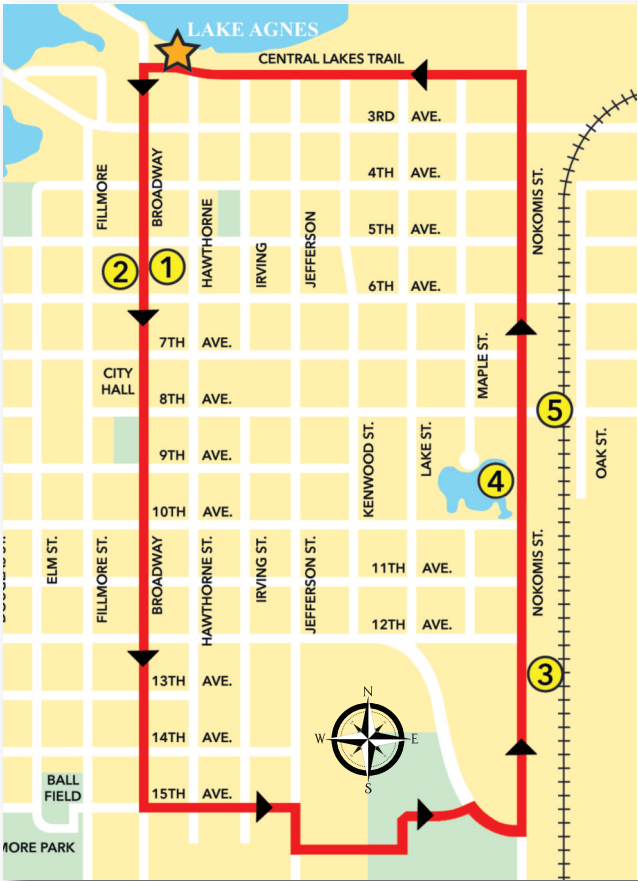


# Walk & Explore MAPS



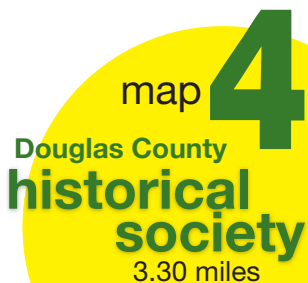
This map was designed as part of the Statewide Health Improvement Partnership (SHIP), an effort to create healthier communities across Minnesota by expanding opportunities for active living, healthy eating and tobacco-free living.



This walking map is brought to you by:



072023



Douglas  
County 3.30 miles

# historical society

map 4

**1 Traveler's Inn** – Traveler's Inn is Alexandria's oldest eating establishment, which opened in 1925 by Thomas and Magdalena Rose. Outgrowing its original location, they moved next door in 1928, purchasing the building at 511 Broadway for \$2,500 at a sheriff's sale. They operated Traveler's Inn until the mid 40's. It passed through a few families and now since 1967, it resides with the Sieve family. The restaurant has gone through a few remodelings over the years. The final major expansion and remodel was in 1996 to turn it back into the original 1925 Travelers Inn purchased by Mr. Rose. Care has been given to preserve the original metal stamped ceilings dating back into the late 1800's when the building was built.

**2 Cowing Robards** – Founded in 1872, Cowing Robards is the oldest same site business in Douglas County. Two brothers, Oscar and George Robards, left Hillsdale, Michigan on foot to prospect gold to the west. They stopped here to find work and decided to stay. John B. Cowing financed the store while the Robards brothers worked it. Initially they shod horses and sold lanterns. There is a store history museum available in the store upon request.

**3 Douglas County Historical Society** – A group calling itself "The Historical Society" met in Alexandria in the early 1900's. In 1948, it was incorporated as the Douglas County Historical Society. Today, the Society is located in a house that was built by Knute and Nicolina Nelson soon after they arrived here in 1871. Knute Nelson was the Governor of Minnesota and our US Senator for 28 years. This house was originally located on 12th Avenue. The house was moved to its present location in 1986, still on Senator Nelson's property, and is on the National Register of Homes. Today the house is beautifully decorated with furnishings once used by the Nelson family.

**4 Noonan's Park** – Noonan's Park was started in 1937, when Phil and Molly Noonan began buying low land south of 10th Avenue. Some may remember this land as a slough and pasture land. A fountain was installed, a flagpole constructed, and the park would have live ducks, geese, swans and a fairy tale Duck Inn. Fireplaces and picnic tables were added. Noonan purchased the land, constructed the park and maintained it for six years. In 1943, the Noonan's donated the park to the City of Alexandria, with the understanding that the property was to remain and be used for park purposes only.

**5 Former Soo Line** – In 1902, a direct line by train, north to south, from Warroad, MN to Minneapolis/ St. Paul was proposed, passing through Alexandria. On August 21, 1903, the track reached our city. Work on the new depot was started September 3, 1903. It was located on the east side of the main track. Soo Line service from St. Paul to Winnipeg was opened in November 1904. Passenger and freight service were part of the Soo Line until 1967, when the passenger service was discontinued. The depot stood vacant for 20 years and was finally torn down in 1979. Today, the only railroad cars that pass over the tracks are filled with grain and machinery.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Contact Horizon Public Health 320-763-6018

