CHAPTER 4: Community Environment

"In Alexandria, we set our standards a little differently... God, family and friends, our neighbors... are what's important! Affordable housing, great leadership, opportunities to make a difference, strong local leadership, new business practices, entrepreneurship support, all help to provide the most desirable living conditions available. Our "Small Town" values help support and provide an environment conducive for raising great kids and maintaining strong family ties."

This is the statement you will find on the Alexandria website. Community is very important to Alexandria and this section looks at the quality of life and community facilities and services provided to citizens of Alexandria.

Quality of Life is an examination of influences upon the goodness and meaning in life, as well as people's happiness and well-being. From our perspective, the ultimate goal of quality of life is to enable people to live quality lives -- lives that are both meaningful and enjoyed.

Quality of life can have a different meaning to different people. The quality of life issues we looked at included issues affecting the social as well as the physical nature of the community, i.e. seniors, youth, community image, volunteerism.

Community facilities are very important to help a community serves its citizens providing health and safety as well as providing for a higher quality of living. Having adequate community facilities is also important to a community for economic reasons as well. An overview of facilities and services can be found in this chapter.

DEMOGRAPHIC STATISTICS

Population

The population of Alexandria has risen slightly each decade for the past 80 years. Shown in **Table 1** below is the historic population from 1920 to 2000.

Table 1 Historic Population City of Alexandria									
Year		*1920*	*1930*	*1940*	*1950*	*1960*	*1970*	*1980*	*1990*	*2000*
Population		4,172	4,408	4,801	5,147	5,582	5,600	6,028	5,709	6,260
# Increase/ Decrease			236	393	346	435	18	428	-319	551
% Increase/ Decrease			5.4%	8.2%	6.7%	7.8%	0.3%	7.1%	-5.6%	8.8%

The highest population that the City of Alexandria has witnessed was during the turn of the century. In 1900 the city boasted a population of 7,221. Since the 1950's, the city had only one decade of population drop which occurred in the 1990's. This population drop was similar to what the county experienced during that decade.

By comparison, The State of Indiana from 1950 to 2000 had an average increase of only 15.5%. The City of Alexandria was slightly higher to the statewide increase at 17.7% from 1950 to 2000. Madison County by comparison grew 22% in the same time period.

Population by Sex

Shown below is the population in the City of Alexandria by sex. There is a higher percentage of women in Alexandria compared to the State of Indiana and Madison County as shown below

Population by Sex City of Alexandria 2000 U.S. Census				
Category	Number	Percent of Total		
	City	City	County	State
Male	2,990	47.8	49.3	49.0
Female	3,270	52.2	50.7	51.0
Total	**6,260**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**

Population by Age

Shown in the table below**,** is the breakdown by age group for the City of Alexandria. As can be seen by comparing it to the percentage for the State and Madison County as a whole, the City of Alexandria has a very similar percentage of persons in several age groups only different by a percentage point or two, but

is higher in the age group of adults aged 65 and above by 1 percentage points over Madison County and 3 percent over the State. This is an indication of a growing elderly population in Alexandria.

Population by Age City of Alexandria 2000 U.S. Census				
Category	**Number**	**Percent of Total**		
	City	**City**	**County**	**State**
Under 5 years	478	7.6	6.4	7.0
5 to 19 years	1,414	22.5	20.1	22.0
20 to 24 years	401	6.4	6.4	7.0
25 to34 years	863	13.8	13.3	13.7
35 to 44 years	889	14.2	15.0	15.8
45 to 54 years	728	11.6	13.9	13.4
55 to 65 years	492	4.1	5.5	8.7
65 years and over	995	15.8	14.9	12.4
Total	**6,260**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**

Population Projection

In order to plan for future land use in the City of Alexandria, it was necessary to determine the population projection for the planning period.

It is not enough to only examine the current population's needs and conditions. To be effective, decisions made today must consider changes that will take place in the future. Changes in population have an effect not only on the level of community services and facilities that must be provided but also on the type and amount of private investment that occurs in a community. All projections are based on a variety of assumptions. For that reason, ranges of projections are often developed to give higher and lower estimates based on different scenarios. Having knowledge of the community can help to decide which projection is most likely, but it is important to keep in mind that no projection is foolproof. In particular, one should note that the longer the time interval of the projection and the smaller the geographic area under consideration, the greater is the chance for inaccuracy.

The methodology chosen for the City of Alexandria was that of Modified Exponential. The Modified Exponential methodology assumes that at some point a community's growth will be impeded by a lack of adequate resources, public facilities, available land and other amenities. Declining communities rarely disappear entirely; rather, they decline only until they reach population and employment levels appropriate to their current position in the regional or national economy.

Population Projection Table

	1980	1990	2000	*2010**	*2020**	*2030**
Indiana	5,490,224	5,544,159	6,080,485	*6,417,198*	*6,743,728*	*7,024,457*
Madison County	139,336	130,669	133,358	*127,256*	*124,918*	*125,728*
Alexandria	**6,028**	**5,709**	**6,260**	*5,960*	*5,847*	*6,197*
*** - estimated**						

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS/SERVICES

Community Organizations/Centers

Alexandria Community Vision

The Alexandria Community Visioning group started in October 2005 developing the ALEX 2020 visioning process. This group was formed from the Alexandria Community Resource Committee (ACRC).

The ACV has developed five Action Teams or committees. The Action Teams developed a vision for each of the five focus areas: Education, Leadership, Economic Development, Downtown Center and Quality of Life.
In 2006, the ACV was established as a community action organization and held the first meeting with the new Board of Directors. In this capacity, the group would be able to apply for grants and also solidify the organization into a formal framework. Their mission is to, "foster a growing, inclusive, well-informed, and dynamic network of business, government, education, and local citizenry who can work together for the future well-being of Alexandria and surrounding Monroe Township."

The AVC Board meets the first Wednesday of each month. A focus of the AVC is to recruit people from the community to become actively involved in the AVC.

In 2007, the AVC decided to pursue the organization becoming a 501c not-for-profit organization. It sponsors many community events including a Voter Forum, Strawberry Festival, Senior Dance, and various beautification projects.

In 2008, the ACV through the City of Alexandria, was selected by the State to participate in the pilot program called Hometown Competitiveness. The Alexandria community was one of only eight communities across Indiana to receive this designation. Through the HTC program, the community developed four 'pillars' or long term goals for the community to work on. These four goals were to develop youth, leadership, charitable giving, and entrepreneurship in the community.

These goals combined with the previous five goals the ACV were currently involved in had Alexandria on its way to greatly improving its community.

Alexandria Community Center

The Community Center is a United Way of Madison County Certified Member Agency. A variety of programs are offered to youth and adults and are the result of community collaborations. United Way of Madison County, contributions, and program fees fund the Community Center.

Senior Citizens Guild

Meets at 119 W. Church St. and is open to all seniors in the community.

Alexandria/Monroe Historical Society/Museum

The Alexandria Monroe Township Historical Society was started in 1979. The museum contains a great collection of articles and have displays including Aladdin Lamps, and memorabilia from Lippincott Glass, Kelly Axe and the Union Traction Co. It also includes a large library with many research books from other states.

Not-for-Profit

There are various not for profit social organizations in Alexandria such as the Men's and Women's Service organization, Kiwanis, Elks, Eagles, Masons as well as several other fraternal and sorority clubs. Many of these organizations provide social and welfare services for the community.

Religious Institutions

Alexandria has over 13 churches representing several denominations to serve its public. Many of them have ongoing social programs which aid the needy in Alexandria.

QUALITY OF LIFE POLICY

Goal:

Vision for Alexandria must be based on common purpose and common concern for all residents. It must build on strengths in community foundations of rich heritage and civic pride. A vibrant community for all citizens will work towards much higher levels of productivity, educational attainment, and quality of life encouraging greater civic participation and rewards.

Objectives:

- Review current City ordinances and update if necessary and determine the need for new ordinances.

- Continue efforts to develop an excellent quality of life by beautification efforts and other measures to provide for a healthy and vibrant community.

- Develop Emergency Management Plan.

- Retain current residents and promote the attraction of new residents to the community.

- Encourage the retention and development of educational facilities for its youth and adult populations.

- Establish neighborhood cleanup days.

- Enhance communication/cooperation between major community groups, government, businesses, school corporation.

- Bring families out of poverty.

- Develop distance learning center.

- Develop programs for youth.

- Enhance leadership in community.

- Develop local philanthropic/endowment organization.

- Develop programs for seniors.

- Enhance community image.

- Define and develop neighborhood areas.

- Develop crime watch programs in neighborhoods.

COMMUNITY FACILITIES

Schools

The City of Alexandria is served by the Alexandria-Monroe School Corporation which serves populations in Alexandria and surrounding Monroe Township. The community is close to numerous colleges and universities including major state universities and numerous smaller private colleges and universities including Anderson University, Ball State University, Purdue University, Ivy Tech Community College, Indiana Wesleyan, Taylor University and Indianapolis area schools of higher learning. Alexandria-Monroe High School and the Intermediate School are located on the southwest side of the City. The Primary school (grades K to 5) is located on the northwest side of the City. The Alexandria-Monroe School Corp. administrative offices are located in the downtown area.

School district enrollment, as shown in the table below, has been slightly declining for the past few years. The Indiana Department of Education enrollment projections show a continuing decrease to a total enrollment of 1,423 by 2012.

Year	PK	KG	Gr 1	Gr 2	Gr 3	Gr 4	Gr 5	Gr 6	Gr 7	Gr 8	Gr 9	Gr 10	Gr 11	Gr 12	Other	KG-6	7-12	Total
Alexandria Com School Corp - Enrollment Projection																		
2012-13	0	103	102	111	112	107	127	119	120	112	125	105	80	100	0	781	642	1,423
2011-12	0	103	111	112	107	123	123	118	115	114	123	88	108	94	0	797	642	1,439
2010-11	0	113	113	108	123	119	122	114	117	112	103	119	102	102	0	812	655	1,467
2009-10	0	114	108	124	120	119	117	115	115	94	138	112	110	116	0	817	685	1,502
Alexandria Com School Corp - Enrollment																		
2008-09	0	109	124	120	119	114	119	113	96	126	130	121	126	132	0	818	731	1,549
2007-08	0	131	122	120	108	121	119	103	119	147	126	146	142	112	0	824	792	1,616
2006-07	0	122	124	116	120	114	112	114	148	114	171	142	125	107	0	822	807	1,629
2005-06	0	120	118	123	125	106	119	144	126	145	176	135	109	112	0	855	803	1,658
2004-05	0	120	117	115	104	115	138	120	154	144	166	128	127	127	0	829	846	1,675

Library

The Alexandria-Monroe Public Library has been serving Alexandria and Monroe Township for over 100 years. The library is governed by a Library Board of Trustees. The first library was started in the National Bank building on the corner of Harrison and Washington streets in 1895. The original Carnegie library was built on the present library location in 1902 and was added to in 1990.

The Director and staff members oversee the many services and programs offered by the library. These include the latest book titles, videos, DVDs, audio books, newspapers, magazines, electronic databases, computer classes, a HomeBound book delivery service, monthly adult and Christian fiction book groups, a public meeting room, a local history collection, as well as a wide variety of programs and outreach services for all ages.

The library is a member of the Evergreen Indiana Library Consortium. They offer reciprocal borrowing with the North Madison Library System and the Pendleton Community Library. Patrons can access materials from libraries across the country through our interlibrary loan services.

City Hall

The current Alexandria City Hall was built in 1906. The building is home to the Council Meeting Room, Clerk-Treasurer's Office, the Mayor's Office, and the Building Department. The City Courts are located just south of the City Hall.

Police Department

The Alexandria Police Department was established in 1893 with a merchant police force and has grown to a department of 13 full-time professional and well-trained police officers. These men and women are dedicated to providing the highest quality of professional Police service to the citizens of Alexandria.

The department has one of the four full-time 911 police and fire dispatch centers located in Madison County with 4 full-time emergency medical dispatchers (EMD). The dispatch center dispatches fire and ambulance services to all of Monroe Township and the Town of Orestes as well as police, fire and ambulance services to the City of Alexandria.

The department has a reserve officer program that has served as training starting point for many full-time officers. The reserve force of about 10 men and women

go through approximately 120 hours of training including the mandated 40 hours of pre-basic training required by the Indiana Law Enforcement Academy. They serve as a vital part of the protection and manpower for the Alexandria Police Department.

Fire Department/EMS

The Alexandria Fire Department was started as a volunteer fire brigade after a string of downtown fires, including the Opera House and Shoe Store. Then in the year of 1893 the Alexandria Fire Department became a paid fire department after a city block was lost by fire on Harrison Street. On November 21, 1905, the cornerstone was placed for the new Fire Station on Wayne Street next to City Hall. The Station was completed in 1908. At this time, they had horse drawn apparatus. We are uncertain as to we these apparatus were changed to gas powered apparatus. In 1974 the current Fire Station was built at 212 S. Harrison Street and all equipment was moved at this time. In 1978 or 1979 the City of Alexandria purchased its first ambulance which was a station wagon model. Since this time we have ungraded all of our apparatus to meet the new NFPA standards for apparatus.

The Alexandria Fire Department provides the following services for the city of Alexandria and Monroe Township of Madison County protecting an area of 51 square miles and nearly 12,000 residents.

Fire protection
  - Emergency Medical Management
  - Fire Prevention for nearly 700 elementary students
  - Fire Code Enforcement
  - Specialized Rescue (Confined Space)
  - Provide Mutual Aid for surrounding Departments
  - Community Emergency Alert System (Warning siren for severe weather)
  - Community Connections (Safe Haven for kids)
  - School Safety team
  - Members on Crisis Intervention Team

Equipment
  - Engine 1 (1250 gpm pumper)
  - Engine 3 (1000 gpm pumper)
  - Tanker 53 (3000 gallon tanker)
  - Ambulance 55, 56, 58
  - Grass Truck 54

Recreation

The Parks Department is dedicated to providing a safe, family orientated parks system that is attractive and beneficial to the citizens of Alexandria and the surrounding areas. The Parks and Recreation Department was established by the Alexandria City Council in 1983. The Park Board consists of 6 members

The Park Department currently has a 5 Year Master Park Plan that was updated in 2006 and runs through 2010. As part of this plan, the Board developed Goals and Objectives for the Park Department in general as well as Goals and Objectives for each of the five current parks. They also developed a list of ideas for future development which include:

- o Establishing a community-wide bicycle/jogging trail system
- o Improving the aesthetics of existing park facilities
- o Developing a historic walking trail
- o Connecting all parks with a trail system

The Parks Department currently has five park areas in the system:

Beulah Park is the largest in the park system at 16 acres and the home to the annual County 4-H Fair, the Smalltown USA festival. It contains playground equipment, various ball courts, a 750 square foot pool, an indoor auditorium, a park house, concession stand with restrooms and picnic areas.

Minnesota Park and Riverview Park are smaller neighborhood parks that both contain playground equipment, ball courts, ball fields and picnic areas.

Harrison Square Park located in the heart of the downtown provides a gazebo, the old Interurban station, a water fountain, benches and picnic tables.

Skateboard Park currently located on the outskirts of town.

There are several ball fields in the community as well as sport amenities at the public schools.

Utilities

Water

The first city water works was opened in 1895 at a cost of $51,000 and contained six miles of water mains, sixty-nine hydrants and a stand pipe that was 100 feet high and 20 feet wide which acted as the water tower.

The Alexandria Water Department serves Alexandria's residents by providing exceptional drinking water via a Ground Water (Wells) Treatment Plant and distribution system. The Department also maintains the system by fixing leaks, flushing water lines, and thawing frozen meters during harsh winter conditions.

The City's Water system is located in one of the best underground aquifer systems in the State. The "Tays River Valley" runs nearly 1000 feet deep under Alexandria, and is the primary source of the water. Due to the location and proximity to this aquifer, they have access to an amazing amount of very high quality drinking water. A recent study shows a safe yield amount of nearly 3 Million Gallons Per Day. With this source, they will be able to serve many more residents, as well as existing and future Industry.

The City's water department has tediously been working to replace all of the City's existing water meters with a "Touch Read" meter system. This means every water meter in town must be replaced or retrofitted with an electronic device that transmits the exact amount of water used to a transmitter on the water meter lid. This assures for a much more accurate reading and saves labor man hours making the water department more effective and efficient. The City is working on the last few neighborhoods and this system will be complete. The City will have replaced nearly 2000 meters, in house with its own employees.

Sewer/Drainage

The Alexandria Waste Water Treatment Plant (WWTP) provides state of the art technology to provide protection to the "waters of the state" such as Pipe Creek. All waste water from connected households flows through Alexandria's sewers and is carried to the WWTP for treatment. Once treated, the water discharged into Pipe Creek is cleaner than the creek water itself.

Recently the WWTP has been able to treat all of the City's waste water without violation of State requirements, even while they remain at their maximum treatment capacity. Several major improvements have been made to the process, procedure, and facility. These improvements will conclude with the WWTP Expansion Project.

The current WWTP expansion project (along with new sewers in the Washington St. project) will allow the City to treat almost all of the stormwater flows that, from time to time, surcharge our existing sewers and cause Combined Sewer Overflows (CSO's). CSO's are events where, during excessive rains, sewage may overflow from our sewers into Pipe Creek.

The WWTP expansion project will provide for additional treatment at the plant to treat up to 6 million gallons per day. The net result of this project will be cleaner, safer water in rivers producing a healthier environment for fish, wildlife, and recreation.

As with many small communities, the drainage system in Alexandria is fragmented and is a combination of various improvements over the years. Alexandria has several areas within floodways (see Chapter 3 for FIRM). The City currently does not have an active stormwater board and does not implement a stormwater fee. The sewer department is charged with all stormwater related duties and maintenance of the current system. The City's Lang Range Control Plan is due to be completed by 2011.

Telephone/Internet

The City of Alexandria is served by AT&T, One Communications, Inc., Sprint, and Verizon.

Cable

The City of Alexandria is served by AT&T, Comcast, DirectTV, and Dish Network.

Electricity

The City of Alexandria is served by Indiana Michigan Power.

Gas

The City of Alexandria is served by Vectren Energy.

Recycling

Alexandria has its own Recycling Program through the Mayor's Office. A collection center is located at 200 West 4th St. Curbside recycling will begin in 2011.

COMMUNITY FACILITIES POLICY

Goal:

To improve and maintain the infrastructure of Alexandria in a way that enhances community pride, provides a tool for managing growth, and ensures the well being of the community.

Objectives:

- ➢ Identify the need for future community utility upgrades.

- ➢ Investigate improvements to the storm water system and flood control efforts.

- ➢ Develop water tower on south side of City.

- ➢ Make City Hall ADA compliant.

- ➢ Continue to update and expand Parks and Park Programs.

- ➢ Develop a Police/Fire substation south of railroad tracks.

- ➢ Expand and upgrade Police Department.

- ➢ Expand and upgrade Fire Department.

- ➢ Development of a Youth/Recreational;Fitness;Senior;Conference Center.

- ➢ Implement curbside recycling program.

- ➢ Develop venue for theater/music/arts programs.

- ➢ Develop system of trails/paths for walking/bicycling.