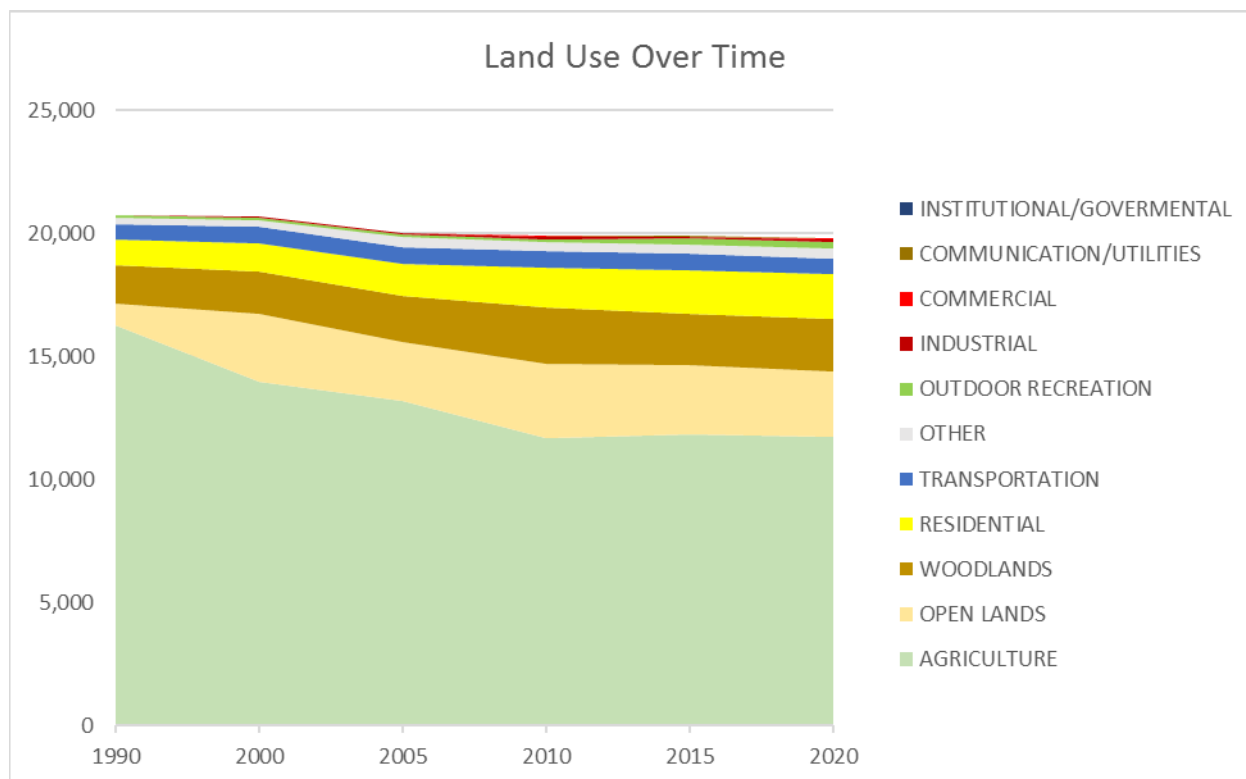


## Chapter 5: AGRICULTURAL, NATURAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES

### A. Agricultural Resource Inventory

Chart 5-1

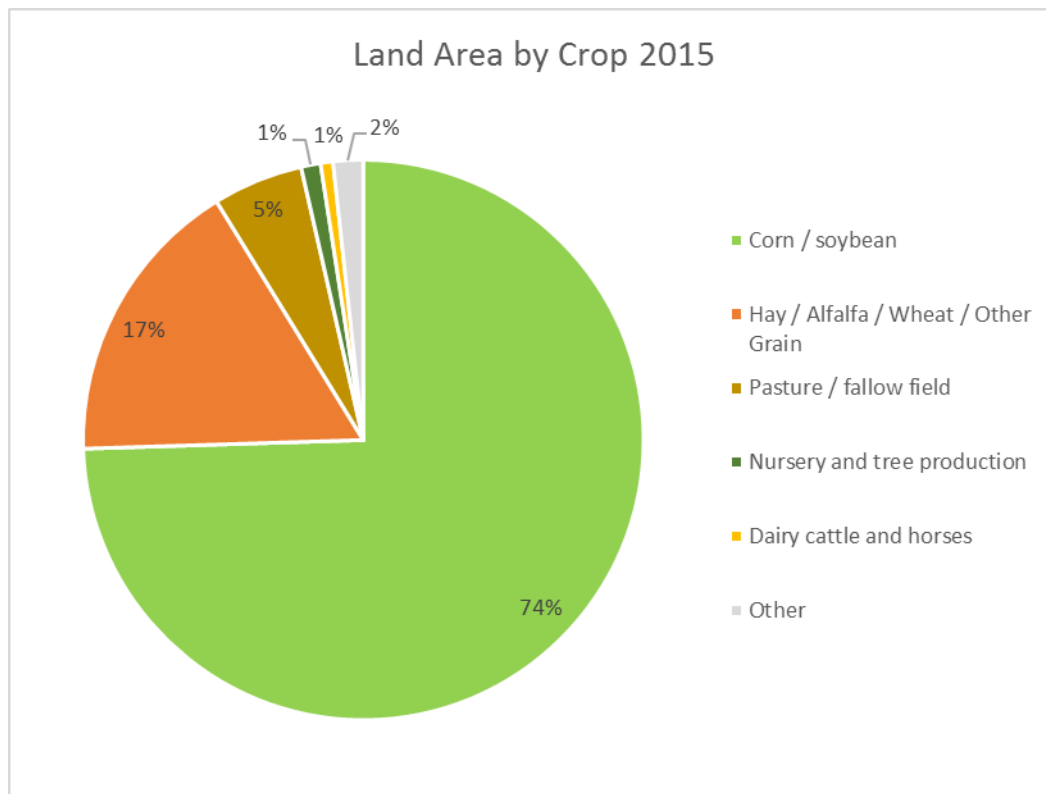


#### Historical Trends:

In the Town of Oregon, land in agricultural use remained relatively constant between 2010 and 2020. (*Dane County Land Use Inventory*). Open lands declined by 365 acres and woodlands declined by 180 acres. Meanwhile, over the same period, lands in residential use increased by 186 acres, outdoor recreation increased by 134 acres, and acres in transportation, industrial and commercial land uses saw small gains. This relatively stable pattern follows previous decades that saw significant declines in agriculture and increases in residential land uses.

Farming Today:

Chart 5-2



Sixty percent of the Town’s land was in agricultural use in 2015 (the last year detailed agricultural land use data is available). Nearly three-quarters (74%) of the farmland in the Town was dedicated to traditional corn/soybean rotational crops, with another 22% in other grain, pasture or fallow land. Small, but growing, acreages of tree farming, floriculture, community supported agriculture, horse farms and fruit and vegetable farming also occur throughout the town.

Table 5-1

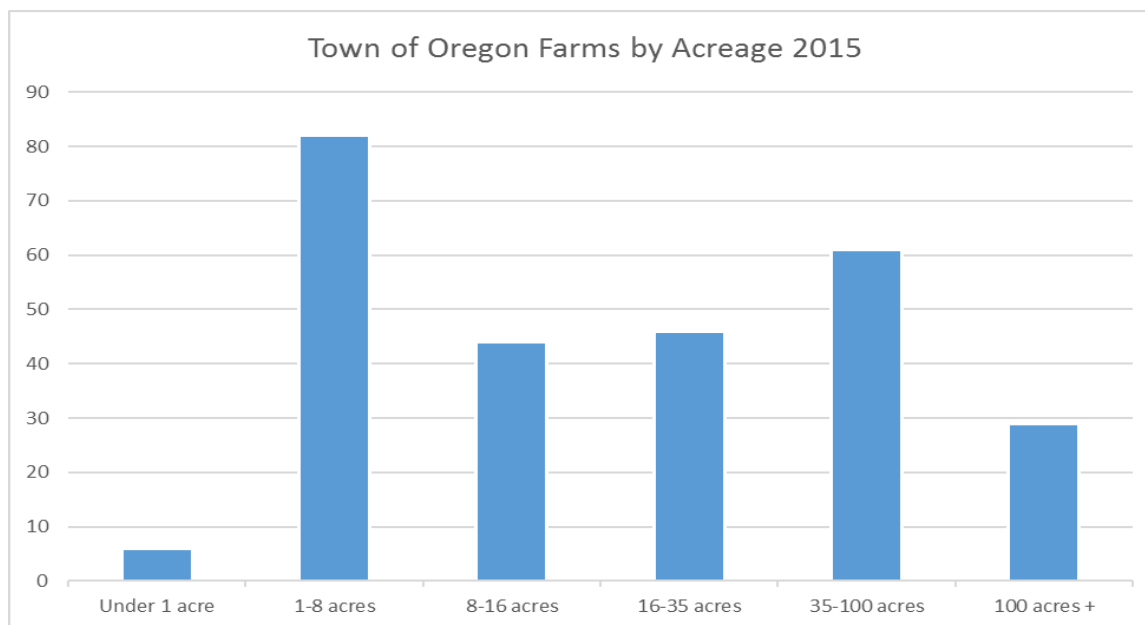
| Town of Oregon   |            |            |                  |
|--|------------|------------|------------------|
| Land in Agricultural Use 2010-2015                                     |            |            |                  |
| DESCRIPTION  | 2010 ACRES | 2015 ACRES | Change 2010-2015 |
| Corn farming   | 6,081.9    | 5,249.6    | -832.4           |
| Soybean farming  | 3,140.3    | 3,461.5    | 321.2            |
| Hay/Alfalfa farming  | 1,247.1    | 1,373.1    | 126.1            |
| Pasture (fenced areas for grazing, often near existing farm buildings) | 294.5      | 441.3      | 146.8            |
| Wheat farming  | 308.8      | 426.6      | 117.8            |
| Fallow Farm Field  | 70.3       | 167.6      | 97.3             |

|   |                 |                 |              |
|---|-----------------|-----------------|--------------|
| Other grain farming (barley, rye, milo, oat, wild rice etc...)  | 47.1            | 155.0           | 107.9        |
| Nursery and tree production   | 47.6            | 131.8           | 84.2         |
| Polyculture/CSA (community supported agriculture)   |                 | 67.2            | 67.2         |
| Farm-related buildings  | 65.3            | 50.0            | -15.2        |
| Dairy cattle and milk production  | 26.0            | 49.5            | 23.5         |
| Strawberry farming  |                 | 44.6            | 44.6         |
| Horses and other equine production  |                 | 33.8            | 33.8         |
| Other vegetable (except Potato) and melon farming   |                 | 18.7            | 18.7         |
| Greenhouse, nursery and floriculture production (nursery stock, shrubbery, cut flowers, and other products produced primarily for non-food uses, such as landscaping) |                 | 18.5            | 18.5         |
| Vegetable and melon farming   |                 | 15.4            | 15.4         |
| Beef cattle ranching and farming, including feedlots  |                 | 10.1            | 10.1         |
| Berry (except strawberry) farming   |                 | 9.0             | 9.0          |
| Other field farming NEC   | 4.8             | 7.9             | 3.1          |
| Vegetable garden (plots less than [one / one-half acre])  |                 | 3.6             | 3.6          |
| Sheep farming   |                 | 1.0             | 1.0          |
| Dry pea and bean farming  | 8.6             | 0.6             | -8.0         |
| Hoop house, greenhouses or other building used primarily for growing vegetables   | 1.0             | 0.6             | -0.5         |
| Fruit and tree nut farming  | 22.4            |                 | -22.4        |
| Large scale grain elevators, Co-op, Cooperative   | 13.7            |                 | -13.7        |
| All other animal production   | 1.8             |                 | -1.8         |
|   |                 |                 |              |
| <b>Total land in agricultural use</b>   | <b>11,381.1</b> | <b>11,736.8</b> | <b>355.7</b> |

#### Farm Size, Scale, and Type:

The Dane County Zoning Ordinance (Chapter 10, Dane County Code) defines a “farm” as “All land under common ownership that is primarily devoted to agricultural use.” In 2015, there were 268 landowners who had a majority of their property in agricultural use and would be considered a “farm” under this definition. Town of Oregon farms ranged from one-third of an acre to 624 acres in size, with an average area of 43.9 acres. The average farm in the town raised 3.3 different crops, but a few raised as many as 16 different crops.

Chart 5-3



| Town of Oregon  |            |            |                  |
|---|------------|------------|------------------|
| Land in Agricultural Use 2010-2015  |            |            |                  |
| DESCRIPTION   | 2010 ACRES | 2015 ACRES | Change 2010-2015 |
| Corn farming  | 6,081.9    | 5,249.6    | -832.4           |
| Soybean farming   | 3,140.3    | 3,461.5    | 321.2            |
| Hay/Alfalfa farming   | 1,247.1    | 1,373.1    | 126.1            |
| Pasture (fenced areas for grazing, often near existing farm buildings)  | 294.5      | 441.3      | 146.8            |
| Wheat farming   | 308.8      | 426.6      | 117.8            |
| Fallow Farm Field   | 70.3       | 167.6      | 97.3             |
| Other grain farming (barley, rye, milo, oat, wild rice etc...)  | 47.1       | 155.0      | 107.9            |
| Nursery and tree production   | 47.6       | 131.8      | 84.2             |
| Polyculture/CSA (community supported agriculture)   |            | 67.2       | 67.2             |
| Farm-related buildings  | 65.3       | 50.0       | -15.2            |
| Dairy cattle and milk production  | 26.0       | 49.5       | 23.5             |
| Strawberry farming  |            | 44.6       | 44.6             |
| Horses and other equine production  |            | 33.8       | 33.8             |
| Other vegetable (except Potato) and melon farming   |            | 18.7       | 18.7             |
| Greenhouse, nursery and floriculture production (nursery stock, shrubbery, cut flowers, and other products produced primarily for non-food uses, such as landscaping) |            | 18.5       | 18.5             |
| Vegetable and melon farming   |            | 15.4       | 15.4             |
| Beef cattle rancing and farming, including feedlots   |            | 10.1       | 10.1             |

|   |                 |                 |              |
|---|-----------------|-----------------|--------------|
| Berry (except strawberry) farming   |                 | 9.0             | 9.0          |
| Other field farming NEC   | 4.8             | 7.9             | 3.1          |
| Vegetable garden (plots less than [one / one-half acre])                        |                 | 3.6             | 3.6          |
| Sheep farming   |                 | 1.0             | 1.0          |
| Dry pea and bean farming  | 8.6             | 0.6             | -8.0         |
| Hoop house, greenhouses or other building used primarily for growing vegetables | 1.0             | 0.6             | -0.5         |
| Fruit and tree nut farming  | 22.4            |                 | -22.4        |
| Large scale grain elevators, Co-op, Cooperative                                 | 13.7            |                 | -13.7        |
| All other animal production   | 1.8             |                 | -1.8         |
|   |                 |                 |              |
| <b>Total land in agricultural use</b>   | <b>11,381.1</b> | <b>11,736.8</b> | <b>355.7</b> |

#### Future Prospects:

Because of the Town's strong density policy, agricultural practices will likely continue over the next twenty years. National and regional market factors may affect the type of farming in the Town.

## B. Natural Resources Inventory

#### Environmentally Sensitive Areas:

The Town of Oregon lies in the Southeast Glacial Plains ecological landscape, near the glacial terminal moraine, which lies just to the west. The Wisconsin Land Legacy Report (WIDNR, 2006) describes the Southeast Glacial Plains as *"one of the world's best examples of continental glacial activity. Drumlins, eskers, kettle lakes, kames, ground and end moraines, and other glacial features are prevalent throughout the entire area."*

Conservation priorities for the area include preserving and enhancing critical habitat for ducks, geese and marsh-dwelling birds provided by the many wetlands and shallow lakes.

The Town of Oregon straddles the boundary between two major watersheds:

1. The southwestern portion of the town lies in the Allen Creek and Middle Sugar River Watershed, a coldwater system. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WI DNR) manages the 3,096-acre Brooklyn Wildlife Area, which includes lands in Sections 29, 30, 31 and 32 of the Town of Oregon. Story Creek, a Class 2 Trout Stream, runs through the Brooklyn Wildlife Area. The WI DNR, Dane County Land and Water Resources Department and private conservation organizations have installed a variety of improvements in and around Story Creek to improve the trout fishery and riparian habitat. The surrounding lands are managed for multiple recreational, hunting and wildlife uses. Prevalent game species include pheasant, white-tail deer, turkey, rabbit, squirrel, waterfowl, quail, gray partridge and mourning doves. Mammals include red and gray fox, beaver, mink, raccoon and muskrat. Non-game species include yellow-breasted chat, Bell's

vireo, Cerulean warbler and Henslow's sparrow, barn owl, and a variety of hawks, owls, cranes, amphibians and reptiles.

2. The northeast portion of the town (including nearly all of the Village of Oregon) falls within the Badfish Creek Watershed. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (US FWS) owns 229 acres, including 91 acres in the Town of Oregon, of wetland and upland on the Town of Oregon / City of Fitchburg line, adjacent to the Oakhill Correctional facility. The US FWS manages these lands as a Waterfowl Production Area.

#### Soils:

Under the Soil and Water Conservation Society's Land Evaluation and Site Assessment classification, agriculturally productive soils describe a gradient from northeast to southwest. The most productive (Class I) soils lie under the northeastern third of the town, moderately productive soils (Class II) dominate the middle third, and poorer soils are associated with the wetlands and floodplains of Story Creek in the southwest.

There are extensive hydric soils and soils with hydric inclusions throughout the town, especially in the areas near Story and Allen Creeks. Much of these areas were likely wetlands at one time, but have since been drained for agricultural purposes. Once no longer actively drained or cropped, areas with hydric soils may, in time, revert to wetland conditions. Hydric soils present a variety of practical difficulties for construction, and should be avoided when planning any new development. The Dane County Zoning Division typically requires wetland delineations for proposed fill or construction near hydric soils.

#### Wetlands:

Much of the town's historic wetlands have been drained for agriculture. As active drainage in this area declines, some of these areas may naturally revert to wetland conditions. Large wetlands (2 acres or larger) persist in the creek and stream valleys. Numerous small (less than 2 acres) wetlands dot the landscape of the town. Some of these small wetlands may be naturally occurring glacial pothole wetlands, and some may be remnants of larger historic wetland systems. These conditions make the Town of Oregon a good candidate for wetland restoration projects. Dane County's Shoreland and Wetland Zoning Ordinance (Chapter 11, Dane County Code) regulates development in and near wetlands.

#### Groundwater:

Like most of Dane County, the Town of Oregon sits atop two underground aquifers:

1. A regional aquifer in the Mount Simon sandstone formation, approximately 850 feet below the surface. This deep aquifer provides the primary source for municipal water systems in the Village of Oregon, the Village of Brooklyn and the

communities in the Madison Central Urban Service Area. In most portions of the county, the Mount Simon aquifer is isolated from the surface by a layer of impervious rock.

2. A shallow aquifer, approximately 50-100 feet below the surface. This groundwater resource, tapped through private wells, provides the primary source of drinking water to Town of Oregon residents. Except in stream and creek valleys, groundwater typically lies more than 6 feet below the surface throughout most of the town. However, with permeable layers of soil between it and the surface, this shallow aquifer is particularly susceptible to contamination from the surface.

In Dane County, groundwater supplies nearly all the water for domestic, commercial and industrial uses. Therefore it is extremely important to protect the quality of our groundwater. Excessive use of road salts, fertilizers, and pesticides and poor maintenance of some animal waste and septic systems can hurt groundwater quality.

#### Wildlife and Endangered Species:

The Wisconsin DNR inventories endangered species and records data in the Natural Heritage Inventory. The Blanchard's Cricket Frog ([\*Acris blanchardi\*](#)), a state-endangered species, has been observed in the Town of Oregon. Other species of special concern include:

- Azure Bluets ([\*Houstonia caerulea\*](#)), a prairie/woodland/wet meadow wildflower;
- Blanding's Turtle ([\*Emydoidea blandingii\*](#));
- Pickerel Frog ([\*Lithobates palustris\*](#));
- Plains Gartersnake ([\*Thamnophis radix\*](#)), and;
- Yellow-breasted Chat ([\*Icteria virens\*](#)), a grassland / woodland songbird.

See "Environmentally Sensitive Areas" above for discussion of other wildlife species prevalent in the town.

#### Woodlands:

In 2015, the Town of Oregon had approximately 2,100 acres of woodland, slightly less than in 2010. Forested land comprises 11% of the land area in the Town. Blocks of woodlands are scattered throughout the town.

#### Metallic / Non-Metallic Mineral Resources:

The 2015 Land Use Inventory identified 6 mineral extraction sites within the town boundaries. These include 3 under active conditional use permits, and 1 legal, nonconforming site.

## C. Cultural Resources Inventory

### Historic Sites:

The Wisconsin Historical Society's Architectural Heritage Inventory (AHI) identifies eleven existing structures of historic interest in the Town of Oregon (Table 5C). No sites are listed on the National and State Register of Historical Places, but some may be of regional or local significance.

Resources in the AHI were last surveyed in 2017. The Wisconsin Historical Society provides grants to communities for historic survey research.

Table 5-2: Historic Architectural Resources

| AHI # | Historic Name | Other Name | Location  | YearBuilt | Historic Use | Style            | Condition_2017 |
|-------|---------------|------------|---|-----------|--------------|------------------|----------------|
| 4453  |               |            | E SIDE OF COUNTY HIGHWAY D, .3 M N OF HEATHERWOOD RD    | Unknown   | house        | Gabled Ell       | Standing       |
| 4454  |               |            | W SIDE OF COUNTY HIGHWAY D, .4 M N OF COUNTY HIGHWAY MM | Unknown   | house        | Gabled Ell       | Standing       |
| 4458  |               |            | SW CNR OF LINCOLN AND UNION RDS                         | Unknown   | house        | Gabled Ell       | Standing       |
| 4460  |               |            | S SIDE OF STORYTOWN RD, .8 M S OF LINCOLN RD            | Unknown   | house        | Other Vernacular | Standing       |
| 4461  |               |            | NE CNR OF COUNTY HIGHWAY A AND COUNTY HIGHWAY D         | Unknown   | house        | Other Vernacular | Standing       |
| 4462  |               |            | S SIDE OF COUNTY HIGHWAY A, .4 M E OF COUNTY HIGHWAY D  | Unknown   | house        | Other Vernacular | Standing       |
| 4463  |               |            | SW CNR OF COUNTY HIGHWAY A AND TIPPERARY RD             | Unknown   | house        | Gabled Ell       | Standing       |
| 4465  |               |            | SW CNR OF GLENWAY RD AND COUNTY                         | Unknown   | house        | Other Vernacular | Standing       |



|       |               |                                 |   |         |       |            |          |
|-------|---------------|---------------------------------|---|---------|-------|------------|----------|
|       |               |                                 | HIGHWAY A                                       |         |       |            |          |
| 4466  |               |                                 | N SIDE OF COUNTY HIGHWAY A, .5 M W OF UNION RD  | Unknown | house | Italianate | Standing |
| 4467  | O'BRIEN HOUSE |                                 | W SIDE OF GLENWAY RD, 1 M S OF COUNTY HIGHWAY A | 1876    | house | Gabled Ell | Standing |
| 76346 |               | Brooklin WLA - Residence #04281 | 6138 ALPINE RD                                  | 1934    | house | Gabled Ell | Standing |

**Archaeological and Burial Sites:**

Under Wisconsin law, Native American burial mounds, unmarked burials, and all marked and unmarked cemeteries are protected from intentional disturbance. The Wisconsin Historical Society maintains a list of archaeological sites and cemeteries referred to as the Archaeological Site Inventory (ASI). The Archaeological Site Inventory (ASI) is the most comprehensive list of archaeological sites, mounds, unmarked cemeteries, marked cemeteries, and cultural sites available. The ASI does not include all of the sites and cemeteries present in the state, however. It includes ONLY those sites that have been reported to the Wisconsin Historical Society.

Detailed ASI information is confidential and is not subject to Wisconsin’s open records law (Wis. Stats. §§ 44.48 and 157.70). This information is also protected by Federal law (Section 304 of the National Historic Preservation Act, Section 9(a) of the Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979). This caution not only helps protect archaeological sites but also protects landowners since private landowners own the majority of archaeological sites in the Town.

Since only a small portion of the Town has been surveyed for the presence of archaeological sites and cemeteries, the sites listed in the inventory represent only a fraction of the sites that are actually present. Local residents and American Indian communities who have and do live and work in the area possess much additional information on other archaeological sites and cemeteries. Steps should be taken to have this information incorporated into future updates of the *Town of Oregon Comprehensive Plan*.

| ASI_ID | Name                                    | Site Type                              | Culture Name  | Section |
|--------|---|--|---|---------|
| 67784  | Lamboley Site                           | Campsite/village                       | Early Woodland;Middle Woodland;Early Archaic;Middle Archaic;Late Archaic;Paleo-Indian;Late Paleo-Indian | 19      |
| 67784  | Lamboley Site                           | Campsite/village                       | Early Woodland;Middle Woodland;Early Archaic;Middle Archaic;Late Archaic;Paleo-Indian;Late Paleo-Indian | 24      |
| 12647  | Site A                                  | Campsite/village                       | Historic Indian;Woodland  | 4       |
| 12285  | Burke 1                                 | Campsite/village                       | Unknown Prehistoric   | 8       |
| 12286  | Burke 2                                 | Campsite/village                       | Unknown Prehistoric   | 8       |
| 12287  | Burke 3                                 | Campsite/village                       | Unknown Prehistoric   | 9       |
| 12646  | GEORGE                                  | Campsite/village                       | Unknown Prehistoric   | 26      |
| 12284  | REINER                                  | Campsite/village                       | Unknown Prehistoric   | 28      |
| 12291  | BADFISH                                 | Campsite/village                       | Unknown Prehistoric   | 30      |
| 12283  | Arrowleaf                               | Campsite/village;Farmstead             | Historic Euro-American;Early Woodland;Middle Woodland   | 4       |
| 13691  | LAKE HARRIET CEMETERY                   | Cemetery/burial                        | Historic Euro-American  | 9       |
| 13689  | Putnam Hill Cemetery                    | Cemetery/burial                        | Historic Euro-American  | 15      |
| 13690  | STORYTOWN CEMETERY (AKA STORY CEMETERY) | Cemetery/burial                        | Historic Euro-American  | 20      |
| 21543  | Oregon Mound Group                      | Mound(s) - Other/Unk;Mound(s) - Linear | Woodland;Late Woodland  | 4       |

Up to this point in time, fourteen (14) archaeological sites and cemeteries have been reported for the Town (Table 5D). The following types of sites have been identified:

- Ten (10) Campsites/Villages; six of unknown age; two that have been settled and resettled multiple times since the Paleo-Indian era (10,500–6000 BC) up through the Woodland era (500 BC-1200 AD); one belonging solely to the Woodland Tradition, and one yielding both Woodland materials and Historic Euro-American artifacts from a later farmstead.

- One Native American linear mound (ca. 500 BC to 1200 AD)
- Three (3) Euro-American cemeteries.

No sites are listed on the National and State Register of Historical Places, but some may have local or regional significance.

#### Community Design:

The town incorporates community design guidelines. When reviewing development proposals, the Town and property owners will consider the following objectives of the Town:

- Avoid disturbance of productive agricultural land;
- Avoid disturbance of floodplains, wetlands and steep slopes;
- Minimize number and length of driveways, and;
- Avoid fragmentation of existing contiguous wood lots of 20 acres or more.

See *Chapter 8: Land Use* for detailed design and siting criteria.

#### D. Agricultural Resource Goals, Objectives and Policies:

##### Goals

1. Limit non-farm related uses in Farmland and Farmland Preservation areas. (See Chapter 8, Land Use).
2. Preserve productive farmlands in the town for continued agricultural use.
3. Keep farming economically viable in the Town of Oregon through the 21st century.
4. Maintain the rural character of the town.

##### Supporting Objectives:

1. Discourage unplanned development in Farmland Preservation areas by guiding new development in the Town to planned development areas.
2. Discourage land uses which conflict with agriculture.
3. Support efforts to expand economic opportunities for farmers.
4. Limit nonfarm development consistent with town density policies.
5. Direct nonfarm development away from productive agricultural lands.
6. Protect farm operations from incompatible land uses and activities which may adversely affect the capital investment in agricultural land, improvements and equipment.

## Policies

1. Identification of Farmland Preservation areas – Areas designated as Farmland Preservation areas shall be identified on the Planned Land Use Map of this plan.
2. Non-Farm Residential Uses – Non-farm residential development within Farmland Preservation areas will only be considered if they minimize impacts to local agriculture.
3. Lot Size and Density Standards for Qualified Residential Uses – Establish and enforce lot size and density standards for residential development in “Farmland Preservation” areas.
4. Limit nonfarm uses in Farmland Preservation districts to one unit per 35 acres owned as of December 15, 1994 (see *Chapter 8: Land Use*).
5. Allow rezones for nonfarm development only on lands that meet town siting, lot design and driveway criteria (see *Chapter 8: Land Use*).
6. Cooperate with other units of government to make local farmers eligible for farmland preservation tax credits and other programs that encourage continued farming.
7. Town ordinances that restrict noise, odors, keeping of animals, etc. shall not apply to farming activities in agricultural preservation districts.
8. Encourage farmer participation in cost-share and other programs as described in the *Dane County Land & Water Resources Plan*.
9. Encourage and participate in farmer education programs provided through UW Extension.

## E. Mineral Resource Goals, Objectives and Policies:

### Goals

1. Make sure mineral extraction operations protect public health, safety and the environment and are consistent with the goals and objectives of this plan.
2. Limit conflicts between mineral extraction and incompatible uses.

### Supporting Objectives:

1. Establish clear, consistent policies for conditional use permits for mineral extraction operations. See Chapter 8, Land Use.
2. Work closely with Dane County to review and provide appropriate conditions for proposed mineral extraction operations. See Chapter 8, Land Use.

3. Discourage development that would conflict with existing mineral extraction operations.

#### Policies

1. Help identify significant mineral deposits within the town and inventory inactive unreclaimed mineral extraction sites.
2. Review conditional use permits for new or expanded mineral extraction sites and develop recommended conditions based on the nature of the proposed operation, the location, topography, environmental features of the site, and public comment received. Work with Dane County as necessary to develop specific conditions related to, at a minimum:
  - Hours of operation;
  - Conditions on schedule, notification and nature of blasting (if any);
  - Truck traffic and safe routes for material hauling;
  - Other uses on the site, such as crushing or asphalt production;
  - Fencing, screening and warning signs on the site, and;
  - Final use of any reclaimed sites, consistent with other goals, objectives and policies of this plan.

#### F. Natural Resource Goals, Objectives and Policies:

##### Goals

1. Protect environmentally sensitive areas in the Town through the regulation of land use, density and lot size of proposed development.
2. Provide and maintain outdoor recreation areas as well as natural preservation areas within the Town.
3. Protect important natural features such as significant woodland and grassland areas, floodplains, wetlands, endangered species habitat and steep slopes.
4. Provide sufficient parks and outdoor recreation areas to meet the needs of town residents.
5. Preserve the rural and scenic character of the town.
6. Protect and where possible, improve surface and groundwater quality.
7. Provide for sustainable, diverse hunting, fishing, wildlife observation and other outdoor activities within the town.
8. Support and encourage voluntary stewardship of private and public lands.

### Supporting objectives

1. Objective 1 – Require that impacts to the environment be considered in the evaluation of any development.
2. Maintain and enhance the existing park facilities within the Town.
3. Identify and plan for opportunities for potential new park locations or open space corridors within the Town.
4. Establish a resource protection district, with policies to help protect sensitive environmental areas, including floodplains, wetlands and steep slopes.
5. Establish a public lands district, with policies to help foster cooperation with public agencies owning lands in the town and promote consistency with this plan.
6. Make sure development uses best practices to minimize impacts to natural land and water resources.
7. Direct development requiring public sewer and water to designated Urban Service Areas.
8. Where possible, limit fragmentation of valuable natural resources and try to connect separated wildlife habitats to maintain robust viable populations.

### Policies

1. Prohibition of Development in Resource Protection Areas – No development will be allowed in “Resource Protection Areas” identified in this plan.
2. Adverse Impacts on the Environment – Discourage any development that might cause water or air pollution, unreasonable soil erosion or have an unreasonably adverse effect on rare or irreplaceable natural areas such as wetlands, floodplains, steep slopes, significant woodlands, etc.
  - Alterations to Environmental Areas – Wetlands, 100-year floodplains, wetlands and slopes greater than 12% may not be altered unless to otherwise restore, maintain or enhance these natural resource areas.
  - Soil Suitability in Environmental Areas – Soils in wetlands, floodplains, and steep slopes are not considered to be suitable for any sort of development.
3. Adverse Impacts on Threatened and Endangered Species – Protect significant wildlife habitat or known threatened and endangered species.
4. Impacts to Surface Water - Require that any new development in proximity to stream corridors and other surface water lakes and ponds incorporate specific measures into their site design to protect these resources. These areas include:
  - Story Creek
  - Oregon Branch – Badfish Creek
  - Lake Harriet

5. Existing Town Facilities – Maintain the following Town facilities:
  - Bicentennial Park (20 acres; conservation park)
  - Central Park (Town Park) (24 acres; community park)
  - Trussler Plat Public Land Dedication (2.25 acres; wooded conservation area and waterway)
  - Ravenoaks Public Park and Walkway (11.7 acres; wooded natural area and playground area)
  - Kennedy Park (7.9 acres, neighborhood park)
  - Hillcrest Park (1.7 acres; greenway)
6. Other Existing Facilities Within the Town – Coordinate with County, State and Federal agencies to maintain public access to their lands in the Town, including:
  - Brooklyn State Wildlife Area (Wisconsin DNR)
  - Swan Pond Natural Area (US Fish and Wildlife Service)
7. Ice Age Trail – Cooperate in opportunities to plan and develop the Ice Age Trail system.
8. Connections Between Open Spaces – Utilize conservation subdivision concepts to develop and maintain connectivity between different open spaces within the Town.
9. Update the Town Park and Open Space Plan – Update the Town Park and Open Space Plan to ensure eligibility should the Town ever desire to pursue grant funding through DNR or other agencies to improve or acquire parks and open spaces.
10. Preservation, Maintenance and Care of Open Spaces – Cooperate with other units of government as well as developers to ensure the preservation and maintenance of open spaces created through conservation subdivisions.
11. Guide the location and design of development in a manner that will minimize any adverse impact on the quality of surface waters, aquifers, wetlands, woodlands, and agriculture.
12. Support and coordinate with Dane County on erosion control, stormwater, floodplain, wetland and shoreland regulation.
13. Support cost-share, farm conservation plans and other efforts described in the *Dane County Land & Water Resources Plan*.
14. Work cooperatively with municipal, county, state and federal public agencies and nonprofits owning land in the Town to,
  - participate in public acquisition planning processes;
  - develop agreements on future use of existing public lands;
  - assure input from Town officials and citizens, and;

- provide a better understanding of financial resources and funding mechanisms available for land acquisition and management.
15. Consider TDR, PDR and other programs to protect natural resources and give landowners alternatives to development.
  16. Consider using the county's NR-I zoning to identify areas where additional information, site planning or mitigation measures are needed prior to development.
  17. Review town siting criteria, design and development guidelines to make sure they adequately protect the rural character of the town, and avoid environmental impacts. The town should consider whether future amendments to the *Town of Oregon Comprehensive Plan* should address issues such as:
    - Development, landscaping or design guidelines for ridgetops to reduce impacts to scenic vistas and prevent erosion.
    - Establishing limits on tree removal to protect woodlands and avoid fragmentation of habitat.
    - Using downward-directed lighting to protect dark skies and avoid unnecessary light pollution.

## G. Cultural Resource Goals, Objectives and Policies:

### Goals and Objectives:

1. Encourage identification, protection, interpretation and maintenance for all significant archaeological sites in the town.
2. Encourage identification, protection, preservation and restoration of buildings, structures and sites which represent or reflect elements of the town's cultural, social, economic, political and architectural history.
3. Help increase public awareness and appreciation of the town's historic and archaeological resources.

### Policies and Programs:

1. Support local, county, state and federal historic preservation efforts.
2. Support efforts to help provide restoration grants to willing owners of historic properties. Provide information about grants, technical assistance and recognition programs to town residents.
3. Consider potential for providing modest incentives for landowners to maintain or restore historic properties.
4. Support efforts to document and research historic and archaeological sites in the town. Work with the Wisconsin Historical Society to provide interpretative



materials, plaques or markers for Town of Oregon sites of statewide or regional interest.

5. Work with the Village of Oregon Historical Society, other historical societies, Native American tribes and residents to educate and provide interpretation of town historic sites, rural schools, and document the written and oral history of the town.
6. Support local festivals, ethnic celebrations, farm tours, farm breakfasts, and markets that celebrate the town's history, heritage and rural way of life.
7. When reviewing rezone petitions, land divisions or other development approvals in areas with known archaeological or burial site resources, the plan commission shall consult with Dane County Planning and Development and the Wisconsin Historical Society to make sure such resources are protected.