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Hendricks County

Discover Life West of Indianapolis

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A concert in Plainfield. A wooded trail near North Salem. A day at the races near Brownsburg. An afternoon around Danville's town center. Hendricks County offers several ways to experience life on the western side of the Indianapolis region.

The appeal is in the variety. Established communities sit alongside growing residential areas, healthcare campuses and workplaces. Beyond the busier corridors, smaller towns, farmland and natural spaces tell another part of the county's story.

For someone considering a move, the useful question is how those places fit together: where you would work, how you would spend your weekends, which services you would use and what owning a particular home would really cost. For an existing resident, there may be a park, venue or neighboring community still worth discovering.

Explore the county through its communities, outdoor spaces and everyday decisions—then look more closely at the places that interest you.

Inside: County snapshot • Plainfield & Avon • Brownsburg & Danville • Parks & trails • Work, schools & healthcare • Housing • Sources • Your next step

Growth, with a longer story

Hendricks County lies immediately west of Marion County and Indianapolis. Formed in 1824, it developed through agriculture and transportation links including the National Road and the railroad corridor associated with the Vandalia Line. Its 2025 comprehensive plan describes the continuing task of accommodating growth while retaining rural and small-town character. [2]

Measure	Figure	Data period
Population estimate	193,510	July 1, 2025 · V2025
Population growth	10.7%	April 2020 estimates base-July 2025
Owner-occupied housing rate	78.2%	ACS 2020-2024
Median household income	\$101,144	ACS 2020-2024 · 2024 dollars

Source: U.S. Census Bureau QuickFacts. These figures describe the county as a whole; they do not describe every neighborhood or an individual household. The growth calculation uses the revised 2020 estimates base, not the unadjusted decennial Census count. [1]

The county’s historic fabric also includes the building recorded in the National Register as the Hendricks County Poor Asylum. Its listing recognizes social history and architecture—a reminder that local history includes public institutions as well as town squares and transportation. [19]



Historic Hendricks County Poor Asylum
Photo: Jon Roanhaus · September 10, 2026 · CC BY-SA 4.0

Plainfield & Avon

Plainfield: arts, nature and an evolving town

Hendricks Live! gives downtown Plainfield an arts destination with a 600-seat theater, event space and a public gallery. A performance can become the starting point for a visit rather than an activity that always requires a trip into Indianapolis. Check the venue's current calendar for the mix of concerts, theater and other programming available when you plan to go. [3]

Outdoor life is another substantial part of Plainfield's story. In March 2026, the town adopted a master plan for the 1,928-acre Echo Hollow Nature Park. The announcement described existing trails, a pond and picnic facilities, while setting out a longer-term vision that includes ideas such as a nature center, lodge and camping. Those future concepts should not be mistaken for facilities already available to visitors. [4]

Together, the arts venue and the nature-park initiative offer two useful lenses on the town: investment in shared civic experiences and planning for outdoor space. For readers getting to know Plainfield, it is worth exploring both the established destinations and the plans that may shape future visits.

Avon: everyday connections and places to pause

Avon's parks directory points readers beyond the main commercial corridors. Blue Heron Park—the site formerly called Town Hall Park—belongs on a local exploration list, alongside the White Lick Trail and Burnett Woods. [5]

Healthcare is another part of Avon's local landscape. IU Health West Hospital is on North Ronald Reagan Parkway. Its presence is useful context for residents and people employed in healthcare, although access to a particular physician, service or insurance network still needs to be checked directly. [15]

When comparing homes around Avon or Plainfield, visit the actual address at the times you expect to travel. Test the grocery trip, the work journey and the route to a favorite activity. Two properties with similar interiors can create quite different weekly routines.

A useful first visit: choose one destination you would enjoy and one everyday errand. Experiencing both gives a fuller picture than touring homes alone.

Brownsburg, Danville & beyond

Brownsburg: recreation with a motorsports connection

Brownsburg's recreation options include Arbuckle Acres Park, Williams Park and access to the B&O Trail, all identified in the town's park and trail resources. They offer starting points for exploring public spaces alongside the residential and commercial areas that often receive more attention from newcomers. [6]

The motorsports connection has a specific local landmark: Lucas Oil Indianapolis Raceway Park on U.S. 136 in Hendricks County. The venue identifies its location with Brownsburg and hosts racing on its own grounds. Readers should use its official event information for tickets, access and parking, and distinguish it from Indianapolis Motor Speedway in Speedway. [7]

For a prospective resident, an event destination is also a reason to learn the surrounding roads. Visit on an ordinary day and, where practical, during a major event. Your own tolerance for activity, traffic and noise is more useful than a broad description of the whole town.

Danville: the county seat and a sense of continuity

Danville introduces another side of the county through its role as the county seat and its established institutions. The Danville-Center Township Library traces its Carnegie building to construction completed in 1903; later additions show how a historic institution can continue to serve changing community needs. [8]

Ellis Park adds an outdoor chapter. The town describes a 49-acre park along White Lick Creek with recreational facilities that include playgrounds, sports areas and the Gill Family Aquatic Center. Seasonal facilities and programs should be checked before a visit. [9]

A Danville visit can pair time in the town center with a stop at the library or park. It is a chance to notice how public places relate to daily life, while leaving detailed decisions about an individual home to an address-level review.

The smaller towns complete the picture

Amo, Coatesville, Clayton, Lizton, North Salem, Pittsboro and Stilesville also belong in the county's story. The county plan recognizes that incorporated towns and unincorporated areas have differing planning arrangements. A county-wide headline therefore cannot settle what may be built next to a particular property. [2]

For readers drawn toward a smaller community or a rural property, investigate the practical details early: water and wastewater service, internet availability, access roads, emergency services and the distance to regular appointments. Space and setting are only part of the decision.

Follow the trails

Outdoor recreation can be an ordinary part of a week in Hendricks County. The choices range from town parks to longer trails and a nature park whose landscape invites a slower visit. The best starting point depends on whether you want a short walk, a bicycle ride, a playground stop or time studying the natural environment.

McCloud Nature Park

Near North Salem, McCloud Nature Park encompasses 232 acres and more than seven miles of trails. Big Walnut Creek, woodlands and prairie areas, a nature center and a restored iron truss bridge give the park several points of interest. Its official trail and visitor information is the right place to check surfaces, access and current programs before setting out. [10]

A nature-center visit followed by a shorter walk can be a manageable introduction. A longer outing can focus on the trail system. Conditions vary with weather, so the same place can offer a different experience across the seasons.

The Vandalia Trail

The county parks department manages a 4.1-mile western section of the Vandalia Trail, running from Amo to the Hendricks-Putnam county line. The paved route follows a former railway corridor, with trailhead facilities in Amo and Coatesville. Treat this as a specific managed segment when planning a trip; a regional trail name does not mean every proposed connection is already continuous. [11]

Build your own county day

One outing might center on a nature park; another could combine a town park with a library visit or a performance. The point is not to fit every attraction into one weekend. Returning to a few places at different times often reveals more about a community than a long checklist.

Check official calendars before arranging a trip. Venue schedules, park programs and seasonal facilities change, and accessibility needs are best discussed with the operator. A trail's length alone does not establish whether its grades, surface or facilities suit a particular visitor.

Three ways to explore: a wooded walk at McCloud, a paved trail outing from Amo or Coatesville, or a town-park visit followed by an arts or library stop.

Work, learning & healthcare

Jobs and the journeys between them

Hendricks County's economic development organization identifies a mix of logistics, manufacturing and healthcare employers. Its industry directory includes distribution businesses and healthcare systems, illustrating that the local economy extends beyond commuting into central Indianapolis. [12]

The county plan also emphasizes the importance of interstate, airport and rail connections. Those links help explain industrial land use, but they also make location-specific questions worthwhile for a home search: nearby truck routes, railway activity, road access and future land-use proposals. [2]

Census QuickFacts reports a mean journey to work of 25.3 minutes for county workers age 16 and over in the 2020–2024 period. That is a historical statistical average—not a drive-time promise from a house to your employer. Test your own route and hours. [1]

Schools: start with the address and the student

The county's 2025 community plan lists six public school corporations: Avon Community, Brownsburg Community, Danville Community, Mill Creek Community, North West Hendricks and Plainfield Community. [16]

Begin a school search by confirming the assigned schools for the exact property with the district. Then consider the student's needs: available courses, support services, transportation, activities and enrollment arrangements. Indiana's Department of Education provides its GPS school-information site and dated assessment reports to support that research. A single score is not a complete account of a school. [17]

Healthcare: distinguish the service from the building

Hendricks Regional Health lists hospitals in Danville and Brownsburg along with medical offices and other facilities around the county. In Plainfield, its medical center at 1100 Southfield Drive offers immediate care and outpatient services. IU Health West Hospital is in Avon. These are different facilities with different functions; an immediate-care location should not be assumed to provide the same services as a hospital emergency department. [13] [14] [15]

Before moving, confirm that your chosen providers accept your insurance and new patients, and check how you would reach routine appointments. The same practical approach applies to childcare, libraries, recreation and other services: identify the places you would actually use, then verify availability directly.

Look beyond the headline price

County statistics provide a starting point for a housing conversation. MIBOR’s September 2026 report offers this snapshot for single-family residences in Hendricks County: [18]

Market measure	September 2026
Median closed sale price	\$370,000
Closed sales	217
Median days on market	26
Active inventory	570
Months of supply	2.6

The report was updated October 4, 2026. These are county-wide measures for a specified property type and month. The median sale price is not an appraisal of a particular home, and months of supply is a market indicator rather than a forecast of how long any one listing will take to sell. [18]

Census QuickFacts, by comparison, reports a median owner-occupied housing value of \$307,600 and median gross rent of \$1,436 for 2020–2024. These survey measures cover a different period and population from the monthly sales report. They should not be read as current asking prices or directly comparable measures of appreciation. [1]

Build a complete ownership budget

Alongside the mortgage payment, obtain property-specific estimates for taxes, insurance, utilities, association charges where applicable, maintenance and likely repairs. Ask about major systems and the age of the roof. An attractive purchase price can mean less if a home requires work that your budget cannot absorb.

For a new home, examine the actual contract, included features, upgrade costs, completion terms and any financing conditions attached to incentives. For an existing home, inspections and a review of relevant records can help turn general impressions into concrete questions.

For buyers, sellers and investors

Buyers benefit from comparing homes that meet their own needs and budget. Sellers need recent comparable sales and an honest assessment of condition and competition. Investors should test property-specific rent and expense assumptions, including vacancy, management, repairs and financing; county growth alone does not establish a profitable investment.

Sources & photograph credit

Information as of October 11, 2026. Refer to the sources below for data periods, local services and visitor information.

1. U.S. Census Bureau — [Hendricks County QuickFacts](#) — Population: July 1, 2025 estimates (V2025); household and housing measures: ACS 2020–2024.
2. [Hendricks County](#) — [Comprehensive Plan](#) — 2025 plan; historical setting, transport, land use and smaller communities.
3. [Hendricks Live!](#) — [About us](#) — Official venue description; 600-seat theater, gallery and event space.
4. [Town of Plainfield](#) — [Echo Hollow master plan](#) — March 10, 2026 announcement; master plan adopted March 9, 2026.
5. [Town of Avon](#) — [Parks & Trails](#) — Current park directory, including Blue Heron Park, formerly Town Hall Park.
6. [Town of Brownsburg](#) — [Parks & Amenities](#) — Official park and trail directory.
7. [Lucas Oil Indianapolis Raceway Park](#) — [Visitor information](#) — Official location and visitor guidance.
8. [Danville-Center Township Library](#) — [Our history](#) — County-seat context and Carnegie library history; construction completed June 1903.
9. [Danville Parks & Recreation](#) — [Ellis Park](#) — Official facility description; 49-acre park along White Lick Creek.
10. [Hendricks County Parks](#) — [McCloud Nature Park](#) — 232 acres, more than seven miles of trails, nature center and Big Walnut Creek.
11. [Hendricks County Parks](#) — [Vandalia Trail](#) — County-managed western 4.1-mile section, Amo to the Hendricks-Putnam county line.
12. [Hendricks County Economic Development Partnership](#) — [Key industries](#) — Local industries and employer directory.
13. [Hendricks Regional Health](#) — [Locations](#) — Official hospital and medical-building directory.
14. [Hendricks Regional Health](#) — [Plainfield Medical Center](#) — 1100 Southfield Drive; immediate care and outpatient services.
15. [IU Health](#) — [IU Health West Hospital](#) — 1111 North Ronald Reagan Parkway, Avon.
16. [Indiana Criminal Justice Institute](#) — [Hendricks community plan](#) — 2025 plan, PDF page 8: six public school corporations.
17. [Indiana Department of Education](#) — [Data Center & Reports](#) — Official GPS school information and dated assessment reports.
18. [MIBOR](#) — [September 2026 Monthly Market Report](#) — PDF page 19: Hendricks County, single-family residences, September 2026; updated October 4, 2026.
19. [National Park Service](#) — [Hendricks County Poor Asylum](#) — National Register entry 100003181; social history and architecture.
20. [Jon Roanhaus](#) — [Historic building photograph](#) — Photograph: September 10, 2026. CC BY-SA 4.0.

YOUR NEXT STEP

Make your Indiana plans concrete

Visit the location, investigate drainage and flood exposure, review the relevant planning records and obtain insurance quotations. If public safety is a concern, use current local information and ask about reporting periods and geographic coverage. No county-wide label can guarantee conditions at a particular address.

Start with the life you want to organize, then examine the property that would support it. The right questions make the county's possibilities easier to assess.

Thinking about relocating to Indiana, buying a home, selling a property or investing in Indiana real estate? Let's talk about your goals, timing and budget—and the communities and properties you want to understand more fully.

Whether Hendricks County is already on your shortlist or you are just beginning to explore, I can help you organize the next steps and the questions to investigate.

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