

CHAPTER 1 Issues and Opportunities for Comprehensive Planning in the Town of Grant

66.1001(2)(a) Wisconsin Statutes:

Issues and Opportunities Element. Background information on the local governmental unit and a statement of overall objectives, policies, goals and programs of the local governmental unit to guide the future development and redevelopment of the local governmental unit over a 20-year planning period. Background information shall include population, household and employment forecasts that the local governmental unit uses in developing its comprehensive plan, and demographic trends, age distribution, educational levels, income levels and employment characteristics that exist within the local governmental unit.

Section 1.1 Description and Brief History of Planning Area

The Town of Grant is the largest of the 17 Towns in Portage County in terms of geographic size, encompassing an area of approximately 45,618 acres, or 71.28 square miles. The Town as a political unit includes all of congressional Townships T21N R7E and T22N R7E. Grant is located in the southwest corner of Portage County about 12 miles southwest of Stevens Point and is bordered on the west by Wood County (Towns of Saratoga and Grand Rapids), the north by the Town of Plover, the east by Towns of Plover, Buena Vista and Pine Grove, and the south by Adams County (Town of Leola).

The following excerpt is taken from the Online Archives of the Portage County Historical Society:

The Town of Grant was formed from the southern half of the Town of Linwood on April 1, 1864, by a resolution of the Portage County Board of Supervisors. Four days later, Wales R. Lamberton became the first town chairman when he was elected in the town's first annual meeting. According to Malcolm Rosholt, author of "Our County Our Story," the town was probably named after Gen. Ulysses S. Grant, the northern commander during the Civil War. The Grant Town Hall, located on County Road WW east of Kellner, was constructed in 1904 and refurbished in 1988.

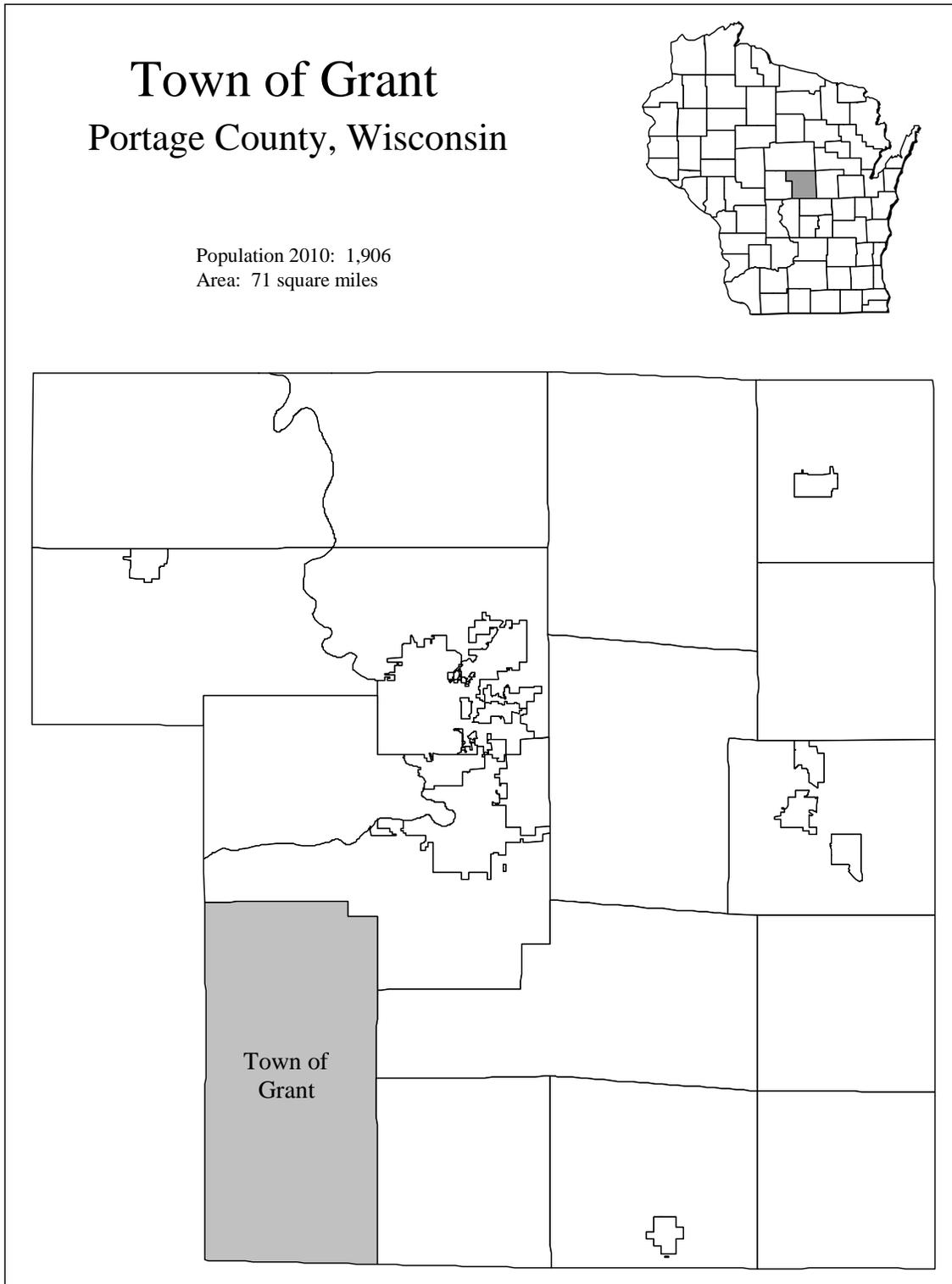
Kellner is the only community to develop within the Town of Grant. The unincorporated community grew because a passenger depot and freight car siding were constructed in 1901 when the Chicago & Northwestern Railway extended railroad tracks through the town. The tracks are now abandoned.

Kellner's well-known St. John Lutheran Church was 150 years old in 2015. Formed on December 6, 1865, the original name of the church was Evangelical Lutheran St. John's Church of the Town of Grant. Nineteen families organized their own church one year after Grant officially became a town. Today the church has over 550 members.

The Town of Grant was made up of many pine forests, but it also included a large amount of wetland and swamp. The State Legislature formed the Portage County Drainage District in 1890, and in 1905 the Drainage District constructed ditches to drain the swamps for farmland.

In August 2014, the Town of Grant celebrated its sesquicentennial. A comprehensive history of the Town is outlined in a book entitled "From Where They Came to Where We Are" by Dorothy Raasch.

Figure 1.1 Map of Grant Area



Section 1.2 Past Planning In Grant

A. 1981 Development Guide

In the late 1970's, the Town of Grant Planning Committee began working with the Portage County Planning Department to draft the first development guide for the Town of Grant. This initial document represented a pioneering effort on the part of elected officials and the local Planning Committee members. The intent of the plan was to serve as a formal statement of Town/County policies regarding land use. In addition, the Plan was intended to serve as a guide in updating the Town's zoning map, to reflect changing conditions and needs.

B. 1997 Development Guide Update

In 1997, the Town of Grant Planning Committee requested the assistance of the Portage County Planning and Zoning Department in updating specific sections of the Town's 1981 Development Guide. The purpose of the update was to provide the Town Planning Committee with a more current data base, in preparation for their anticipated rewrite of the Town's Zoning Ordinance.

“Section 2.0 - Analysis of Existing Planning and Development Factors” and “Section 3.0 - Growth Projections” were selected for updating since they represent the background or statistical portions of the document, which were felt to be particularly outdated. Other sections of the Development Guide, such as goals and policies, action/ implementation programs and short/long term needs, were considered lower priorities for updating, in terms of their relevance to the amendment of the Town Zoning Ordinance. However, it was recommended that the Town's Development Guide be comprehensively updated in the future, as Town planning needs demand and County work-program priorities allow.

C. 2004 Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance Amendment and Land Use Map Amendment

The Town of Grant Planning Commission and Town Board began working with Portage County Planning and Zoning Department staff in the latter part of 2001 to revise and update the Town's Zoning Ordinance. According to the Wisconsin Comprehensive Planning law (ss.66.1001), beginning on January 1, 2010, a local unit of government's zoning ordinance must be consistent with that unit's Comprehensive Plan; therefore, Planning and Zoning Department staff advised the Town of Grant that they should update their Land Use Plan so that the Zoning Ordinance would be consistent with the Town's Plan. This consistency provides a stronger legal framework for making decisions regarding zoning of lands within the Town of Grant. As the Town was already in the process of working with Portage County as part of a multi-jurisdictional Comprehensive Planning process, Grant officials viewed its updated Land Use Plan as an Interim Plan until the completion of its own Comprehensive Plan.

The Town Plan Commission held at least 48 public meetings between November, 2001 and March 9, 2004 when the amended Zoning Ordinance was approved by the Town Board. Prior to Town Board approval, two public hearings were held on January 6, 2004, and February 18, 2004. These public hearings led to minor revisions that were then forwarded to the Town Board by the Plan Commission.

County planning staff also met with the Town Plan Commission on a monthly basis beginning in January, 2003 to assist the Commission in amending the Land Use Plan map, mapping categories, and applicable Land Use and Zoning criteria. At least 11 public meetings were held by the Plan Commission regarding the proposed Land Use Plan amendments, culminating in a public hearing conducted on March 30, 2004 by the Town to receive citizen input. The Town Board approved the Land Use Plan changes at its April 8, 2004 meeting.

D. Other Town Zoning Ordinance Amendments

Additional amendments to the Town Zoning Ordinance took place in 2006, 2008, 2010, and 2016. The most recent amendment in 2016 added a new Farmland Preservation Overlay Zoning District (A-1a) that is compliant with the State's Farmland Preservation Program for purposes of preserving productive farmland and allowing landowners to participate in the tax credit program. The Zoning Map was subsequently amended to overlay the A-1a Zoning District on top of the existing Exclusive Agriculture Zoning District (A-1). A public hearing was held on November 9, 2016, followed by Town Board approval of the Zoning Ordinance amendments at its December 14, 2016 meeting. The State Department of Agriculture Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) certified the Zoning Ordinance on December 29, 2016.

Section 1.3 Initial Comprehensive Planning Process and Current Update

As mentioned in the introduction to this document, this Town of Grant Comprehensive Plan update had its beginning as a part of the County-wide planning project started in June 2001. The work during the first 18 months of the County-wide project, performed primarily by the Portage County Comprehensive Planning Joint Steering Committee, centered on public participation, visioning, and the generation of preliminary goal suggestions for the nine required Plan elements. This information was then forwarded to all local units of government in the fall of 2002. Utilizing the information provided by the Joint Steering Committee, the Town of Grant Plan Commission began the Town Comprehensive Planning process in earnest in January 2003. The Plan Commission met on a regular basis through mid-2005 to put together the first complete preliminary draft of the plan. The Comprehensive Planning process involved several basic steps:

The first step involved research. Activities included acquiring a thorough knowledge of the existing community setting, identifying problems that require solutions, and analyzing critical factors that need to be changed before progress can be made toward community goals, and establishing goals and objectives for growth and development.

The second step involved the formation of planning policy. Planning policies recommend a course of action that will accommodate expected change, produce desired change, and prevent undesirable change.

The next steps involved the selection of a preferred development alternative for guiding future growth. The Land Use Element relates how the Town is expected to grow, and generally identifies how development should proceed in the future to achieve community goals. It proposes the most efficient use of land within the financial capabilities of the community by identifying where residential, and other anticipated land uses should occur.

The final step involved implementation of the plan and programs that will influence the day-to-day decisions made by government officials, private enterprise, and individuals. Plan implementation provides the means by which community goals can be achieved. Three major tools of implementation are the Town Zoning Ordinance, subdivision regulations, and capital improvements program.

The Comprehensive Plan is the primary link between the past, the present, and the future, making it perhaps the best resource for achieving continuity over a period of time. It is to be used as a guide by those making decisions with regard to the development of the community. The Comprehensive Plan must also remain flexible so that it can be modified to reflect the processes of actual development and the changing attitudes and priorities of the community. To maintain an updated Comprehensive Plan, new information must be continually gathered and studied to

determine trends and reevaluate projections, forecasts, and plans. Even policy recommendations, which are relatively permanent statements, may require periodic review to determine their appropriateness and suitability in relation to the direction and character of community development at that time. A well thought-out and updated Comprehensive Plan, with a solid base of public involvement, is one of the most fruitful investments a local government can make. As a collection of policies and plans designed to guide future growth and development, it will help ensure continuity over time as changes occur within the Town of Grant.

This Plan update was initiated by the Town of Grant in January 2016 and follows the same planning steps as the 2005 Plan. When discussing how to begin the required full-scale review of this document (minimum of once every 10 years), Town officials made the decision to use the existing document as a solid base to start from. The Plan Commission proceeded Chapter by Chapter to verify and update existing background information, review and validate any issues identified in each of the Chapters, and review, validate, and revise the Goals, Objectives, and Policies accordingly.

Section 1.4 Demographic Trends

The demographic information in this Comprehensive Plan comes from the U.S. Census Bureau. Through the Census the name, sex, age, date of birth, race, ethnicity, relationship and housing tenure is collected on every individual in the United States every ten years. Starting with the 2010 Census, the method of collecting data beyond this primary information was changed. The more detailed demographic, housing, social, and economic information once collected during each Census is now collected annually by the American Community Survey (ACS), which began sampling in 2005.

ACS is a branch within the U.S. Census Bureau, designed to provide communities with reliable and timely data. The Survey is sent to a small percentage of the population each year on a rotating basis throughout the decade. Information for Towns is produced every year and is based on 5-year estimates. For example, the 2010-2014 ACS 5-year estimates are based on data collected from January 1, 2010 to December 31, 2014.

The tables and figures that follow use data from the decennial Census and ACS to compare the Town of Grant with Portage County. This data is available via the American Fact Finder search site at <http://factfinder2.census.gov/>. When looking at the tables and figures remember that they are in many cases estimates and not based on a complete count. For this reason, it is recommended that derived measures (percent's, means, medians, and rates) be compared rather than estimates of population totals. While ACS estimates may have some error, it is the most accurate measure of what is happening within the Town that is available.

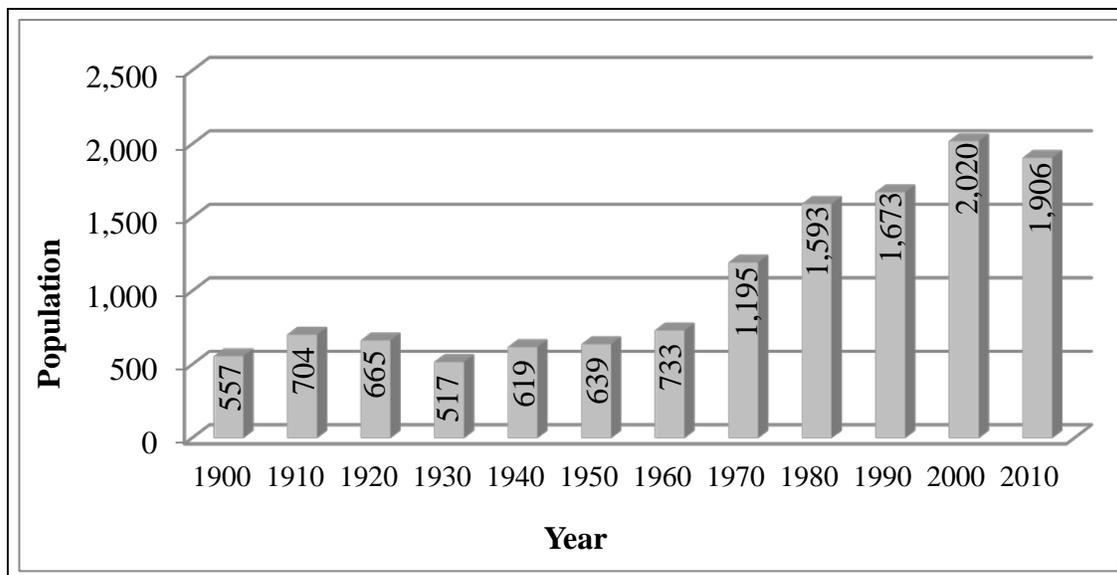
A. Population Growth

Census data reveal two major, historical population trends for the Town of Grant (Figure 1.2). The first major trend was a decline in the Town's population over a 20-year period from 1910 to 1930. This was characteristic of a rural-to-urban population movement that occurred during that period on a County, State and Nation-wide basis.

The second trend shows the Town experiencing a significant upturn in population, as urban residents began moving back to more rural areas. Once again, this change was characteristic of a broader urban-to-rural movement at the County, State and national levels. In Portage County, the impact of this migration back to the rural areas was greatest in those towns adjacent to the larger population centers such as Stevens Point and Wisconsin Rapids. Accordingly, towns such

as Hull, Plover and Grant experienced earlier and larger growth spurts than the more outlying towns. Thus, the decade of the 1930's marked the end of the Town of Grant's declining population and the beginning of a prolonged period of growth. This growth was highlighted by a 63% increase during the 1960's.

Figure 1.2: Town of Grant Population Change, 1900 to 2010



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 1900 - 2010

Population growth continued through the 1990's, with an increase of nearly 70% for the thirty years (Table 1.2). After this growth spurt, the population has experienced a slight decline (5%) in the last decade. This reflects similar patterns for Towns that abut large cities and villages in the area such as Stevens Point, Plover and Wisconsin Rapids, but is far greater than those rural communities that surround the Town of Grant. Wisconsin Rapids will continue to be the major influence in population growth for Grant in the future. Table 1.1 shows how Grant and selected other communities are estimated by the State of Wisconsin to have grown over the 4-year period since the Census.

Table 1.1: Grant Comparison Population Change, 1970 to 2010

	U.S. Census					State of Wisconsin Estimate 2015	1970-2010 Change	2010-2015 Change
	1970	1980	1980	2000	2010			
Town of Grant	1,195	1,593	1,673	2,020	1,906	1,917	59.5%	0.6%
Town of Buena Vista	827	1,023	1,170	1,187	1,198	1,204	44.9%	0.5%
Town of Pine Grove	6,749	762	949	904	937	935	-86.1%	-0.2%
Town of Plover	3,692	2,330	2,223	2,415	1,701	1,724	-53.9%	1.4%
Portage County	47,541	57,420	61,405	67,182	70,019	70,940	47.3%	1.3%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 1970 - 2010 Census and Wisconsin Department of Administration

Population growth is a combination of many factors including birth, death, in and out migration. By examining migration patterns for the residents of the Town of Grant, we can better understand the cause for the growth in the community is occurring (Table 1.2). Altogether, this information provides insight into the nature and pace of new residents moving into the Town.

Based on the 2010-2014 American Community Survey, 94% of the Town's residents lived in the same house the previous year. This indicates that long-term residents comprise the great majority of the total population.

Table 1.2: Place of Residence for Town Residents One Year Ago

	Same House		Different House, Portage County		Different House, Different County		Different State		Abroad	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Town of Grant	1,737	94%	29	2%	79	4%	0	0%	0	0%
Town of Buena Vista	1,202	95%	56	4%	13	1%	10	0.8%	0	0%
Town of Pine Grove	851	93%	13	1%	52	6%	38	4%	0	0%
Town of Plover	1,577	91%	92	5%	67	4%	4	0.2%	0	0%
Portage County	56,691	81%	7,595	11%	5,289	8%	1,200	2%	97	0.1%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010-2014 American Community Survey

B. Age Distribution

Table 1.3 below details the number of Town residents that occupied specific age groups in each of the last three Census years, along with similar information for the County as a whole. Further insight into the nature of the Town's population change over time can be gained through examining how the different age groups change as they move through their life cycles. Age groups for the Town and County (or "cohorts" as they are called when tracking a group of same-aged people) have been displayed in the table in 10-year increments to more easily see how their numbers increase or decline over different Census years. The diagonal series of gray and white boxes within Table 1.3 indicate the path of each age cohort through the three census periods.

Table 1.3: Distribution of Population, by Ten-Year Age Groups

Age	Town of Grant			Portage County		
	1990	2000	2010	1990	2000	2010
Under 5 years	127 8%	117 6%	78 4%	4,266 7%	3,964 6%	3,891 6%
5 to 14 years	282 17%	348 17%	244 13%	9,080 15%	9,118 14%	8,095 12%
15 to 24 years	223 13%	217 11%	220 12%	13,081 21%	13,983 21%	14,038 20%
25 to 34 years	306 18%	233 12%	135 7%	9,897 16%	8,322 12%	8,431 12%
35 to 44 years	247 15%	424 21%	272 14%	8,690 14%	10,261 15%	7,991 11%
45 to 54 years	234 14%	284 14%	431 23%	5,489 9%	8,945 13%	10,180 15%
55 to 64 years	139 8%	223 11%	264 14%	4,299 7%	5,235 8%	8,438 12%
65 to 74 years	65 4%	120 6%	168 9%	3,610 6%	3,791 6%	4,723 7%
75 to 84 years	41 3%	42 2%	81 4%	2,273 4%	2,565 4%	2,846 4%
85 years and over	9 0.5%	12 0.6%	13 0.7%	720 1%	998 2%	1,386 2%
Total Population	1,673	2,020	1,906	61,405	67,182	70,019
Median Age	32.2	37.2	45.1	29.3	33.0	35.8

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 1990, 2000 and 2010 Census

In 2000, approximately 17% of the Town's population fell within the 5-to-14 year old cohort. That cohort decreased 5% by the year 2010 (as the 5-to-14 year olds became 25-to-34 year olds). This pattern is typical for most rural towns in Portage County, and is most likely the result of young adults leaving home to attend college or to pursue jobs.

This chart indicates the presence of fewer families with young children, as demonstrated by a roughly 6% decrease in population aged 0 to 14 between 2000 and 2010. In addition, the 45 to 54 year olds, which is typically considered middle-aged, appear to be increasing more rapidly than the County as a whole. Between 2000 and 2010, this portion of the population increased by 9% for the Town of Grant and 2% for Portage County.

For Grant and Portage County, the populations within specific age cohorts for the older populations have been increasing in percentages over the years. The percentage of residents within Grant aged 65 and over has increased in each of the last three census counts. This is likely a result of greater longevity of the general population and in-migration of middle-aged residents to the Town who then remain here as they age.

The "median age" is the point where $\frac{1}{2}$ of the population lies above and $\frac{1}{2}$ lies below; the older this age is, the older the overall population for a place is becoming. In 2010, the median age for the Town of Grant was 45.1 years. The median age has increased by almost eight years since 2000 (37.2) and by thirteen years since 1990 (32.2). The County as a whole has seen its median age increase at a slower rate, approximately six years over the 20-year period.

C. Education Levels

Levels of educational attainment have followed a similar trend of improvement across Portage County (Table 1.4). The Town of Grant raised its' overall educational attainment during the 1990's. This was a result of the combination of in-migration, continued educational involvement by the existing residents of the Town and the passing of older residents that did not have the educational opportunities that we enjoy today. The number and percentage of Town of Grant residents age 25 and over who had less than a 9th grade education decreased dramatically between 1990 and 2010-2014 (from 17% down to 2%). The percentage of 25+ year old residents who completed some college, or completed a college degree program rose from 29% to 52% over the same period, which equals a 23% increase. This 10-year increase in attainment for Grant was almost the same as the gain for Portage County as a whole (39% to 58%, which equates to a 19% increase). In 2010-2014, the Town of Grant had a slightly lower percentage than the County overall of residents who completed 9th to 12th grade but did not receive a diploma. The percent of Grant residents within this category decreased by half, while Portage County experienced a 3% decline.

Table 1.4: Comparison of Educational Attainment for Residents 25 Years and Older

Educational Attainment (Persons 25 years +)	Town of Grant			Portage County		
	1990	2000	2010-2014	1990	2000	2010-2014
Less Than 9 th Grade	100 17%	50 4%	29 2%	4,065 12%	2,420 6%	1,277 3%
9 th to 12 th Grade (No Diploma)	100 17%	119 9%	54 4%	3,029 9%	3,019 8%	2,261 5%
High School Graduate	237 39%	614 44%	550 41%	14,082 40%	14,952 37%	15,189 34%
Some College (No Degree)	70 12%	326 23%	321 24%	5,205 15%	7,572 19%	8,803 20%
Associate Degree	22 4%	130 9%	203 15%	1,922 5%	2,802 7%	4,238 10%
Bachelor's Degree	58 10%	105 8%	129 10%	4,594 13%	6,468 16%	8,575 19%
Graduate/ Professional Degree	15 3%	58 4%	43 3%	2,107 6%	2,910 7%	3,983 9%
Total	602	1,402	1,329	35,004	40,143	44,326

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 1990 and 2000 Census, and 2010-2014 American Community Survey

D. Households and Income

The Town of Grant residential community is made up of different types of households. The U.S. Census defines a household simply as “including all of the people who occupy a housing unit”. People not living in households are classified as living in group quarters. “Family Households” consist of a householder and one or more other people related to the householder by birth, marriage, or adoption. “Nonfamily Households” consist of people living alone and households which do not have any members related to the householder. Table 1.5 below details the changes in the make-up of Town of Grant households over the last 25 years, and compares them to the Portage County data. Married-couple households, traditionally the largest group within Grant, have seen their percentage of total households decrease slightly over the last 25 years. Single-father households within Grant have doubled in both number and percent of family households. By comparison the County as a whole has seen a slower increase. Single-mother households have maintained their percentage for both comparison areas. Grant’s non-family households have increased from approximately 14% of total households in 1990 to 27% in 2010-2014. The non-family percentage for Portage County has historically been higher than Grant.

The Persons Per Household (PPH) number for the Town of Grant and the County has continued a declining trend over the last 25 years.

Table 1.5: Household Type Comparison

Households by Type	Town of Grant			Portage County		
	1990	2000	2010-2014	1990	2000	2010-2014
Family Households <i>(Percent of Total Household)</i>	475 86%	581 80%	564 73%	14,883 70%	16,496 66%	17,454 62%
Married-Couple Families <i>(Percent of Family Households)</i>	432 91%	513 88%	487 86%	12,645 85%	13,808 84%	14,281 82%
Other Family, Male Householder <i>(Percent of Family Households)</i>	16 3%	32 6%	36 6%	602 4%	861 5%	1,115 6%
Other Family, Female Householder <i>(Percent of Family Households)</i>	27 6%	36 6%	41 7%	1,636 11%	1,827 11%	2,058 12%
Nonfamily Households <i>(Percent of Total Households)</i>	80 14%	145 20%	206 27%	6,423 30%	8,544 34%	10,500 38%
Householder Living Alone <i>(Percent of Non-Family Households)</i>	65 81%	111 77%	150 73%	4,679 73%	6,130 72%	7,712 73%
Householder 65 Years and Over <i>(Percent of Non-Family Households)</i>	22 28%	32 22%	49 24%	1,933 30%	2,196 26%	2,814 27%
Total Households	555	726	770	21,306	25,040	27,954
Persons Per Household	3.01	2.78	2.41	2.71	2.54	2.39

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 1990 and 2000 Census, and 2010-2014 American Community Survey

Another instructive piece of information on the state of households within the Town is the level of income that each household achieves. Again the Census provides insight into the range of incomes present within Grant. Table 1.6 below describes how household incomes have changed in the last 25 years. It is a testimony to both the inflation of wages and the increased earning power of the residents of Grant that the percentage of households making greater than \$50,000 per year has increased from 58% in 1999 to 61% in 2010-2014, a percentage that exceeds the County overall (51%).

Median household income in Grant has increased from \$52,459 to \$62,969 over the same period and has consistently been greater than the County as a whole.

Table 1.6: Household Income Comparison

Household Income Per Year	Town of Grant			Portage County		
	1989	1999	2010-2014	1989	1999	2010-2014
Less Than \$10,000	38 7%	29 4%	19 2%	3,210 15%	1,767 7%	2,013 7%
\$10,000 to \$14,999	36 7%	16 2%	16 2%	1,978 9%	1,608 6%	1,669 6%
\$15,000 to \$24,999	86 16%	65 9%	64 8%	4,072 19%	3,174 13%	2,686 10%
\$25,000 to \$34,999	91 17%	84 11%	73 9%	3,654 17%	3,425 14%	2,940 11%
\$35,000 to \$49,999	152 28%	127 17%	128 17%	4,370 20%	4,484 18%	4,427 16%
\$50,000 to \$74,999	109 20%	265 35%	173 22%	2,983 14%	5,771 23%	5,871 21%
\$75,000 to \$99,999	30 5%	102 13%	166 22%	661 3%	2,820 11%	3,649 13%
\$100,000 to \$149,999	7 1%	60 8%	112 15%	274 1%	1,346 5%	3,339 12%
\$150,000 or More	0 0%	14 2%	19 2%	134 0.6%	717 3%	1,360 5%
Total Households	550	762	770	21,336	25,112	27,954
Median Household Income	\$37,308	\$52,459	\$62,969	\$28,686	\$43,487	\$50,837

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 1990 and 2000 Census, and 2010-2014 American Community Survey

With the examination of income information, the Town of Grant should also assess the poverty status of its residents. “Poverty” is generally defined as a set of money income thresholds that vary by family size and composition to determine who is poor. If a family’s total income is less than that family’s threshold, then that family, and every individual in it, is considered poor. The poverty thresholds do not vary geographically. That is, they are the same throughout the United States. However, the poverty thresholds are updated annually for inflation using the Consumer Price Index (CPI-U). The official poverty definition counts money income before taxes and does not include capital gains and non-cash benefits (such as public housing, food stamps, and Medicaid). Poverty is not defined for people in military barracks, institutional group quarters, or for unrelated children under age 15 (such as foster children).

Table 1.7 outlines poverty thresholds for 1980, 1990, 2000, and 2014. Table 1.8 lists the Census information on poverty for the total number of residents, persons aged 65 and above, and families within the Town of Grant and Portage County as a whole.

Table 1.7: Poverty Thresholds - 1980, 1990, 2000, and 2014

Size of Family Unit (Poverty Threshold)	Poverty Threshold			
	1980	1990	2000	2014
One Person	\$4,190	\$6,652	\$8,794	\$12,316
Two Persons	\$5,363	\$8,509	\$11,239	\$15,853
Three Persons	\$6,565	\$10,419	\$13,738	\$18,518
Four Persons	\$8,414	\$13,481	\$17,603	\$24,418
Five Persons	\$9,966	\$15,792	\$20,819	\$29,447
Six Persons	\$11,269	\$17,839	\$23,528	\$33,869
Seven Persons	\$12,761	\$20,241	\$26,754	\$38,971
Eight Persons	\$14,199	\$22,582	\$29,701	\$43,586
Nine Persons or More	\$16,896	\$26,848	\$35,060	\$52,430

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 1990, 2000 and 2014 Poverty Thresholds by Size of Family and Number of Children (2014 poverty statistics were released on September 16, 2015)

Table 1.8: Percent in Poverty Comparison

Poverty Statistics For Selected Populations	Town of Grant			Portage County		
	1989	1999	2010-2014	1989	1999	2010-2014
Persons	1,656	2,039	1,856	57,805	63,744	66,882
Below poverty level	65	59	84	7,454	6,074	9,861
% below poverty	4%	3%	5%	13%	9%	15%
Persons 65 Years and Over	115	169	229	5,327	7,049	9,421
Below poverty level	5	8	18	740	561	717
% below poverty	4%	5%	8%	14%	8%	8%
Families	469	585	564	14,927	16,643	17,454
Below Poverty Level	14	11	13	1,051	725	1,222
% below poverty	3%	2%	2%	7%	4%	7%

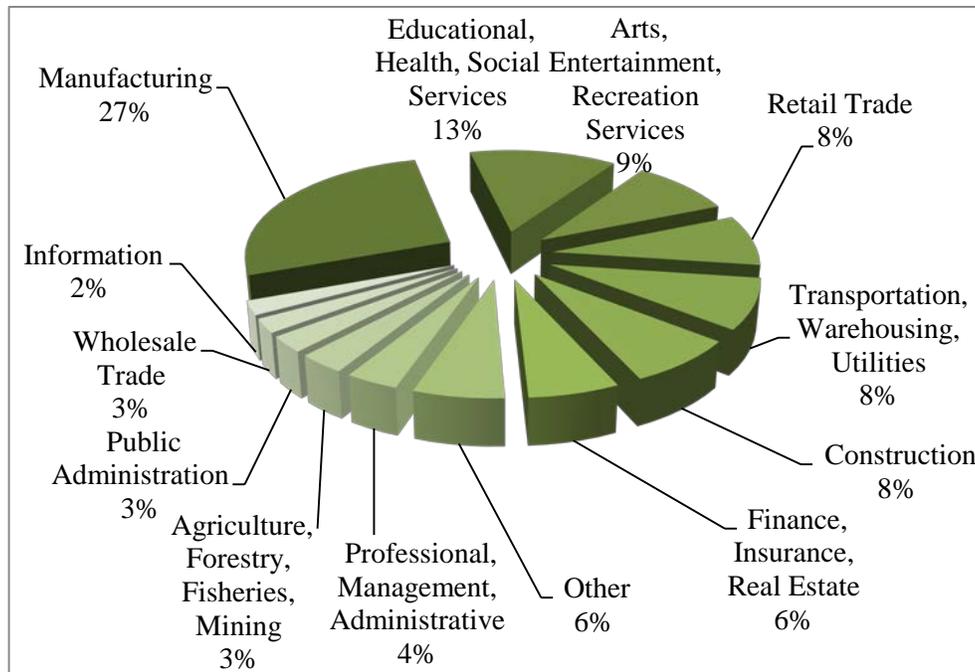
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 1990 and 2000 Census, and 2010-2014 American Community Survey

According to Census figures, the Town of Grant has historically had a lower percentage of residents earning below the poverty level than the County as a whole. Since 1989, the Town poverty rate has risen for individuals (1%) and seniors (4%), contrary to the poverty rate of families, which has gone down (by 1%).

E. Employment Characteristics

The U.S. Census Bureau has changed the method of producing the statistics for the summary of employment by industry, creating a situation where comparison between the 1990, 2000, and 2010 Census is not possible. Figure 1.3 below summarizes employment by industry for 2010-2014, as provided by the American Community Survey. This information represents what type of industry that the working residents of Grant were employed by, and is not a listing of the employment currently located within the Town. The discussion of the Grant economy, including employment status for persons 16 years old and over, will take place within the Economic Development Element chapter of this Comprehensive Plan.

Figure 1.3: Summary of Employment by Industry, 2010-2014



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010-2014 American Community Survey

Section 1.5 Forecasts

A. Population Projections

Population projections for States, Cities, Villages, and Towns are developed by the Wisconsin Department of Administration (DOA). The most recent population projections for the Town of Grant were created August 10, 2015. Based on those projections, the Town of Grant will grow to 1,935 residents by 2040. This represents a decrease of .2% over the 25 year period. It should be noted that population projections are “best guesses” and should be used with caution.

The Town of Grant Plan Commission has adopted the following projected population totals for the planning period:

Year 2015: 1940 Year 2020: 1955 Year 2030: 1970 Year 2040: 1935

B. Household Projections

Household projections for the Town of Grant are also based on projections from the Wisconsin Department of Administration. As with population, the projections were created in 2015. Based on these projections, the Town of Grant will grow to 798 households in 2040, and increase of 20 households.

The number of persons per household has been steadily declining in Grant, from 3.01 persons in 1990 to 2.41 persons in 2014. Based on the State population and household projections, the person per household in 2040 would be 2.42. Keep in mind that these numbers represent projections and should not be used as absolute.

The following are household projections for the Town of Grant:

Year 2015: 778 Year 2020: 790 Year 2030: 806 Year 2040: 798

C. Employment Projections

The economic base in the Town of Grant is mainly agricultural and the Town has a range of businesses relating to the agriculture industry. New businesses in the Town are anticipated to be primarily agriculture related businesses. The community supports the development of agriculture related businesses that are in harmony with existing land uses and are complimentary to the agricultural activities that currently exist in the Town. It also supports some commercial growth in the Kellner area. The Town projects a gain of approximately 3 to 4 home-based businesses per year over the planning period.

Section 1.6 Community Goals, Objectives and Policies

Goals, objectives and policies provide the framework for guiding future community development activities in the Town of Grant. A means of deriving goals and policies is through issue identification. Many of the issue statements in the various plan elements were purposefully framed as questions so that answering the questions would help plan commissioners form goal or policy statements. Goals are stated as desirable conditions to strive toward in the future. They are common ideals of the community that can be achieved through the actions of government leaders, private enterprise and individuals. Objectives are general targets to be achieved along the path of satisfying community goals. Policies are more specific recommendations or methods of action to accomplish these stated objectives. Together these three pieces express the uniqueness of the community while providing guidance for desirable patterns of growth and development.