



# VERDIGRE YOUTH SURVEY RESULTS

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June 10, 2025

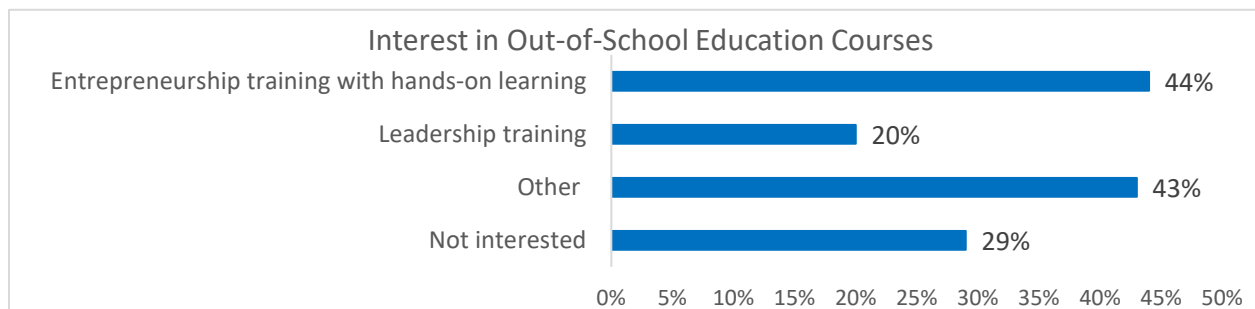


## About the Verdigre Youth Survey

The Verdigre youth survey is an online tool to measure perceptions of current Verdigre junior and high school students. They are asked various questions about their impressions of Verdigre, future career plans and interest in remaining or returning to Verdigre. The youth survey was given to all students in grades 7 – 12 at the local high school. A total of 78 youth completed the survey.

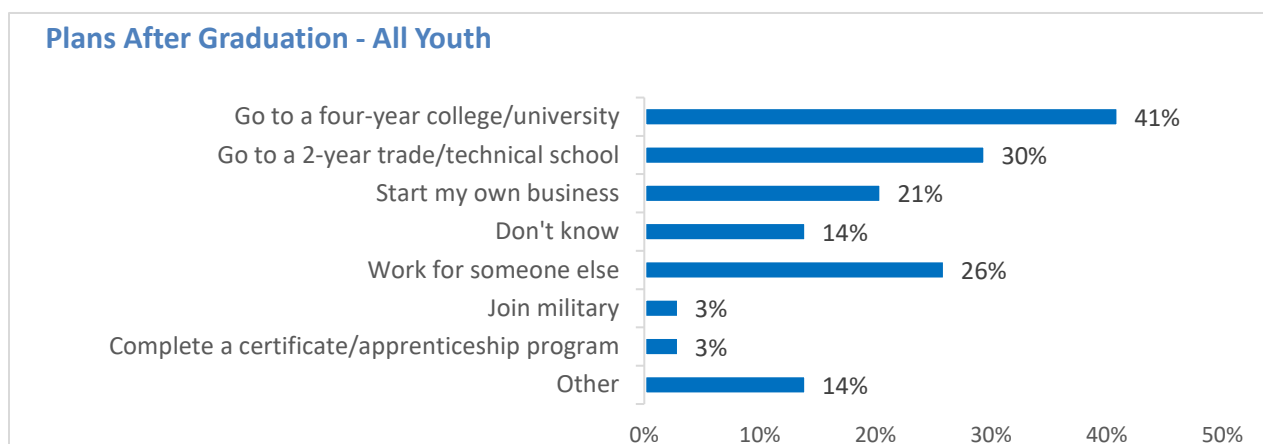
## Interest in Educational Courses

The youth were first asked what out-of-school education courses would be of interest to them. Many youth are interested in entrepreneurship training and many are also interested in leadership training. Just under one-half (44%) are interested in entrepreneurship training that includes hands-on learning experiences and two in ten (20%) are interested in leadership training for personal growth and community opportunities. Many youth (43%) were interested in other courses. Some suggested courses of interest including: engine mechanics (1), playing sports and being in business (1), shop (1), and trade practice (1).



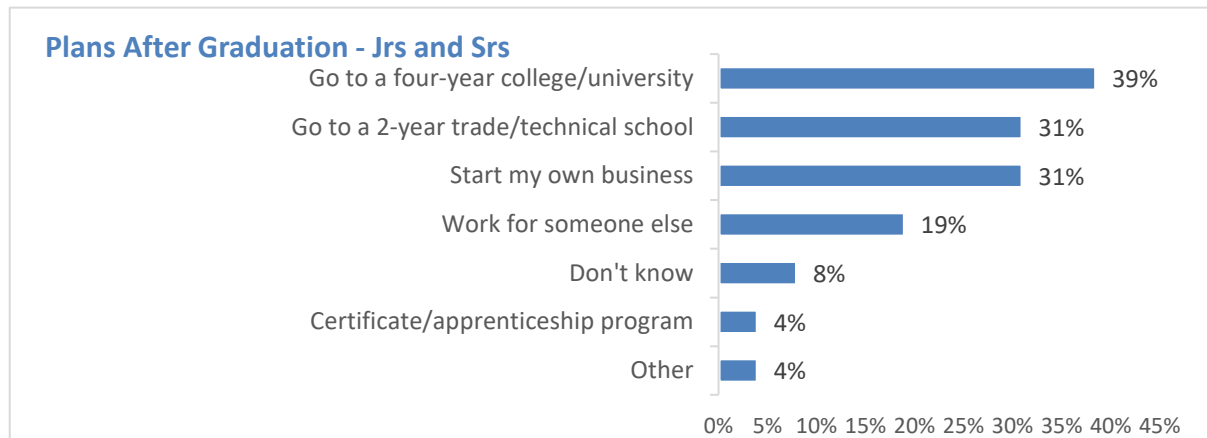
## Future Plans

When all students were asked about their plans after graduation, most youth plan to further their education. Over four in ten (41%) plan to attend a four-year college or university. And, three in ten (30%) plan to go to a two-year trade or technical school or community college. Just over two in ten



(21%) plan to start their own business or work for someone else (26%) and 14 percent don't know their future plans.

When responses from just juniors and seniors are examined, 39% plan to go to a four-year college or university and 31% plan to attend a two-year school. Just over three in ten (31%) plan to start their own business.

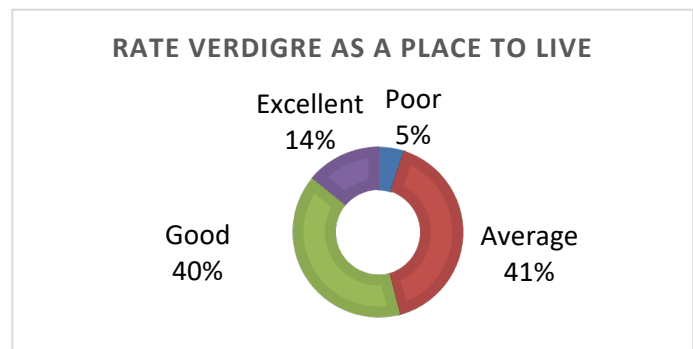


## Community Impressions

Over one-half of the youth rate Verdigre as either a good (40%) or excellent (14%) place to live.

When asked what they see as Verdigre's strengths, 77 youth responded. The responses included mentions of the following themes:

- Small community (18)
- People (14)
- Friendly (8)
- Helpful or helping others (8)
- Kolach Days (5)
- Cool or fun events (4)



- Welcoming (3)
- Other responses mentioned nothing, sense of community, sports, education, don't know, powerlifting, farming, and the community.

The complete list of responses is included in **Appendix Table 1**.

When asked what amenities they would most like to see added or improved, 77 responses were received. The top response categories included:

- Swimming pool (20)
- added businesses (15)
- roads (9)
- park improvements (8)
- gym or rec center (8)
- sports fields (8)
- walking paths (8)
- track (6)

- golf course (3)
- Other responses include creek access (2), more things to do (2), new basketball hoops (1), the hall (1), pool league (1), softball team (1), more jobs (1), and Timber Lake (3).
- sidewalks (3)

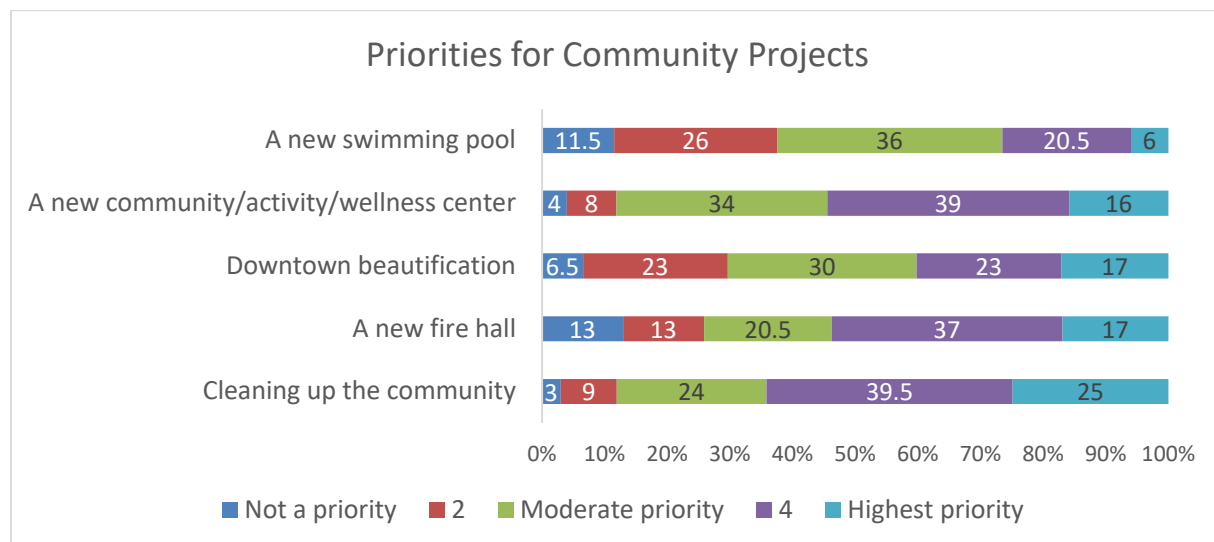
The complete list of responses is included in **Appendix Table 2**.

When asked what type of community events they would like to see, 74 responses were received. The top types of events mentioned included:

- unsure (14)
- concerts or dances (12)
- more sport events (8)
- more events in general (6)
- fairs or carnivals (5)
- sand volleyball tournaments (5)
- walks or runs (4)
- community cleanups (3)
- Other responses included: firework shows (1), drive in movie night (1), roller rink (1), another festival (1), turtle races (1), race track (1), bull-a-ramas (1), racing (1), banquets (1), and video games (1).

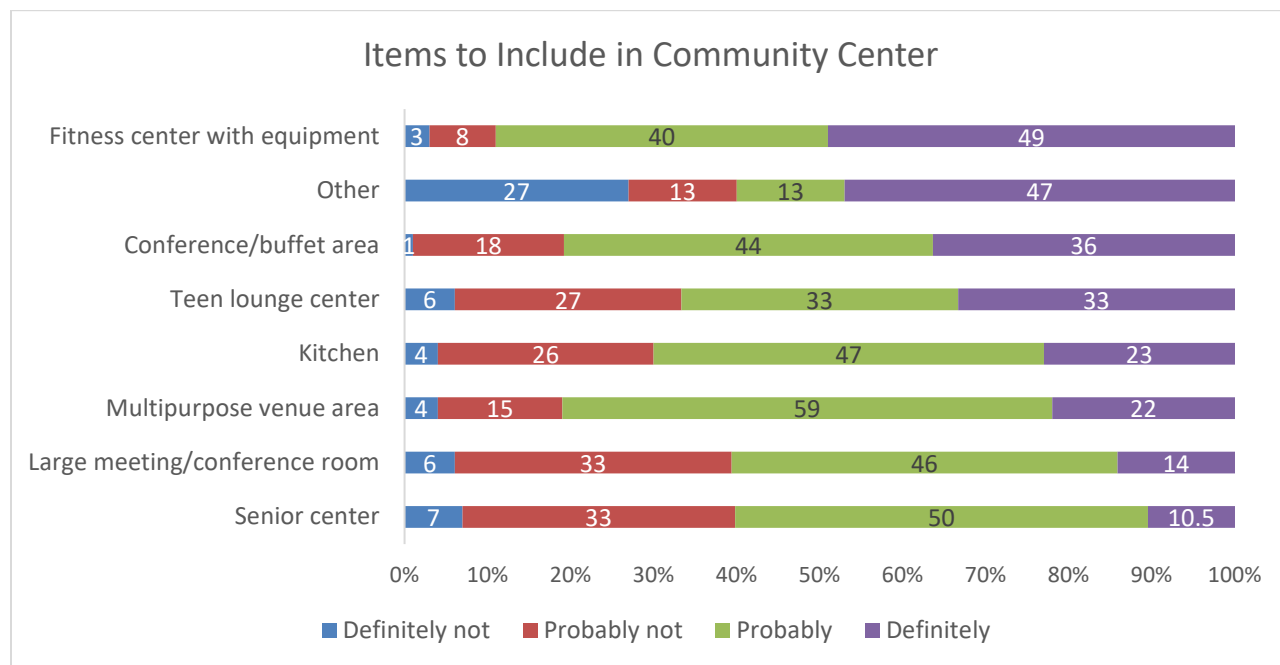
The complete list of responses is included in **Appendix Table 3**.

The youth were next given a list of potential community projects and were asked what priority level they would rate each. Most youth rated cleaning up the community (64.5%), a new community/ activity/wellness center (55%), and a new fire hall (54%) as a high or the highest priority. Four in ten rated downtown beautification (40%) as at least a high priority. Just over one-quarter (26.5%) rated a new swimming pool as at least a high priority. Other items listed include: gym, better parks, bigger campsites, fix the streets, fix the sidewalks, golf course, improving school budget, more businesses, more places for kids and children to go hang out, redo the hall, and roads.



The youth were given a list of items and were asked which they would like to see included in a community center if one were to be built. At least three in ten said they would definitely like to see the following included in the community center: fitness center with equipment (49%), other (47%),

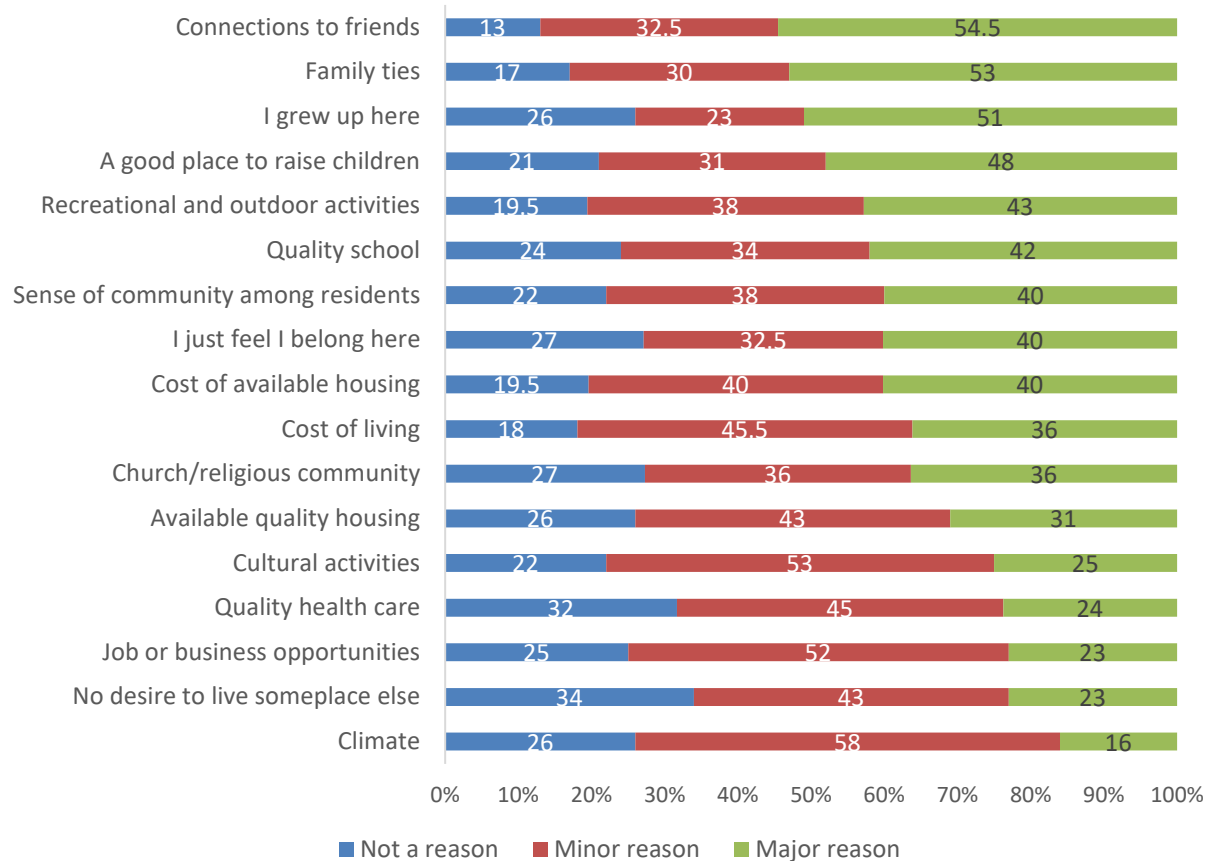
conference/buffet area (36%), and teen lounge center (33%). Some of the other options written in included: a new farm service, apartments, bigger library, entertainment room (with pool, foosball, pingpong), a gun range, pool, restrooms, top notch golf course, and video game area.



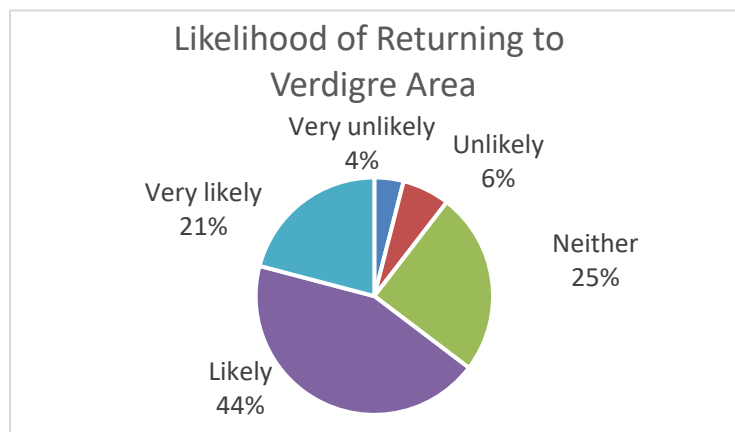
## Reasons to Stay in or Return to Verdigre

The youth were then given a list of reasons and were asked to say if each was a major reason, a minor reason or not a reason they would stay in or return to the Verdigre area. Many youths say the following are major reasons: connections to friends (54.5%), family ties (53%), I grew up here (51%), a good place to raise children (48%), recreational and outdoor activities (43%), quality school (42%), sense of community among residents (40%), I just feel I belong here (40%), and cost of available housing (40%).

### Reasons to Stay in or Return to Verdigre



Next, students were asked if they would return to the Verdigre area to live in the future if quality career or business ownership opportunities were available. Almost two-thirds said it is likely (44%) or very likely (21%) that they would return to the area in the future. One-quarter were neutral about their future plans to return to the Verdigre area.



When asked what type of jobs/opportunities would encourage them to stay or return to Verdigre to work, the top responses included:

- Agricultural related (14)
- Unsure (9)

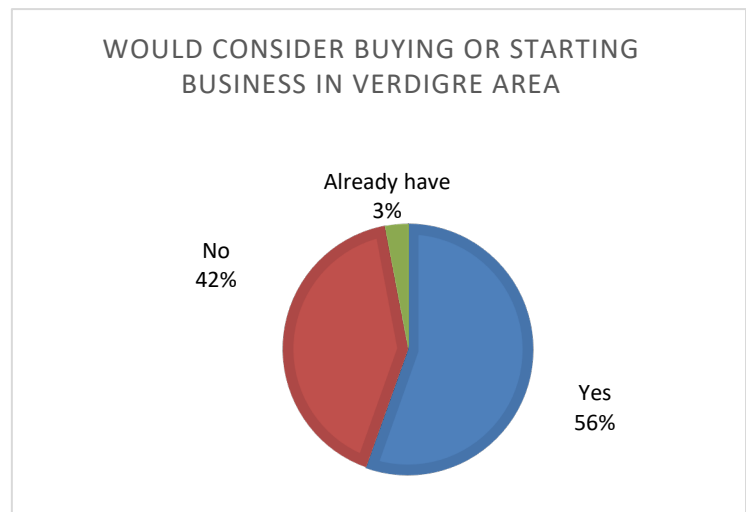
- trades occupations (6)
- any job (6)
- mechanic (5)
- medical related (5)
- teaching job (4)
- retail business (3)
- hands-on job (3)

- none (3)
- other including good money, if they liked the job or business, better paying (2), beauty shop, restaurant, golf course, engineering job, more artistic careers, photography business, and hard-working jobs.

Next, they were asked if they would consider buying or starting a business in or around Verdigre someday. Over one-half (56%) said they would consider buying or starting a business.

The types of businesses they are interested in starting include:

- trade businesses (14)
- food related (7)
- agricultural (5)
- hair salon (3)
- others included: hospital, cosmetics, football card shop, sports card store, childcare, photography business or interior design, accounting, lawncare, and art related.



The youth were then asked if there are additional lifestyle or job requirements that would be necessary for them to consider staying in or moving back to the Verdigre area. The responses included: none (43), more job opportunities (5), more housing (4), don't know (6), better business opportunities, more moving traffic, more population, family, country lifestyle, more land available to buy, and more places for hands on activities.

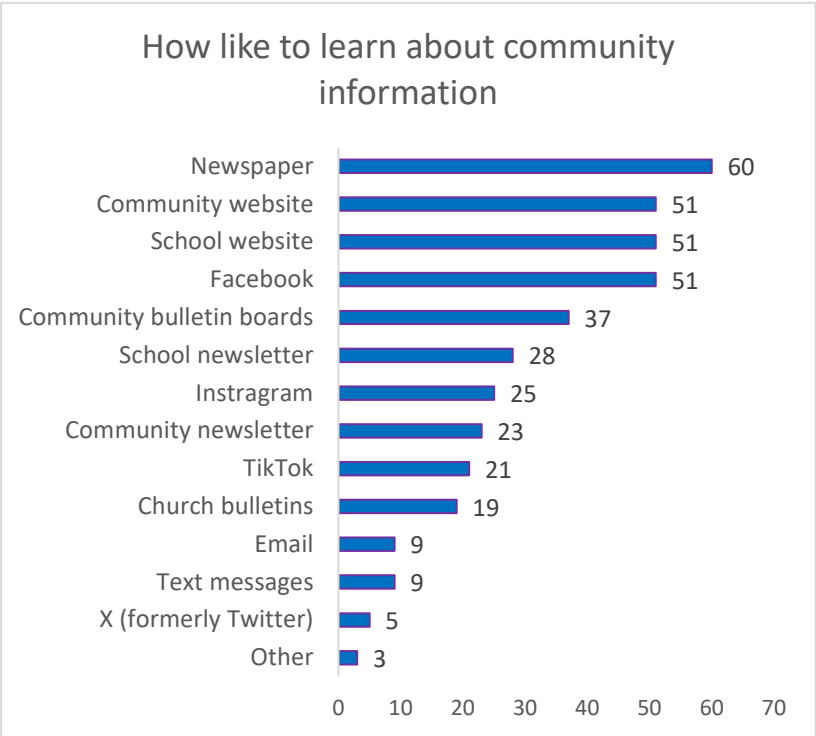
## Where Students Like to Learn about Community Information

The youth were asked how they would like to learn about community information in Verdigre. The top choices included: newspaper (60%), school website (51%), community website (51%), Facebook (51%), and community bulletin boards (37%).

### Demographics

Finally, students were asked what year in school they are. The breakdowns by grade were:

- 7<sup>th</sup> grade (15)
- 8<sup>th</sup> grade (12)
- Freshmen (11)
- Sophomores (13)
- Juniors (11)
- Seniors (15).



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### Appendix Table 1. What do you see as Verdigre's strengths?

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A strong and nice community and everybody knows about everybody.

A strong community and a friendly environment

A very welcoming community and helpful.

Character development, freedom

Close knit community, Has essentials, everyone is friends  
community

Community

Community knows each other, and can provide support due to that.

community support, isolation from cities

everybody knows each other

Everyone is friendly and gets along. No one has anything bad to say about another  
person.

Farming

Good community

good community, great helpful people, small



Hard-working community that has a lot of cool places.  
 Has cool places to visit  
 Having a small community could lead to many different strengths such as having a close community and many new friends  
 i have no idea  
 I like that it's away from bigger cities.Swi  
 I love that it is a small town where everybody knows everybody. It is a very friendly community, and everyone is willing to help out. We don't have to worry about "stranger danger".  
 I see that being a small community is a strength for Verdigre because our town isn't so crowded and infested with a lot of traffic. Another strength we have as a town is that (for the most part) we're a friendly community.  
 I think Verdigre's strengths are the people the people are so welcoming and always giving a helping hand to anybody that needs it.  
 I think the community gets along well and everyone knows everyone.  
 idk  
 It is a peaceful village with many friendly people and we don't have to go very far to get groceries.  
 It's community.  
 its a good community if the people like you  
 Its a good community  
 Just powerlifting  
 kolach capital  
 kolach capital of the world  
 kolach days  
 Kolach days and the pool  
 lovely view Nice spot to get to bigger towns Not a whole lot of people  
 Nice people  
 Not a big town good people sports  
 nothing  
 our town comes together if something goes wrong  
 people  
 powerlifting  
 small  
 small caring community  
 small community  
 small so the community knows everyone allows you to trust people excessive to walking instead of driving to work  
 Small Town allows you to know more people and be able to know other better.  
 Small Town ideals where everybody helps each other.  
 small town so everyone knows everyone  
 small, nice community  
 smaller class so teachers get to know students  
 sports  
 Strong community,always helpful, great roots to culture

Supportive community  
 Team work and unity  
 the celebration days are fun and the activities in the summer  
 the community  
 The community  
 The community is a strength  
 the community is lovely, everyone knows everyone, good enough businesses.  
 the one stops food  
 The people and the amount of opportunities in the community  
 The people are kind and care about each other. They're also friendly. It is a good town to find jobs and get work.  
 The people are nice  
 The people around us  
 The people, they get stuff done the town doesn't have trash everywhere  
 the powerlifting team  
 the roads  
 the school able to be moved around  
 The sense of community. As a town Verdigre works together to achieve greatness.  
 there education  
 Uh, nothing. We have nothing good, at least I have nothing good to say about Verdigre.  
 Verdigre has a good sense of community where everyone is good to each other.  
 Very Friendly community  
 Very small town  
 welcoming, nice, a fun town  
 you know everyone and mostly everyone is friendly

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***Appendix Table 2. What community amenities would you like to see added or improved in Verdigre?***

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 A bigger pool at the Wildwood Acres Park.  
 A bigger pool, creek access, and a bigger campground at Wildwood Acres  
 a cafe'  
 a clean swimming pool that doesn't get shut down for half of the year  
 a golf course  
 a real pickle ball court and a better pool  
 A track added at the football field, fix the sidewalks, and more job opportunities  
 A track and better equipment.  
 a track and better gymnasium  
 a track, and another softball field  
 better and/or more walking paths  
 better pool

better roads  
better roads, upgraded playgrounds, more better priced restaurants that are also more time efficient, A GYM TO WORKOUT.  
better swimming pool, a gym for the community  
better the parks  
bigger swimming pool, better roads and better sidewalks  
bike paths  
boutique shops so this would provide work and you can get your clothes here instead of driving to norfolk  
Business opportunities, Food options, Cultural representation, Lack of businesses  
cleaner pool  
create a recreational place  
everything, sure.  
Fix the park by the coffee shop, improve the building's appearance, have more stores for more options, and fix the roads  
Food options  
game board for the baseball field.  
Have a pool league for 18 u and have a slow pitch soft ball team again  
I feel sheltered, we need a track!!  
I think a little bit of every thing could be improved but the roads mainly need to be redone again so you have a smoother ride and gives us more tourists  
I think there should be some more stuff to do like a nicer basketball court and maybe like a movie theater.  
I think we should have a gym for the town instead of me having to come to the school to be in the weight room pumping iron.  
I would like to see more events/activities for the youth.  
idk  
if we set up some places along the creek for leisure that could be cool.  
improved sidewalks, I believe they're too cracked  
improved the pool to have a water park  
It would be nice if we got new basketball hoops since their nets are usually broken.  
less businesses that are run by people that are greedy (Tom's) and more that actually care about their community (The Ranch House)  
More available jobs so people don't have to look out of town for work.  
More places and business for people to have more options.  
More places to eat/stores.  
More restaurants, gas stations, rec center, grocery stores.  
more restraunts  
more sports stuff to train and more decupling for players  
more things to do  
Movie theater, walking paths  
new pool and a golf course  
none  
not as dangerous  
parks

Parks, walking paths, and roads  
 Pool  
 recreational center  
 side walks, sports field  
 sports and pool  
 sports field  
 sports fields like a basketball gym or something like that or a gym to exercise  
 sports fields, walking paths, parks  
 swimming pool  
 swimming pool closer, walking path, better improved parks  
 Swimming pool, and I would also like to see a central gathering area for younger teens. A  
     roller skate place would be cool but it's kinda unrealistic.  
 the hall  
 The pool for sure  
 The pool needs improvement and we need a golf course  
 The pool needs to be improved. The sand volleyball courts by the camp grounds could use  
     some help  
 The roads could definitely be improved, maybe add a few more things to the park and more  
     kids might go there. The sports fields could be a little cleaner or well kept up.  
 The roads please and thank you.  
 the school budget  
 The swimming pool could be better. and the sports fields in better condition. Also, businesses  
     could be open on Sundays.  
 The walking paths  
 TIMBER LAKE  
 Timber Lake Rec. Area  
 we need a track track  
 Work towards better roads, or even better school lunches.

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***Appendix Table 3. What types of community events would you like to see in Verdigre?***

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 A running one, like a 3-mile run, have a big picnic in Klupnik Park  
 a 10k run  
 A good Fair  
 a lot more bull-a-ramas  
 a nice concert  
 A race track and a Bluey play.  
 Any get together and events like that.  
 bands  
 baseball games for fun or kickball

carnival  
concert  
concerts and other events  
dances  
dont know  
drive all trash out to a field and burn it  
drive in movie night during summer  
fair  
fairs  
football  
football camps  
fun ones  
game tournament  
Go cart track and concerts  
I don't know  
I dont know  
I feel like Verdigre has many community events and I enjoy all of them.  
I think we should have another festival like Kolach Days towards the fall time.  
I would like to see more shows, rodeos, festivals, and church services.  
I'd like to see firework shows instead of having to go anywhere outside Verdigre.  
idk  
just the same  
keep it the same  
live music  
Maybe a sand volleyball tournament.  
Maybe a yearly donation event to fund repairs for anything that would need them.  
More banquets of any type  
more community cleanups  
More concerts and dances  
more concerts and street dances  
more fun places for people to hang out  
More fun thing that bring crowds of people to verdige  
more group events and potlucks and things  
More like run clubs, book clubs, sprts/active clubs, and like a daily/weekly walk with advice.  
More outdoor concerts, or parades.  
more softball/baseball games during the summer

more sporting events held here  
more sports games, longer kolache days  
More street dances  
More tourist attractions, more activities involving the whole town  
more walk and run things volleyball tournaments at wildwood  
None  
None. I hate Verdigre, real.  
not sure  
Not sure.  
Nothing new, the events we have already are good enough.  
racing  
sand volleyball tournaments  
Sand volleyball tournaments  
sand volleyball tournaments, more things to do  
senior assassin at vps for seniors and more stuff during kolachi days for JR high and high school kids.  
small fair  
songs being played  
the store  
Trash pickup for the ditches to make the environment around Verdigre more friendly for the wildlife  
turtle races  
Umm I'm not for sure.  
Unsure  
Well I would love a roller rink

**This Youth Survey Report is a product of**

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