CITY OF PORT WASHINGTON
Ozaukee County, Wisconsin

A PROCLAMATION HONORING THE OZAUKEE WASHINGTON LAND TRUST

WHEREAS, our great City of Port Washington benefits immeasurably from the non-profit organizations that work on behalf of and in partnership with our City and, in so doing, inspire, equip and mobilize others to take actions that change our local community for the better; and

WHEREAS, the Ozaukee Washington Land Trust (OWLT), formed in 1992 as a non-profit organization dedicated to preserving the water resources, natural areas, and working lands of Ozaukee and Washington Counties, is one of those partner organizations which has stepped forward to impact our City in a very meaningful and significant way; and

WHEREAS, since its inception over 20 years ago, OWLT has successfully improved the water quality of our lakes, streams, rivers, and wetlands; protected and enhanced wildlife habitat; and preserved the scenic and open spaces that define our rural landscape, and in so doing has advanced public awareness of the benefits of land preservation and provided opportunities for nature-based recreation, improving the quality of life in our communities; and

WHEREAS, back in 1994, OWLT founders and generous supporters made their first land purchase, Sauk Creek Nature Preserve, a 27-acre natural area in Port Washington, inclusive of the creek that runs north and south over limestone bedrock ledges and eventually flows into Lake Michigan near our Marina; floodplain forest and second growth forest; trails that connect the preserve to local neighborhoods; and a bridge that allows easy public access to the creek; and

WHEREAS, over the past two decades, Sauk Creek Nature Preserve has become a valuable wildlife corridor and an outstanding resource for community education and recreation, with visitor traffic consistently being the highest of all OWLT preserves; and

WHEREAS, in making this lasting contribution to our City via their extraordinary gifts of time, talent, and treasure, OWLT founders, supporters, and volunteers made possible what would otherwise not have been practical or possible for our local unit of government and advanced their mission of preserving natural area, protecting wildlife habitat, and providing nature-based recreation; and

NOW, THEREFORE, Be It Resolved Proudly by the Mayor and Common Council of our great City of Port Washington that we celebrate the Ozaukee Washington Land Trust for its invaluable and impactful contributions to our community, and profoundly thank the organization for its partnership with, commitment to, and investment in "Our Home Port."

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Port Washington, Wisconsin to be affixed, this 5th day of November, 2014.

Tom Mlada

Tom Mlada, Mayor