

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

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 Plover, the east by Towns Plover, Buena Vista & 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 138 years old in 2003. 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 about 650 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.

Section 1.2 Past Planning In Grant

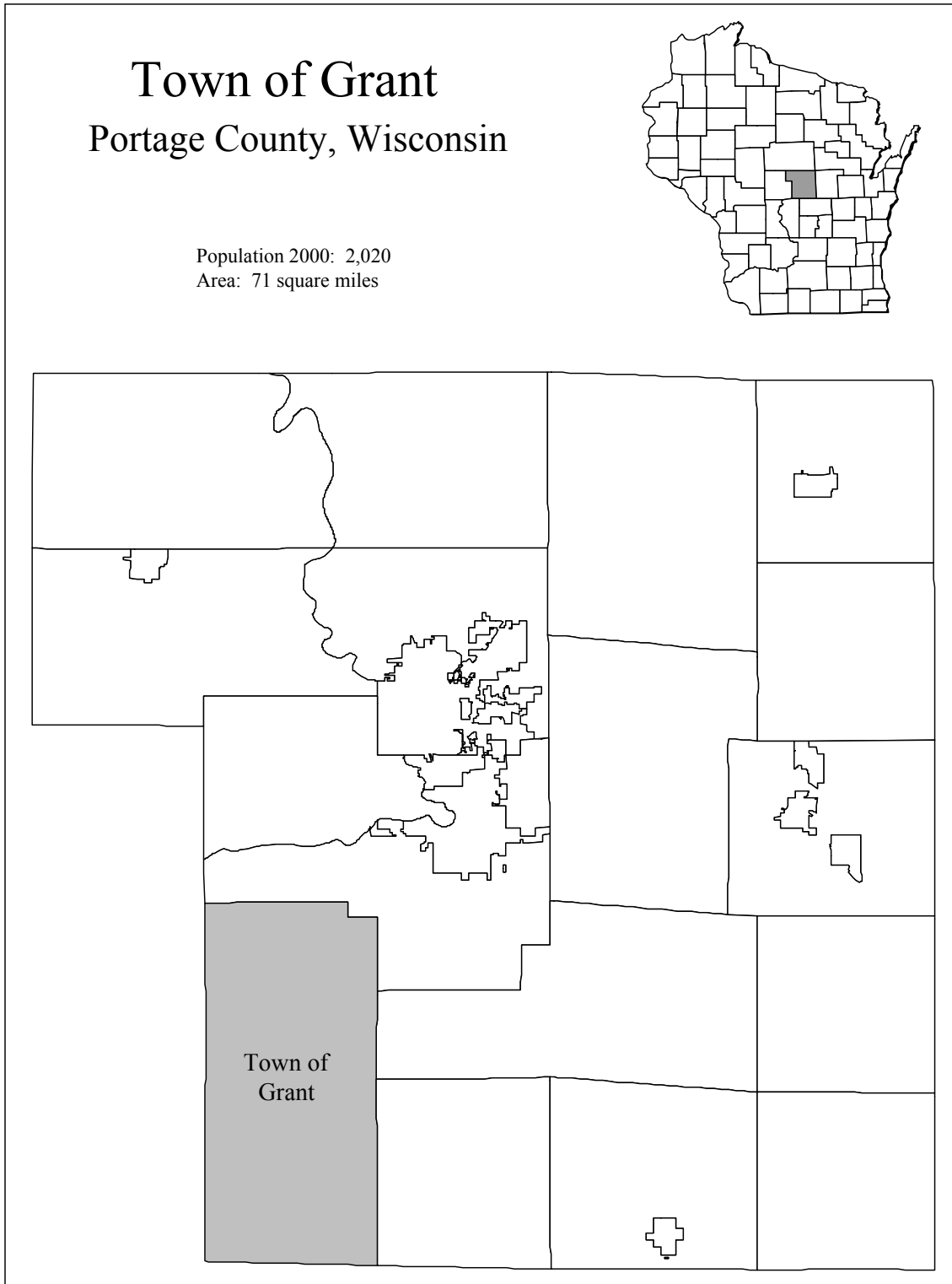
A. 1981 Development Guide

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.

Figure 1.1 Map of Grant Area



“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.

Section 1.3 Current Comprehensive Planning Process

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 involves research. Activities include 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 involves 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 involve 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 involves 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.

Section 1.4 Demographic Trends

A. Population Growth

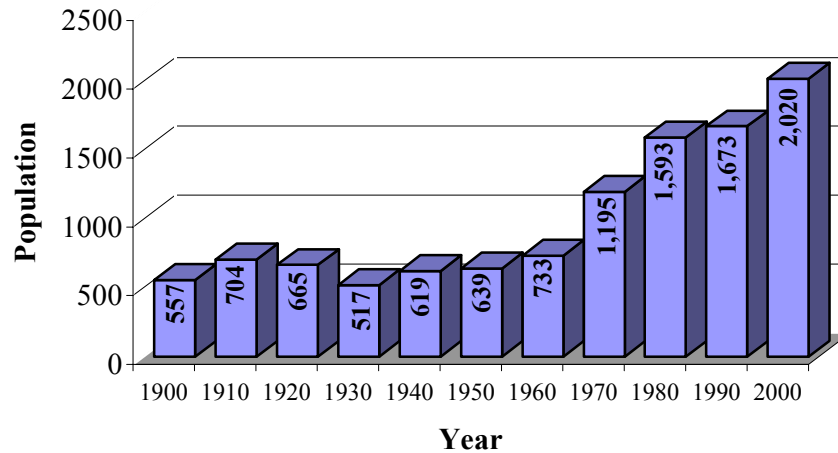
Every 10 years the Federal government performs the national census, and these Census results are the main source of the information used to understand how communities change over time. The Town of Grant has seen a considerable variation in its growth rate over the last 100 years.

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 2000



Source: US Bureau of Census

Population growth has been a continued factor in the last three decades. The Town has almost doubled in population since 1970, with an increase of nearly 70% for the thirty years (Table 1.2). This growth 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 2004

	U.S. Census				State of Wisconsin Estimate	1970 to 2000 Change	2000 to 2004 Change
	1970	1980	1990	2000	2004		
Town of Grant	1,195	1,593	1,673	2,020	2,078	69.0%	2.9%
Town of Buena Vista	827	1,023	1,170	1,187	1,235	43.5%	4.0%
Town of Pine Grove	649	762	949	904	926	39.3%	2.4%
Town of Plover	3,692	2,330	2,223	2,415	2,447	-34.6%	1.3%
Portage County	47,541	57,420	61,405	67,182	68,922	41.3%	2.6%

Source: US Census Bureau; State of Wisconsin Dept. of Administration; Portage County Planning and Zoning Dept.

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). The U.S. Census provides data on where residents were living five years prior to the Census. The “Same House” column identifies the Grant residents that lived in the same dwelling in both 1995 and 2000 (or 1985 and 1990); this can be an indicator of long-term residency. The “Different House, Portage County” column identifies the Grant residents that lived in a home outside the Town, but within Portage County, in 1995. The “Different House, Different County” column identifies the Grant residents that lived in a home outside of the Town and Portage County, but within the State of Wisconsin, in 1995. The “Different State” column identifies the Grant residents that lived in a home outside the State of Wisconsin in 1995. Altogether, this information provides insight into the nature and pace of new residents moving into the Town.

Based on 2000 Census information, seventy-five percent (75%) of the Town's residents lived in the same house as they did in 1995, up twelve percent (12%) from the 1990 Census. Three percent (3%) of Grant residents in the year 2000 had moved into the Town after living in other parts of Portage County in 1995 (down from 9% in the 1990 Census); nineteen percent (19%) lived in a different Wisconsin County in 1995 before moving to Grant, and two percent (2%) moved to the Town of Grant from another state. These numbers provide further examples of the residential expansion within the Town of Grant: increased numbers of residents living long term in the same dwelling; more people relocating into the Town from beyond Portage County.

Table 1.2: Place of Residence for Town Residents, Five Years Prior to 1990 & 2000 Census

	Same House				Different House, Portage County				Different House Different County				Different State			
	1985		1995		1985		1995		1985		1995		1985		1995	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Town of Grant	1,054	63%	1,450	75%	144	9%	68	3%	320	19%	425	21%	23	1%	39	2%
Town of Buena Vista	730	70%	820	69%	228	22%	205	17%	82	8%	113	10%	23	2%	9	1%
Town of Pine Grove	587	67%	571	63%	205	23%	84	9%	54	6%	127	14%	28	3%	43	5%
Town of Plover	1386	67%	1517	63%	391	19%	316	13%	221	11%	309	13%	62	3%	53	2%
Portage County	51%		56%		21%		22%		21%		16%		7%		5%	

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

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 all Portage County Towns and the County as a whole.

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 Towns and County (or “cohorts” as they are called when tracking a group of same-aged people) have been displayed in the table in ten-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			Town Average			Portage County		
	1980	1990	2000	1980	1990	2000	1980	1990	2000
Under 5 years	131 8.2%	127 7.6%	117 5.8%	131 9.4%	117 7.8%	93 6.0%	4,343 7.6%	4,266 6.9%	3,964 5.9%
5 to 14 years	341 21.4%	282 16.9%	348 17.2%	266 18.9%	269 18.1%	247 15.4%	8,671 15.1%	9,080 14.8%	9,118 13.6%
15 to 24 years	318 20.0%	223 13.3%	217 10.7%	252 17.5%	198 12.9%	197 12.6%	15,270 26.6%	13,081 21.3%	13,983 20.8%
25 to 34 years	235 14.8%	306 18.3%	233 11.5%	250 17.5%	235 15.5%	179 11.3%	9,180 16.0%	9,897 16.1%	8,322 12.4%
35 to 44 years	243 15.3%	247 14.8%	424 21.0%	159 10.8%	247 16.3%	281 17.8%	5,593 9.7%	8,690 14.2%	10,261 15.3%
45 to 54 years	152 9.5%	234 14.0%	284 14.1%	114 8.3%	154 10.0%	258 16.3%	4,447 7.7%	5,489 8.9%	8,945 13.3%
55 to 64 years	81 5.1%	139 8.3%	223 11.0%	103 8.2%	147 8.7%	145 9.2%	4,185 7.3%	4,299 7.0%	5,235 7.8%
65 to 74 years	64 4.0%	65 3.9%	120 5.9%	75 6.3%	87 6.8%	94 6.5%	3,391 5.9%	3,610 5.9%	3,791 5.6%
75 to 84 years	24 1.5%	41 2.5%	42 2.1%	30 2.5%	39 3.2%	52 3.8%	1,806 3.1%	2,273 3.7%	2,565 3.8%
85 years and over	4 0.3%	9 0.5%	12 0.6%	8 0.6%	9 0.8%	15 1.0%	534 0.9%	720 1.2%	998 1.5%
Total	1,593	1,673	2,020	1,387	1,501	1,560	57,420	61,405	67,182
Median Age	25.3	32.2	37.2	27.4	32.2	37.9	25.4	29.3	33.0

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 1980, 1990, 2000 Census

The 5-to-14 year old cohort for the Town of Grant numbered 341 in 1980. Their number decreased by 118, as teens and young adults left the Town, but increased by 10 persons by the year 2000 (as the 15-to-14 year olds became 25-to-34 year olds). This has not been the pattern for most rural towns in Portage County. Even larger increases occurred within the 35-to-44 and 45-to-54 age categories (+118 and +37, respectively), as more young and middle aged adults returned to the community.

There was also a substantial jump in 2000 for the population of persons in Grant that were under 5 years in 1990. This cohort increased by 221 persons, or more than 174%. There are also increases in the age cohorts that we typically consider “family” age. This may indicate that an increasing number of families are moving into the Town.

For Grant, Portage County, and the Town Average, the populations within specific age cohorts for the older populations have been increasing in numbers over the years. The number of residents within Grant aged 65 and over has increased in each of the last three census counts, with the number of 65-to-74 year olds in particular increasing between 1990 and 2000. The median age for the Town of Grant was 37.2 years in 2000. This rate has increased by almost twelve years since 1980, with the rate of increase holding steady over the two decades. The “median age” is the point where ½ of the population lies above and ½ lies below; the older this age is, the older the overall population for a place is becoming. The other Towns across Portage County have seen their median age increase at a slightly slower pace (10.5 years). The County as a whole has seen its median age increase at an even slower rate, approximately eight years over the twenty-year period.

C. Education Levels

Levels of educational attainment have followed a similar trend of improvement across the different municipal divisions within 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 2000 (from 16.6% down to 3.6%). The percentage of 25+ year old residents who completed some college, or completed a college degree program rose from twenty-seven percent (27%) to forty-four percent (44%) over the same period. This 10-year increase in attainment for Grant was almost the same as the gain for the Town average (25% to 44%), and was much greater than Portage County as a whole (40% to 49%). The Town of Grant also had a higher percentage than the Town average or 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 the Town average increased by over 1% and Portage County experienced a 1.4% decline. Even with the large percentage drop in this category, Grant still has a higher percentage of residents over age 25 with no high school diploma than the County overall and the Town average.

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

Ed. Attainment (Persons 25 yrs+)	Town of Grant		Town Average		Portage County	
	1990	2000	1990	2000	1990	2000
Less Than 9th Grade	100 <i>16.6%</i>	50 <i>3.6%</i>	119 <i>10.2%</i>	66 <i>6.5%</i>	4,065 <i>11.6%</i>	2,420 <i>6.0%</i>
9th to 12th Grade (No Diploma)	100 <i>16.6%</i>	119 <i>8.5%</i>	81 <i>6.9%</i>	83 <i>8.1%</i>	3,029 <i>8.7%</i>	3,019 <i>7.5%</i>
High School Graduate	237 <i>39.4%</i>	614 <i>43.8%</i>	396 <i>34.0%</i>	430 <i>42.0%</i>	14,082 <i>40.2%</i>	14,952 <i>37.2%</i>
Some College (No Degree)	70 <i>11.6%</i>	326 <i>23.3%</i>	116 <i>9.9%</i>	175 <i>17.1%</i>	5,205 <i>14.9%</i>	7,572 <i>18.9%</i>
Associate Degree	22 <i>3.7%</i>	130 <i>9.3%</i>	44 <i>3.8%</i>	69 <i>6.8%</i>	1,922 <i>5.5%</i>	2,802 <i>7.0%</i>
Bachelor's Degree	58 <i>9.6%</i>	105 <i>7.5%</i>	91 <i>7.8%</i>	143 <i>14.0%</i>	4,594 <i>13.1%</i>	6,468 <i>16.1%</i>
Graduate / Professional Degree	15 <i>2.5%</i>	58 <i>4.1%</i>	38 <i>3.2%</i>	57 <i>5.6%</i>	2,107 <i>6.0%</i>	2,910 <i>7.2%</i>
Total	602	1,402	1,165	1,022	35,004	40,143

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

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. Table 1.5 below details the changes in the make-up of Town of Grant households over the last 20 years, and compares them to the Portage County data and the average of the County's other sixteen Towns. Married-couple households, traditionally the largest group within Grant, have seen their percentage of total households decrease slightly over the last 20 years, even as their number has continued to increase. Single-father households within Grant have doubled in both number and percent of

family households. By comparison the Town average and County as a whole have seen a slower increase. Single-mother households have maintained their percentage for all three comparison areas. Grant's non-family households have increased from approximately 13% of total households in 1980 to 20% in 2000. The non-family percentage for Portage County has historically been higher than Grant or the Town average.

The Persons Per Household (PPH) number for the Town of Grant, average of Towns and the County has continued a shrinking trend over the last 20. Grant closely matches the size and rate of decline of the Towns, while the overall County PPH rate of decline has been a bit smaller. This translates into Grant and other Town households being a bit larger than the County average, reflecting the data related to greater population in the younger age cohorts explained earlier.

Table 1.5: Household Type Comparison, Grant, Town Average, and Portage County

Households By Type	Town of Grant			Town Average			Portage County		
	1980	1990	2000	1980	1990	2000	1980	1990	2000
Family Households	393	475	581	356	399	442	13,257	14,883	16,496
<i>(percent of Total H-holds)</i>	87%	86%	80%	84%	82%	79%	72%	70%	66%
Married-couple families	362	432	513	321	352	394	11,592	12,645	13,808
<i>(percent of Family H-holds)</i>	92%	91%	88%	90%	88%	89%	87%	85%	84%
Other family, male householder	11	16	32	13	18	20	437	602	861
<i>(percent of Family H-holds)</i>	3%	3%	6%	4%	4%	5%	3%	4%	5%
Other family, female householder	20	27	36	22	29	28	1,228	1,636	1,827
<i>(percent of Family H-holds)</i>	5%	6%	6%	6%	7%	6%	9%	11%	11%
Non-Family Households	61	80	145	68	86	120	5,056	6,423	8,544
<i>(percent of Total H-holds)</i>	13%	14%	20%	16%	18%	21%	28%	30%	34%
Householder living alone	54	65	111	55	70	93	3,730	4,679	6,130
<i>(percent of Non-Family H-holds)</i>	89%	81%	77%	81%	81%	78%	74%	73%	72%
Householder 65 years and over	~	22	32	~	29	35	~	1,933	2,196
<i>(percent of Non-Family H-holds)</i>		28%	22%		34%	29%		30%	26%
Total Households	454	555	726	423	485	562	18,313	21,306	25,040
Persons Per House Hold	3.51	3.01	2.78	3.27	3.01	2.71	2.93	2.71	2.54

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 1980, 1990, 2000 Census

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 20 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 three percent (3%) in 1979 to fifty-eight percent (58%) in 1999, a percentage that exceeds both the Town Average (32.8%) and the County overall (42.5%).

Median household income in Grant has increased from \$20,214 to \$52,459 over the same period. and has consistently been greater than the Town average and the County as a whole.

Table 1.6: Household Income Comparison, Grant, Town Average, and Portage County

Household Income Per Year	Town of Grant			Town Average			Portage County		
	1979	1989	1999	1979	1989	1999	1979	1989	1999
Less Than \$10,000	96 21.1%	38 6.9%	29 3.8%	99 23.2%	48 9.9%	24 2.8%	5300 28.9%	3210 15.0%	1767 7.0%
\$10,000 to \$14,999	61 13.4%	36 6.5%	16 2.1%	64 15.0%	34 7.0%	23 2.7%	2919 15.9%	1978 9.3%	1608 6.4%
\$15,000 to \$24,999	138 30.4%	86 15.6%	65 8.5%	139 32.8%	84 17.3%	54 6.4%	5423 29.6%	4072 19.1%	3174 12.6%
\$25,000 to \$34,999	104 22.9%	91 16.5%	84 11.0%	74 17.5%	84 17.1%	74 8.7%	2907 15.8%	3654 17.1%	3425 13.6%
\$35,000 to \$49,999	41 0.2%	152 0.4%	127 0.2%	28 0.2%	121 0.4%	110 0.2%	1223 6.7%	4370 20.5%	4484 17.9%
\$50,000 to \$74,999	10 2.2%	109 19.8%	265 34.8%	9 2.1%	80 16.4%	147 17.3%	380 2.1%	2983 14.0%	5771 23.0%
\$75,000 to \$99,999	4 0.9%	30 5.5%	102 13.4%	5 1.1%	20 4.2%	79 9.3%	193 1.1%	661 3.1%	2820 11.2%
\$100,000 to \$149,999		7 1.3%	60 7.9%	0 0.0%	8 1.6%	34 4.0%	0 0.0%	274 1.3%	1346 5.4%
\$150,000 or more		0 0.0%	14 1.8%	0 0.0%	5 1.0%	18 2.2%	0 0.0%	134 0.6%	717 2.9%
Total Households	454	550	762	424	488	848	18,345	21,336	25,112
Median H-Hold Income	\$20,214	\$37,308	\$52,459	\$16,519	\$31,149	\$47,760	\$16,659	\$28,686	\$43,487

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 1980, 1990, 2000 Census

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: Poverty Thresholds - 1980, 1990, and 2000

Size of Family Unit	Poverty Threshold		
	1980	1990	2000
One Person	\$4,190	\$6,652	\$8,794
Two Persons	\$5,363	\$8,509	\$11,239
Three Persons	\$6,565	\$10,419	\$13,738
Four Persons	\$8,414	\$13,481	\$17,603
Five Persons	\$9,966	\$15,792	\$20,819
Six Persons	\$11,269	\$17,839	\$23,528
Seven Persons	\$12,761	\$20,241	\$26,754
Eight Persons	\$14,199	\$22,582	\$29,701
Nine Persons or More	\$16,896	\$26,848	\$35,060

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Table 1.8 lists the Census information on poverty for the total number of residents, persons age 65 and above, and families within the Town of Grant, the 16-Town average, and Portage County as a whole.

Table 1.8: Percent in Poverty Comparison, Grant, Town Average, and Portage County

	Town of Grant		Town Average		Portage County	
	1989	1999	1989	1999	1989	1999
Persons	1,656	2,020	1,311	1,379	57,805	67,182
Below Poverty Level	65	59	118	79	7,454	6,074
	3.9%	2.9%	9.0%	5.7%	12.9%	9.0%
Persons 65 Years and Over	115	174	115	146	5,327	7,354
Below Poverty Level	5	8	14	14	740	561
	4.3%	4.6%	11.7%	9.7%	13.9%	7.6%
Families	469	585	351	393	14,927	16,643
Below Poverty Level	14	11	23	14	1,051	725
	3.0%	1.9%	6.6%	3.6%	7.0%	4.4%

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

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. With regard to the other Towns in Portage County, Grant has a lower percentage of persons living in poverty, and has half the percentage of its seniors living in poverty than the average Town. Grant has also reduced the number of families that are considered to be in poverty, so both numbers and percentages are lower than both the Town average and the County.

E. Employment Characteristics

Table 1.9 below summarizes employment by industry data provided for the last three Census years. 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 will take place within the Economic Development Element chapter of this Comprehensive Plan. It should be noted that the method used for classifying industries was changed between the 1990 and 2000 Census, and therefore the information included in the industry categories of Table 1.9 are not entirely consistent for comparison between those years. The table attempts to place the three Census years in a useable context.

Table 1.9: Summary of Employment by Industry

Industry	Town of Grant			Town Average			Portage County		
	1980	1990	2000	1980	1990	2000	1980	1990	2000
Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries, Mining	39 6.2%	53 6.1%	34 3.2%	97 17.0%	84 11.5%	60 7.2%	1,816 7.3%	1,755 5.8%	1,241 3.5%
Construction	33 5.2%	45 5.2%	61 5.8%	31 5.5%	43 5.9%	51 6.2%	1,004 4.0%	1,297 4.3%	1,707 4.8%
Manufacturing	261 41.5%	307 35.5%	417 39.6%	113 19.8%	143 19.7%	167 20.1%	4,637 18.6%	5,373 17.8%	6,314 17.7%
Transportation, Warehousing, Utilities	32 5.1%	52 6.0%	59 5.6%	30 5.3%	47 6.5%	54 6.4%	1,214 4.9%	1,511 5.0%	1,948 5.5%
Information	0 0.0%	0 0.0%	14 1.3%	0 0.0%	0 0.0%	10 1.2%	0 0.0%	0 0.0%	835 2.3%
Communications/ Other Public Facilities	4 0.6%	13 1.5%	0 0.0%	6 1.0%	6 0.9%	0 0.0%	325 1.3%	367 1.2%	0 0.0%
Wholesale Trade	33 5.2%	35 4.0%	20 1.9%	22 3.9%	23 3.2%	30 3.6%	885 3.5%	1,026 3.4%	1,235 3.5%
Retail Trade	106 16.9%	142 16.4%	132 12.5%	76 13.4%	115 15.9%	100 12.0%	4,317 17.3%	5,667 18.8%	4,813 13.5%
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate	23 3.7%	33 3.8%	49 4.7%	65 11.4%	84 11.5%	90 10.8%	2,971 11.9%	3,359 11.1%	3,682 10.3%
Professional, Management, Administrative	0 0.0%	0 0.0%	22 2.1%	0 0.0%	0 0.0%	30 3.6%	0 0.0%	0 0.0%	1,627 4.6%
Business and Repair Services	12 1.9%	25 2.9%	0 0.0%	10 1.8%	18 2.5%	0 0.0%	518 2.1%	941 3.1%	0 0.0%
Personal Services	0 0.0%	18 2.1%	0 0.0%	0 0.0%	16 2.1%	0 0.0%	0 0.0%	777 2.6%	0 0.0%
Arts, Entertainment, Recreation Services	19 3.0%	7 0.8%	35 3.3%	17 3.0%	5 0.7%	48 5.8%	734 2.9%	388 1.3%	3005 8.4%
Educational, Health, Social Services	54 8.6%	101 11.7%	150 14.3%	80 14.0%	101 13.8%	140 16.8%	5,331 21.4%	5,617 18.6%	7,192 20.2%
Other	4 0.6%	26 3.0%	34 3.2%	14 2.4%	22 3.0%	33 3.9%	624 2.5%	1,362 4.5%	1,236 3.5%
Public Administration	9 1.4%	8 0.9%	25 2.4%	9 1.5%	19 2.6%	19 2.3%	571 2.3%	710 2.4%	842 2.4%
Total Employed Persons	629	865	1,052	569	726	833	24,947	30,150	35,677
Unemployed Persons	66	50	63	56	36	36	2,013	1,590	2,255
Total Labor Force	695	915	1,115	624	791	617	26,960	31,740	37,944
Percent Unemployed	10.5%	5.8%	6.0%	10%	5%	4%	8.1%	5.3%	6.3%
Persons 16 Years +	0	1,235	1,572	0	1047	1192	0	47,202	53,135

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 1980, 1990, 2000 Census

Section 1.5 Forecasts

A. Population Projections

Population projections developed by the Portage County Planning and Zoning Department suggest that the Town will experience continued moderate growth, with a projected increase of 484 residents from the year 2000 through 2020, or a 20-year growth rate of 24%. This compares with a projected increase of 13.4% for the entire County, for the same period. It should be noted that population projections are “best guesses” and should be used with caution. (Appendix D Methodology for Population Projections)

The Town of Grant Plan Commission has adopted the following projected population totals for the planning period: **2010: 2,274 2015: 2,378 2020: 2,504 2025: 2,596**

B. Household Projections

Household projections for the Town of Grant will be based on the above stated population projection divided by the anticipated number of persons per household in both 2010 and 2020.

The number of persons per household has been steadily declining in Grant, from 3.51 persons in 1980 to 2.78 persons in 2000. Using method of linear regression, the forecasted number of persons per household (PPH) in 2010 will be 2.37. Forecasting numbers far into the future using linear regression produces increased uncertainty, therefore, the persons per household will be held at 2.37 for the year 2025. Keep in mind that these numbers represent projections and should not be used as absolute.

Dividing a PPH of 2.37 for this plan horizon (2025) into the population for each projection year listed in 1.5(A) above results in the following household projections for the Town of Grant:

2010: 960 h-holds 2015: 1,003 h-holds 2020: 1,057 households 2025: 1,095 h-holds

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; Grant ranks 4th in the County in the amount of acreage of irrigated cropland. 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.

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.