



INTRODUCTION

Like many communities throughout Indiana, the City of Alexandria has always been a small community where all people knew one another by name. It has been a rural way of life, not impacted by urban uses. The values are those of a rural community – neighborliness, the opportunity to walk to various community facilities, and tree-lined streets.

The leaders of Alexandria have recognized a need to enhance and improve their community. Unlike some communities which might be located near growing urban areas, Alexandria is in a rural area that is not pressured by expanding population growth. Their goal is to maintain and improve their community for the existing citizenry as well as developing paths for future expansions in economic and social growth which will attract new opportunities for population growth.

This Comprehensive Development Plan is directed to helping the City of Alexandria retain the conveniences of a modern society, while at the same time retaining the values of the smaller rural community it once was. The City, through the implementation of this Comprehensive Development Plan, is attempting to begin a new era.

COMMUNITY SYNOPSIS

Alexandria was designated “Small Town U.S.A.” by the Office of War Information during WW II. Alexandria was selected as an example of a typical small American town for a portrayal of individual family and community life. The purpose of the book was propagandistic, to correct wrong impressions which the residents of many allied countries had of the American Midwest. “The town of Alexandria has its significance because it can be taken as the symbol of small towns which dot the map of the United States. *To know Alexandria is to know the American small town.*”

Alexandria emulates that of thousands of small towns in America. During the sixty-five years since it was dubbed, *Small Town U.S.A.* its downtown has deteriorated, its population has decreased, its employment opportunities have dwindled, and its youth have migrated away. Community Pride, once the

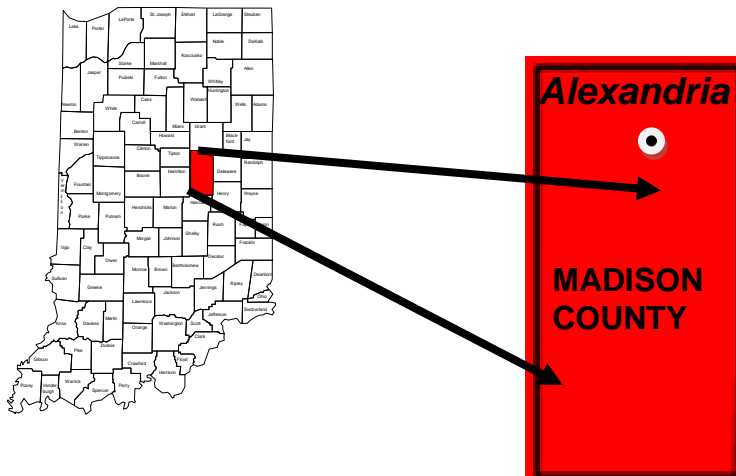
epitome of Alexandria remains dear to the majority of residents, but it too is beginning to fade with each new generation.*

**excerpt from Alexandria Hometown Competitiveness Report*

LOCATION

The City of Alexandria and the surrounding area are part of Monroe Township which is located in northern Madison County, approximately 45 miles northeast of Indianapolis. Monroe Township borders I-69 on the east and State Road 37 on the west. The City of Alexandria lies at the intersection of State Roads 9 and 28. The population, according to the 2000 census, was 6,260 residents. Alexandria Monroe School Corporation is the only school system for all Monroe Township students. The working population consists of business and professional, industrial, seasonal migrant workers, and permanent agricultural workers. A high percentage of the local work force commutes to surrounding communities.

The planning area for this Comprehensive Development Plan includes the City of Alexandria. The community is primarily residential, with a downtown core and highway corridor of local businesses. Alexandria sits directly north of Anderson the county seat and largest city in Madison County.



Alexandria's location in central Indiana provides residential, commercial and industrial opportunities because of its regional setting. It is also within the Madison County Metropolitan Planning Area and is part of a regional nine county transportation coalition.

Politically, the regional setting includes representation on a national level within the 6th U.S. Congressional House District currently represented by Congressman Mike Pence. On a state level, the planning area is represented by State Senator Tim Lalane in the 25th District, and by State Representative Terri Austin in the 36th District.