

**City of Verona
2008 Comprehensive Planning Process**

Comment Card

Any person, organization, agency or other group that would like to provide suggestions, ideas, feedback on drafts, or other input for use in creating the City of Verona Comprehensive Plan must use this form. *Completed* forms should be returned to a) the Department of Planning and Development at Verona City Hall, 111 Lincoln Street, b) the front desk of the Verona Library, or c) to Bruce.sylvester@ci.verona.wi.us. Completed forms will be provided to the Comprehensive Plan Committee for review and consideration. Questions can be directed to Bruce Sylvester at 848-9941 or Bruce.sylvester@ci.verona.wi.us

1. Your Name:

_____ Rebecca (Becky) Olson _____

2. Your Home Address:

___ PO Box 314, 207 East Main Street, Mount Horeb, WI 53572 _____

3. Agency, organization or group for whom you are submitting comments—if any:

___ Upper Sugar River Watershed Association, Inc. _____

4. Chapter Number and Name you wish to comment on—if any: *(For example: Chapter 3—Transportation)*

(Note: Please use one comment card for each chapter. For example—fill out one comment card for Chapter 3—Transportation and a separate comment card for Chapter 8—Land Use.)

___ City of Verona Land Use Plan Chapter 8 _____

5. Comments, suggestions, feedback on a draft chapter, or other input:

(Note: If you are commenting on a specific draft chapter—please reference the date of the draft chapter and please be as specific as possible by providing page numbers, table numbers, or other specific references from the draft chapter to help us incorporate your suggestions/ideas.)

___ Please see attached _____

*Please use the reverse side of this page for any additional comments.
THANK YOU FOR YOUR INPUT!!*

Optional: Please provide your phone and e-mail address: ___ 608-437-7707 usrwa@usrwa.org _____

Overall

- I think you should brag a bit more on the work in the Badger Mill Creek Study Area. Like it or not, you are this area's leader for this type of pre-development study... and you should get the credit.
- Conservation areas should be included more directly as benefits to both public health and the local economy. May be a more suitable term to describe restoration with public access included.
- Preservation areas may need more clarification and explanation especially if this is truly an area to be left untouched but also in the case where restoration occurs first.

Definitions

Overall the definitions page is clearly written and direct. I have the following comments/questions:

1. low-intensity development – Your explanation is good and therefore the term should be kept, but please consider a stronger statement that explains this may not be the same definition as conservationists may use. The latter “conservation term,” sometimes better stated as low-IMPACT development, has a host of assumptions attached to it.
2. high-intensity development – Could the language about curbs be softened to “may” include curbs? My fear is that it will imply that some of the newer stormwater controls that include curbless streets will never be considered.
3. imminent – This needs to be defined: how do you define imminent and/or who within the community will determine what is imminent in terms of development? Will the type of land use be considered when determining the immanency of growth in a particular area?
4. preservation area – my impression of the definition is an area of idleness or uselessness – and therefore no public or private access in any fashion. I am not sure if this is truly the case, however if it is my suggestion is that stronger statements implying the need for permanent protections due to the potential economic (character of community, historic, tourism, recreation, etc..) or public health (flood control, groundwater recharge, etc..) benefits be included here.
5. conservation (area?) – I feel this term should be added and used to describe the areas with special considerations that are still going to be used by private or public individuals under certain conditions. This type of description might fit for areas that may be “developed” but include significant restoration or protection activities as condition of the development. For example; Perhaps a new development must leave a conservation area, such as a buffer near a river, that will protect the water from stormwater, control flooding and connect the people of the area to area by including access to the stream resource via park land, public hunting or fishing access provider or a neighborhood association, etc..

Page 25

I like the explanation of your development planning that includes “unique features” and the flexibility it affords. It wouldn't hurt to add a statement that even more strongly presents to potential creativity this will allow to address all sorts of needs and issues – yes, including stormwater controls.

Page 46

Under policy considerations; I think a statement about the protection of the community's natural resources should be included. It can be relatively general, but should include at a minimum consideration natural resource conservation practices for public health, community character and the local economy.

Page 46

I (of course) like the mention of the Sugar River as a boundary. I recommend including a statement about the River's value to maintain/improve Verona's community character (& a place businesses may find continually attractive), provide a natural history and science reference to local schools & families, and promote tourism/recreation through planned access by businesses and the general public.

Page 47

I am not sure what is meant by stormwater challenges. It seems to imply that stormwater is ideally drained into a stream; but I am pretty sure that is not what you really mean.

Page 50

Under the paragraph that mentions Badger Mill Creek – don't sell yourselves short! Consider including a statement that goes beyond time and money; include mention that this "inventory" included the identification of the community's (Verona's) natural and historic resources for the greater needs of the community's public health and economic planning functions. (and more)

Page 55 (#7)

Farmland preservation – Could an example be included under this topic? As a farmer, I keep reading this information as though I am being told I can not sell my development rights, nor can I purchase them from my neighbor. Is that what is meant?

Page 55 (#8)

This is more of a set of questions: I think the reasons "why" you don't wish to allow mineral extraction should be included. Is it aesthetics? The stability of the local geology? Ecology/Environmental concerns? If the resources are there, would it make sense to extract the minerals and keep things local?

Page 56

Be careful of the use of rural and wording it too closely with preservation. When I hear it with my farming ears, it seems to say "we like looking at the pretty barn and won't let that change." I don't think that is what you mean; therefore consider a statement that has a stronger tie to "why" you would like to see rural (or farm land) preservation. It again may be good connection to public health and economics, etc...

Page 57 & 58

I like the examples of the lawsuits. It is good to note what you hope to avoid.

Page 59

Don't forget the Sugar River Water Trail restoration already in progress. Eventually, paddlers (kayaks/canoes) will be able to paddle from Verona all the way to Belleville without any significant portaging. There are already two public landings off of Riverside and Valley

Roads. USRWA and Capitol Water Trails are continuously working to clear the log jams out and promote additional access points when possible.