

# Chosen Valley Testing Inc.

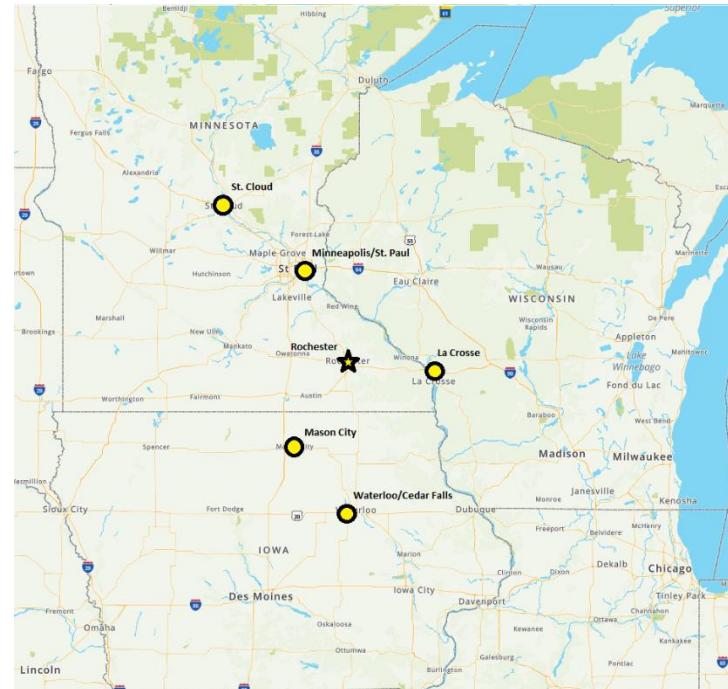
[www.ChosenValleyTesting.com](http://www.ChosenValleyTesting.com)

Chosen Valley Testing, Inc. is pleased to submit this information for your consideration of geotechnical and construction materials testing services. Our personnel have provided these services on a wide variety of projects and are very familiar with local conditions in the markets we serve.

## Firm Overview

Chosen Valley Testing was founded in 1995 by Colby Verdegan, PE, who had 15 years of prior experience at other testing companies before starting the firm. His earliest work included construction inspection of high-capacity caissons, high strength and post-tensioned concrete, structural steel inspection, and fireproofing on the City Center Project and Pillsbury Towers project in Minneapolis, Minnesota. His subsequent work experience was varied but included primary geotechnical design for the final north-to-south link up of I-35E at its juncture with I-94 in St. Paul, as well as being the primary geotechnical and materials engineer for structures such as Rochester Public Library and associated Center Street parking ramp.

After starting 15 years ago in the “Chosen Valley” of Chatfield, MN, the company moved to Rochester in 1999 to be more accessible to its growing client base, and to be more attractive to potential qualified employees. In 2000, the firm added another office in La Crosse by purchasing the assets of another testing firm. In 2006, the firm added another office in St. Cloud, Minnesota. Chosen Valley Testing added offices in Mason City, Iowa in 2008; Waterloo, IA in 2009 and St. Paul in 2010. These locations allow us to serve southern and central Minnesota, western Wisconsin, and northern Iowa.



## Corporate Philosophy

### From the Founder:

“My philosophy is based on a core set of values that developed when I first got into the business in 1980 at Soil Testing Services. As a civil-engineering intern, I was hired at the beginning of a pretty severe economic recession that lasted throughout the 3 years I was on the project. Money was very tight and you had to prove the value of every dollar that was spent on testing. At the same time, I couldn’t ignore the fact that there was little room for error on my projects – which included buildings that were up to 52 stories tall. The work had to be done right and the answers couldn’t wait very long when a new floor was being added every 4 days. It helped that I had good support at the office, but also had the opportunity to ask a lot of questions of both the structural engineer from Denver and of a knowledgeable and world traveled construction superintendent from Canada. I owe a lot to the patience of these two individuals, and many others I have worked with over the years.

“In response to this historical perspective, I created a firm that tries to be practical and knowledgeable about the testing business, the construction processes in which we are involved, and the long-term performance implications of our tests and observations. This starts by having me being readily accessible in person or by cell phone to both my employees and our clients in solving problems...and continues with having experienced personnel at all locations. We strive to be approachable – so that potential problems are identified early. We take pride in being responsive – to be there when we are needed, to do things that really are needed and to keep the project flowing. And finally, based very much on my earliest experiences, we keep in mind the economies of our clients. That means having other, less time critical tasks for our staff to do away from their primary project, instead of just “parking” technicians on the job to make money.”

### Services Provided

Chosen Valley Testing, Inc. (CVT) provides geotechnical engineering and drilling services along with construction materials testing and special inspection services. We take pride in our ability to make comprehensive evaluations of the geotechnical and materials issues facing our clients and in making those results and conclusions understandable. To us, soil and rock is more than just an SPT “N”-value or nuclear density reading that may be plugged into a “chart” to give our clients a bearing capacity value to size their footings. These values are indicators of soil behavior but depend highly on a thorough understanding of the materials and geology present at each site. What does this mean to our clients? By integrating this understanding with the numerical data collected, we are able to provide our client’s solutions based on the practical limits of the materials at the site – rather than being limited by a chart based on generic soil or assumptions unrepresentative of the specific site. This often translates into savings for our clients.

### **GEOTECHNICAL ENGINEERING SERVICES**

Successful construction projects start with stable foundations. CVT assists the design team in evaluating cost effective and appropriate foundation designs. A large part of this is identifying possible problem conditions before construction and developing practical solutions that can be implemented with available equipment and materials. Another part is recognizing the difference between soils that are “okay” but have to be handled specially, versus those that actually are compressible, expansive or otherwise deleterious. That difference can mean thousands in construction costs, or even be the difference in deciding whether or not to proceed with a project.

CVT geotechnical reports typically provide the following geotechnical engineering services:

- Boring profile documentation
- Groundwater level information
- Anticipated settlement evaluation
- Soil and/or bedrock load bearing capacity assessment
- Site preparation recommendations
- Shallow and deep foundation recommendations (piling)
- Pavement design recommendations
- Slope stability analysis
- And other project specific recommendations

To expedite soil engineering, CVT has multiple drill rigs including truck mounted, floatation tire mounted and track mounted. Mr. Verdegan is also a licensed monitoring well contractor in Minnesota. CVT provides the following drilling services

- SPT borings
- NX coring
- Direct Push
- Monitoring Wells

## QUALITY CONTROL/CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS TESTING SERVICES

The CVT construction materials testing department is supervised by a Licensed Professional Engineer. This provides our clients with a reliable expert to find solutions to construction problems as they arise. The following is a partial listing of the materials testing services **CVT** provides:

### Soil Testing Services

- Excavation observation
- Surcharge monitoring
- Deep Foundation Observations
- Nuclear and sand cone density testing
- Static and dynamic cone penetrometer testing
- Maximum density and optimum moisture content determination (Proctor)
- Permeability Testing
- Consolidation Testing
- Electrical Resistivity Testing
- Organic Impurities Testing
- Sieve Analysis
- Hydrometer
- Atterberg Limits
- Unit Weight Determination
- Unconfined compressive strength
- California Bearing Ratio testing
- Moisture content testing
- Double Ring Infiltrometer

### Concrete Testing

- Rebar inspections
- Epoxied Anchor/Dowel inspection
- Concrete placement documentation
- Batch Plant inspections
- Slump measurement
- Air content measurement (Volumetric and Pressure Methods)
- Temperature measurement
- Unit weight determination
- Concrete test specimen casting
- Concrete compressive strength testing
- Flexural Strength of Concrete Beams
- Maturity testing
- Concrete coring services
- Floor flatness testing
- Relative Humidity testing of slabs
- Calcium Chloride testing of slabs
- Rebound Hammer
- Windsor Probe

## Masonry Testing

- Masonry Observations and Grout
- Concrete Masonry Unit Prism Testing
- Grout Prism Testing
- Mortar Testing
- Rebar inspections

## Bituminous Testing

- Asphalt Gyratory Compaction
- Bituminous QA and QC Field Testing
- Bituminous QA and QC Laboratory Testing
- Fine Aggregate Angularity
- Mix Designs
- Air Voids
- Extraction Gradations
- Coring
- Thickness and Density
- Roll Patterns
- Gyratory Compaction
- Rice Test

## Aggregate Testing

- Sieve analysis
- Flatness and Elongation Testing
- Frac Sand Crush Resistance Testing
- Lightweight Pieces Determination
- Los Angeles Rattler
- Soundness Testing
- Clay Lumps and Friable Particle Determination
- Specific Gravity and Absorption Measurement

## Special Inspections

- Weld and Bolt Inspection
- Precast Inspections
- Wood Framing Inspection
- Fire-Proofing Inspection
- Fire-Stopping Inspection
- Post-Tensioning Inspection

## Environmental Services

- Environmental Due Diligence - Phase I and Phase II Environmental Site Assessments
- Hazardous Building Materials Evaluations - Asbestos Inspections and Abatement Planning
- Brownfield Redevelopment Services
- Underground Storage Tank (UST) Site Assessments
- Response Action Plans
- Corrective Action Design

- Construction Contingency Plans/Soil Management Plans
- General Liability Clarifications and Post Closure Modifications
- Vapor Intrusion Assessments and Mitigation Planning
- Landfill Soil Disposal Profile Acceptance Permit Applications
- Limited Site Investigation (LSI)
- Remedial Investigation (RI)
- NR700 Site Investigation (SI)
- Soil and Ground Water Remediation
- Monitoring Well Installation, Development, and Sampling

Remarks

Thanks for your time. We appreciate any opportunity to propose our services for any geotechnical or construction materials testing services you may have. Please feel free to call us at any of our local offices or at our Corporate Office in Rochester at (507) 281-0968, if you have any questions or desire further information.

Sincerely,  
**Chosen Valley Testing, Inc.**

Colby T. Verdegan, PE  
President/Project Engineer