

Community Accessibility Audit of Verona Town Buildings and Adjacent Outdoor Areas

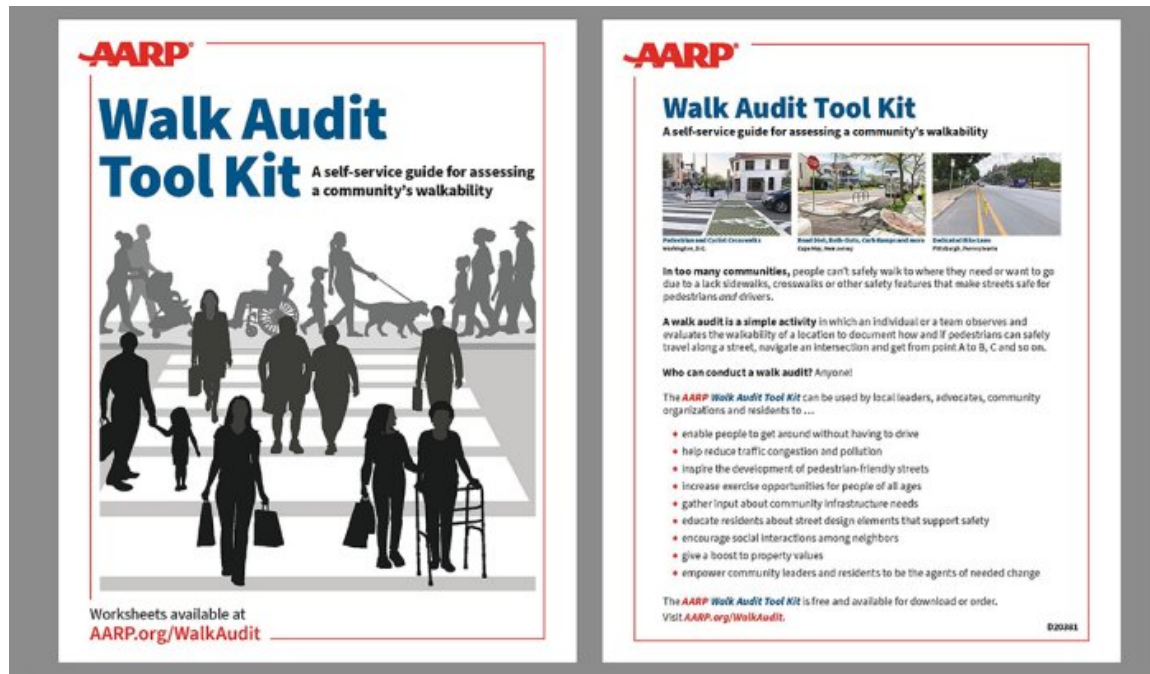
November 13, 2023

Conducted by the Township of Verona's Multicultural Inclusion & Accessibility Advisory Committee, July 2023

With special thanks to Len Waterman, Supervisor of Building & Grounds, Township of Verona

MIAAC's Sub-Committee on Accessibility (Kristen Dunleavy, John Vajda, Michelle O'Neill and Michele Gruet) visited Verona Town Hall, the Verona Public Library, the Community Garden, the Verona Community Center and the Verona Community Pool.

The goal of the tour was to navigate the Township buildings and grounds through the lens of people with a diverse array of ages, experiences and abilities. The tour was conducted by residents of Verona, not professionals or experts on ADA-compliance.



(Photo of AARP Walk Audit cover)



The ADA Checklist for Existing Facilities was utilized as well as a scorecard and report formatting from the AARP Walk Audit.

Verona Town Hall – 600 Bloomfield Ave.



(Photos of newly renovated accessible entrance ramp at rear of building)

Excellent – The Verona Town Hall building features new upgrades including entrance ramp, accessible button and inside elevator.



(Photo of inside door near elevator that leads to main Town Hall space)

Recommendation – Install interior door that is accessible for people using mobility devices, including an accessible button on the inside door (leading to the Town Hall lobby).



(Photo of directional signage by back entrance to Town Hall)

Recommendation - Increase in Braille signage where possible.



(Photo of top of marble stairs near Town Council Meeting Room)

Recommendation – Color rumble strip at crest of stairs and to the corner of the wall right before the stairs to assist people with blindness/low vision.



(Photo of back of Town Council Meeting Room)

Recommendation - Slide over 1 bench in the back row of the Town Council Meeting Room to allow for wheelchair/mobility device space in the room.



(Photo of parking space in front of Town Hall that we recommend converting to an accessible space)

Recommendation - Convert one space in the town Civic Center to an accessible parking space, close to a curb cutout.

Verona Public Library – 17 Gould St.



(Photo of Verona Public Library)

Excellent - Beautiful, functional and accessible new Library building renovation, no recommendations for change.

Verona Community Center – 880 Bloomfield Ave.



(Photo of Community Center main door entrance)

Recommendation - Accessible push buttons at the two main entrances to the Verona Community Center --

bottom floor front entrance and top floor back entrance -
- to improve door accessibility for people with mobility devices.



(Photo of scuffed bottom of door)

Recommendation - all doors accessible to the public should have a stainless steel kick plate to minimize damage from wheelchair access.

Verona Community Pool – 257 Fairview Ave.



(Photo of Verona Community Pool splash pad)

Excellent - Verona Community Pool recent upgrades include zero entry pool and accessible splash pad.



Recommendation - Add a paved path to Verona Pool gazebo to make it wheelchair accessible.

Recommendation - Reconstruct walkway to community tent to make it wheelchair accessible.



(Photo of Verona Pool slide)

Recommendation – Upgrade pool slide steps to be skid proof.



(Photo of aquatic wheelchair at Verona Pool)

Recommendation – Increase signage on Verona Community Pool website and at Pool so guests are aware of accessible amenities. Add info to the Pool website: “For Aquatic Wheelchairs, please contact in-season pool office.”

Verona Community Garden – adjacent to H.B.
Whitehorne Middle School – 600 Bloomfield Ave.





(Photo of entrance to Verona Community Garden)

Recommendation - Curb cutout and accessible path with a zero-entry opening to the garden to increase accessibility for people with mobility devices/wheelchairs.



(Photo of Verona Community Garden patio and raised beds)

Recommendation – One or two raised beds should be appropriate height and location for seniors and wheelchairs.

Note from Carol Thomas regarding 2024 planned improvements: We are planning an extension of the garden to come out to the sidewalk along the side of the school. The new entrance will be facing the parking lot. The entrance gate will transition from the pavement to a pea gravel walkway. This walkway will lead to the brick paved area. We will be moving the 4 elevated beds to the paved area.

Conclusion

We live in a wonderful town with many accommodations for people living with disabilities but there are ways to expand greater access to more residents and visitors.