We are MADISON OUNTY OUNTY INDIANA











"We Are Madison County" is a celebration of meaningful, impactful groups and individuals who make up Madison County's unique and cherished culture.

We celebrate community partnerships.

We are human-focused.

We unite, not divide.

We promote, not advertise.

We advocate, not politicize.



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DISCOVERING AND REDISCOVERING MADISON COUNTY



Brenna Sealy
Digital Content Coordinator

Visitors discover there is always something new to experience in Madison County. Many first arrive for a specific reason, perhaps to attend a wedding, visit friends and family, take part in a community event, or attend a festival. Visitors often leave with a deeper appreciation for everything the area has to offer.

The initial visit often turns into a return trip to explore more of the county's charm, local flavors, and outdoor adventures. A stop at a festival food truck can lead to dinner at a nearby restaurant. A stroll through a vendor market can spark interest in the shops downtown. Festivals and events serve as introductions, giving visitors a glimpse into what makes Madison County so vibrant and welcoming.

Tourism here thrives on those meaningful moments when guests connect with the people, places, and atmosphere that make the county special. Every visit supports local businesses and strengthens community spirit, creating a ripple effect that benefits everyone who calls Madison County home.

As the seasons shift, the calendar doesn't slow down. Autumn invites visitors to experience the county's vibrant outdoor and agritourism scene including pumpkin patches, fall events, and beautiful hiking experiences. Mother Nature brings her own festival of color as the leaves change, and Mounds State Park provides one of the most beautiful views in the region.

Soon, the holidays will bring even more reasons to gather. From twinkling light displays and parades to local shopping events and cozy winter markets, there is no shortage of ways to celebrate and connect throughout the colder months.

Each event, whether large or small, contributes to the momentum that keeps Madison County thriving. Visitors may come for one reason, but they return for many: the people, the places, and the sense of community that make every season worth experiencing here.



BUILDING THE BRIDGE BETWEEN EDUCATION AND BUSINESS IN MADISON COUNTY

The Madison County Chamber of Commerce is proud to serve as the conduit between our K-12 schools and local businesses as we work together to prepare the next generation of talent. With the state's new Graduation Seals requirements beginning for incoming freshmen, schools are actively seeking work-based learning opportunities, including internships, job shadows, and apprenticeships for juniors and seniors. These real-world experiences allow students to gain valuable skills while helping them see the career opportunities that exist right here in Madison County.

At the Chamber, we have a unique vantage point: we hear directly from both the business community and our education partners. A common goal is clear — we want to keep our students local by showing them that meaningful, rewarding careers are available in their own backyard.

To help streamline this process, we've partnered with Skyepack, an online portal that connects students with local internship opportunities. Through the platform, students can explore open positions, communicate directly with businesses, and apply with ease.



Rachael McCracken
Business Development Manager

We also recognize that many businesses may need support in developing internship programs. To meet that need, the Chamber has joined forces with Ivy Tech Community College Anderson. Ivy Tech's Career Link team brings expertise in structuring internships and building pathways that seamlessly transition students into full-time careers.

These partnerships are about more than checking a box for graduation requirements. They are about building a strong, sustainable workforce pipeline that benefits students, employers, and our community as a whole. By working together, we can ensure that our young people see Madison County not just as the place they grew up — but as the place they want to build their futures.

The Chamber is excited about the opportunities ahead and looks forward to continuing this important work with our schools, businesses, and community partners.



THE SPIRIT OF PHILANTHROPY: HOW WE LIVE, NOT JUST WHAT WE GIVE



Tamara Dreger
Communications Manager

"Everyone can be a philanthropist" is a phrase we use often at the Foundation. At its core, this signifies every gift has the capacity to make an impact, whether it is five dollars, an entire estate, or everything in between. However, philanthropy is so much more than dollars and cents.

The ancient Greek view of philanthropy held that the love of what is human is the essential nature of humanity, culture, and civilization. In our current culture, it seems we would do well to join together and cling to what we share in common as members of humanity.

In essence, philanthropy is a spirit of generosity that embodies both attitude and action. Flowing from our shared humanity, it reflects a willingness to give and a deep understanding of our interconnectedness and the inherent worth of every individual.

Philanthropy also involves a spirit of hospitality. This includes how we treat one another to create belonging and connection, where people

feel valued, supported, and loved. Practicing hospitality not only deepens personal relationships, but also strengthens the fabric of community and promotes a positive environment for all. I am encouraged as I witness the spirit of generosity and hospitality in our county. There is camaraderie and connection among local businesses and nonprofits as people come together for causes they care about and share ideas and resources for the greater good.

Finally, philanthropy calls us to a spirit of abundance rather than fear of scarcity. This spirit reminds us that there is enough to go around and invites us to recognize how much we have to offer, whether that is time, attention, resources, support, advocacy, or encouragement.

Imagine what might unfold if generosity became our shared language, at home, at work, and in the marketplace. Philanthropy, after all, is not just what we give, but how we live. It is my hope that we will continue to embody that spirit together and create a community marked by abundance, belonging, and love.



AUTUMN ARRIVES

Autumn in Madison County has some of the most beautiful days out of all four seasons we have, not only in comfort in temperatures and humidity, but also in the beauty of the changing colors of our landscaping. As the nighttime temperatures cool into the 30's, the sugars within the trees' saps rise, changing the leaves into a variety of colors brilliantly lit by the sun. It is an annual reminder of the magnificent world we share.

To this point, this year has been excellent on the economic front. Fitt, from Italy, opening its beautiful garden hose production plant on Raible Avenue on Anderson's westside. A local manufacturer of precision production equipment, Perfecto, has begun construction of its new building off Scatterfield Road behind the Purdue Polytechnic facility. Lastly, Saica from Spain has the walls up on its new cardboard box manufacturing plant off Park Road on the southwest side of Anderson.



Rob Sparks
Executive Director

We have also been working to advance two READI 2 grants with the state worth \$2 million toward the sports complex in Elwood and the water park in Anderson. Both should be under construction in 2026 and will be a great addition to the quality of life in Madison County.

Data related projects are still driving leads and could offer many great opportunities in the county for many years to come. We are continuing to build relationships and hope for future success in 2026.

In all, enjoy these days as we keep an eye on the future. It is a great time to be alive! We Are Madison County!



PLANTING A TREE CITY



Article by: Tammy Bowman
Executive Director

"The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago. The second-best time is now."

Five years ago this month, the Pendleton Tree Recovery Project brought hundreds of neighbors together to accomplish a goal that neither money nor individual effort could achieve alone – planting 300 trees in one day.

Volunteers had a hand in every bit of the effort, from digging holes to providing thank you notes to homeowners who allowed a tree to be planted on their property. The community effort was recognized with the Indiana Arborists Association's "Gold Leaf Award." It's important to note another benefit – the effort lifted the weary spirits of a community recovering from effects of a natural disaster and pandemic.

In addition to planting the right trees in the right places and making sure they thrive, we also need to turn our attention to the growing problem of invasive species taking over our parks, farmlands and backyards. With the help of the Madison County Soil and Water Conservation District, a new effort is being organized to manage invasive plant species that flourish when unchecked. The group held interest meetings in Falls Park this fall. The group will spend this next season getting organized for the beneficial and fun work of organizing weed wrangles to systematically clear out the bad so the good has room to grow.

Our efforts to reinforce the value of ecology and biodiversity through the funds we commit and the projects we undertake enhance social engagement and mental well-being. In South Madison County, our connection to our green spaces is a tie that binds us together.

