

# Keeping the Environment Healthy

**Outline of Need:** The Village of Verdigre’s mechanical treatment plant was no longer adequate to treat the community’s wastewater and was at the end of its useful life. The Village was operating under a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit which needed reissuance, since the plant was not able to comply with the new effluent limits, particularly ammonia. Additionally the wastewater was not disinfected and was being discharged into Verdigre Creek. Significant maintenance costs were required to maintain the current operations.

**How Rural Development Helped:** USDA Rural Development provided the Village with loans totaling \$1,564,000 and a grant of \$762,000. Leveraged with the USDA funding was a \$250,000 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), a \$200,000 State Revolving Fund (SRF) loan and a \$200,000 SRF grant.

**The Results:** A complete retention lagoon system was constructed that serves the 519 Village residents. The system is a three cell lagoon consisting of up to 40 acres of land. A main pipe with approximately 9,200 feet of force was installed and a wastewater pump station constructed that delivers the wastewater to the lagoons. The Village’s wastewater system is now back into compliance with the NPDES. The natural resources of the Verdigre Creek are protected.

“The Village of Verdigre thanks USDA Rural Development for the assistance with our wastewater project. This was a big step for our small community and the financial assistance from USDA Rural Development made it less difficult,” said Verdigre Village Clerk Alisha Bartling.

