

# Walk & Explore MAPS



This map was designed as part of the Statewide Health Improvement Partnership (SHIP), an effort to create healthier communities across Minnesota by expanding opportunities for active living, healthy eating and tobacco-free living.



This walking map is brought to you by:



072023

map **1**  
**kinkead**  
2.02 miles

2.02 miles

# kinkead

map 1



**1 Big Ole** – The symbol of Minnesota Viking pride, Big Ole was built in early 1965 as a second year addition to the 1964–65 New York World’s Fair.

In December, after the Fair closed, Big Ole was trucked to Alexandria, where he was erected on the north end of Broadway. He stands 28 feet tall. In 1967, the town dressed him for the holidays in a Santa suit into which someone shot a flaming arrow that sent Ole up in flames! Another vandal snapped off his sword; he was knocked cockeyed by a freak windstorm; and once, when he was lying prone for repairs, he was partially crushed under the collapse of a snow-covered roof. Through it all, however, Alexandria rallied to their Viking lord, footing the bills for his patch-ups and repainting and celebrating his return every time. In 2002, Big Ole was moved a couple blocks north, to a small park on the south shore of Lake Agnes. His shield still boldly proclaims “Birthplace of America,” but Big Ole has been given a less stressful spot to reside for his middle age years.

**2 The Depot** – Located at North Broadway and Agnes Blvd, the Depot was completed in 1907. A wooden building was located east of this building and was destroyed. The cost of the new red pressed brick structure with stone sills was \$25,000. The Depot, originally designed to house passenger service only, contained separate 30’ by 40’ men’s and women’s waiting rooms on the east side of the building. These were separated by an office for a ticket agent and conductor, and express and baggage rooms along with an additional storage area on the west end. The interior was furnished with mosaic tile floors except for the baggage and express area. The grounds were landscaped to create a park complete with flower gardens, birdhouses, etc. The first train to come into Alexandria was in 1878 and it closed in 1976. The building was purchased in 1984 and has been converted into a restaurant known as “The Depot Express.”

**3 Kinkead Cemetery** – Alexander & William Kinkead are the founders of Alexandria, MN. They came to the area in 1858 from Delaware. They helped with the survey of the road from St. Cloud to the Red River Valley. Their log cabin was close to Lake Agnes. They hunted, fished and stayed for several years. Alexander became the first postmaster. Alexandria was named after him, and the Kinkead cemetery was named after the brothers. It opened in 1879.

**4 Hick’s History** – William Hicks and his family came to Alexandria in 1866 from New York. Mr. Hicks bought the site of the city and drew up the plans for streets and avenues. Their family donated the land for the Courthouse, a school, and three early churches. They opened a hotel, general store, grist, and saw mill and a newspaper.

**5 Batesole House** – This is the location of the Hicks first home, a log cabin. The Batesole home and beautiful gardens are now an addition to our early history.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Contact Horizon Public Health 320-763-6018

