



Mercer County: Better Together

Success Through Collaboration. #MCBT

ALEDO

Aledo is a city of 3,724 people, located in the center of Mercer County. Positioned approximately 35 miles from Muscatine, Iowa, Galesburg and the metro Quad Cities, Aledo provides the space of small town living with convenient access to larger areas for employment and commerce. The current county seat, Aledo is also the center of commerce in Mercer County with a variety of shops, restaurants and retail shopping opportunities. As the home of Apollo Elementary and Mercer County High School, Aledo offers plenty of family-oriented amenities; a county museum, a county YMCA, a variety of parks and one of only five Carnegie libraries in Illinois. The Aledo community also embraces outdoor activities, with two baseball parks, six parks and two golf courses in the Aledo area. The annual Rhubarb Festival is the largest event in Mercer County, attracting an estimated 10,000 people to Aledo each June. Downtown Aledo was recently added to the National Register of Historic Places.

Aledo Community Heart & Soul Statements

“We value being a safe, secure community where residents enjoy diverse recreational opportunities which contribute to a healthy community.”

“We value our schools because they advance educational opportunities as well as create jobs and support economic development.”

“We take pride in our unique small businesses, which provide employment and economic opportunities.”

“We envision strengthening our technological and physical infrastructure systems, which will assist in business growth and attract more families.”

“We take pride in being a family-friendly community which values historic preservation through our downtown buildings, local museum and historical homes.”

Aledo Area Community Representatives categorized each line of survey data on the following questions; then summarized survey responses into most common themes –

1) Why do you live in Mercer County?

- Born here
- Local employment
- Good quality of life

2) Why did you move here or stay here?

- Local employment
- Family here
- Small town living

3) What do you especially love about your community?

- Friendly/caring neighbors
- Events
- Safety/security
- Small businesses
- Landmarks

5) What do you think matters most to your neighbors?

- Safety/security
- Economic security
- Schools
- Roads/streets
- Activities

6) Why is your community “home” to you?

- Family is here
- Family-friendly community
- Friends
- Church

8) What are the most important places in your community? Why?

- YMCA
- Library
- Schools
- Museum
- Parks
- Churches

10) What should stay the same in your community?

- Friendly atmosphere
- Safety
- Events/activities
- Volunteer help
- Amenities

11) What should change in your community?

- Developing more businesses
- Streets
- Internet
- More educational opportunities
- Add jobs