Consider adding a parks department garage location on the north side of the City. As the City continues to expand it may become more cost efficient for the City to locate an additional area for the storage of equipment needed to maintain City Parks on the north side of town.
7. Consider apply to become a Bird City. A Bird City is a community whose government educates its citizens about birds while implementing sound conservation practices. Bird City Wisconsin provides highly-visible public recognition to these communities, and guidance on future actions, to make Bird Cities better habitat for birds and people.



Figure 6.1 Ice Age Conjunction Path Connection

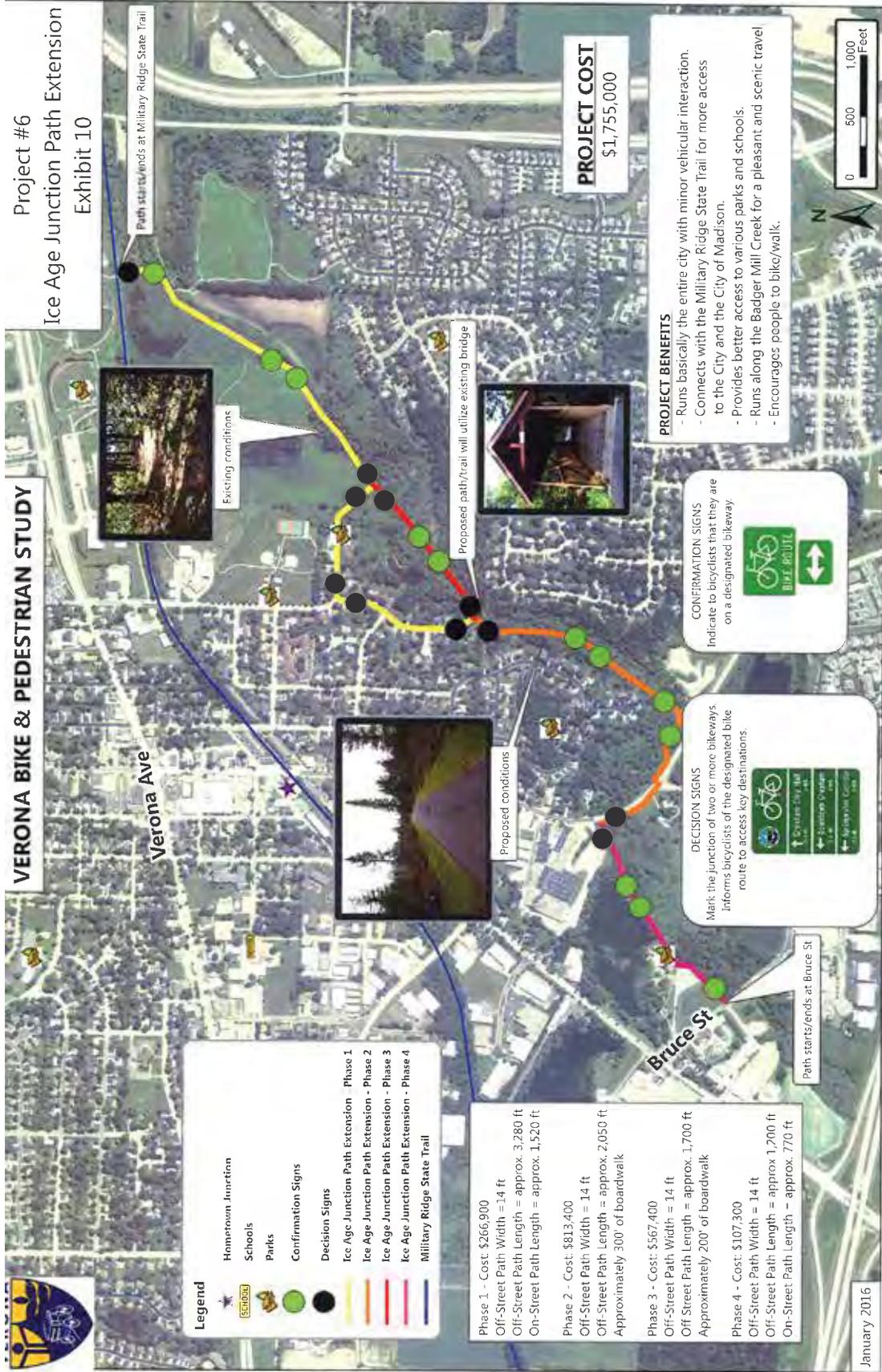


Figure 6.2 Maps from the 2016 Verona Bike & Pedestrian Study

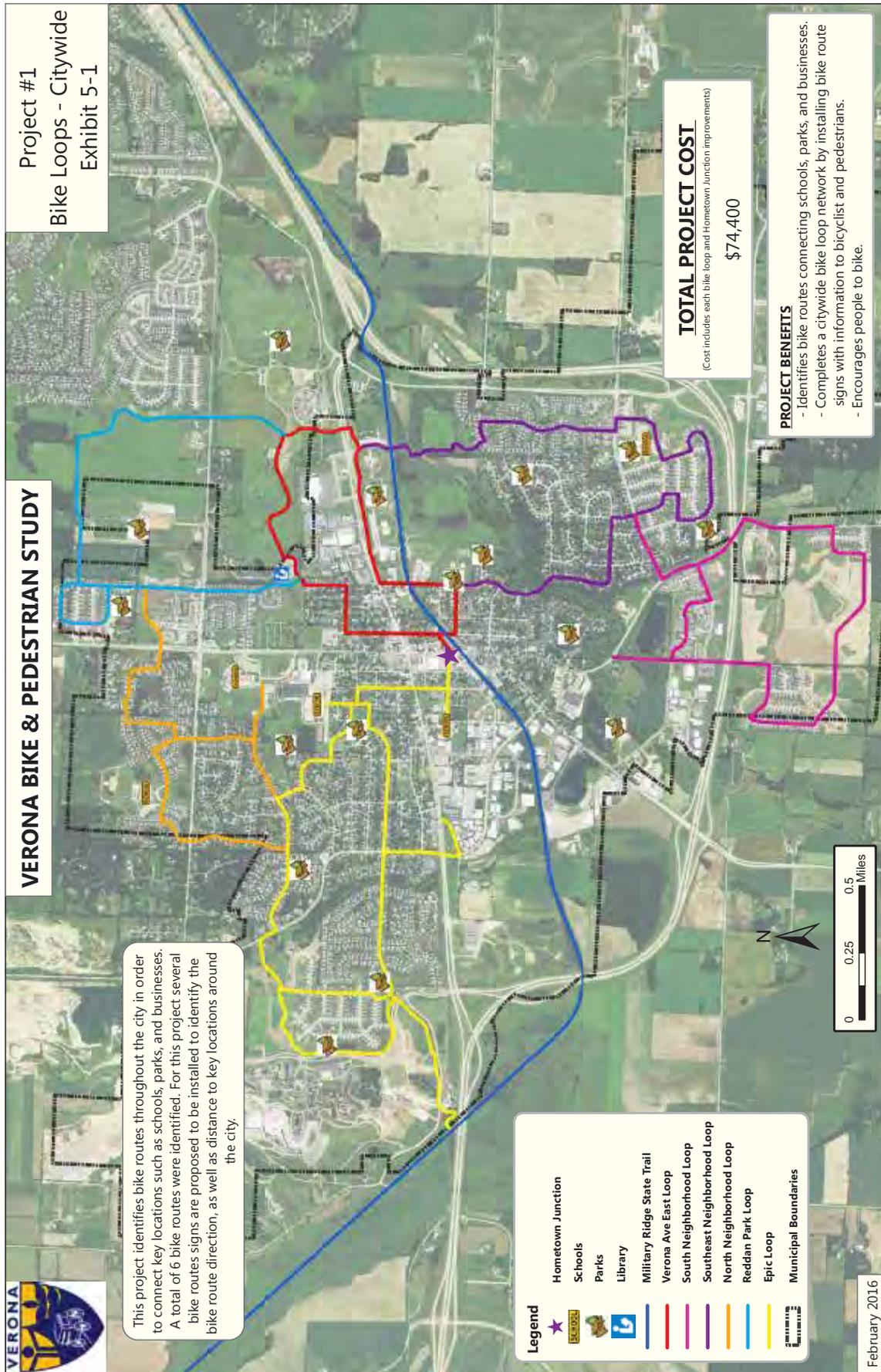


Figure 6.3 Maps from the 2016 Verona Bike & Pedestrian Study

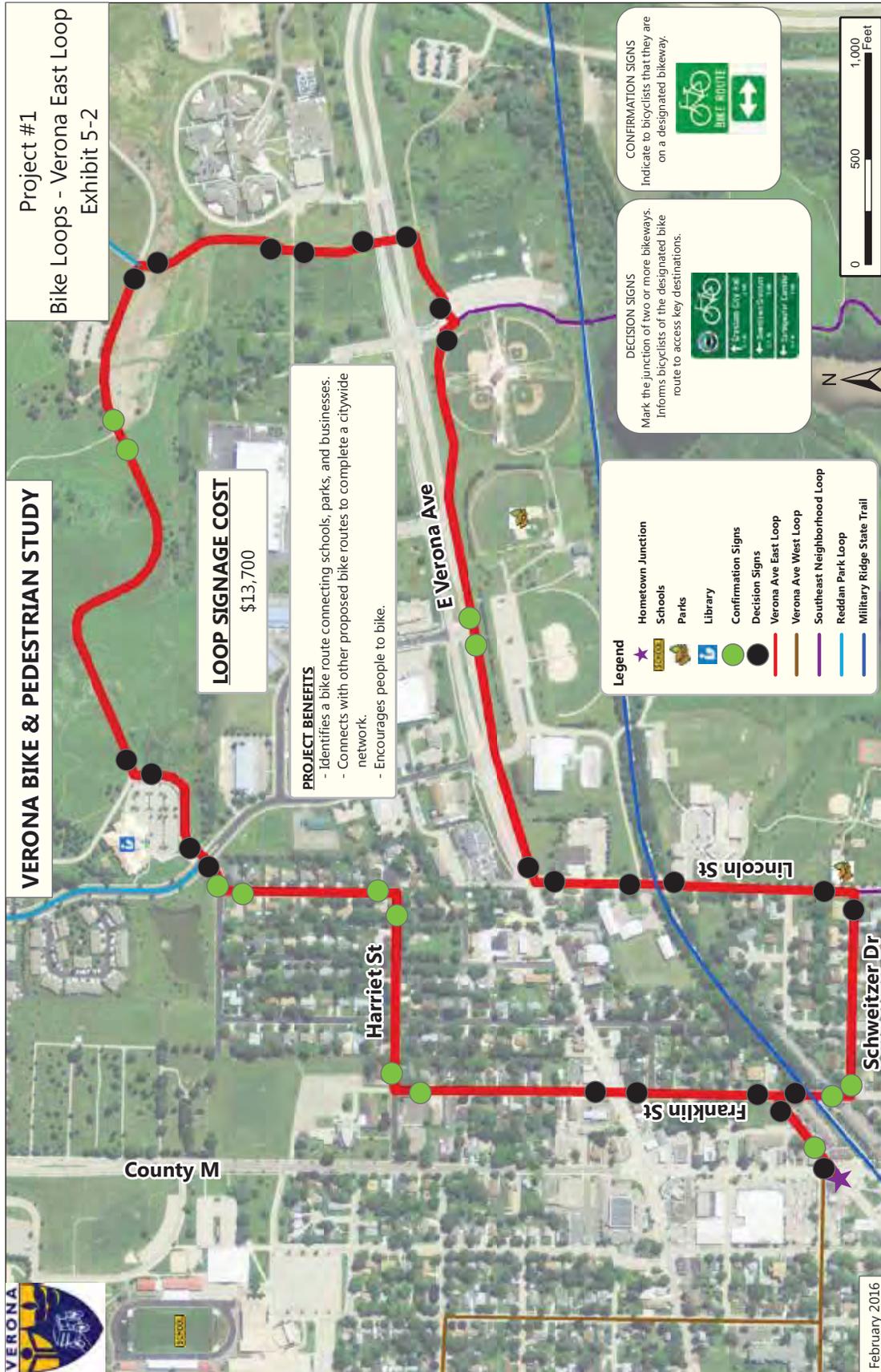


Figure 6.4 Maps from the 2016 Verona Bike & Pedestrian Study

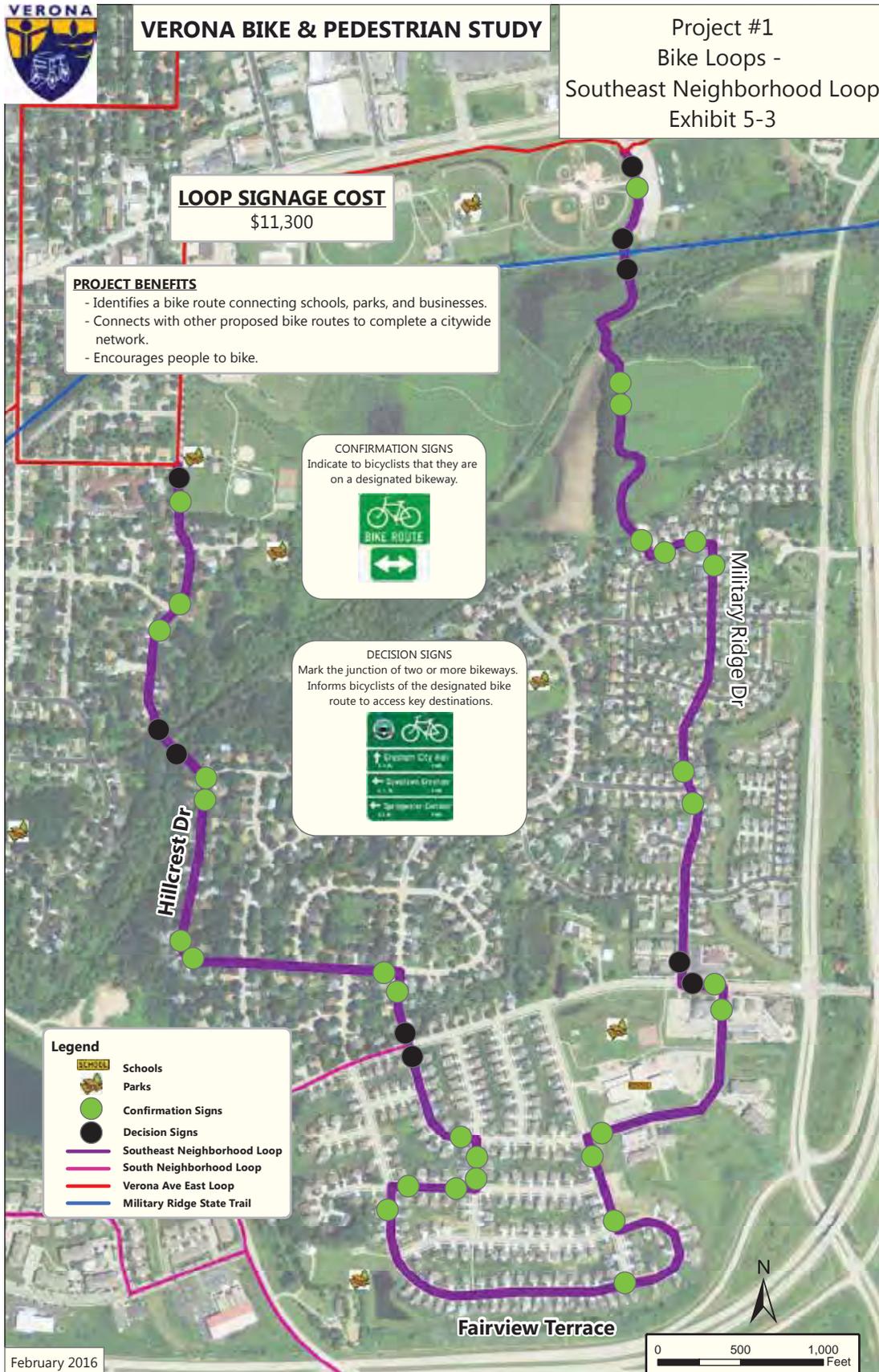


Figure 6.5 Maps from the 2016 Verona Bike & Pedestrian Study



Figure 6.6 Maps from the 2016 Verona Bike & Pedestrian Study

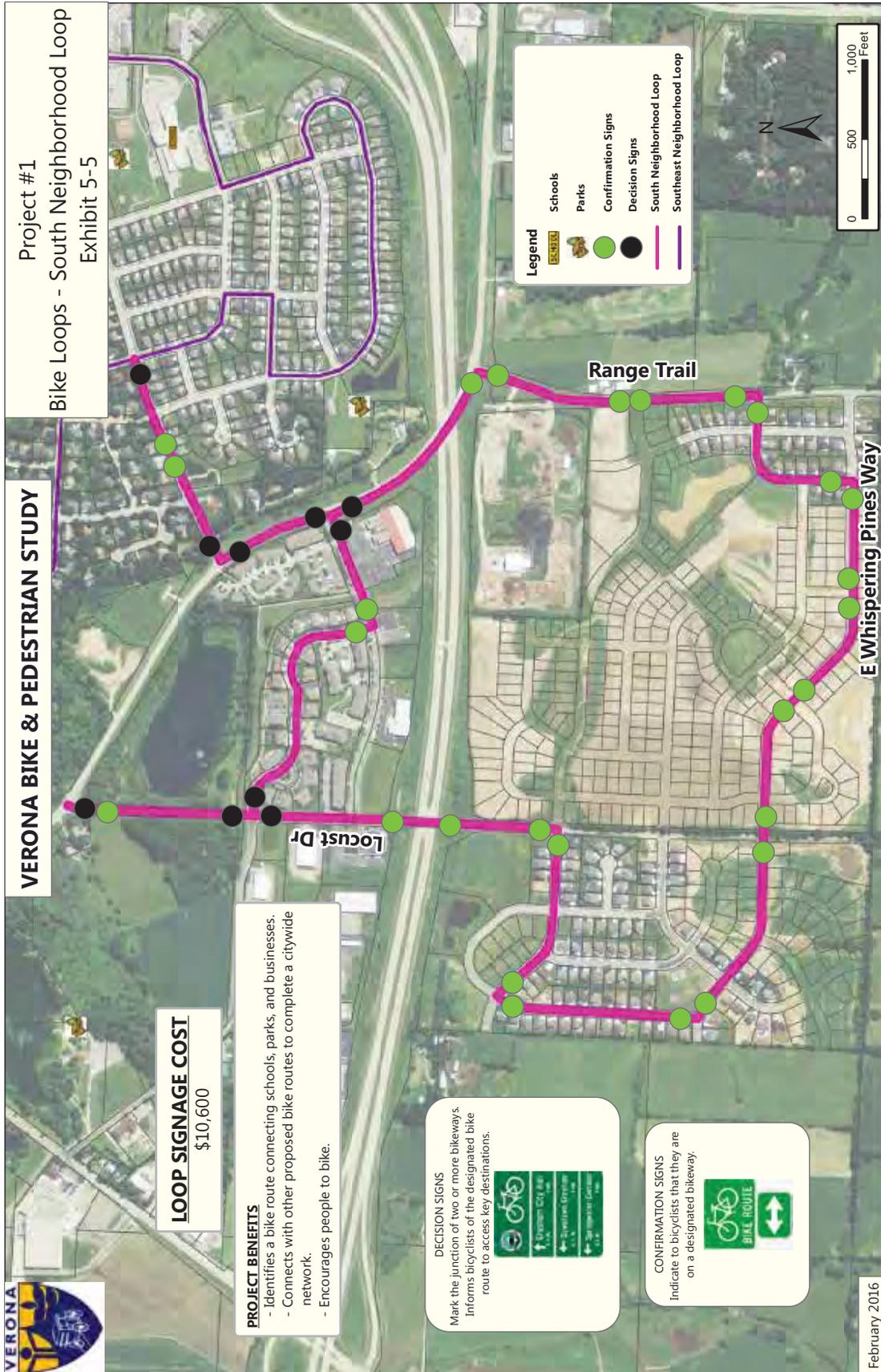


Figure 6.7 Maps from the 2016 Verona Bike & Pedestrian Study

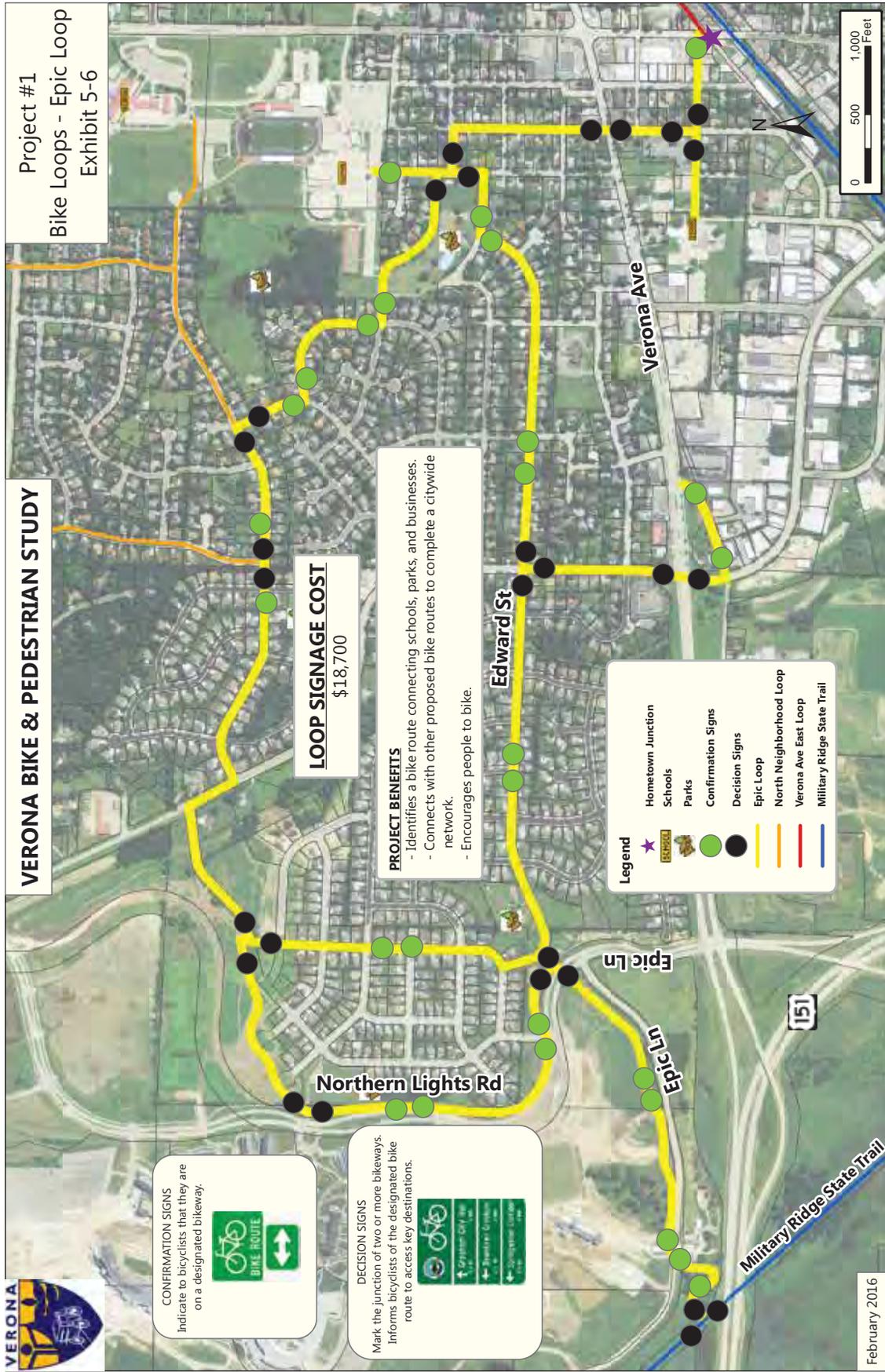


Figure 6.8 Maps from the 2016 Verona Bike & Pedestrian Study





Chapter 7:

IMPLEMENTATION

This chapter summarizes tools and mechanisms that the City can use to fund implementation of the park and open space recommendations discussed in Chapter 6.

7.1 TOOLS AND MECHANISMS TO FUND IMPLEMENTATION

Maintenance and operational expenses of the City's Parks and Recreation Department are generally funded through property taxes and user fees. As the park system grows the need to increase funding to meet the basic maintenance and operational costs also grows. Often there are insufficient funds to undertake major capital improvement projects. There are a wide variety of potential funding sources to assist with up-front capital costs, including acquisition of land and the development of new recreational facilities.

GRANT PROGRAMS

An important source of funding is grant programs offered by state and federal agencies, especially the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. Table 7.1 provides a summary of common state and federal park and recreation grant programs. The table is not an exhaustive list of grant programs, rather those that are typically used by

7.1 Tools and Mechanisms to Fund Implementation

7.2 Comparable Communities

Table 7.1 Park and Recreation Grant Funding Programs

Funding Programs By Category	Maximum Award	Application Due Date	Granting Agency
Natural Heritage Land Trust (NHLT)			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A non-profit conservation organization that buys land and holds conservation easements. Conservation easements are voluntary agreements between a landowner and an easement holder (NHLT) to protect land by restricting certain uses. Conservation easements are voluntary and permanent. 			
Land and Water Conservation Fund (LAWCON)			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This fund is used to implement projects that are identified by both the local and the state Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan. In general, land acquisition, development, and renovation projects for public outdoor recreation purposes are eligible LWCF projects. LWCF does not include the "nature-based outdoor recreation" restriction that the Stewardship Local Assistance Programs do. 	50% local match required	1-May	DNR
Recreational Trails Program Grant			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eligible projects include: maintenance and restoration of existing trails, development and rehabilitation of trailside and trailhead facilities and trail linkages, construction of new trails, and acquisition of easement or property for trails. May only be used on trails which have been identified in or which further a specific goal of a local, county or state trail plan included or reference in a statewide comprehensive outdoor recreation plan required by the federal LAWCON. 	Up to 50% of the total project costs of a recreational trail project. Payments are reimbursements on costs incurred after project approval.	1-May	DNR
Urban Forestry			
<p>Provides technical service and financial assistance to communities for developing urban forestry programs. Priorities include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Communities needing to develop an urban forestry plan; Communities needing worker training; and Communities needing to conduct a street tree inventory. <p>Eligible projects include 1) Undertaking street tree inventories; 2) Training for Village tree workers; 3) Developing urban open space programs; 4) Developing urban forestry plans; 5) Developing a tree ordinance; 6) Developing a public awareness program; and, 7) Tree planting and maintenance</p>	50% local match required. Grants range from \$1,000 to \$25,000.	1-Oct	DNR
Lake Protection and Classification Grants			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Designed to assist lake users, lake communities and local governments as they undertake projects to protect and restore lakes and their ecosystems. Eligible projects include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Purchase of property or a conservation easement Restoration of wetlands Development of local regulations or ordinances Lake classification projects that allow counties to design and implement local land and water management programs that are tailored to specific classes of lakes in response to various development and recreational use pressures (these grants are limited to \$50,000). Lake protection projects recommended in a DNR-approved plan including watershed management, lake restoration, diagnostic feasibility studies, or any other projects that will protect or improve lakes. 	25% local match required. \$200,000 maximum per project.	1-May	DNR
Recreational Boating Facilities Grant			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Construction of capital improvements to provide safe recreational boating facilities and for feasibility studies related to the development of safe recreational facilities. Also includes purchase of navigation aids, dredging of channels of waterways, and chemically treating Eurasian water milfoil. 	50% local match required	Established quarterly	DNR
NRPA Fund Your Park			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Crowdfunding platform service designed for park and recreation agencies 	Service is free, tax deductible donations	Application Open: January 4 and June 6, 2016 Applications Due: February 2 and July 7, 2016	IRPA

Funding Programs By Category	Maximum Award	Application Due Date	Granting Agency
Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program			
The Stewardship Program was established in 1989 to preserve Wisconsin's most significant land and water resources for future generations and to provide the land base and recreational facilities needed for quality outdoor experiences.	50% local match required	1-May	DNR
<p>These goals are achieved by acquiring land and easements for conservation and recreation purposes, developing and improving recreational facilities, and restoring wildlife habitat.</p> <p>This is an umbrella program that funds the following grants:</p>			
Aids for the Acquisition and Development of Local Parks (ADLP)			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Helps to buy land or easements and develop or renovate local park and recreation area facilities for nature-based outdoor recreation purposed (e.g., trails, fishing access, and park support facilities). 			
Urban Green Space (UGS)			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Helps to buy land or easements in urban or urbanizing area to preserve the scenic and ecological values of natural open spaces for nature-based outdoor recreation, including non-commercial gardening. 			
Urban Rivers (UR)			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Helps to buy land on or adjacent to river flowing through urban or urbanizing areas to preserve or restore the scenic and environmental values of riverways for nature-based outdoor recreation. 			
Acquisition of Development Rights Grants (ADR)			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Helps to buy development rights (easements) for the protection of natural, agricultural, or forestry values, that would enhance nature-based outdoor recreation. 			

municipalities. Other grant programs may exist and information regarding funding details shown in Table 7.1 should be verified with grant providers prior to seeking grant funding.

COMMUNITY FUND-RAISING & VOLUNTEER GROUPS

Community groups and civic organizations, such as the Madison Community Foundation, are sometimes willing to organize fundraising efforts to assist with these costs, and they may also be able to marshal volunteer labor to assist with small development projects such as trail creation or playground installations. Local business and corporate support should also be sought. Both non-profit and for-profit organizations can be rewarded for their support with acknowledgement on a plaque or sign at the site.

501(C)3 FOUNDATION

The City can set up an endowment fund as an additional means of providing continual financial support for park acquisition and development. An endowment fund works like a permanent savings account. The amount individuals give, which is the principal, is never spent. Only the interest income is spent, thereby providing a

continual source of monies. A park endowment fund can provide a means for residents to either bequeath money or provide ongoing donations to the City's park system, with the certainty that the money donated will only be used for the advancement of recreation in the community. Gifts to an endowment fund are typically tax deductible under federal and state law.

TAX INCREMENT FINANCING (TIF)

As part of a broader plan to redevelop an area, the City can use tax increment financing to assist with parkland or trail acquisition and development. There are some limitations to what revenues from a TIF district can be used to pay for, generally the costs of constructing public buildings can not be funded with TIF.

The City currently has two active TIF Districts, TID #4 and TID #6. The TIDs were created for the purpose of stimulating redevelopment and new public and private investments. It may be possible to use TID #4 increment to pay for the expansion of Hometown Junction Park as recommended in the City's Downtown Plan (refer to Figure 2.7). Tax increment could be used for land acquisition and site development, but could not be used for construction of park shelters.

Under state statute 66.1105 a municipality can use tax increment to complete public improvements within a 0.5-mile radius of the TID, so long as the use of the funds supports and benefits the TID. Therefore it may also be possible to use TID #4 and TID #6 increment to pay for trail improvement projects within each district and within 0.5 miles of each district.

PARKLAND DEDICATION AND IMPACT FEES

The City's Municipal Code includes regulations regarding parkland dedication requirements. Within the corporate limits of the City subdividers are required to dedicate sufficient land to provide park, recreation, and general open space to meet the anticipated neighborhood needs of residential and development areas, as such park development is determined necessary or desirable by this plan.

In addition to parkland dedication all lands dedicated for park and recreational purposes shall have frontage on a public street and shall have unrestricted public access of 20 feet in minimum width with a five-foot walkway and one eight-foot paved entrance. The subdivider or developer shall install water and sanitary sewer service laterals to the property line of all dedicated land where such services are to be provided to the adjacent properties.

The amount of required dedication shall be in direct proportion to the need generated by the additional new dwelling unit potential. The minimum dedication shall be:

- » 1,800 SF (0.041 acres) per residential unit for all single-family and duplex development.
- » 1,250 SF (0.029 acres) per residential unit for all multifamily development.
- » Four percent (4%) of the total acreage intended for commercial or industrial purposes.
- » For a combination of residential and/or commercial uses, the minimum dedication shall be the sum obtained by adding the dedication requirements for each intended use.

Using the 2010-2014 ACS people per household value of 2.35, the City's land dedication requirement provides 17.45 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents $((0.041/2.35)*1000)$ for single-family and duplex development and 12.3 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents for multi-family development $((0.029/2.35)*1000)$. The existing land dedication requirement for single-family and duplex units is

consistent with the City's policy (Chapter 5) to maintain 17 acres per 1,000 residents. The land dedication requirement for multifamily development is under this target; however, the number of people per unit in a multifamily development is typically less than that of a single-family unit.

If parkland dedication is not possible, at the sole discretion of the Parks, Recreation and Forestry Commission a subdivider may satisfy the requirement for provisions of such park, recreation and general open space by payment of a fee in lieu of land. These fees are collected and used for purchase, development, improvement and maintenance of parks, playgrounds, open spaces and other recreational sites and facilities. Payments are required at the time the plat is submitted for final approval. The schedule for fees in lieu of dedication is as follows:

- » \$2,450 per single-family or duplex parcel.
- » \$1,700 per residential unit for each multi-family parcel.
- » \$1,000 per acre of land proposed for commercial/industrial development.

In addition, at the time building permits are issued for new construction of single-unit or multi-family residential units, a one-time fee of \$300 per bedroom is assessed and paid as a special charge (impact fee) for park development. This fee does not apply to commercial/industrial properties.

7.2 COMPARABLE COMMUNITIES

When looking at impact fees in nearby communities, the City of Verona's Impact Fees are calculated based on bedroom whereas Waunakee's, DeForest's and Sun Prairie's are calculated by dwelling unit (See Table 7.2). For a single family home, the impact fees in Verona would be similar to Waunakee for a six bedroom home and Sun Prairie for a seven bedroom home. Verona's fee would be similar to DeForest's for a 16 bedroom home (when including both parkland and park improvement fees).

The land dedication requirement for single-family developments in Verona (1,800 SF per dwelling unit) is higher than in Middleton (1,450 per dwelling unit) and Sun Prairie (~1,117 SF per dwelling unit), but lower than in DeForest (1,921 SF per dwelling unit). Verona's land dedication requirement for multi-family

Table 7.2 Parkland Dedication and Impact Fee Comparison

	City of Verona	City of Middleton	City of Sun Prairie	Village of Waunakee	Village of DeForest
Park Impact Fees	\$300/bedroom for new construction in Group 1 area (residential development)	none	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$2,160 per single-family DU \$1,710 per multi-family DU \$770 per assisted living DU 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$1,823.19 per single-family DU \$1,240.95 per multi-family DU 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$3,308 (for park land) and \$1,739 (for park improvements) per single-family/duplex DU \$2,486 (for park land) and \$1,308 (for park improvements) per multi-family DU
Land Dedication Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1,800 SF per residential unit for single-family and duplex development 1,250 SF per residential unit for multi-family development 4% of the total acreage intended for commercial or industrial purposes 	1,450 SF per DU	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 acre per 39 single-family homes (~1,117 SF per DU) 1 acre per 49 multi-family units (~889 SF per DU) 1 acre per 108 assisted living units (~403 SF per DU) 	Land equal to ten percent of the total area proposed to be subdivided.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1,921 SF per single-family or duplex DU 1,440 per multi-family DU
Fees in Lieu of Land Dedication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$2,450 for single-family and duplex properties \$1,700 per unit for multi-family properties \$1,000 per acre for commercial and industrial 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$1,705 per multi-family DU with one bedroom or less \$2,841 per multi-family DU with two or more bedrooms 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Current rate as established by the common council for each DU 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$475 per single-family DU \$315 per duplex or multi-family DU 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$3,308 per single-family/duplex DU \$2,486 per multi-family DU
Capital Park Department Budgets (2014, 2015, 2016)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2014: \$158,000 (parks) 2015: \$499,000 (parks) 2016: \$236,000 (parks) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2014: \$110,300 (parks & recreation), \$515,400 (conservancy lands) 2015: \$245,270 (parks & recreation), \$124,200 (conservancy lands) 2016: \$262,200 (parks & recreation), \$213,200 (parks & recreation- trucks/mowers), \$256,200 (conservancy lands) \$10,000 (conservancy lands- mower) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2014: \$246,500 2015: \$369,629 2016: \$336,160 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2014: \$173,000 2015: \$160,000 2016: \$230,000 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2014: \$23,500 2015: \$20,700 2016: \$4,303,000
Operational Park Department Budgets (2014, 2015, 2016)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2014: \$250,805 (recreation), \$464,753 (parks) 2015: \$263,197 (recreation), \$464,753 (parks) 2016: \$272,864 (recreation), \$510,056 (parks) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2014: \$144,888 (rec admin), \$63,793 (summer rec), \$29,224 (fall-winter-spring rec), \$280,979 (aquatic center), \$123,968 (land conservancy), \$824,664 (public lands) 2015: \$224,084, \$155,789 (conservancy lands), \$924,432 (public lands), \$156,112 (rec admin), \$62,333 (summer rec), \$32,084 (fall-winter-spring rec), \$272,089 (aquatic center), \$20,055 (concession stand) 2016: \$205,170 (rec admin), \$53,188 (summer rec), \$93,269 (fall-winter-spring rec), \$287,544 (aquatic center), \$168,719 (land conservancy), \$941,498 (public lands) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2014: \$588,633 (parks), \$379,752 (recreation), \$245,608 (aquatic), \$46,823 (forestry) 2015: \$793,189 (parks), \$399,219 (recreation), \$318,581 (aquatic), \$69,693 (forestry) 2016: \$697,248 (parks), \$448,324 (recreation and aquatic), \$74,849 (forestry) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2014: \$455,831 2015: \$423,056 2016: \$364,619 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2014: \$575,582 2015: \$610,970 2016: \$616,540
FTE & PTE Parks & Recreation Employees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> FTE: 5 PTE: 0 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> FTE: 6 PTE: 6 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> FTE: 6 (parks), 3 (recreation), 1 (forestry) PTE: ? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> FTE: 26.71 PTE: (included above) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> FTE: 3 PTE: ?
Total Number of Parks	31	27	42	31	23
Total Park Acreage	177.2	558	426.5	328.4	389.18
2014 ACS Population	11,353	18,185	30,601	12,613	9,232

developments (1,250 SF per dwelling unit) is lower than DeForest’s (1,440 per dwelling unit) but higher than Sun Prairie’s (~889 SF per dwelling unit). The fees in lieu of land dedication in Verona are higher than all but DeForest

for single-family homes and lower than all comparables for multi-family units (Sun Prairie’s fees are unknown).

Appendix A:

SURVEY RESULTS



The City of Verona Parks and Recreation Department is currently updating our Park and Open Space Plan and your household has been chosen at random to participate in this brief survey. This survey will help us assess how well we provide services, and determine which types of programs should receive our focus in the future. Our goal is to continue improving the high quality of Parks and Recreation programs that Verona residents have come to expect and your opinion is very important to us. Please take a few minutes to complete this survey and return it in the enclosed envelope by Monday, May 2.

Our Performance

1) Please rate your level of satisfaction with the following services. Place an "X" in the box that best applies.

	Very Satisfied	Satisfied	Dissatisfied	Very Dissatisfied	Do Not Use
Overall Department Services	30.3%	54.5%	1.8%	0.0%	13.3%
Youth Recreation Programs	13.0%	23.6%	2.5%	1.9%	59.0%
Youth Sports Programs	13.9%	21.8%	0.6%	1.2%	62.4%
Adult Recreation Programs	8.6%	19.7%	2.0%	1.3%	68.4%
Adult Sports Programs	6.4%	14.7%	0.6%	1.3%	76.9%
City Parks	33.5%	52.1%	2.4%	0.0%	12.0%
City Trails	30.7%	48.5%	1.2%	0.6%	19.0%
City Conservancy Areas	19.4%	28.4%	1.0%	0.0%	51.2%

2) How satisfied are you with the condition of our parks and trails? Place an "X" in the box that best applies.

	Very Satisfied	Satisfied	Dissatisfied	Very Dissatisfied	Do Not Use
Trails	32.1%	48.1%	1.9%	1.2%	16.7%
Landscaping	31.0%	53.8%	7.0%	0.0%	8.2%
Cleanliness of Restrooms	17.2%	42.0%	5.1%	0.6%	35.0%
Park Shelters	25.3%	46.2%	3.8%	0.0%	24.7%
Furnishings (picnic tables, benches)	22.4%	50.7%	5.9%	0.0%	21.1%
Ball Diamonds	14.6%	29.9%	2.5%	0.0%	52.9%
Sports Fields	21.2%	30.8%	1.9%	0.0%	46.2%
Natural Areas	25.2%	52.3%	1.3%	0.0%	21.3%

Safety and Accessibility

3) Do you or members of your household have any safety concerns while using our Parks? Yes 4.7% No 95.3%

4) Do you or members of your household have any accessibility issues which limit the ability to enjoy our Parks and Recreation programs? Yes 2.4% No 97.6%

5) If yes to either question, please describe: [See Attached Sheet](#)

Recreation Programs

6) Did anyone in your household participate in a City sponsored recreation program in 2015? Yes 25.0% No 75.0%

7) If Yes, please rate your experience by placing an "X" in the box that best applies.

	Very Satisfied	Satisfied	Dissatisfied	Very Dissatisfied	Do Not Use
Youth Soccer	12.9%	24.3%	0.0	1.4%	61.4%
Flag Football	11.9%	9.0%	0.0	0.05	79.1%
Youth Basketball	8.2%	9.8%	0.0	0.0%	82.0%
Youth Baseball	7.4%	14.7%	1.5	0.0%	76.5%
Youth Dance	3.2%	6.3%	1.6	1.6%	87.3%
Playground Program	8.8%	16.2%	0.0	2.9%	72.1%
Youth Enrichment	4.8%	9.7%	0.0	0.0%	85.5%
Adult Activities	6.2%	16.9%	3.1	0.0%	73.8%
Adult Sports	6.3%	9.5%	1.6	0.0%	82.5%
Other _____					

8) Please give us some suggestions about what could make your experience better?

[See Attached Sheet](#)

Parks

9) What activities do you or members of your household enjoy doing in our parks? (check all that apply)

72.0%	Walking/Hiking	7.7%	Football	16.5%	Baseball/Softball	14.3%	Summer Rec Programs
59.3%	Bicycling	18.1%	Soccer	19.2%	Playing Catch	31.9%	Concerts in the Park
29.7%	Running	3.3%	Lacrosse	16.5%	Tennis	0.5%	In-Line Skating
31.3%	Walking the Dog	9.9%	Fishing	3.8%	Skateboarding	8.8%	Snow Shoe/ XC Skiing
12.6%	Birding/ Wildlife Viewing	36.3%	Relaxing	41.8%	Playground	11.5%	5k/10k Benefit Runs
28.6%	Picnicking	9.9%	Frisbee	15.4%	Flying Kites	3.3%	Kickball
30.8%	Swimming at Firemans Park	19.2%	Basketball	18.1%	Ice Skating/Sledding	2.2%	Other: See Attached Sheet

10) Have you rented a park shelter in the last five years? Yes 16.7% No 88.3% Comments: See Attached Sheet

11) If yes, please rate your experience from 1(very poor) to 10(excellent). 1-6 (0.0%), 7 (10.7%), 8 (39.3%), 9 (14.3%), 10 (35.7%)

12) Which park do you visit the most? Harriet, Fireman's, Tollefson, Veterans' (Top Four)

13) Excluding winter months, how frequently do members of your household visit one of Verona's parks?

14) What suggestions do you have for improving this park? See Attached Sheet

15.8%	Daily
32.7%	Once a week
14.8%	1-3 times per month
30.1%	Occasionally
6.6%	Never

Planning for the Future

15) If additional funding was available for Parks and Recreation, please indicate Your top FIVE (5) funding priorities by giving "1" to the most desirable, "2" to the second most desirable, etc... PERCENTAGES INDICATE THE TOTAL NUMBER OF TIMES A FACILITY WAS SELECTED AS A TOP FIVE PRIORITY

5.2%	Additional Youth Programs	0.7%	Youth football fields	3.0%	Sand volleyball courts
2.7%	Additional Adult Programs	0.7%	Youth soccer fields	3.4%	Community center
4.3%	Additional playground equipment	0.3%	Lacrosse fields	4.5%	Disc golf course
5.5%	Community gardens	1.6%	Tennis courts	2.7%	Additional park shelters
10.3%	Off street paths and trails	1.8%	Basketball courts	6.9%	Landscaping/ shade trees
3.0%	Additional park maintenance	1.2%	Baseball/Softball fields	2.1%	Cross country ski trails
3.0%	Reduced program fees	7.6%	Natural areas/passive recreation	2.5%	Pickleball courts
9.3%	Spray park/splash pad	12.9%	Aquatic center/municipal pool	0.5%	Other? <u>See Attached Sheet</u>

16) Please list any additional comments that might assist us in providing better services to Verona residents and visitors.

See Attached Sheet

Please tell us about yourself

17) What are the ages of the people living in your household?

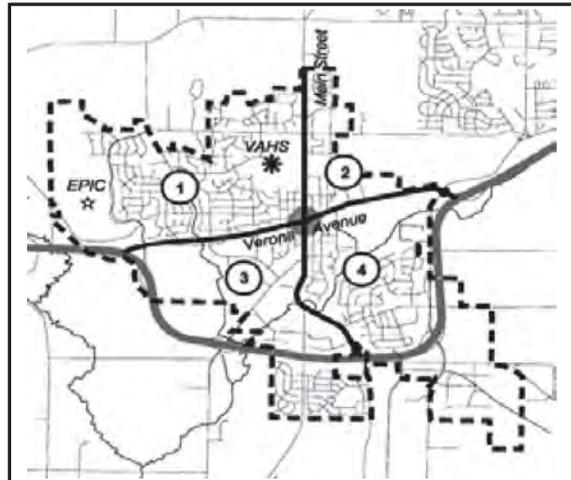
0-5 (11.2%), 6-10 (10.4%), 11-15 (9.9%), 16-20 (4.2%)
 21-25 (2.1%), 26-30 (1.9%), 31-35 (8.2%), 36-40 (11.0%)
 41-45 (8.3%), 46-50 (5.1%), 51-55 (3.4%), 56-60 (7.2%)
 61-65 (5.9%), 66-70 (4.0%), 71-75 (2.7%), 76-80 (1.9%),
 81-85 (1.5%), 86-90 (0.4%), 90+ (0.8%)

18) How long have you lived in Verona?

26.5%	Less than 5 years
19.3%	5 to 10 years
54.1%	Longer than 10 years

19) Based on the map at the right, in which area of the City do you live?

48.3%	Area 1
6.1%	Area 2
18.9%	Area 3
26.7%	Area 4



COMMENTS:

QUESTION 5:

- Gravel trails need to be raked
- Feel mostly safe, would appreciate a couple more lights along paths and at parks for playing near dusk
- We do not have a single accessible playground in the city. We moved from Port Washington and they have a beautiful and accessible playground "Possibility Playground"
- Makeshift baseball diamond in scenic ridge is unsafe
- The Cathedral Point park gets very muddy after it rains, making it virtually unusable and very hard to get to the basketball court
- Fireman's park can have some interesting characters at dusk when we walk by
- In summer 2013, my son was whacked in the face/eye/head with a malfunctioning digger. I emailed the parks and rec dept and never received a response. That thing was so dangerous!
- My 1st grader did basketball this winter, some of her practices and games went until 8:00, is there any way to start and end earlier?
- There is some very unsafe rusting on some of the playground equipment at Thompson park
- As I age, I find it is very important to have level surfaces to walk on
- A bit concerned about dogs in the park. I see them lifting their legs by the play equipment that children are using!

QUESTION 8:

- Winter- ball room dancing
- Better place for flag football games
- Soccer season seems short compared to Madison
- Dance is not taught well, very poor program
- Interested in adult sports activities not sports related - nature hikes
- The quality of the staff at the playground program needs to be increased greatly. We were very dissatisfied with the level of supervision and quality of the program.
- More activities for park program and having leaders be more involved and maybe more of them. It has improved greatly over the past 5 years! Veterans is Hot, needs more shade trees!
- Options seem good, I have taken masters swim and was surprised by the height level of swimmers, wasn't quite described correctly in book as I felt too slow in the class I miss the triathlon class! But glad Laurie is still teaching/leading
- Return phone calls, more communication
- Most everything we are involved in is club related (with fees) and are not available through Rec programs
- Satisfied with dance instruction, although the lottery concept is a nightmare
- Youth baseball is hit or miss due to volunteer coaching ability
- Consistency in the adult exercise programs would be appreciated
- Information a little earlier before the season starts
- Quicker announcements of teams for coaches to plan and contact people
- Often choose club sports or Fitchburg rec due to times that work better or more offerings
- Communication from Verona rec in leadup to event start up could be better, often seems last minute
- We stopped using the summer camp rec program because the staff was too young, my son was teased and they were unprofessional when I asked them to help with the issue :(
- Get an aquatic center that is outdoor (like Mt Horeb or Middleton)
- Train parents that act as coaches not to favor their kids
- Seems like the timeline for programming could improve, everything is rushed
- Have open gyms in the winter for adults
- Youth sports schedules available earlier

QUESTION 9:

- Shelter reservation
- Family reunion
- Hometown days
- Triathlon class

QUESTION 11:

- More trees
- Graduation
- Grad parties, very nice
- Tollefson for birthday parties
- It was an evening after kids program at Harriet, place was a mess and garbage was overflowing
- They did a nice job on the Harriet Park Shelter

QUESTION 14:

- Behnke - new mulch, if I had to pick one, the park is very nice
- Behnke - remove dead trees and plant fruit trees
- Cathedral Point - add restrooms
- Cathedral Point - concrete/blacktop around playground area
- Cathedral Point - drainage, lots of standing water
- Cathedral Point - elevate the mulch so that it is not lower than surrounding gravel, which causes water to drain into the mulch, also area around bball court gets very muddy
- Cathedral Point - finish it, get rid of the mud
- Cathedral Point - lights
- Cathedral Point - more wood chips
- Cathedral Point - please add restrooms, and a field for playing catch
- Cathedral Point has taken way too long to complete, we would use it far more often if it were completed
- Community - Having a few parking spots designated for "elderly parking" in addition to the handicapped spots
- Eastview - poor green space/park options in Eastview area
- Fireman's - locker rooms could use updating
- Fireman's - very dissatisfied with bathrooms last July
- Get rid of weeds, put down new or better mulch bed
- Harmony Hills - keep lawn mowed, turn water fountain own, put woodchips on the whole playground
- Harmony Hills - More trees for shade, also checking equipment for hornets nests, Harmony always has them on underside of slide.
- Harmony Hills - needs more climbing structures - web tower
- Harriet - add digger
- Harriet - more amenities at shelter
- Harriet - could redo the basketball court, do something with the old ice rink area
- Harriet - it seems to be kept up when I stop by
- Harriet - miss the fireplace
- Harriet - more benches, and in the shade!
- Harriet - more equipment, splash pad or a pool
- Harriet - more garbage cans, extra bags, a good hosing under the shelter
- Harriet - next to tennis courts, the wood structure containing the trash barrel is in need of repair. Please fix it up or get rid of it.
- Harriet - none, looks very nice, having lived in Verona for decades, the parks have become exceptional
- Harriet - none, love the summer concerts!
- Harriet - possible splash pad location? Water fountain access earlier in spring
- Kay - add one field goal
- Keep the parks in order, mow, get rid of weeds and fix playground equipment
- Meister - basketball court! Many kids and adults would use a court.
- Miester - a little more light would be great, also have some Epic people come over and smoke on trail and park
- No parks, landlocked highway 151, Hwy M and Locust - kids play in a drainage ditch behind meadowside
- Prairie View - ball field could use some TLC, recycling available
- Prairie View - new drinking fountain, soccer goals and fix up ball diamond
- Scenic Ridge - add baseball diamond
- Scenic Ridge - more swings
- Tollefson - the field is not great, very rocky/bumpy. Could be smoother for kids' sports
- Tollefson - the second graders should get the big playground too! (written by a child)
- Tower - no wood chips, soft solid surface or the black rubber pieces Fitchburg has
- Tower needs a full size basketball court with adjustable hoops similar to Cathedral Point

- VandeGrift - paved path to playground for stroller accessibility
- Veterans - improve bathrooms and picnic tables
- Veterans - marked trail distances - 200, 400, 600 meters
- Veterans - some of the gravel trails are very uneven, I think from bikes riding when wet (grooves and divots)
- Westridge - more trash cans and more benches
- Westridge - update playground for young grandkids
- Would like kids to be able to bike to Fireman's or Veterans safely, need bike lanes/trails connecting parks

QUESTION 16:

- Community Center with activities for kids during winter
- We would LOVE to have a city pool!
- Veterans is a hot park for playground program, most of my friends don't want to sign up for that park because of that. It needs more trees and equipment. We have used that park in the past but ended up signing up for Harriet the next year
- A pool is needed and would be amazing, it would be so nice to be able to support ours in our community verse going to Madison, Middleton or Mt Horeb
- We desperately need indoor basketball courts to be used by many sports and all ages. It has ridiculously limited space for a city claiming to be a recreation epicenter! and the school are also limited, you are turning people away
- A playground that is unique, accessible and incorporates natural elements
- Improve VASD pool
- Add monkey bars (written by a child)
- An outdoor aquatic center/pool would keep many families from traveling to nearby municipalities
- Splash pad and covered meeting area with tables
- We're new to Verona, what's the best way to get an understanding of what's available?
- More info about rec programs mailed to homes, as well as park info
- Verona does a great job with the park and playgrounds
- It would be nice if you could spray for dandylions
- I would love a community center that offered classes like yoga, where girl scouts could meet, where holiday activities could occur. The library is too small for all of these
- When I talk to my neighbors, we would all like a community pool
- It's better to increase maintenance and appearances of existing parks than to add more areas and have upkeep suffer
- We need to improve our parks and areas for youth to play and be safe!
- It would be great to plan a large park/garden on the North side with an outdoor pool, community center and shelter. This town really needs a place for the community to hang out together. Like Dream Park with a pool, not just a little playset and shelter with nothing else. It would help the area look much more attractive to live in for families
- Reduce pesticide/chemicals. Signage for people to pick up after their pets/litter
- NO POOL!
- Why is it that new subdivisions get crazy expensive basketball courts and playground systems while other neighborhoods get nothing? The amount of \$ spend on these parks
- seems out of line with other city parks. Kettle Creek/Gateway don't even have city parks, kids use the schools playground
- Enterprise drive area could use an actual park since many duplexes/condos have no backyard space
- Not enough parks (no tennis, no football, no baseball, no greenspace, no gardens, one tiny "natural area") in East view area
- May I add, I really appreciate how the city workers clean the curbs with that machine, and how great that the brush by the curbs are pick up each week. Thanks for all :)
- Even at my age driving around, I see so many parks empty especially children
- I do know this: when my children were here, every day they went swimming, hiking, biking and to the parks. Times have changed - good luck on all decisions made

Appendix B:

PARK & OPEN SPACE CLASSIFICATIONS/GUIDELINES

Definitions used in this plan are modifications of definitions found in the Wisconsin Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan, 2011-2016, Appendix E. They are used to classify the existing parks and recreation system and to guide plans for its future development.

CLASSIFICATIONS

MINI-PARK

Also sometimes referred to as a “Tot Lot” or “Pocket Park” typically located on a small lot, generally a ¼ acre or less, within a residential neighborhood or commercial business district. Often these sites were originally intended for residential use, but due to various factors (e.g. poor lot design, environmental concerns, etc.), have been converted to a park. Mini-parks generally lack any active recreational facilities and may be limited to gardens, benches, gazebos, fountains, or other small social gathering facilities. Mini-parks typically do not have off-street parking or restroom facilities. Over time they may develop into neighborhood playgrounds.

Desirable size: 1.5 acres or less
Acres / 1,000 population: 0.25 to 0.5 acres
Service Area: 1/8 to 1/4 mile radius

NEIGHBORHOOD PLAYGROUNDS

A neighborhood playground mainly serves the active recreational needs of children from 5 to 15 years of age, and it may offer passive recreation opportunities to adults. Neighborhood playgrounds typically consist of one or more playground apparatus, small green space/general purpose fields, and associated benches. Some neighborhood playgrounds may develop over time to include additional amenities to become neighborhood parks. Neighborhood playgrounds typically do not have off-street parking, shelters, or restroom facilities.

Desirable size: 1 to 3 acres
Acres / 1,000 population: 0.5 to 1.5 acres
Service Area: 1/4 to 1/2 mile radius

NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS

In addition to neighborhood playground facilities, neighborhood parks often include shelter facilities, grills, basketball courts, ball diamonds, lighting, and toilet facilities. In general, neighborhood parks offer a more complete range of recreational facilities, for a wider range of age groups, in a larger setting than neighborhood playgrounds. Off-street parking and permanent restroom facilities are not as commonly found as within community parks.

Desirable size: 3 to 10 acres

Acres / 1,000 population: 1.0 to 2.0 acres

Service Area: 1/2 to 1 mile radius

COMMUNITY PLAYFIELDS

The community playfield provides for the active recreational needs of several neighborhoods. It provides more unique facilities than a neighborhood park but less facilities as compared to a community park. Examples include parks designed specifically for court games (tennis, basketball, pickleball, etc.), field games (soccer, football, ultimate frisbee) or ball games (softball, baseball). A community playfield might adjoin a public junior or senior high school. Community playfields usually include off-street parking for vehicles and bicycles, concessions and restroom facilities.

Desirable size: 5 or more acres with 10 to 40 acres being most common, but will vary depending on function

Acres / 1,000 population: 5.0 to 8.0 acres

Service Area: 1 to 2 mile radius

COMMUNITY PARKS

The community park is intended to serve the active and passive recreational needs of a number of neighborhoods or a medium-sized municipality. Community parks can be thought of as a combination of a neighborhood park and community playfield. However, community parks usually also offer areas for passive recreation use such as wood areas and walking trails, scenic lookouts, botanical gardens, multiple shelters, grills, and picnic areas. Unique active use facilities may include band shells and aquatic facilities. Off-street parking areas for vehicles and bicycles, permanent restroom facilities, shower facilities, and lighting are common.

Desirable size: 25 or more acres

Acres / 1,000 population: 5.0 to 8.0 acres

Service Area: 2 to 5 mile radius

SPECIAL USE PARKS

A special use park is often designed as a revenue-generating enterprise created to satisfy demand for a particular sport, recreational activity, or special event. A special use park may also be a sports park combined with enterprise activities and administered as a community recreation resource. Certain recreational facilities such as disc golf courses, golf courses, race tracks, municipal pools and waterparks, fishing areas and marinas might be considered special purpose parks. Less active uses may include community gardens or veteran memorials. Special use parks may be combined with community parks. Supporting facilities (off-street parking, restrooms, etc.) will vary based on the user needs.

Desirable size: Varies - depends on function

Acres / 1,000 population: Varies - depends on function

Service Area: Varies - depends on function

NATURE PRESERVES

Nature preserves may be established to conserve forest lands, marshlands, floodplains, prairies, wildlife habitats, and other areas having cultural, scenic, or natural values. Such areas are usually provided by county, state, or federal governments and have the primary function of wildlife and resource protection. Nature preserves usually include large tracts of land that are undeveloped or have limited development, although some improvements may be provided which are incidental to the enjoyment of the property. Improvements are usually located in one section on the property so that the area remains largely undeveloped. Improvements may include parking areas, interpretive centers, and restrooms. Hunting may be a primary recreational activity in such areas. Other recreational uses might include backpacking, camping, trail use, picnicking, and bird watching.

Desirable size: Varies - depends on function

Acres / 1,000 population: Varies - depends on function

Service Area: Varies - depends on function

GREENBELTS

The greenbelt has basically the same characteristics and functions as the reservation or preserve; however, a greenbelt may be used to shape urban development. It may be a buffer between an urban area and surrounding rural areas and may connect parks within an urban area.

Desirable size: Varies - depends on function

Acres / 1,000 population: Varies - depends on function

Service Area: Varies - depends on function

WAYSIDES, WELCOME CENTERS, AND HISTORIC MARKERS

These are special purpose parks designed to serve motorists. They are important to a tourist industry as a means of providing rest and information. They may include restrooms, picnic areas, shelters, or other facilities needed by motorists. The size and location of special purpose parks depends upon natural features and the functions they are intended to serve. If oriented to motorists, traffic volumes must be considered.

Desirable size: Varies - depends on function

Acres / 1,000 population: Varies - depends on function

Service Area: Varies - depends on function

PARK FACILITY GUIDELINES

The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) recognizes the importance of establishing and using park and recreation guidelines. The guidelines on the following pages are from *Lancaster, R.A. (Ed.). (1990). Recreation, Park, and Open Space Standards and Guidelines*. The data from Lancaster should be used as a rule of thumb to guide future park facility development rather than City policy. For example, while the guideline identifies a community should have one tennis court per 2,000 residents logic would dictate that facility supply be based on demand or locational needs. For example, placing eight tennis courts in one park to meet the one per 2,000 standard may not be as effective as dispersing 4 tennis courts in parks across the City. In addition, local demand may dictate higher or lower service standards depending on the popularity of tennis in the community.

In addition, the Lancaster publication does not include guidelines for all types of park facilities. For example, the guidelines for soccer facilities listed in the table are for regulation sized fields for high school or adult play and do not address youth soccer needs.

The information in the table may be more useful as guidelines for facility sizes and desired orientations than those sections addressing units per population or service radius.

ACTIVITY/ FACILITY	SPACE NEEDED	SIZE AND DIMENSIONS	RECOMMENDED ORIENTATION	UNITS PER POP.	SERVICE RADIUS	LOCATION NOTES
Basketball						
1. Youth	2400-3036 sq. ft.	46-50'x84'				
2. High School	5040-7280 sq. ft.	50'x84'	Long axis north-south	1 per 1,000	¼ - ½ mile	Outdoor courts in neighborhood and community parks, plus active recreation areas in other park settings.
Ice Hockey						
	22,000 sq. ft. including support area	Rink 85'x200' (minimum 85'x185') Additional 5000 sq. ft. support area	Long axis north-south if outdoor	Indoor – 1 per 100,000 Outdoor – depends on climate	½ - 1 hour travel time	Climate important consideration affecting no. of units. Best as part of multi-purpose facility.
Tennis						
	Min. of 7,200 sq. ft. single court (2 acres for complex)	36'x78'. 12' clearance on both sides; 21' clearance on both ends.	Long axis north –south	1 court per 2,00	¼ - ½ mile	Best in batteries of 2-4. Located in neighborhood/community park or adjacent to school.
Badminton						
	1,620 sq. ft.	Singles - 17'x44' Doubles - 20'x44'	Long axis north-south	1 per 5,000	¼ - ½ mile	Usually in school, recreation center or church facility. Safe walking or bike access.
Handball (3-4 wall)						
	800 sq. ft. for 4-wall. 1,000 sq. ft. for 3-wall.	20'x40' - maximum of 10' to rear of 3-wall court. Minimum 20' overhead clearance.	Long axis north-south. Front wall at north end.	1 per 20,000	15-30 minute travel time	4-wall usually indoor as part of multi-purpose facility. 3-wall usually outdoor in park or school setting.
Archery Range						
	Minimum of 0.65 A	300' length x minimum 10' wide between targets. Roped clear space on sides of range minimum 30', clear space behind targets minimum of 90'x45' with bunker.	Archer facing north= or - 45 degrees.	1 per 50,000	30 minutes travel time	Part of regional or metro park complex.
Combination Skeet and Trap Field (8 Stations)						
	Minimum 30 A	All walks and structures occur within an area approximately 130' wide by 115' deep. Minimum cleared area is contained within 2 superimposed segments with 100-year radii (4 acres). Shot-fall danger zone is contained within 2 superimposed segments with 300-year radii (36 acres).	Center line of length runs northeast-southwest with shooter facing northeast.	1 per 50,000	30 minutes travel time	Part of regional or metro park complex.
Volleyball						
	Minimum of 4,000 sq. ft.	30'X60'. Minimum 6' clearance on all sides	Long axis north-south	1 per 5,000	¼ - ½ mile	Same as other court activities (e.g. badminton)
Baseball						
1. Official	3.0-3.85 A minimum	Baselines – 90' Pitching distance 60 ½' foul lines – min. 320' Center field – 400'+	Locate home plate to pitcher throwing across sun and batter not facing it. Line from home plate through pitchers mound run east-north-east.	1 per 5,000		
2. Little League	1.2 A minimum	Baselines – 60' Pitching distance – 46' Foul lines – 200' Center field – 200' – 250'		Lighted 1 per 30,000	¼ - ½ mile	Part of neighborhood complex. Lighted fields part of community complex.
Softball						
	1.5 to 2.0 A	Baselines – 60' Pitching distance- 46' (min. 40')		1 per 5,000 (if also used for youth baseball)	¼ - ½ mile	Slight differences in dimensions for 16" slow pitch. May also be used for youth baseball.
Field Hockey						
	Minimum 1.5 A	180' x 300' with a minimum of 6' clearance on all sides.	Fall season – long axis northwest to southwest. For longer periods north-south.	1 per 20,000	15-30 minutes travel time	Usually part of baseball, football, soccer complex in community park or adjacent to high school.

ACTIVITY/ FACILITY	SPACE NEEDED	SIZE AND DIMENSIONS	RECOMMENDED ORIENTATION	UNITS PER POP.	SERVICE RADIUS	LOCATION NOTES
Football	Minimum 1.5 A	160' x 360' with a minimum of 6' clearance on all sides.	Same as field hockey.	1 per 20,000	15-30 minutes travel time	Same as field hockey.
Soccer	1.7 – 2.1 A	195' to 225'x330' to 360' with a minimum 10' clearance all sides.	Same as field hockey.	1 per 10,000	1-2 miles	Number of units depends on popularity. Youth soccer on smaller fields adjacent to schools or neighborhood parks.
Swimming Pools	Varies on size of pool and amenities. Usually ½ to 2 A site.	<i>Teaching</i> - minimum of 25 yards x 45' even depth of 3-4 ft. <i>Competitive</i> – minimum of 25 m x 16 m. Minimum of 27 square feet of water surface per swimmer. Ratios of 2:1 deck vs. water.	None-although care must be taken in siting of lifeguard stations in relation to afternoon sun.	1 per 20,000 (Pools should accommodate 3 to 5% of total population at a time.)	15 to 30 minutes travel time	Pools for general community use should be planned for teaching, competitive and recreational purposes with enough depth (3.4m) to accommodate 1m and 3m diving boards. Located in community park or school site.
Beach Areas	N/A	Beach area should have 50 sq. ft. of land and 50 sq. ft. of water per user. Turnover rate is 3. There should be 3-4 A supporting land per A of beach.	N/A	N/A	N/A	Should have sand bottom with slope maximum of 5% (flat preferable). Boating areas completely segregated from swimming areas.
¼ Mile Running Track	4.3 A	Overall width – 276' Length – 600.02' Track width for 8 to 4 lanes is 32'.	Long axis in sector from north to south to north-west-south-east with finish line at northerly end.	1 per 20,000	15-30 minutes travel time	Usually part of high school, or in community park complex in combination with football, soccer, etc.
Trails	N/A	Well defined trailhead maximum 10' width, maximum average grade is 5% not to exceed 15%. Capacity rural trails - 40 hikers/day/mile. Urban trails - 90 hikers/day/mile.	N/A	1 system per region	N/A	
Golf						
1. Par 3 (18 hole)	50-60 A	Average length vary 600-2,700 yd.		--		18 hole course can accommodate 500-550 people/day.
2. 9-hole standard	Minimum 50 A	Average length –2,250 yards	Majority of holes on north-south axis	1 per 25,000	½ to 1 hour travel time	9 hole course can accommodate 350 people/day.
3. 18-hole standard	Minimum 110 A	Average length 6,500 yards		1 per 50,000		Course may be located in community or district park, but should not be over 20 miles from population center.
Golf-driving Range	13.5 A for minimum of 25 tees	900'x690' wide. Add 12' width for each additional tee.	Long axis south-west-northeast with golfer driving toward northeast.	1 per 50,000	30 minutes travel time.	Part of a golf course complex. As separate unit may be privately owned.
Disc Golf*	One acre per 2-3 holes. Championship courses can require more than one acre per hole depending on foliage density.	Vary hole configurations for multiple skill levels. Fairways in the woods typically range from 15 ft wide pinch points up to 40 ft wide. Most holes contain at least two sets of tees.	N/A	N/A	N/A	Fairways should not cross or be too close to public streets, sidewalks or too near private property or other busy areas where non-players congregate.
Skate Park**						
1. Concrete						
2. Steel Frame	1,500 square feet per 10 skateboarders. Average size in region is approx. 11,000 sq. ft.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
3. Portable & Wood						

Source: Lancaster, R.A. (Ed.). (1990). *Recreation, Park, and Open Space Standards and Guidelines*. Ashburn, VA: National Recreation and Park Association. [militaryridgemap.pdf](#)

*taken from Professional Disc Golf Association Design Guidelines: <http://www.pdga.com/files/PDGA%20Course%20Design%20Guides%20March%202014.pdf>

** taken from Public Skate Park Guide: <http://publicskateparkguide.org/design-and-construction/factors-of-skatepark-design/>

Appendix C:

PARK & RECREATION MAPS

EXISTING PARKS AND OPEN SPACE

CITY OF VERONA PARKS AND OPEN SPACE PLAN

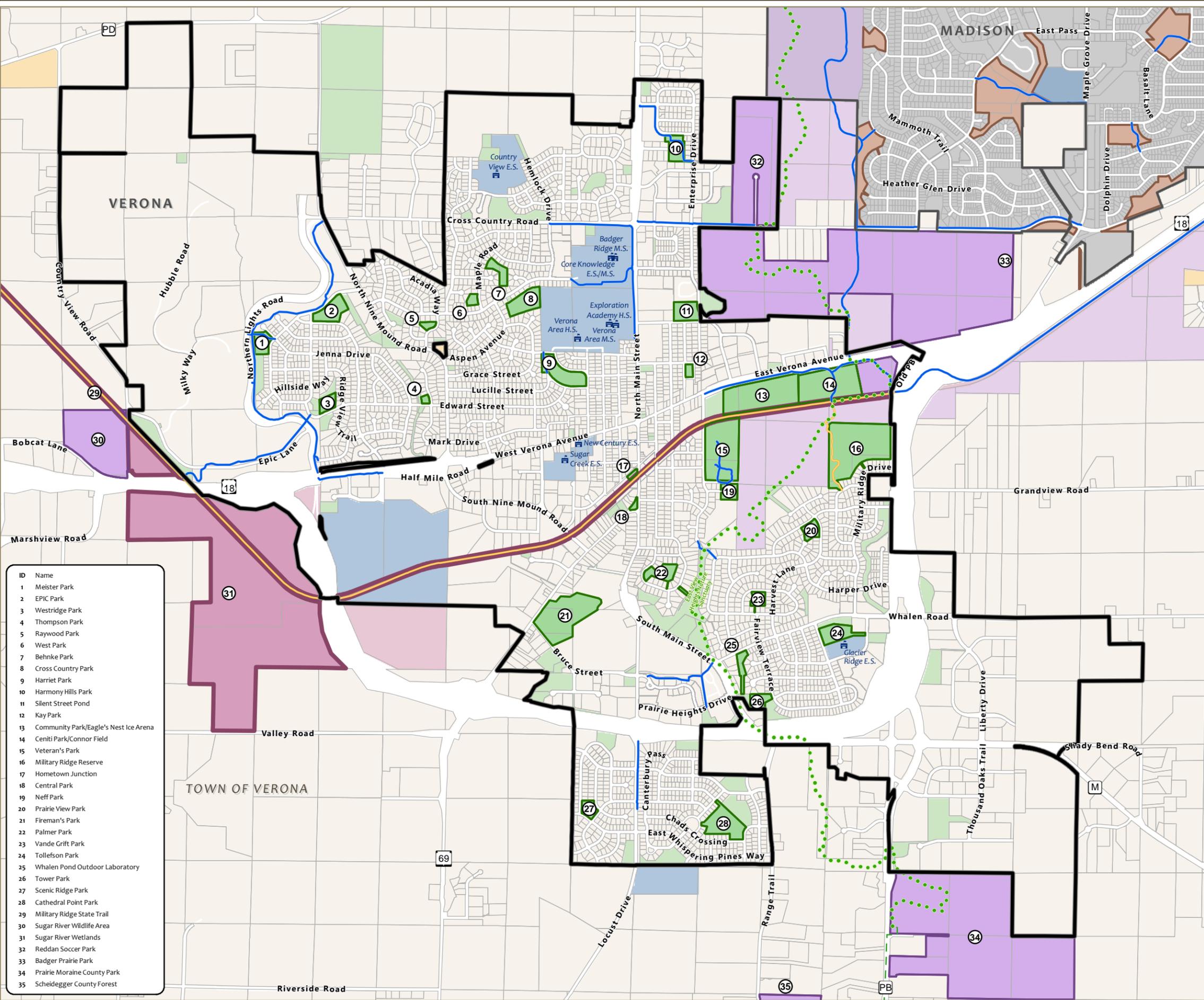
LEGEND

- City of Verona
- City of Madison
- School
- City Park/Open Space
- Madison Park/Open Space
- County Park/Forest/Wildlife Area
- State Trail/Natural Area

Land Ownership

- City of Verona
- School District
- Town of Verona
- Dane County
- State
- Paved Bike Path
- Unpaved Bike Path
- Ice Age Trail
- Ice Age Trail Connecting Route

DATA SOURCES:
 PARCELS AND MUNICIPAL BOUNDARIES PROVIDED BY THE COUNTY.
 BIKE PATHS PROVIDED BY THE CITY OF MADISON.



ID	Name
1	Meister Park
2	EPIC Park
3	Westridge Park
4	Thompson Park
5	Raywood Park
6	West Park
7	Behnke Park
8	Cross Country Park
9	Harriet Park
10	Harmony Hills Park
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12	Kay Park
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14	Ceniti Park/Connor Field
15	Veteran's Park
16	Military Ridge Reserve
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19	Neff Park
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24	Tollefson Park
25	Whalen Pond Outdoor Laboratory
26	Tower Park
27	Scenic Ridge Park
28	Cathedral Point Park
29	Military Ridge State Trail
30	Sugar River Wildlife Area
31	Sugar River Wetlands
32	Reddan Soccer Park
33	Badger Prairie Park
34	Prairie Moraine County Park
35	Scheidt County Forest

CITY OF VERONA DANE COUNTY, WISCONSIN

PARK SERVICE AREAS

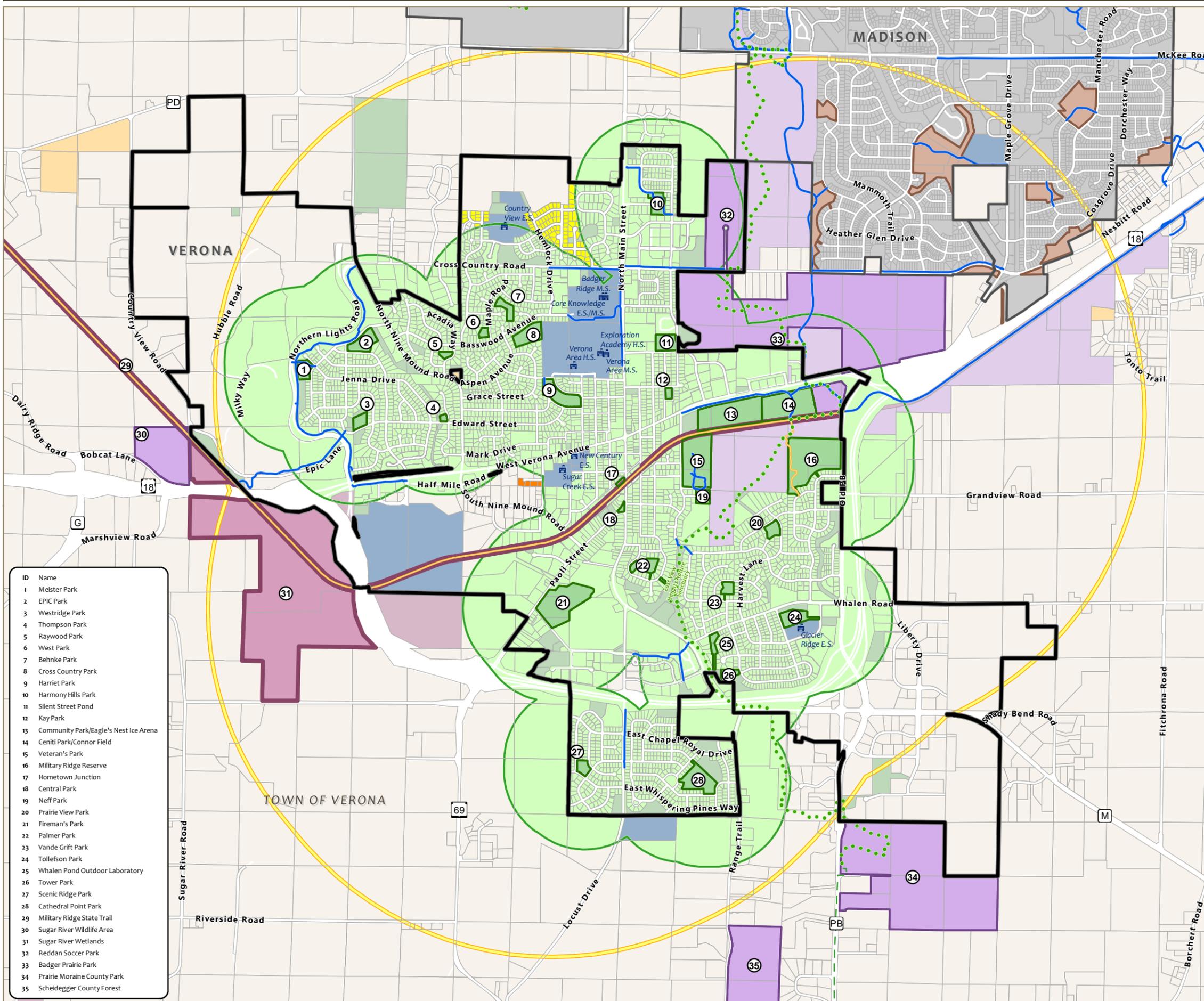
CITY OF VERONA PARKS AND OPEN SPACE PLAN

LEGEND

- | | | | |
|---|----------------------------------|--|-----------------|
| | City of Verona | | Land Ownership |
| | City of Madison | | City of Madison |
| | School | | School District |
| | City Park/Open Space | | Town of Verona |
| | Madison Park/Open Space | | Dane County |
| | County Park/Forest/Wildlife Area | | State |
| | State Trail/Natural Area | | |
| | Paved Bike Path | | |
| | Unpaved Bike Path | | |
| | Ice Age Trail | | |
| | Ice Age Trail Connecting Route | | |
| Park Service Area | | | |
| | City Park (1/3 Mile) | | |
| | Community Park (1.5 Mile) | | |
| Residential Zoning, Beyond Park Service Area | | | |
| | Neighborhood Residential | | |
| | Urban Residential | | |

DATA SOURCES:
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BIKE PATHS PROVIDED BY THE CITY OF MADISON.

CITY OF VERONA
DANE COUNTY, WISCONSIN



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33	Badger Prairie Park
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PARK FACILITIES DISTRIBUTION

CITY OF VERONA PARKS AND OPEN SPACE PLAN

LEGEND

- City of Verona
- City of Madison
- School
- City Park/Open Space
- Madison Park/Open Space
- County Park/Forest/Wildlife Area
- State Trail/Natural Area

Land Ownership

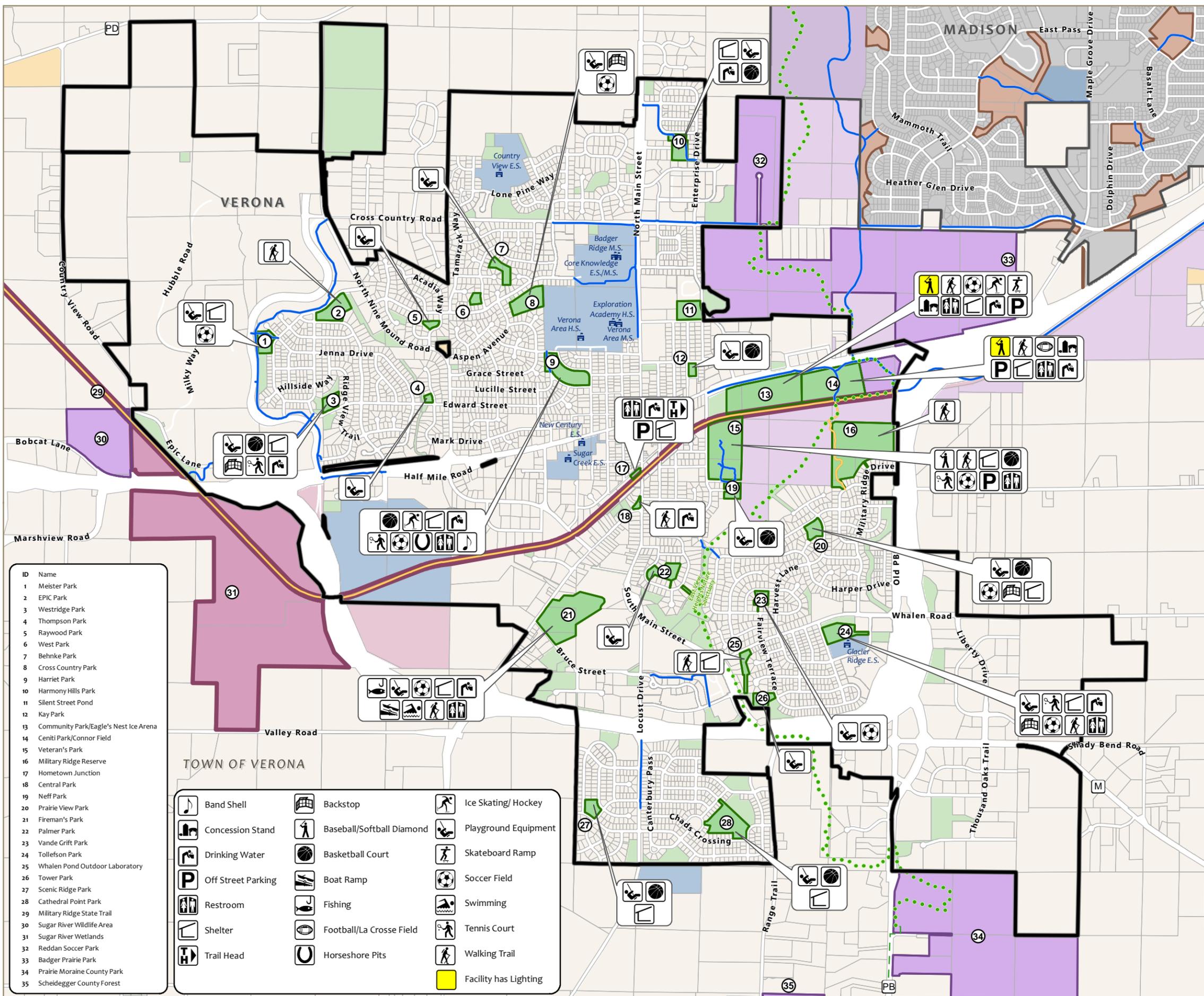
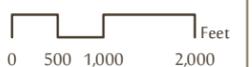
- City of Verona
- School District
- Town of Verona
- Dane County
- State

- Paved Bike Path
- Unpaved Bike Path

- Ice Age Trail
- Ice Age Trail Connecting Route

DATA SOURCES:
PARCELS AND MUNICIPAL BOUNDARIES PROVIDED BY THE COUNTY.
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CITY OF VERONA
DANE COUNTY, WISCONSIN



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31	Sugar River Wetlands
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34	Prairie Moraine County Park
35	Scheidegger County Forest

PROPOSED PARKS AND OPEN SPACE

CITY OF VERONA PARKS AND OPEN SPACE PLAN

LEGEND

- City of Verona
- City of Madison
- School
- City Park/Open Space
- Madison Park/Open Space
- County Park/Forest/Wildlife Area
- State Trail/Natural Area

Land Ownership

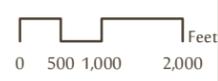
- City of Verona
- School District
- Town of Verona
- Dane County
- State

- Paved Bike Path
- Unpaved Bike Path
- Ice Age Trail
- Ice Age Trail Connecting Route

ABC
Generalized Location for
Additional City Parks
Refer to Chapter 6
Verona CORP for more
information

DATA SOURCES:
PARCELS AND MUNICIPAL BOUNDARIES PROVIDED BY THE COUNTY.
BIKE PATHS PROVIDED BY THE CITY OF MADISON.

CITY OF VERONA
DANE COUNTY, WISCONSIN



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