



SUSTAINABILITY TASK FORCE

AGENDA

DATE: Tuesday May 12, 2026
TIME: 6:30 PM
LOCATION: Large Conference Room – D110
Verona City Center
111 Lincoln St.
Verona, WI 53593

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Approval of Minutes of March 16, 2026, meeting
4. Public Comment
5. Discussion and possible action re: Comprehensive Plan review discussion, comments are due by May 18, 2026
6. Discussion and possible action re: 2026 Solar Projects update
7. Discussion and possible action re: 2026 Goals update
8. Discussion and possible action re: Butterfly and Pollinator Garden – How to Event debrief
9. Discussion and possible action re: Verona Scrap Stop update
10. Discussion and possible action re: Sustain Dane All Around Dane Co event
11. MGE EV event June 17
12. Adjournment

Luke Diaz, Chairperson

POSTED: May 8, 2026
Verona City Hall
Verona Public Library
Miller's Market
All agendas are posted on the City's website at: veronawi.gov

Notice: If you need an interpreter, materials in alternative formats, or other accommodation to access the meeting, please contact the City Clerk at (608) 845-6495 at least 48 hours preceding the meeting. Every reasonable effort will be made to accommodate your request.

Notice is hereby given that a quorum of the members of the City Council or other standing committees of the City Council may be present at the meeting to gather information about a subject over which they have decision-making responsibility. The City Council and any other standing committees will not take formal action at this meeting.

Memorandum

To: Sustainability Task Force
From: Katherine Holt – Community Development Specialist
Date: May 12, 2026
Re: **Comprehensive Plan**

For the last eighteen (18) months, the City has engaged a consultant, MKSK, to overhaul the 2009 – 2030 Comprehensive Plan to ensure that the vision, goals, and recommendations still apply for the next thirty (30) years. As part of this overhaul, the Comprehensive Plan (“Plan”) is to be user friendly and must be able to be implemented as it is a living document. The State Statutes require a Comprehensive Plan be updated every ten (10) years and the City wants to have this update follow the U.S. Census data to ensure the City uses the most up-to-date data.

Currently, the Comprehensive Plan Task Force, which consists of citizen appointments, a Plan Commissioner, and two (2) Alders, are finalizing the draft Plan to be released for public comments. As part of the preparation, this pre-draft Plan is also being reviewed by the Public Works, Sewer and Water Committee, Sustainability Task Force, and the Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Commission. City Staff consisting of Administration, Public Works, Parks and Recreation, Senior Services, Police, and Fire Departments have met as needed to help frame this Plan. Once the public hearing draft Plan is released, this Plan will be sent to other jurisdictions and agencies for their comments in addition to the public.

Planning Staff are recommending the Sustainability Task Force review the Plan for comments and give pointed feedback to Staff regarding the document no later than May 18, 2026. Staff’s goal was to intertwine sustainability throughout the document and not just in one section of the Plan such as housing. The Plan contains language about improvements to the expanded downtown area to include pedestrian activities, bicycle, and lighting. Other sustainability ideas include employing sustainable best practices in reducing energy consumption in new industries, promoting ride-sharing, increasing access to parks and gardens, preservation of natural features, and expanding transportation options.

You can do a search based on the word “sustain” and see what is found in the document. While Staff understands the document is long, if you do not have time to

read the entire document, Planning Staff recommends the Task Force focus on the following larger sections in the Plan:

Topic	PDF page	Doc. page
Abbreviations	3	4
Planning Context and Study Area	12	22
Environment and Sustainability	23	45
The Big Vision	27	52 - 53
Livable and Prosperous Verona	28	54 - 55
Core Values Downtown & Green Verona	29	56 - 57
Core Values of Fundamental Verona	30	58
Downtown Subarea	36	70 - 71
East Subarea	37	72 - 73
Southeast Subarea	38	74 - 75
South Subarea	39	76 - 77
Southwest Subarea	40	78 - 79
Livable Verona	41	60
The How – Livable Verona L4	42	83
The How – Downtown Verona	55	108 - 109
The What – Downtown Verona	56	110 - 111
Safer Main and Verona Intersection	57	113
Placemaking Strategy	58	115
Downtown District Parking Strategy	59	116 - 117
Green Verona (entire chapter)	60 - 64	118 - 127
Fundamental (entire chapter)	65 - 72	128 - 142
Zoning Code Recommendations	76 - 77	151 - 152
Capital Improvement Planning	82	162
Implementation Matrix	84	166 - 167
Downtown items (pink category)	88	174
Green Verona items (green category)	88 - 90	174 - 178
Fundamental Verona (orange category)	90 – 91	178 - 180

The Plan also contains five (5) appendices. If you are interested, I would recommend reviewing Appendix D Community Engagement Summary especially starting at page 50. This contains a raw summary of comments from the public and gives a good flavor of what is important as does the entire Appendix.

Regarding the comments, does the Task Force want a policy for lighting on multi-use paths or dimming lights? For City parking lots, do you want a statement to require EV charging stations (i.e. Downtown District Parking Strategy)? Did the Plan encapsulate everything that you want to implement in the City for the next ten (10) years and beyond?

- [High Resolution](#) Comprehensive Plan (large file may not work well)

- [Low Resolution](#) – COMPREHENSIVE PLAN
- [Appendix A](#) - PREVIOUS PLAN SUMMARY
- [Appendix B](#) – COMMUNITY PROFILE & EXISTING SYSTEMS
- [Appendix C](#) – PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN
- [Appendix D](#) – COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT SUMMARY
- [Appendix E](#) – STATE OF THE COMMUNITY REPORT

Department	Goal #	Goal Text	Achieved in 2025	Plan to Achieve in 2026	Notes	Progress Notes as of March 31, 2026	Pillars
Parks	G.01.	Plant 200 trees yearly.	87 trees planted in 2025. Pursuing an Alliant Tree Planting Grant in late fall of 2025.	Complete Alliant Grant. Plant 200 City trees in the 2026 growing season.	New director did not start until July.	Received Alliant Grant, Planting event planned for 4/24	Provide Nature Sanctuaries for Wildlife and People
Parks	G.02.	Create a wildlife corridor around the Badger Mill Creek as the City expands south.	New Parks Director worked in 2025 to create a strong relationship between FBMC and the Parks Department.	Parks staff will continue to work with FBMC to create a wildlife corridor.	It might be good to determine some specific goals here that can measure progress.	FBMC planted 4 acres on S. Main near well site in March of 2026	Provide Nature Sanctuaries for Wildlife and People
Planning	G.02.	Create a wildlife corridor around the Badger Mill Creek as the City expands south.	Corridor was included in the Comp Plan update as a land use.	Will designate in 2026 possibly as preservation.	This could be included in the Comp. Plan as preservation as we are preserving things in the floodplain.	Draft Comprehensive Plan still underway	Provide Nature Sanctuaries for Wildlife and People
Administration	G.03.	Maintain the Mayor's Monarch pledge for Verona.	Did not update for 2025.	This is on the schedule now and will be completed. Write a SOP so this becomes standard practice	This will be set up to repeat each year going forward.	Adopted at the Jan 26, 2026 CC meeting. Working on completing the pledge.	Provide Nature Sanctuaries for Wildlife and People
Parks	G.03.	Maintain the Mayor's Monarch pledge for Verona.	Leave milkweed in parks beds and natural areas when found. Nector producing sites at Harriet Park, the Badger Mill Creek Corridor, flower beds at City Hall, Home Town Junction and along Main Street.	Continue to provide nector producing plants and encouraging milkweed.		Hosted a How to Plant a Butterfly Garden in late March, over 30 people attended.	Provide Nature Sanctuaries for Wildlife and People
Public Works	G.04.	Enhance 5 stormwater ponds over the next 5 years to function as nature sanctuaries for wildlife and people.	The public works staff burned 5 stormwater basins this spring and then overseeded with the native mixes. The Stormwater Bioinfiltration and the Infiltration Swale Mix are both excellent for supporting pollinators and butterflies. These native plants offer a mix of nectar, pollen, and host plant resources across the growing season, and many thrive in moist or wet conditions, making them ideal for stormwater basins, and bioinfiltration areas.	Continue to work on the basins from 2025 (except Meister Drive), and additional basins will be burned and overseeded in 2026. They include, two basins on the south end of Locust, the basin south of E Chapel Royal that borders the park, the basin behind City Hall and the basin by the Library.	Five basins burned and overseeded in 2025 are: Whalen Road basin between Gatsby Glen and Kimball Lane, Bruce Street near the Public Works shop, Harmony Drive at the dead end, North Nine Mound Road near Follow Rd, and Meister Drive near North Nine Mound Road.	Ann is gathering quotes to transform th medians/storm basins along E Verona Ave into native plantings. At this point, Bryan Manning is planning on asking for the funding in the 2027 CIP.	Provide Nature Sanctuaries for Wildlife and People
Parks	G.05.	Establish and maintain a significant amount of native prairie habitat.	Planted a native bed in Harriet Park in late 2024, worked all of 2025 to help the plants get establish. Worked with FBMC to remove woody invasives along BMC corridor and did the prep work at the BMC trail and CTH M / S Main Street.	Continue to help Harriet Park native bed get established. Seed the portion of BMV trail and S Main that is ready for seed. (Seed 2.5 acres in winter of 2025/2026 and move dirt to prepare for seeding as needed.)			Provide Nature Sanctuaries for Wildlife and People
Public Works	G.05.	Establish and maintain a significant amount of native prairie habitat.	See strategic controlled burns mentioned above in G.04.	See list of basins and work plan above. (G.04)		see G.04	Provide Nature Sanctuaries for Wildlife and People
Administration	G.06.	100% renewable for City energy use by 2050.	Created a spreadsheet with energy use. Discussed options for additional renewables in Verona. Added two arrays to city buildings.	Discuss, plan for and budget 2026 Solar project(s). Options are to add to wells, water towers or park shelters.	WLGCC? Resources to help with ideas?	2026 Solar project is out for proposals. Should have a recommendation by April 20th STF meeting.	Mitigate the Impact of Climate Change
Planning	G.07.	Verona partner with SOLSMART & achieve bronze designation.	In mid October, Verona received the SolSmart Silver Designation.	Achieved silver status in 2025, no work planned in coming year.		previously achieved	Mitigate the Impact of Climate Change
Public Works	G.08.	Develop extra stormwater handling capacity to handle extreme weather events; these areas can also function as recreation or natural areas.	No	In process - long duration goal	Revisit this goal in late 2026 to further define it. (example, we have undersized pipes on West Verona Ave, but it is pipe, not a natural area.)	ongoing	Mitigate the Impact of Climate Change
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Public Works	G.09.	Include sidewalk or trail connections from all neighborhoods to downtown (which means people can walk or bike instead of driving).	Began implementation of the Sidewalk/Multi-use path policy. Sidewalk was added along the east side of Legion Street, from W Verona Ave to Church, and Edward Street.	Continue installing improvements per the Sidewalk/Multi-use path policy. New sidewalk along Mark Drive.		ongoing	Mitigate the Impact of Climate Change
Administration	G.10.	Include composting for all city departments.	Started a composting program at City Hall.		Would like more direction from STF as other ways to expand. (PD, Library, Senior Center?)	Signed an agreement with Dane Co to continue Scrap Stop at Badger Prairie for 2026.	Mitigate the Impact of Climate Change
Administration	G.11.	City fleet should be at least 50% EV by 2035.	Purchased our second EV for BI	Discuss, plan for and budget for additional EVs.	WLGCC? Resources to help with ideas?	No progress	Mitigate the Impact of Climate Change
Public Works	G.12.	Pave the Military Ridge State Trail to allow community use year-round.	Progress made in 2025 includes a bridge structural review, signed Land Use Agreement with the DNR. Consultant began design and engineering work on paving project. Hired a consultant to design the bridges and create construction documents and bid in 2026. Recieved a grant from the DNR for \$550,000 to assist with the bridge project	Complete the bridge installations in 2026 and / or early 2027.	Working to complete the paving project by the fall of 2027.	in process	Mitigate the Impact of Climate Change
Planning	G.13	Make Verona friendlier for people to walk and bike.	Verona convened the Traffic Safety Committee in August of 2025 to hold monthly discussions with key staff on traffic issues. Update the multiuse paths and bike routes in the 2025 Comp Plan.	Complete SRTS plan is funding is made available. Designate the multi use paths and bike routes in 2026.	Comp. Plan will include improvements and designations for multi-use paths.	Draft Comprehensive Plan still underway	
Public Works	G.13	Make Verona friendlier for people to walk and bike.	Began implementation of the Sidewalk/Multi-use path policy. Sidewalk was added along the east side of Legion Street, from W Verona Ave to Church, and along Mark Drive. In addition, MRST improvements.	Continue installing improvements per the Sidewalk/Multi-use path policy. New sidewalk along Mark Drive.		SRTS Grant has been awarded, planning getting underway in late April. PD hosting a bike rodeo on Sunday May 17th, and STF is hosting a Smart Cycling class for adult e-bike riders on the evening of June 23, 2026	Mitigate the Impact of Climate Change

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Communications	G.14.	Develop website page related to Verona Sustainability	Current webpage is https://www.veronawi.gov/737/Sustainable-Verona	Continually update webpage as staff and task force request.	Adopt a Storm drain program, and another storm drain mural. Work with PW on promoting both, also Winter Salt Week and HAZ Mat drop off special.	Updated the Sustainability page with Mayor's Monarch Pledge and Solar Panels at City Hall and VFD. Promoted Winter Salt Week. Encouraged Clean Seep Event. Storm Drain Mural will be in May. Adopt a Storm Drain sign up by address wasn't ready when I checked on it in March.	Engage the Community in Sustainability Goals
Communications	G.15.	Encourage at-home composting.	Messaging about Scrap Stop posted	Will share educational messaging about composting through our communication channels. We will include Scrap Stop updates and include home composting information on our web site.		Have not done this yet.	Engage the Community in Sustainability Goals
Public Works	G.16.	Encourage e-waste recycling by having multiple e-waste drop-off days.	E-waste drop-off site open M-Sa from April thru October. M-F from November thru March. Free drop off day Oct 18th, 2026.	Continue same schedule. Free day is provided Pelletarii and is scheduled for Oct 17, 2026.		Continue same schedule	Engage the Community in Sustainability Goals
Administration	G.17.	Assist people with establishing pollinator gardens in their yards.		Co Host a "how-to" public education session on planting and caring for pollinator / nectar gardens	Admin is setting up the education session, I hope with some help from STF members.	STF co-hosted a "how to" session on butterfly gardens at the library on March 31, 2026	Engage the Community in Sustainability Goals
Communications	G.17.	Assist people with establishing pollinator gardens in their yards.	Worked with Ann and STF to generate ideas for action	Engage with Plant Dane and share info on resources		Posted about Plant Dane, Dig into Gardens Event, and promoted the Pollinator Friendly Gardens Event.	Engage the Community in Sustainability Goals
Administration	G.18.	To help with EV adoption, provide a list of area electricians who have experience installing Level 2 EV Chargers.	Called all local, Chamber member electricians. All have experience with Level 2 EV charging stations and can do this work at the customer's request.	Dane Co Charge Up sites installed and MGE EV Event	Specific goal about local electricians was completed in 2025. Charge Up sites and MGE EV101 event is 2026 goal.	As of end of March 2026, event is set for June 17, 2026.	Engage the Community in Sustainability Goals
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Administration	NG.1.	Address dark sky concerns as expressed by residents and locals, and develop a dark sky ordinance.	Jamie was a panel member at a dark sky education session over the summer of 2025 and made a connection with Scott Lind, local dark sky expert.	Build on relationship with Scott Lind to address street lighting at CTH PD and Woods Road and CTH PD and Northern Lights Road. Connect Scott with Veridian to address the lighting complaints received. Ask Scott to review lighting on City Hall and plans for Whispering Cove. Final, begin the process of updating Verona's dark sky ordinance.		Scott Lind is working on the the CTH PD intersections, working with Veridian to improve lighting at Ardent Glen and working with Katherine and Carla on Whispering Cove lighting. Assigning the drafting of the dark skies ordinance to summer intern.	Engage the Community in Sustainability Goals

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Planning	G.02.	Create a wildlife corridor around the Badger Mill Creek as the City expands south.	Corridor was included in the Comp Plan update as a land use.	Will designate in 2026 possibly as preservation.	This could be included in the Comp. Plan as preservation as we are preserving things in the floodplain.	Draft Comprehensive Plan still underway	Provide Nature Sanctuaries for Wildlife and People
Planning	G.07.	Verona partner with SOLSMART & achieve bronze designation.	In mid October, Verona received the SolSmart Silver Designation.	Achieved silver status in 2025, no work planned in coming year.		previously achieved	Mitigate the Impact of Climate Change
Planning	G.08.	Develop extra stormwater handling capacity to handle extreme weather events; these areas can also function as recreation or natural areas.	No	In process - long duration goal	Revisit this goal in late 2026 to further define it. (example, we have undersized pipes on West Verona Ave, but it is pipe, not a natural area.)	No progress	Mitigate the Impact of Climate Change
Planning	G.13	Make Verona friendlier for people to walk and bike.	Verona convened the Traffic Safety Committee in August of 2025 to hold monthly discussions with key staff on traffic issues. Update the multiuse paths and bike routes in the 2025 Comp Plan.	Complete SRTS plan if funding is made available. Designate the multi use paths and bike routes in 2026.	Comp. Plan will include improvements and designations for multi-use paths.	Draft Comprehensive Plan still underway	

From: [Sonali Bhikha](#)
To: [Ann Freiwald](#); [David Lonsdorf](#)
Cc: [Samantha Worden](#)
Subject: All Around Dane County - Verona
Date: Tuesday, April 28, 2026 11:02:43 AM

Hi Ann & David,

Thank you both for working with us to have an All Around Dane County in Verona this year! Ann, David and I were able to talk this morning and **Thursday, September 24th** works best for all of us. I have included some notes below about the programming & next steps:

When:

- **Thursday, September 24 from 5:30PM-7PM**
 - 5:30-6PM: Networking & Arrival
 - 6-6:45PM: Speakers & Walk
 - 6:45-7PM: Networking

Roles:

- Sustain Dane:
 - Create flyers and language for the program
 - Create registration form through Eventbrite, share with our network to get participants.
- City & Town of Verona:
 - Share the flyers and registration link with network to get Verona residents to attend
 - Find presenters/speakers:
 - Speakers have been local businesses and/or community members that have work that has a sustainability tie
 - They give 3-5 minute verbal presentations sharing more about their work
 - Some speakers/organizations that David & I talked about:
 - Farley Center
 - Dark Skies Movement
 - Everlight Solar
 - High school / school district to talk about the solar panels / sustainability initiatives
 - Ian's Pizza

Event Logistics:

- During the event, we have had someone from the municipality in the past MC and pass off the floor to speakers.
- In the past we have split food costs, Sustain Dane can provide snacks/sparkling waters,

but if you have any local businesses/restaurants in mind that would be open to food sponsorship, let us know.

- In the past we have met in a shelter or places where there are picnic tables/seating available. **Ann, would there be any city parks with shelters that you think would work well for this program? David also suggested using the Town of Verona's meeting space and taking a walk in the prairie outside of this building.** Let us know your thoughts.

In the coming weeks Sustain Dane will put together an Eventbrite posting with an RSVP link and flyers that I will send over so we can start promoting the event. Let me know if you all have additional questions and we are excited to plan further!

Best,
Sonali

Sonali Bhikha

Program Coordinator

SUSTAIN DANE

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Pronouns: she/her