

Chapter Five—Natural and Cultural Resources



CITY OF VERONA COMPREHENSIVE PLAN, 2010-2030

Natural and Cultural Resources

Natural and Cultural Resources Goals and Objectives

Protecting the Environment with Urban Design



Storm water detention facilities in the City of Verona are designed to prevent flooding, protect local surface waters, and promote ground water recharge.

enforced requirements for erosion control during construction—also to keep dirt and other ‘suspended solids’ from washing into the Badger Mill Creek—and city-enforced requirements for oil and grease separation on parking lots to keep hazardous chemicals from entering local surface waters. These storm water detention and retention facilities are increasingly being used to also infiltrate storm water run-off to replenish and recharge local ground-water supplies. The City of Verona plans to continue protecting the local environment through urban design elements such as these storm water pond.

The City of Verona expends a tremendous amount of tax-payer money to protect the local natural environment. Perhaps the best example are the over 90 public and private storm water detention and retention facilities located throughout the city. These facilities catch storm water run-off and allow dirt to ‘settle’ before the water is returned to local surface waters—primarily the Badger Mill Creek. Additional measures include city-



Herons in the Kettle Creek storm water ponds

Preserving the Environment with Urban Development

The City of Verona is also protecting and preserving the natural environment by accommodating population growth in dense, compact development. As detailed in Chapter One, significant population growth is expected to continue in Dane County and the Verona Area for the foreseeable future. Accommodating all those new people in dense, urban areas such as the City of Verona minimizes the amount of land that is required. Typical City of Verona residential density is about 4 to 5 dwelling units—or about 12 to 15 people—per acre, compared to less than one housing unit and 3 people per acre in unincorporated areas. Dense urban development also creates significantly less impervious surfaces *per housing unit* than does low-density development in unincorporated areas. Environmental stewards understand that urban development in cities is the solution to protecting and preserving natural resources—especially in areas undergoing significant population growth. The City of Verona will continue directing population growth toward urban areas as a way to protect the environment.

Protect the Natural Environment

- CONTINUE TO COMPLY WITH ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION REGULATIONS
- PROTECT THE QUANTITY AND QUALITY OF LOCAL SURFACE WATERS
- PROTECT THE QUANTITY AND QUALITY OF LOCAL GROUND WATER RESOURCES
- COMMUNICATE WITH VERONA CITIZENS ABOUT PROPOSED ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION REGULATIONS THAT WILL AFFECT CITY RESIDENTS AND TAX-PAYERS.

Support Local Cultural Resources

- VERONA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
- THEATRICAL AND PERFORMANCE ART ORGANIZATIONS
- PROMOTE HISTORIC PRESERVATION

Natural and Cultural Resources

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See the Complete
City of Verona
Comprehensive Plan at:

- Verona City Hall
- Verona Library
- On-line at:
www.ci.verona.wi.us
Under
'City Departments—
Planning & Development'

For More Information—

Contact
The City of Verona
Department of
Planning and Development
At 848-9941 or at
Bruce.sylvester@ci.verona.wi.us



These two homes were slated for demolition, but the City allowed them to be moved onto vacant lots in the downtown area...

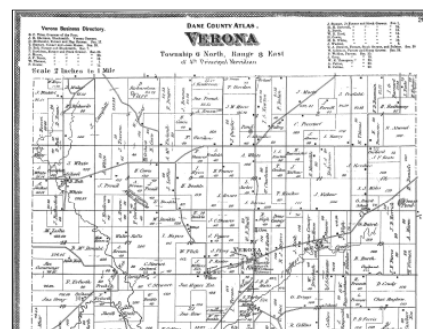


Cultural Resources

Because the City of Verona is in many ways a 'bedroom community' to the City of Madison, Verona residents rely on the City of Madison for many of our cultural resources—such as museums, theaters, sporting events, and higher education. Nonetheless, Verona does have a healthy base of local cultural activities and resources, and the City wishes to see these local resources grow and thrive. Examples include our local historical society; local festivals such as 'Hometown Days'; local athletic facilities such as the baseball and softball fields at Ceniti Park and the Reddan soccer fields; local athletic events such as the annual Iron Man competition; and local theatrical and performing arts groups such as the Verona Area Community Theater and the Verona Area Performing Arts Series. Several local businesses also provide cultural resources and/or activities—such as the Mac Athletic Center, the Kehl School of Dance and Rhapsody Arts Center.



Plaque commemorating the Potter's Cemetery



1873 Plat of Verona showing 'Nine Mounds'

Historic Resources

The City of Verona has a variety of historic resources, including the 'Nine Mounds' Native-American burial site overlooking the Sugar River; the Dane County 'Potter's Cemetery' on East Verona Avenue; and several commercial and residential buildings which date from early European settlement. While some prominent historic buildings have been lost to neglect or new development during the past, other buildings have been successfully saved—such as the 2 older homes that the City allowed to be moved onto vacant lots between 2005 and 2008. These homes illustrate successful historic preservation efforts that both preserved buildings that were slated for demolition and that also resulted in 'in-fill' development in the downtown area. The City will continue to balance the need to protect and preserve local historic assets and resources with the need for planned urban growth and redevelopment. See the complete version of the City of Verona comprehensive plan—available on-line, at City Hall and the Verona Library, and on-disc upon request—for more information.

Survey Results

When the Comprehensive Plan Committee asked the community the question "Should the City use tax dollars to prevent the demolition of Verona's few remaining historical buildings?", the response was evenly split—with 51% saying the City should use tax funds to preserve such historic buildings and 49% saying tax funds should not be used for such purposes. Whether or not the city pursues any type of historic preservation plan, the City will seek to continue balancing the need to protect and preserve our local history and historic buildings and assets with the need for accommodating new growth and development.