

# Oregon Sculpture Trail

The Oregon Sculpture Trail is produced by the City of Oregon, Oregon Public Library District, and Oregon Park District.



1: *The Eternal Indian*  
By Lorado Taft



2: *Seven Muses\**  
By Students of Lorado Taft



3: *Making Hay*  
By Daniel Ingebritson



4: *The Holy Family*  
By David Seagraves



5: *From the Waters Comes My Bounty*  
By Ray Kobald



6: *Cornball*  
By Howard Russo



7: *Expedition of the Rock River Valley*  
By Steven Carpenter



8: *The Soldiers Monument*  
By Lorado Taft



9: *The Blind*  
By Lorado Taft



10: *The Kneeling Soldier*  
By Jeff Adams



11: *Bountiful Bench*  
By Christina Murphy

12: *Soy Pod*,  
By Pamela Lee

13: *Agriculture, Mother of Civilization*  
By David Seagraves

14: *Harvest Moon*  
By Matthew Donovan

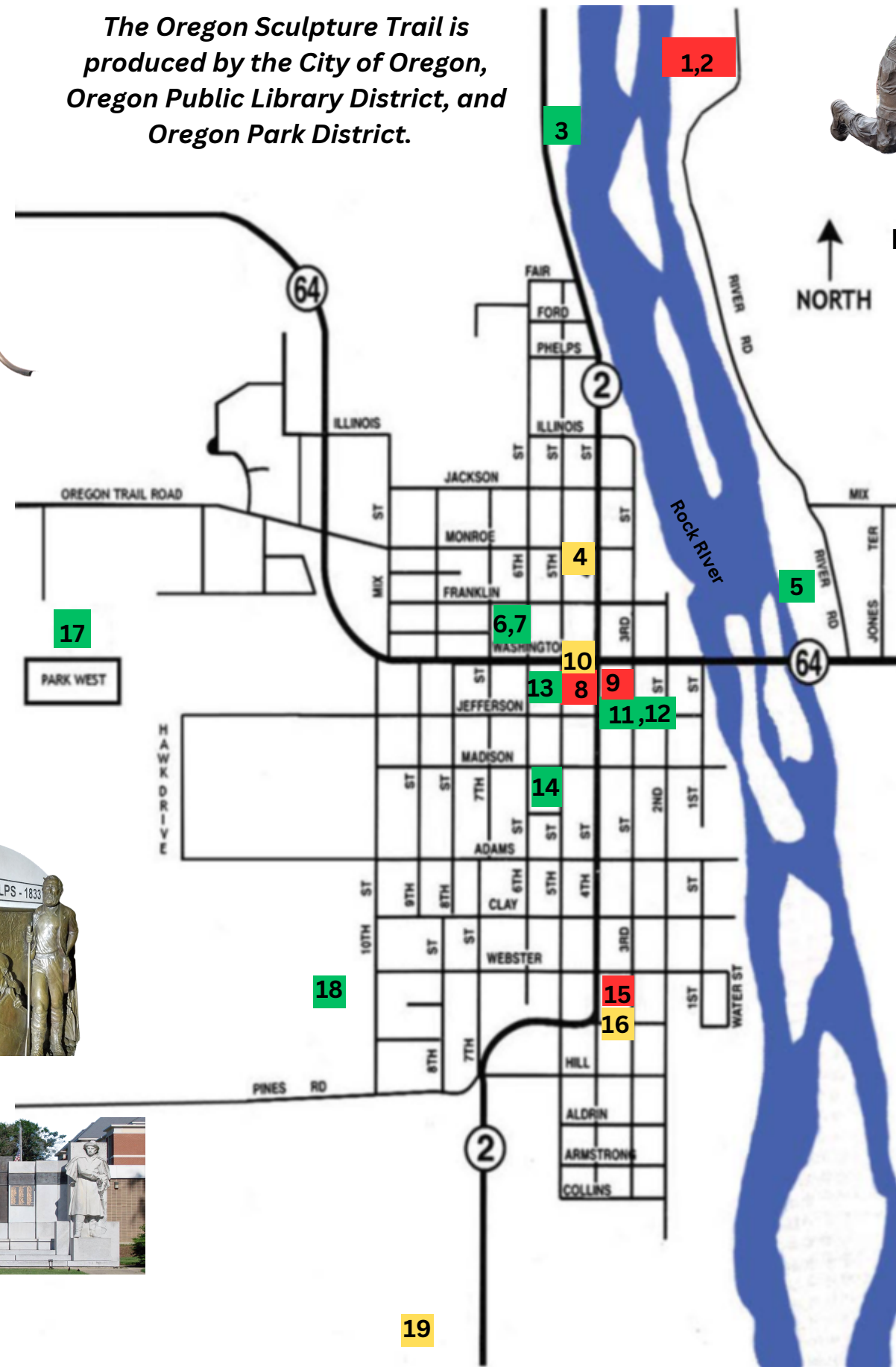
15: *Fish Boys*  
By Lorado Taft

16: *Paths of Conviction, Footsteps of Fate*  
By Jeff Adams

17: *Solar Reef*  
By Andrew Langoussis

18: *Working the Land*  
By Robert Pulley

19: *Come to the Wilderness\**  
By Jeff Adams



■ Historical Sculpture

■ Community Art Legacy Sculpture

■ Commissioned Sculpture

Sculptures noted with an \* are located on Private Property and Require Permission to Visit



**1** **The Eternal Indian By Lorado Taft**

The most iconic piece of artwork produced at the Eagles Nest Art Colony, the Eternal Indian was inspired by Lorado Taft's appreciation for nature and for the people who first resided in Oregon, IL. Nicknamed "Blackhawk", it is the second largest concrete monolith in the world and the largest in the northern hemisphere. This sculpture can be visited in Lowden State Park.

**2** **Seven Muses\*  
By Students of Lorado Taft**

Many of the exact details concerning the creation of this sculpture are unknown, but it is believed to be a work of students of Lorado Taft at the Eagles Nest Art Colony. This Sculpture is located on private property. Please obtain permission from Lorado Taft Field Campus before visiting this sculpture.

**3** **Making Hay  
By Daniel Ingebritson**

Located at Stillman Bank. Making Hay seamlessly captures movement in sculpture with a farmer's scythe harvesting crops in a ripe field.

**4** **The Holy Family By David Seagraves**

Located at the Church of St. Mary at the Corner of Rt 2 and Monroe St. This 3.5 ton statue depicting Mary, Joseph, and a young Jesus took over two years to complete before its dedication in 1991. It is carved from Indiana Limestone and was commissioned to celebrate the church's 100 year anniversary.

**5** **From the Waters Comes My Bounty  
By Ray Kobald**

Located in Oregon Park East off River Rd. From the Waters Comes My Bounty depicts the life sustaining qualities of water.

**6** **Cornball By Howard Russo**

Located on the lawn of the Oregon Coliseum, Cornball is an artistic representation of the global impact of corn farming.

**7** **Expedition of the Rock River Valley  
By Steven Carpenter**

The final installation of the community art legacy project, Expedition of the Rock River Valley depicts the arrival of City of Oregon founder, John Phelps.

**8** **The Soldiers Monument  
By Lorado Taft**

Dedicated in 1916 at the Ogle County Courthouse in a public ceremony that drew roughly 4,000 people, this bronze sculpture honors veterans from the Oregon, IL area who served in the armed forces from conflicts ranging from the War of 1812 to World War 1.

**9** **The Blind By Lorado Taft**

On Display in the Oregon Public Library, this is a small scale plaster model used in the process of creating the full sized sculpture. The full size masterpiece is at the University of Illinois Champaign-Urbana.

**10** **The Kneeling Soldier By Jeff Adams**

The Kneeling Soldier honors all United States military members from Ogle County who laid down their lives in service of our nation. It can be seen just north of the Ogle County Courthouse.

**11** **Bountiful Bench By Christina Murphy**

Located on the lawn of the Oregon Public Library, Bountiful Bench displays abundance in natural resources.

**12** **Soy Pod By Pamela Lee**

Located on the lawn of the Oregon Library, Soy pod represents the symbiosis of crops and livestock in agriculture.

**13** **Agriculture, Mother of Civilization  
By David Seagraves**

Located on the lawn of the Judicial Center, Agriculture, Mother of Civilization is a personification of the fertility of Ogle County Soil.

**Historical Sculpture** **Community Art** **Legacy Sculpture** **Commissioned Sculpture**

**14** **Harvest Moon By Matthew Donovan**

Located at Nash Recreation Center, Harvest Moon captures a spectral barn owl in flight through a moonlit sky.

**15** **Fish Boys By Lorado Taft**

Located in Mix Park, Oregon's Fish Boys are a concrete re-creation of two bronze figures dedicated at the Chicago Art Institute.

**16** **Paths of Conviction, Footsteps of Fate  
By Jeff Adams**

Located in Mix Park, Paths of Conviction, Footsteps of Fate reflects on the crossing of paths between Abraham Lincoln and Black Hawk through Northern Illinois in 1832

**17** **Solar Reef By Andrew Langoussis**

Solar Reef is best viewed at sunrise. The fields, cities, and landscapes on the sculpture are illuminated with the sun at the center, symbolizing the sun supplying energy to the world. See this at the hill in Oregon Park West

**18** **Working the Land By Robert Pulley**

Working the Land is a representation of the dynamic forces at work in historic and modern agriculture. Visit this sculpture in the Oregon Community Gardens north of the Rock River Center on 10th Street.

**19** **Come to the Wilderness\*By  
Jeff Adams**

John the Baptist welcomes travelers into the wilderness, pointing them to Christ. This sculpture is located on private property. Please obtain permission from Lutheran Outdoor Ministries Center before visiting this sculpture.



## **The Eagles' Nest Art Colony**

The Eagles' Nest Art Colony was started in 1898 when a group of artists associated with the Chicago Art Institute leased land on the bluff overlooking the Rock River on its east bank. This group of artists, writers, poets and musicians established summer homes there and continued to meet in summers until 1942, when the lease was terminated with the death of the last surviving original member. Today, the grounds of the Eagles Nest Art Colony are a part of the Lorado Taft Field Campus, an extension of Northern Illinois University.

## **Community Art Legacy**

The Community Art Legacy (CAL) was formed in 2004 by a group of Oregon citizens with the purpose of installing "ten sculptures in ten years" in the Oregon area. It was formed under the initiative of Jeff Adams, sculptor and foundry operator of InBronze Foundry in Mt. Morris.

Their guiding motivation was expressed by sculptor Lorado Taft when he said, "The hometown is the dearest place on earth: why not make it more beautiful?"

CAL held a competition each year of the project in which sculptors submitted maquettes (models) of work to the theme of the Fields Project, "bringing art and agriculture together". The winning sculptor received a prize of \$2,000 and then enlarges the maquette to a "lifesize" sculpture which is then molded and cast in bronze. The sculptor also received the molds from which additional sculptures can be cast.

Funds for this program were given and pledged by friends and members of the community over the 10 years of the program. Ownership, installation and maintenance responsibilities were assumed by the entity where the sculpture was placed. The CAL is unique in that it was a true community initiative celebrating the art history of Oregon IL.

The ambitious goal of "ten sculptures in ten years" ended up becoming "ten sculptures in eleven years", as the intricate details of the grand finale "Expedition of the Rock River Valley" required additional time to complete.

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*“The hometown is the dearest place on earth:  
why not make it more beautiful?”*

**Lorado Taft**

### The Legacy of Lorado Taft

Born April 29, 1860, in Elmwood, IL, Taft was inspired to become a sculptor at age 14 when he helped to uncrate, repair, and arrange the University of Illinois’ first sculpture collection. This was also the first classical art collection brought to the American Midwest. He studied sculpture in Paris for six years before establishing his studio at the Art Institute in Chicago.

Taft was an artist, educator, and advocate of civic beauty.

His works of sculpture including statues, fountains, and memorial tablets produced from 1887 – 1936 are located throughout the U.S.

### The Oregon Sculpture Trail

The Oregon Sculpture Trail began in 1911 with the unveiling of Lorado Taft's inspiring Eternal Indian Statue. From the time of the Eagle's Nest Art Colony through today, Oregon, Illinois is blessed with an abundance of artistic and natural beauty. Welcome to our community, and enjoy your time exploring the Oregon Sculpture Trail.



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