



# Working Lands



For four generations, the Dieringer family has farmed their land in northern Ozaukee County, even as neighboring farms were lost to development. For years, grandfather, father, and grandson farmed side-by-side. Now, through the gift of a conservation easement to Ozaukee Washington Land Trust, the Dieringers continue farming the land they love while protecting it forever.

*We preserve the water resources,  
natural areas, and working lands  
of Ozaukee and Washington Counties.*

WITH YOUR SUPPORT

Farmers have worked the fertile soils of Ozaukee and Washington Counties to provide for their families and neighbors since the first settlers. Today, these working farms weave their way across the region, serving as the fabric of our shared natural heritage.

With your support, Ozaukee Washington Land Trust is committed to preserving these “working lands” and the quality of life they provide for area residents.

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# Farmland preservation is conservation.



The conservation benefits of farmland—and rural character itself—are eroded one acre at a time. Across the United States, 40 acres of farmland are lost every hour. Once farms are bulldozed and paved over, that land is gone forever.



When worked with conservation in mind, farming promotes productive soils and helps to improve lake, river, and drinking water quality.



With ever-increasing development pressures, we are in a race against time to strike a balance for our community that includes working lands, family farms, and self-sustaining communities.

## CONSERVATION THROUGH PARTNERSHIP

To protect working lands, Ozaukee Washington Land Trust partners with the original conservationists—the farm families who have relied on protecting the land and water for their livelihoods for generations. We believe in finding creative ways to help generations of farmers stay close to the land and, at the same time, building healthy food systems and local economies.

Agricultural easements are a tool we often use to ensure farmlands remain undeveloped while allowing farmers to continue to work and profit from their land. We love this tool because it permits families to pass their farms on to the next generation.

We also lease parcels of our preserved lands to area farmers. We then work together to improve the health of the soil and water through innovative farming practices.

## CONNECT

Our success is only possible with the support of friends, donors, volunteers, and landowners like you. Please join us!



WORKING TOGETHER

## Farming and River Protection: A Win-Win

The Milwaukee River is a local treasure, but one that's plagued with water quality problems due, in part, to phosphorous and sediment-laden runoff. We're tackling the problem head-on at our Decorah Woods Preserve in West Bend, where you'll find agricultural fields tucked among the beautiful mature oaks, hardwood forests, and wetlands. Here, we are working with a local farmer to plant alfalfa as permanent ground cover in fields buffering a Milwaukee River tributary stream. This approach supports our farming economy, while improving the health of the soil, discouraging soil erosion, and ultimately protecting the Milwaukee River and Lake Michigan.



### Ozaukee Washington Land Trust

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As a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization, your donation to Ozaukee Washington Land Trust is tax deductible to the full extent of the law.

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