Town of Verona Island

Comprehensive Plan Public Opinion Survey

2026

Thank you for taking the time to share your views. Your responses will help guide the Verona Island Comprehensive Plan. This survey is anonymous. Only Hancock County Planning Commission (HCPC) staff will see raw data. All data used in the updated plan will be de-identified. Please only complete one survey per person.

PLEASE RETURN FILLED OUT SURVEY TO THE TOWN OFFICE.

SECTION 1: Vision for Verona Island

---

1. **What two or three things do you value most about Verona Island?**

- _____
- _____
- _____

2. **What two or three issues concern you most about Verona Island during the next 20 years?**

- _____
- _____
- _____

3. **Do you feel the following statement from the 2006 Verona Island Comprehensive Plan is still an accurate representation of the community's vision? Why or why not?**
   "Verona Island shall encourage both orderly residential and business growth and development while protecting the town's rural character, preventing sprawl, protecting the quantity and quality of the town's water resources and encouraging the preservation of large tracts of land for other locally appropriate and sustainable uses."

_____

_____

_____

_____

4. **Maintaining the rural way of life in Verona Island is: (Select one)**
   - ☐ Extremely Important
   - ☐ Somewhat Important
   - ☐ Unimportant
   - ☐ Unsure

5. **During the last 3 years, I think Verona Island's population has:**
   - ☐ Increased a lot
   - ☐ Increased somewhat
   - ☐ Stayed about the same
   - ☐ Decreased
   - ☐ Unsure

6. **Which of the following do you expect to do over the next 5 years? (Check all that apply)**
   - ☐ Move to Verona Island year-round
   - ☐ Make Verona Island my primary residence (6+ months)
   - ☐ Buy or build a home on Verona Island
   - ☐ Move away from Verona Island
   - ☐ Sell a home on Verona Island
   - ☐ Sell vacant land on Verona Island
   - ☐ Subdivide my land for sale
   - ☐ Provide land for a family member to build a home
   - ☐ Start a business at my residence
   - ☐ Start a business outside my residence
   - ☐ List a property as a short-term rental (e.g., Airbnb/VRBO)
   - ☐ List a room or portion of a property as a short-term rental
   - ☐ Make changes to my home to save energy or switch to renewable energy sources
   - ☐ Retire or reduce to part-time work

SECTION 2: Community Services and Facilities

7. **Do you feel your local government is:**

☐ Already providing all necessary services
☐ Providing more services than necessary
☐ Providing unnecessary services and not sufficiently providing necessary services
☐ Not providing all necessary services

8. **Please rate the quality of the services and facilities provided directly by the Town of Verona Island. (Please check one box per row)**

	Excellent	Good	Adequate	Needs Improvement	Unsure
Cemeteries	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Code enforcement	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Public access to ponds	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Public access to saltwater	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Solid waste disposal	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Road maintenance	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Sidewalks	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Snow removal and sanding	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Town Office services	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Other (please specify): _____ _____	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

9. **Please rate the quality of the services shared between Verona Island and neighboring communities. (Please check one box per row)**

	Excellent	Good	Adequate	Needs Improvement	Unsure
Fire protection	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Police protection	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Animal control services	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Emergency medical services	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
General medical services	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Parks and recreational facilities	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Recreational programs	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Library	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

	Excellent	Good	Adequate	Needs Improvement	Unsure
Senior citizen services	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Childcare	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Youth services	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Youth education (Pre-K to 12)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Adult education	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Cell phone service	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Internet availability	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Other, please specify: _____ _____	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

10. Do you feel you get good value for your tax dollars? Please explain.

_____

_____

_____

_____

11. What do you think of the current property tax structure?

☐ The taxes are too low.

☐ The taxes are fair.

☐ The taxes are too high.

☐ I'm not sure.

12. What does the Town government do well in regards to providing services to and communicating with residents? What can the Town government do to improve service to and communication with residents?

_____

_____

_____

_____

SECTION 3: Investment Priorities

13. I would like the Town to invest more in the following:

	YES — EVEN IF IT MEANS RAISING PROPERTY TAXES	YES — ONLY IF GRANTS/SUBSIDIES/DONATIONS REDUCE COST	NO
Update Town Hall to be ADA compliant			
Add door to Salt Shed			
Fix Town Hall Parking Lot			
Youth education & services			
Senior citizen services			
Town road improvements			
Pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure			
Public transportation (rideshare, etc.)			
Town Landing (State-owned)			
Solid waste, bulky waste, & recycling			
Exploring alternative energy development			
Controlling invasive plants and animals			
Housing			

Local jobs and business opportunities			
Municipal recreation opportunities			
Law enforcement			
Animal control			
Executive management of the town government			

14. Please check your top three investment priorities for the Town:

_____ Education
_____ Housing
_____ Employment opportunities
_____ Waterfront infrastructure
_____ Road maintenance
_____ Emergency services (fire and emergency medical services)
_____ Preserve open spaces and current density of development
_____ Environmental protection
_____ Other, Please Specify: _____

SECTION 4: Land Use

---

15. Please check where you feel it is most appropriate for the following land uses to occur in the future:

	ANYWHERE	IN DESIGNATED AREAS	NOWHERE	UNDECIDED
Forestry				
Agriculture				
Aquaculture				
Commercial operations				
Gravel pits and quarries				

	ANYWHERE	IN DESIGNATED AREAS	NOWHERE	UNDECIDED
Commercial solar				
Commercial wind farms				
Retail stores				
Restaurants				
Short-term rental properties (Airbnb, VRBO, etc.)				
Campgrounds				
Single-family housing				
Affordable housing				
Multi-unit housing				
Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs)				
Mobile homes				
Mobile home parks				

16. How involved should the Town be in planning for and protecting the following?

Examples of Town involvement include adopting land use ordinances, supporting conservation partnerships, managing public access, and planning for intertidal harvesting.

	MORE INVOLVED	ABOUT THE SAME	LESS INVOLVED	UNSURE
Agricultural land				
Aquifers and drinking water				
Coastal land				
Forested land				
Historical and archaeological resources				

	MORE INVOLVED	ABOUT THE SAME	LESS INVOLVED	UNSURE
Recreational open space (inland)				
Recreational waterfront access				
Intertidal areas and clam access				
Scenic views				
Streams and rivers				
Wetlands				
Wildlife habitats				

17. What tools should Verona Island use to guide land use and development in the future?

- ☐ Voluntary and educational programs
- ☐ Conservation programs
- ☐ Economic incentives
- ☐ Regular updates to the Comprehensive Plan
- ☐ Town ordinances
- ☐ The Town should take no action
- ☐ Other, Please Specify: _____

SECTION 5: Housing

---

18. What do you think the biggest barriers to maintaining or developing housing on Verona Island are?

_____

_____

_____

_____

19. To what extent do you think Verona Island should regulate short-term rentals (e.g., Airbnb, VRBO)?

☐ No regulation
☐ Light regulation
☐ Moderate regulation
☐ Strict regulation
☐ Unsure

20. If you support some level of regulation for short-term rentals, what types should the Town consider? (Check all that apply)

☐ Minimum stay requirements
☐ Cap on the total number of short-term rentals in Town
☐ Requirement for the owner to live on the property or an adjacent property
☐ Fee and registration requirements
☐ Requirement that renters receive information about community resources, emergency services, and community protocols
☐ None
☐ Other, Please Specify: _____

SECTION 6: Environmental & Climate

---

21. What is the top environmental risk to your community that concerns you the most? (Select one)

☐ Extreme heat
☐ Flooding
☐ Drought
☐ Sea level rise
☐ Water shortages
☐ Wildfires
☐ Extreme weather events
☐ Less snow
☐ Warmer oceans
☐ Other, Please Specify: _____
☐ Not concerned

22. What is the top aspect of your community that you are most concerned will be harmed by changing environmental conditions? (Select one)

- ☐ People's health
- ☐ Wetlands, coastlines & intertidal zones
- ☐ Wildlife
- ☐ Maine economy
- ☐ Agriculture
- ☐ Fishing & aquaculture
- ☐ Forests
- ☐ Drinking water
- ☐ Roads & bridges
- ☐ Public buildings
- ☐ Outdoor recreation
- ☐ Privately owned land & buildings
- ☐ Public land & parks
- ☐ Other, Please Specify: _____

SECTION 7: Internet Access & Technology

---

23. What barriers, if any, prevent your household from using the internet? (Check all that apply)

- ☐ No barriers - our household uses the internet
- ☐ We do not know how to use computers, tablets, or other internet devices
- ☐ Our household does not have a computer, tablet, or internet device
- ☐ We are not interested in using the internet
- ☐ No internet service is available at our location
- ☐ The cost of internet service is too high

24. What types of educational opportunities (i.e. community classes, one-on-one tech help, digital lunch and learns) in the area to improve your computer and internet skills would be of interest (Check all that apply)

- ☐ Connecting with family and friends
- ☐ Access to healthcare or government services
- ☐ Business and marketing
- ☐ Working from home or remote employment
- ☐ Professional development

☐ Education and learning
☐ Community and civic engagement
☐ I'm not interested in education opportunities to improve my computer or internet skills

SECTION 8: Recreation

---

25. What recreational activities do members of your household engage in on-island, off-island, or not at all?

Activity	On-Island	Off-Island	Not at all
Running			
Swimming			
Kayaking/canoeing			
Boating			
Tennis/pickleball			
Bicycling			
Walking			
Picnicking/cooking outdoors			
Hunting			
Fishing			
ATVing			
Snowmobiling			
Soccer			
Baseball			
Golf			
Cross-country skiing			

26. Are there other recreational activities that members of your household engage in? Please specify whether they participate in them on-island or off-island.

_____

_____

_____

SECTION 9: Hunting

27. How would you describe your perception of hunting practices on Verona Island? (Select one)

- ☐ Most hunters follow the law and show respect for the community
- ☐ Some hunters do not follow the law or show adequate respect for the community
- ☐ Hunting practices are a significant concern for the community
- ☐ I don't have enough information to say

28. Should regulations regarding hunting on Verona Island stay the same, be less restrictive, or be more restrictive?

- ☐ Hunting regulations should stay the same
- ☐ Hunting regulations should be less restrictive
- ☐ Hunting regulations should be more restrictive

SECTION 10: Public Safety

29. Do you feel there is a need for increased law enforcement on Verona Island?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Unsure

30. What areas of public safety concern you most? (Check all that apply)

- ☐ None
- ☐ Speeding
- ☐ Drunk or underage drivers

- ☐ Drug activity
- ☐ Access to emergency medical services
- ☐ Hunting safety near roads and homes
- ☐ Other, Please Specify: _____

31. How would you describe the Town's approach to public safety and risk?

- ☐ The current approach to risk and safety is appropriate
- ☐ The Town should take a more active role in managing safety risks
- ☐ The Town is overly restrictive
- ☐ Unsure

SECTION 11: Demographics

---

32. What type of Verona Island resident are you?

- ☐ Year-round (6-12 months)
- ☐ Seasonal (less than 6 months)
- ☐ Not a resident

33. If you are a seasonal resident, how many months out of the year do you spend on Verona Island?

_____

34. How many years have you been visiting or living on Verona Island?

_____ Years visiting seasonally

_____Years living year-round

35. How would you best describe your current living situation on Verona Island?

- ☐ I own the home where I live
- ☐ I rent the home where I live
- ☐ I live with others (friends, family, etc)
- ☐ Other

36. What is your age?

- ☐ Under 18
- ☐ 19-29

☐ 30-44
☐ 45-64
☐ 65-74
☐ 75+

37. What is your annual household income?

☐ Less than $10,000
☐ $10,000 to $14,999
☐ $15,000 to $24,999
☐ $25,000 to $34,999
☐ $35,000 to $49,999
☐ $50,000 to $74,999
☐ $75,000 to $99,999
☐ $100,000 to $149,999
☐ $150,000 to $199,999
☐ $200,000 or more

38. Do you pay Verona Island property taxes?

☐ Yes
☐ No

39. How much land do you own on Verona Island?

☐ 0 acres
☐ Less than 1 acre
☐ 1-5 acres
☐ 5-25 acres
☐ More than 25 acres

40. How many parcels of land do you own on Verona Island?

_____

41. What is your household size? (Number of people living in your home)

_____

42. What is your employment status?

- ☐ Employed full-time
- ☐ Employed part-time
- ☐ Self-employed
- ☐ Semi-retired
- ☐ Retired
- ☐ Unemployed
- ☐ Student
- ☐ Other, Please Specify: _____

43. What is your primary occupation?

_____

44. How do you commute to work?

- ☐ Work from home for an in-state business or organization
- ☐ Work from home for an out-of-state business or organization
- ☐ Walk or bike
- ☐ Drive
- ☐ Public transportation

45. How long is your commute?

_____ (minutes)

46. What is your educational attainment?

- ☐ Less than 9th grade
- ☐ 9th grade to 12th grade, no diploma
- ☐ High school or equivalent
- ☐ Some college, no degree
- ☐ Associate degree
- ☐ Bachelor's degree
- ☐ Graduate or professional degree

47. In what area of Verona Island do you live?

- ☐ East Side and Side Roads off East Side
- ☐ West Side and Side Roads off West Side
- ☐ US Highway 1 and Side Roads off US Highway 1

SECTION 12: Additional Comments

48. What else would you like to share with the comprehensive planning committee or the selectboard?

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____