

Terravessa Development Project

Terrace Infiltration Areas (TIAs)

Terravessa is a 248-acre mixed-use new development project located in the City of Fitchburg, Dane County, WI. Terravessa focuses on progressive and environmentally sustainable communities with almost half of the development dedicated to open space and environmental corridor.

The restoration of nearly 60 acres of natural area is being implemented through wetland restoration, native prairie establishment, and the incorporation of native plant community establishment within all stormwater management facilities including bio-infiltration swales/basins, sediment basins, and rain gardens.

Terrace Infiltration Areas (TIAs) at Terravessa, as seen in these photos, are one component of the sustainable stormwater management plan within Terravessa. TIAs are made up of fine, sandy soils to allow for infiltration of stormwater while limiting runoff. Collection of stormwater within TIAs prevents excessive runoff of stormwater through traditional storm sewers, which helps to prevent flooding and erosion in storm sewer discharge areas while supporting pollinator friendly habitats.

TIAs at Terravessa have been planted with native vegetation that provides habitat for pollinators and promotes native floral diversity with varying bloom colors throughout the growing season. The root structures of the native vegetation help to improve and maintain runoff infiltration capabilities of the soils. Vegetation has been selected to be aesthetically pleasing, as well as to maintain heights of less than three feet tall to allow for ample site lines on roadways for safety purposes. The TIAs are actively managed throughout the growing season for removal of invasive and undesirable species.

