

Chapter 5: Utility and Community Facilities

5.1 Energy, Utility, & Community Facilities

This Chapter provides a baseline assessment of the Town of Verona utility and community facilities and contains information required under State Statute 66.1001. Information includes: forecasted utility and community facility needs, and existing utility and community facility conditions. This information provides a basis for creating goals, objectives, policies, maps, and actions to guide the future development and maintenance of utility and community facilities in the Town of Verona.

Utility Facilities

Sanitary Sewer System

The Town's municipal wastewater service is provided by the Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District (MMSD). MMSD provides regional service to 26 communities in central Dane County, with a combined population of 370,000. All wastewater generated in the Town is conveyed 10 miles through large interceptor sewers to the Nine Springs Wastewater Treatment Plant. This MMSD plant has a design capacity of 50 million gallons per day (MGD). The 2016 loading to the Nine Springs plant was 40.7 MGD. The expected loading by 2030 is 49.9 MGD.

The Town of Verona Utility District No. 1 is the main area served in the Town. This utility district is located in the northeastern portion of the Town in sections 12 and 13. In 2017, the amount of wastewater generated in the district was 24,095 gallons per day from 128 residential dwellings and five commercial operations.

MMSD plans expansion of its interceptor system based on customer needs and in conjunction with regional planning conducted by the Capital Area Regional Planning Commission. In particular, MMSD is building a portion of the Lower Badger Mill Creek interceptor in 2018 based on projected growth and service needs in the County Highway PD area. The interceptor, when fully completed in or around the year 2024, will have the capability of serving portions of the City of Madison, City of Verona, Town of Middleton, and Town of Verona.

Most of the MMSD service area is in the Yahara River drainage basin. However, as the central urban service area expands to the west, the MMSD service area now includes a substantial area within the Sugar River drainage basin, including the City of Verona and the southwest side of the City of Madison. To maintain the water balance between the Yahara River basin and the Sugar River basin, in 1998 MMSD began to return highly treated water from its Nine Springs plant to Badger Mill Creek, a tributary of the Sugar River. This water enters Badger Mill Creek at a man-made cascade in Badger Prairie Park, just south of the bike path on the western edge of Section 13. In 2017, there was about 3.0 to 3.6 MGD incoming from the Badger Mill Creek watershed and similar amount of treated water being returned to Badger Mill Creek.

At the time of the 2006 comprehensive plan, MMSD was considering adding a satellite wastewater treatment plant in the Sugar River basin. Such a plant is no longer part of MMSD's long term plans. All district wastewater will continue to be treated at the Nine Springs plant for the foreseeable future.

Private On-Site Wastewater Treatment Systems (POWTS)

All private onsite wastewater treatment systems must comply with Wisconsin Administrative Code COMM 83. Soil restrictions dictate where various types of systems may be used. The most common type used in Wisconsin is the conventional in-ground system, also referred to as a **below-grade** system. Wastewater is fed into a septic tank, where solids settle out of the waste stream and anaerobic bacteria begin to breakdown organic matter (primary treatment). Clarified effluent then discharges via gravity feed into a soil absorption bed for treatment by physical filtration, biological reduction by aerobic bacteria, and ion bonding to clay particles. This type of system can experience localized clogging along the trench as solids and biomass accumulate along the areas of primary flow, and requires periodic pumping of solids from the septic tank. This system can generally be used in areas where there is 56" of unsaturated, native soils.

The next most common system is the Wisconsin Mound, or **new mound** system. Wastewater drains into a septic tank for primary treatment. The discharge from the primary treatment may go to a second treatment tank and then flows to a tank that has a pump to discharge the treated waste water in the soil absorption bed for treatment by physical filtration, biological reduction by aerobic bacteria, and ion bonding to clay particles. Controlled pressurized doses of effluent are pumped through an above ground, freestanding sand layer. The sand layer, in addition with a lesser amount of native, unsaturated soils than a conventional system, serves as the medium where biologic secondary treatment occurs. Because the system is under pressure, the wastewater is more equally distributed and reduces the chance of clogging. In addition, the "rest period" between doses allows for more effective pathogen and nutrient removal. Solids must be periodically pumped (currently that is every three years) from the septic tank(s) and the pump chamber. Finally, special efforts must be made to prevent leakage of the effluent at the base of the mound. The sand layer and native soil provide a combined 36" of soil depth for treatment of effluent (12" sand, 24" unsaturated, native soils). This type of system is for the most restrictive use sites that are still considered to be feasible sites for a private onsite treatment system.

The third most popular type of system is the **at-grade** system. This system works identically as the new mound system, but is simply not elevated off of ground level. This type of system can be used on sites with 36" of native, unsaturated soils.

The factors considered in septic suitability are the characteristics and qualities of the soil that affect the limitations for absorbing waste from domestic sewage disposal systems. Information on soil characteristics can be found at: http://www.mchenryswcd.org/forms/soils_data.pdf.

Stormwater Management

All new construction in the Town is required to obtain a stormwater management permit. Stormwater management and erosion control measures in Dane County are subject to Chapter 14 of the Dane County Code of Ordinances. Chapter 14 includes county-wide stormwater management standards, which address the quantity and quality of the water that runs off of areas under construction in urban and rural areas and on farms.

An erosion control permit is required, and construction site erosion control standards apply, to any of the following activities:

- Land disturbance more than 4,000 square feet;
- Land disturbance on a slope more than 12%;
- Land disturbance involving excavation and/or filling more than 400 cubic yards of material;

- Land disturbance of more than 100 lineal feet of road ditch, grass waterway, or other area where surface drainage flows in defined, open channels;
- New public or private roads or access drives longer than 125 feet;
- Development that requires a subdivision plat or condominium plat; and
- Land disturbance less than 4,000 square feet that has a high risk of soil erosion or water pollution.

A stormwater control permit is required, and stormwater management provisions apply, to any of the following:

- Development that results in the cumulative addition of 20,000 square feet of impervious surface to the site;
- Construction of agricultural buildings where the new total impervious surface area exceeds 20,000 square feet;
- Development that requires a subdivision plat or condominium plat;
- Other development or redevelopment that may have significant downstream impacts; and
- Buildings and activities of municipalities and school districts, local highway projects, and municipal streets.

The administration of the erosion control and stormwater management is with Dane County Land & Water Resource Department (<https://www.countyofdane.com/lwrd/permit.aspx>). For a summary of these regulations, go to: <http://danewaters.com/resource/stormwater.aspx>.

Water Supply

The Town homes and businesses are served by private wells. Persons interested in installing a new well or upgrading an existing water supply must contact the Dane County Office of Environmental Health and the Wisconsin DNR statewide water supply office to find out what restrictions may exist for your project. At a minimum, wells must meet NR 812 of the Wisconsin Administrative Code. State statutes require that any owner who constructs and/or operates a well or wells on one property capable of producing at least 70 gallons per minute all together, must obtain an approval from the DNR prior to construction.

Solid Waste Disposal and Recycling Facilities

Garbage collection and recycling services are provided by the Town of Verona through a volume based contract with a certified solid waste hauler. Property owners can dispose of waste at:

Clean Sweep Facility

2302 Fish Hatchery Rd (Dane County Garage-North End), Madison

Hours: see <http://www.danecountycleansweep.com> or call 294-5366.

County Landfill (General Info)

Landfill #2 at 7102 U.S. Hwy 12/18

608-266-4139 or 608-838-9555

Telecommunication Facilities

Telecommunication services are provided by Charter Communications, Dish Network, DIRECTV, and TDS. These services include phone, TV signals, and internet. Dane County's zoning ordinance covers

communications towers. The new draft ordinance specifies conditions that the Town Board must impose when approving a Conditional Use Permit for a communications tower.

Community Facilities

Town of Verona Government Facilities

The Town Hall, Public Works Building and Salt Storage Shed are located at 7669 HWY PD on a 7-acre site. The new buildings were occupied in February 2017. The Town Hall has offices, reception area, vault, conference room and a large meeting room, which can be used for special events. There is a large patio south of the Town Hall with a bluegrass lawn. The property around the buildings is landscaped with native prairie species. The old Town Hall at 355 N. Nine Mound Rd was sold in August 2017.

Parks, Open Spaces and Recreational Resources

Parks, wildlife areas, and recreational resources are important components of a community's public facilities. These resources provide residents with areas to exercise, socialize, enjoy wildlife viewing or provide opportunities for environmental education for adults and children. Increasingly, parks and recreational resources can contribute to a community's local economy through eco-tourism. In addition, these resources are important for wildlife habitat and movement. The Town is fortunate to have several natural areas owned by Dane County. The Town has one small open-space near Goose Lake. Please see chapter 7 on Natural and Cultural Resources for more details.

Cemeteries

The Town of Verona does not currently maintain or monitor any cemeteries.

Health Care Facilities and Food Pantry

The Town of Verona is served by the Fitch-Rona Emergency Medical Services District. The district also provides service to the Cities of Fitchburg and Verona. For more information visit the Fitch-Rona EMS website at <http://www.fitchronaems.com>. The Badger Prairie Health Center is operated by Dane County and located at 1100 East Verona Ave. Additionally, the Town contracts with the Sugar River Senior Center for Social Services and meals on wheels. The Badger Prairie Needs Network is a full service food pantry for residents of the Verona Area School District and residents of zip code 53593. Noon meals are offered on many Saturdays.

Hospitals serving Verona and the surrounding areas located in Madison are UnityPoint Health-Meriter Hospital, St. Mary's Hospital, U.W. Hospital and Clinics and Veterans Health Care Primary Care Center.

Child Care Facilities

The Town of Verona does not currently maintain or monitor any child care facilities. For information or referral to any regulated child care provider in Dane, Jefferson, Sauk, Columbia, or Dodge Counties, contact Community Coordinated Child Care (4-C), a comprehensive non-profit child care resource and referral agency at (608) 271-9181, fax (608) or website at www.4-C.org.

Police and Fire Services

Town police service is provided by the Dane County Sheriff. They can be reached at the non-emergency phone number of 608-267-4936 or 911 for emergencies. The Town of Verona has a long term contract with the City of Verona for fire service. The Emergency Medical Service, Fitch-Rona EMS, which serves the Town, is governed by a commission made up of City of Verona, City of Fitchburg, and Town of Verona representatives. A new fire station in the City of Verona houses both fire and EMS service.

Libraries

The Verona Public Library, located at 500 Silent Street in the City of Verona. The 31,000 square foot-building was built in 2006 and provides almost 500,000 educational and informational materials and computers (see the website <http://www.veronapubliclibrary.org/>).

Dane County is part of the South Central Library System. In 1971, the Wisconsin State Legislature passed a law creating seventeen Library Systems in Wisconsin in order to provide free and equitable access to public libraries for all residents in Wisconsin even if their community has no library. The library systems also serve to take on projects too costly or complex for individual community libraries. The funding for the Public Library Systems comes from a set percentage of the budgets of all the public libraries in Wisconsin. The South Central Library System is headquartered in Madison and serves 52 member libraries in Columbia, Dane, Green, and Sauk Counties. For more information, visit the Library's website <http://www.scls.info>.

Schools

The schools of the Verona Area School District are located in the Cities of Verona and Fitchburg. Questions about school locations and residence boundaries are directed to the district's office at 608-845-4300 or visit the district's website at <http://www.verona.k12.wi.us>. A major building project for a new High School is currently under construction on the west end of the City of Verona. Construction is to be completed in 2020.

Post-secondary education is available from The University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison College, Edgewood College, and several other private colleges.

Energy Facilities and Resources

Power Plants and Transmission Lines

Madison Gas & Electric (MG&E) Company provides natural gas to portions of the Town of Verona. MG&E provides electric service to the Goose Lake area, while Alliant Energy provides the rest of the Town with electrical service.

Renewable Energy Sources

To manage rising energy costs, promote local economic development, and protect the natural environment, many Wisconsin communities are looking at renewable energy resources to meet community energy demands. The following sources provide information of solar, wind, and geothermal, and biofuels: Xcel Energy (www.xcelenergy.com), or Focus on Energy (www.focusonenergy.com), and biofuels (www.afdc.energy.gov/fuels/laws/BIOD/WI).

5.2 Issues and Opportunities

Issues

1. Many residents would like to have the ability to dispose of brush.
2. There will be a continued need for brush cutting and tree trimming in the road right of ways.
3. At this time the Town burns brush on the Town Hall site rather than chipping.
4. The Town has little control over location of communication towers.
5. There is interest in faster internet speed for Town residents.
6. There are challenges in expanding or creating a sewer district to support both commercial and residential growth.

Opportunities

1. Town residents have access to excellent fire, police, and medical support.
2. Library and school systems are excellent.
3. The Town could pursue fiber optics for faster internet speed for Town residents.

5.3. Goals, Objectives and Policies

GOAL

Maintain high quality services, utilities, and facilities corresponding with expectations of Town residents

Objectives:

1. Ensure that public and private utilities and facilities are constructed and maintained according to professional and governmental standards to protect the public health, minimize disruption to the natural environment, and to reinforce the rural character of the Town.
2. Phase new development in a manner consistent with public facility and service capacity, and community expectations.
3. Promote the use of existing public facilities including the Town Hall.
4. Monitor satisfaction with public and private utility and service providers, and seek adjustments as necessary to maintain adequate service levels.

Policies:

1. Sanitary Sewer – The Town will collaborate with Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District in managing the existing sanitary sewer system and will review opportunities for expansion or the creation of new system if feasible. New private septic systems will continue to be regulated by Dane County.
2. Water Supply – The Town will encourage landowners with private wells to properly maintain and monitor their wells through inspection and water testing as necessary or required by Dane County or WDNR regulations. Landowners with private wells that are no longer in use shall properly close and abandon wells according to WDNR regulations. The Town may require that the property owner, or their agent, fund the preparation of a groundwater impact analysis from an independent soil scientist or other related professional prior to approving new development.
3. Stormwater Management – The Town will work with Dane County and the WDNR to minimize stormwater quality and quantity impacts from development. Natural drainage patterns, including existing drainage corridors, streams, floodplains, and wetlands will be preserved and

protected whenever possible. Developers will be responsible for erosion control and stormwater quality and quantity control both during and after site preparation and construction activities in accordance with Dane County's Stormwater and Erosion Control Ordinance.

4. Solid Waste and Recycling -- The Town will review annually levels of service provided by the contracted solid waste disposal and county recycling services and meet with them to address any concerns raised by residents or local businesses. The Town will encourage participation in Dane County's Recycling and Clean Sweep programs for the disposal of hazardous materials.
5. Parks and Trails – The Town will work with Dane County, other units of government, and private entities to prioritize and encourage the acquisition of parcels identified in the County's *Park and Open Space Plan* and the Town's *Open Space Parks Plan*. The Town supports the development of trails in environmental corridors, which connect areas such as the Upper Verona Sugar River Valley, Badger Mill Creek, the Ice Age Trail, the Military Ridge State Trail, and others.
6. Power Plants, Transmission Lines, and Telecommunication Facilities – The Town will actively participate in the planning and siting of any major transmission lines, facilities, natural gas lines, or wind towers, or telecommunication towers. The Town strongly encourages the use of existing towers, whenever possible. If such facilities are proposed, they should be located in an area safely away from existing residential uses and livestock facilities. Underground placement and collocation (or corridor sharing) of new utilities is encouraged. When new communication towers are proposed, the following will apply:
 - The petitioner must submit to the Town all descriptions, plans, and reports required by Dane County
 - The petitioner must submit all necessary authorizations or proof of "no hazard" from area airports and applicable state and federal agencies.
 - The Town will not take action on rezonings or conditional use permits for towers until it receives and reviews the results of an independent engineering report and a staff report from Dane County.
 - The Town supports the co-location of multiple antennas on a single tower and the use of alternative support structures such as silos, light poles, billboards, electrical poles, and other tall structures.
 - Locations that maximize the screening of the tower structure through topography or vegetation are preferred.
 - All support equipment at the base of the tower should be fully screened from adjacent properties and public roads.
7. Energy Conservation – The Town will support the efforts of energy providers, government agencies and programs, and others to inform residents about energy conservation measures. The use of energy-efficient materials or designs is highly encouraged, including LEED certification.
8. Renewable Energy Facilities – Support appropriate applications of renewable energy and utilization of onsite distributed energy generation (e.g., solar, wind, geo-thermal, biomass, solid waste):
 - Allow the installation of solar and wind energy systems in line with WI State Statute 66.0401: Regulation relating to solar and wind energy systems.
 - Encourage the use of bio-fuels using biomass and other products for power generation.

<p><i>Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED)</i> is a rating system developed by the U.S. Green Building Council that provides a suite of standards for environmentally sustainable construction.</p>

9. Special Needs Facilities – The Town will along with Dane County and adjacent towns maintain and improve access to special needs facilities (i.e. health care, social services, meals on wheels, food pantries) for Town residents.
10. Emergency Services – The Town will work with Dane County, the City of Verona Fire Department, and other governmental agencies to maintain adequate provision of emergency services (i.e. fire, police, EMS) for Town residents and businesses, and will review service provision levels with the appropriate agencies annually.
11. Libraries – The Town will work with Dane County and the City of Verona to maintain and improve access to public library facilities and services for Town residents.
12. Schools – The Town will collaborate with the Verona Area School District and the local college institutions (i.e. University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison Area Technical College (MATC), and Edgewood College) where appropriate to provide high quality educational facilities and opportunities for Town residents.
13. Town Facilities – The Town will annually evaluate the condition of the Town facilities and associated equipment to ensure that it will continue to meet Town needs.
14. Town Fees – The Town will require developer agreements or fees to recoup the costs associated with processing, reviewing, or inspecting land use proposals and permits, including pass through fees of consultants hired by the Town. The Town may also assess impact fees to recoup the measurable capital costs necessary to support new developments (in accordance with State Statutes).

WI State Statute 66.0401: Solar and Wind Systems

No county, city, town or village may place any restriction, either directly or in effect, on the installation or use of a solar energy system (as defined in s.13.48(2)(h)1.g.), or a wind energy system (as defined in s.66.0415 (1)(m)), unless the restriction satisfies one of the following conditions:

- (a) Serves to preserve or protect public health or safety.
- (b) Does not significantly increase the cost of the system or significantly decrease its efficiency.
- (c) Allows for an alternative system of comparable cost and efficiency.