

# Walk & Explore MAPS



This walking route was created to encourage walking and exploring throughout the beautiful lakes area of Alexandria, MN. This map was designed by Active Living Douglas County as part of a series, in hopes that each walker may discover more about our great city.



This walking map is brought to you by:



map **3**  
court  
house  
2.59 miles

# court house <sup>2.59 miles</sup>

map **3**

**1 Knute Nelson Ball Park** – This park was opened in 1938 (as City Athletic Field) and renovated in 1967. The original field was opened on June 10, 1939, with Norwegian Crown Prince Olaf and Minnesota Governor Harold Stassen heading the dedication ceremonies. The baseball field opened on May 24, 1949, when Minneapolis Tribune columnist and WCCO Radio personality Halsey Hall served as master of ceremonies for a match up between town teams from Alexandria and Glenwood. This opening drew 1500 to the ballpark despite a steady drizzle. As of 2001, it has been the home of the Alexandria Beetles of the Northwood League, a collegiate summer baseball league.

**2 Douglas County Courthouse** – In 1867, the county commissioners voted to rent a small frame building on Main Street for the county offices. The first county jail was built in 1868. It was a 12x14 foot building of oak timbers with ceiling, floors, and walls one half foot thick. In 1875, the widow of William Hicks donated Block 34 of the original town site of Alexandria to the county with the provision that it be used for building a courthouse. In 1876, a two-story frame building with five offices on the ground floor was erected. The second floor was used as a courtroom. This building was used for over 20 years until the first courthouse at the present location was built in 1880 with a brick jail on the same lot.

**3 Chamber of Commerce** – The chamber established its first charter in March 1907 and in the ensuing century has been the driving force behind the continued progress and growth of Alexandria, the surrounding area of Douglas County, and beyond.

**4 Runestone Museum** – Since its founding in 1958, the Runestone Museum has been dedicated to preserving the history and heritage of Douglas County, its communities and the people who make this area their home. The museum's namesake is the Kensington Runestone, a 202-pound stone containing a runic inscription telling of a Norse crusade to Minnesota in 1362. Though the stone is the centerpiece of the museum, it is but one of the thousands of artifacts in the collection that create educational and entertaining exhibits for visitors.

**5 Fort Alexandria** – Fort Alexandria is a nearly exact replica of the old stockade, which was built in 1862 by the eighth regular infantry on order of the Governor of Minnesota. The original location of the fort was two blocks east of this site. Fort Alexandria was the means of security as pioneers returned to this area following the Dakota Conflict of 1860. J.H. Van Dyke built the log general store and post office. The log cabin, a church, a school, a blacksmith shop, a washhouse, and a smokehouse were added as the population grew. The school is an actual one-room schoolhouse from District #5, donated by Moe Township. The blacksmith shop contains many of the original tools of the trade for upkeep of the equipment of the early settlers.

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