

NEIGHBORHOOD GUIDE · HENDRICKS COUNTY, INDIANA

West of Indy. *Worth the Drive.*

Hendricks County is one of the fastest-growing counties in Indiana — and for good reason. It offers the lifestyle of a tight-knit suburb, the convenience of easy Indianapolis access, and a price point that lets you get more home for your dollar. Whether you're drawn to Avon's growing energy, Plainfield's trail system, Brownsburg's community feel, or Danville's historic charm, this guide will help you find your fit.

Serving Hendricks County · Avon · Plainfield · Brownsburg · Danville

All four cities are within 30 minutes of downtown Indianapolis — and closer to each other than most people realize.

COUNTY OVERVIEW

AVON

PLAINFIELD

BROWNSBURG

DANVILLE

HENDRICKS COUNTY · WEST OF INDIANAPOLIS

Life in Hendricks County

A community you grow into — and rarely want to leave.

 Family-Oriented Trails & Parks Shopping & Dining Live Performances Pet-Friendly Nature Preserves Airport Access Community Pride

Hendricks County sits just west of Indianapolis — close enough to the city that you can be downtown for dinner or at the airport in under 20 minutes, but far enough away that your neighborhood feels like a place rather than just an address. The four main communities — Avon, Plainfield, Brownsburg, and Danville — each have their own personality, but they share a common thread: people who move here tend to stay.

The county is one of Indiana's most consistently recognized for quality of life. It's home to an extensive trail and park system that connects communities — over 20 miles of multi-use trails in Plainfield alone, plus McCloud Nature Park (232 acres with six miles of hiking trails), Echo Hollow Nature Park, and dozens of community parks with splash pads, playgrounds, and disc golf. If you're an outdoor person, you'll find your pace here easily.

Retail and dining options across the county have grown substantially alongside the population. Dozens of shopping centers, local boutiques, and specialty shops are spread across the four cities, complemented by more than 20 antique shops that draw collectors from across central Indiana. Dining ranges from beloved local institutions like Charbonos and the Oasis Diner to a growing roster of independent restaurants and coffee shops that reflect the county's increasingly diverse community. Whatever you need day-to-day, you'll find it without leaving the county — and what isn't here is a short drive to Indianapolis.

Hendricks County is also where community actually shows up. High school athletics draw real crowds — Brownsburg football and Avon's nationally recognized marching band are points of pride that pull entire towns together on Friday nights. Hendricks Live!, a state-of-the-art performance venue in downtown Plainfield, brings local, regional, and national touring acts to the county year-round. The Hummel Park Performing Arts Center hosts free outdoor summer concerts. The Avon Farmers' Market draws regulars every week through the warmer months.

For buyers relocating from outside the area, the most important thing to understand is that these four cities are genuinely close to each other — you can live in Danville and be in Avon in 15 minutes. The choice between them isn't really about distance — it's about lifestyle, pace, and what kind of community feel you're looking for.

COUNTY AT A GLANCE

LOCATION

Directly west of Indianapolis via I-70, I-74, and US-36

DOWNTOWN INDIANAPOLIS

15–25 minutes depending on city

INDIANAPOLIS INT'L AIRPORT

10–20 minutes — one of the closest suburban counties to IND

HOUSING RANGE

~\$280K–\$600K+ across all four cities

COUNTY CHARACTER

Family-oriented, growing, community-driven, accessible

CITY QUICK COMPARE

Avon	Shopping & growth
Plainfield	Trails & rec
Brownsburg	Community & parks
Danville	Historic & quiet

RESEARCH LINKS

→ [School Info \(GreatSchools.org\)](#)

→ [Safety Data \(CrimeMapping.com\)](#)

We link to independent sources so you can research specific addresses on your own terms.

Avon

Hendricks County's Fastest-Growing Community



Shopping Hub



Dining Variety



Parks & Trails



Avon Gardens



Marching Orioles



Highway Access

Avon is the closest thing Hendricks County has to its own version of Carmel — a community that keeps growing, keeps adding amenities, and keeps attracting buyers who want suburban convenience without sacrificing vibrancy. It sits along US-36 just five miles west of Indianapolis and has direct access to I-465, I-70, and I-74, making it one of the most highway-connected communities in the county.

The commercial corridor along US-36 tells the story clearly: Avon now boasts more than 600 businesses, including national anchors like Target, Meijer, Cooper's Hawk Winery, and Charbonos (a beloved local Italian restaurant with a 20-year following), alongside boutiques, specialty shops, and a growing local dining scene. The Avon Farmers' Market draws loyal locals through the season, and residents know that the backroads are often faster than the main commercial strip when traffic backs up on US-36.

Green space is well developed here too. Washington Township Park and Avon Town Hall Park are both larger than 70 acres — the latter featuring Indiana's only outdoor tennis tables and an 18-hole disc golf course. Murphy Aquatic Park in Washington Township is a standout facility — an ADA accessible, sensory-friendly water playground that serves the broader community in an inclusive and thoughtful way. Adjacent baseball diamonds make the area a hub for outdoor recreation and youth sports throughout the warmer months. Avon Gardens, five acres of manicured walking paths and perennial gardens, has been recognized as one of the best gardens in the Midwest by Midwest Living magazine and is a popular wedding venue. Burnett Woods State Nature Preserve offers quiet woodland trails for residents who want to get off the pavement.

★ COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

The Avon High School Marching Orioles are one of Indiana's most celebrated marching bands — ranked #1 in the state five times and as high as #4 nationally. The program's black and gold colors are a point of genuine community pride, visible on cars, porches, and storefronts across town. For residents and students involved in music and the performing arts, Avon's program is in a class of its own.

✓ STRENGTHS

- + Best shopping and dining variety in the county
- + Closest to downtown Indy and the airport
- + Murphy Aquatic Park — ADA accessible, sensory-friendly water playground
- + Baseball diamonds and multi-sport recreation hub
- + Strong and growing commercial base
- + Nationally recognized Marching Orioles — ranked top 5 nationally
- + Wide range of housing stock and price points

- TRADE-OFFS

- US-36 traffic can back up significantly during peak hours
- Growing quickly — some areas feel more suburban-commercial than residential
- Less historic character than Danville or downtown Brownsburg
- Higher price points than Brownsburg or Danville for comparable homes

Schools & Safety Research: For school information, visit GreatSchools.org or the Avon Community School Corporation website. For neighborhood safety data, visit CrimeMapping.com.

AT A GLANCE

LOCATION

East Hendricks County, along US-36, ~5 miles west of I-465

DOWNTOWN INDY

~20 minutes via US-36 or I-465

HOUSING RANGE

~\$300K-\$550K+

HOUSING TYPES

New construction, established subdivisions, mid-century homes

LIFESTYLE FIT

Shopping, dining, parks, aquatic recreation, farmers markets, marching arts

RESEARCH LINKS

→ [School Info \(GreatSchools.org\)](#)

→ [Safety Data \(CrimeMapping.com\)](#)

We link to independent sources so you can research specific addresses.

Plainfield

Trails, Recreation, and a Revitalized Downtown

 20+ Miles of Trails

 Rec Center

 Dog Parks

 Hendricks Live!

 Perry Crossing

 38 Tennis Courts

 Pickleball

 Near Airport

Plainfield sits south of Avon along US-40 and I-70, and it punches above its weight for recreation and lifestyle amenities. If trails, parks, and an active outdoor life matter to you, Plainfield may be the strongest option in the county. The town has developed over 20 miles of multi-use trails — including the White Lick Creek Trail, which alone connects seven parks you can bike between in under an hour — plus the paved, shaded Vandalia Rail Trail that stretches across southwestern Hendricks County.

The Richard A. Carlucci Recreation and Aquatic Center is one of the county's premier facilities — a full-service indoor recreation center with pools, fitness equipment, courts, and programming for all ages. The adjacent Splash Island Family Waterpark is a summer staple for families throughout the county. Two dedicated dog parks give pet owners serious options, and Hummel Park serves as a year-round community anchor with walking trails, picnic shelters, basketball courts, a sledding hill, and the Hummel Performing Arts Center — an outdoor stage hosting free summer concerts.

Active outdoor recreation is another Plainfield standout — the town maintains 38 tennis courts throughout the community, along with a growing number of pickleball courts, making it one of the best-equipped suburbs in the Indianapolis metro for racquet sports. Whether you're a competitive player or just looking for a casual game after work, you'll rarely struggle to find a court.

Downtown Plainfield has been actively redeveloping, anchored by Hendricks Live! — a state-of-the-art proscenium performance hall seating up to 600 people that attracts local, regional, and national touring acts across music, comedy, film, and special events. It's a genuine cultural draw that puts Plainfield on the map beyond just a pass-through suburb. The Shops at Perry Crossing provide an outdoor lifestyle mall experience with 60+ stores including Kohl's, an AMC theater, Kids Empire indoor playground, and multiple dining options. The Oasis Diner on US-40 is a beloved local landmark with a retro feel that locals have made a point of pride for decades.

Plainfield is also the closest Hendricks County community to Indianapolis International Airport — a genuine advantage for frequent travelers or households with one partner who flies regularly.

★ COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

Hendricks Live! at 200 W. Main St. in downtown Plainfield is the premier performing arts venue for west-central Indiana. The state-of-the-art facility seats up to 600 and has been central to Plainfield's downtown revitalization — bringing arts and entertainment to the county in a way that didn't exist before. If you enjoy live music, comedy, or theater without driving to downtown Indianapolis, this is a meaningful quality-of-life feature.

✓ STRENGTHS

- + Best trail system in the county — 20+ miles, multiple parks connected
- + Full-service recreation center and aquatic facility
- + Two dog parks — rare amenity for the area
- + 38 tennis courts + pickleball throughout the community
- + Hendricks Live! brings performing arts to your backyard
- + Closest Hendricks city to Indianapolis International Airport
- + Perry Crossing provides major retail and dining in one location

- TRADE-OFFS

- I-70 corridor brings heavier commercial and industrial presence
- Slightly longer commute to Hamilton County than Avon
- Downtown revitalization is ongoing — still developing
- Less dining variety than Avon's US-36 corridor

Schools & Safety Research: For school information, visit GreatSchools.org or the Plainfield Community School Corporation website. For neighborhood safety data, visit CrimeMapping.com.

AT A GLANCE

LOCATION

South Hendricks County, along US-40 and I-70

DOWNTOWN INDY

~25 minutes via I-70

AIRPORT (IND)

~10 minutes — closest Hendricks city to IND

HOUSING RANGE

~\$280K–\$500K+

HOUSING TYPES

Established subdivisions, newer builds, some rural-edge properties

LIFESTYLE FIT

Trail biking, rec center, performing arts, dog-friendly, airport commuters

RESEARCH LINKS

→ [School Info \(GreatSchools.org\)](#)

→ [Safety Data \(CrimeMapping.com\)](#)

Brownsburg

Small-Town Feel, Big Community Energy



Football Town



Local Coffee



300 Acres of Parks



Tight-Knit Community



Arbuckle Acres



Growing Fast

Brownsburg sits north of Avon along I-74 and SR-267, and it has a feel that's distinctly its own. Where Avon feels commercial and growing, Brownsburg feels like a community first. Residents consistently describe it as "the best of both worlds" — close enough to downtown Indianapolis for a quick evening out, but with a neighborhood culture that keeps people close to home. It's a town where people know their neighbors, Friday night football draws real crowds, and new local businesses keep opening because the community shows up for them.

Brownsburg manages more than 300 acres of parks and trails — a genuinely impressive figure for a town its size. Arbuckle Acres Park is a 52-acre favorite with tree-lined paths, tennis courts, and basketball courts that residents use year-round. The parks system recently broke ground on a new park and is developing its 2028 master plan, signaling continued investment in green space. Brown Skin Coffee has become a neighborhood staple — the kind of independently owned coffee shop that becomes part of your daily rhythm. A dedicated dog park gives pet owners a community space, and a growing roster of local restaurants and independent shops keeps adding to Brownsburg's identity. The community skews toward small businesses over major chains — a deliberate character that residents appreciate and actively support.

Brownsburg's growth has been intentional. The community has managed to add population and amenities without losing the tight-knit feel that defines it. The median household income is strong, the school system draws consistent praise, and a diversity of local businesses is increasingly reflected in the dining and retail options along the main corridors.

★ COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

Brownsburg High School football is a pillar of community life — the Bulldogs claimed the 2025 state championship, a milestone that galvanized the entire town. Friday night games draw crowds from across the community, and the program's reputation extends well beyond the county. For residents who value high school athletics and the community culture that surrounds them, Brownsburg delivers that experience as authentically as anywhere in central Indiana.

✓ STRENGTHS

- + Strong community identity — genuinely tight-knit feel
- + 300+ acres of parks and trails managed by the town
- + Leans local — small businesses over major chains
- + Dog park for pet owners
- + Growing local restaurant and shop scene
- + More affordable than Avon for comparable homes
- + 2025 state football champions — strong community pride
- + Active investment in parks infrastructure through 2028
- + Easy I-74 access to Indianapolis and beyond

- TRADE-OFFS

- Fewer dining and shopping options than Avon currently
- Growing quickly — construction and development visible throughout
- Located north of I-74, slightly farther from airport than Plainfield
- Local business scene still maturing compared to more established suburbs

Schools & Safety Research: For school information, visit GreatSchools.org or the Brownsburg Community School Corporation website. For neighborhood safety data, visit CrimeMapping.com.

AT A GLANCE

LOCATION

North Hendricks County, along I-74 and SR-267

DOWNTOWN INDY

~20–25 minutes via I-74

HOUSING RANGE

~\$280K–\$500K+

HOUSING TYPES

Established neighborhoods, newer subdivisions, some acreage

LIFESTYLE FIT

Community events, local coffee and dining, parks, Friday night football

RESEARCH LINKS

→ [School Info \(GreatSchools.org\)](#)

→ [Safety Data \(CrimeMapping.com\)](#)

Danville

Historic Charm, Small-Town Pace, County Seat Character

 Historic Downtown

 McCloud Nature Park

 Farmers Market

 Local Shops

 Spacious Lots

 Rural Edge

Danville is the county seat of Hendricks County and the community that feels most distinctly different from its neighbors. Where Avon and Plainfield have grown into full-service suburban communities and Brownsburg is on a fast growth trajectory, Danville has retained a genuine small-town identity centered on its historic courthouse square. The brick-lined streets of downtown Danville, locally owned shops, and a slower pace of life are what draw people here — and what keep them.

The courthouse square anchors a walkable downtown with locally owned restaurants, boutiques, and coffee shops. A weekly farmers' market brings residents out through the warmer months. The Hendricks County 4-H Fairgrounds hosts events throughout the year that connect the community to the county's agricultural roots in a way you simply don't find in the more commercial suburbs. Danville sits at the geographic center of the county. It's worth noting that Danville doesn't have direct interstate access the way Avon, Plainfield, and Brownsburg do — getting to downtown Indianapolis typically means navigating US-36 or county roads rather than jumping on a freeway. For buyers who commute daily to Indianapolis, that's an important practical consideration. For buyers who work locally or remotely, the trade-off for space, value, and character is often well worth it.

For buyers who want more land, more space, and more quiet without giving up the community feel of Hendricks County, Danville consistently offers the best value in the county. Lot sizes tend to be larger, prices per square foot are lower, and the surrounding area transitions quickly into the rolling terrain and woodlands of central Indiana — a genuinely different feel from the subdivisions that define the other three cities. McCloud Nature Park, a 232-acre Hendricks County park with over six miles of hiking trails, a nature center, and access to Big Walnut Creek, is within easy reach.

★ COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

Danville's historic courthouse square is the heart of Hendricks County — architecturally and culturally. It's one of the few town centers in the Indianapolis metro area that still feels like a genuine small-town downtown, with local businesses that have built their identities around the community rather than the commercial corridor. For buyers who value that kind of place-based character, Danville is a one-of-a-kind option in this market.

✓ STRENGTHS

- + Genuine historic downtown character — rare in the western suburbs
- + Best value in the county — more home and land for the dollar
- + Quieter, slower pace — true small-town feel
- + McCloud Nature Park nearby for serious hiking and nature access
- + Centrally located in the county — easy access to all other cities
- + Strong community identity rooted in local history

- TRADE-OFFS

- Fewest dining and retail options of the four cities
- No direct interstate access — Indianapolis commute requires surface roads
- Longer drive to Indianapolis airport than Plainfield or Avon
- Less new construction — buyers want what's available, not what's being built
- Slower pace may not suit buyers who want more urban energy

Schools & Safety Research: For school information, visit GreatSchools.org or the Danville Community School Corporation website. For neighborhood safety data, visit CrimeMapping.com.

AT A GLANCE

LOCATION

Central Hendricks County, county seat, US-36 corridor

DOWNTOWN INDY

~25–30 minutes via US-36 or I-74

HOUSING RANGE

~\$250K–\$450K+ — best value in the county

HOUSING TYPES

Historic homes, established neighborhoods, acreage properties

LIFESTYLE FIT

Historic downtown, hiking, farmers market, quiet residential living, local shops

RESEARCH LINKS

→ School Info (GreatSchools.org)

→ Safety Data (CrimeMapping.com)

Not Sure Which City Fits Your Life?

Every buyer's situation is different — commute, lifestyle, price point, and what kind of neighborhood feel you're looking for all matter. Let's have a conversation and figure out which part of Hendricks County makes the most sense for you.

[SCHEDULE A CONSULTATION](#)

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