Home to Indy Team - Indianapolis Real Estate

RELOCATION GUIDE
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INTRODUCTION

The Indianapolis area is a wonderful place to live! Not only does it offer a variety of lifestyle options, from older established neighborhoods to new subdivisions, it’s full of great food and culture. There are also great towns and communities surrounding the city, all within minutes of downtown Indy.

If you’re looking for a new place to locate, you’ve come to the right spot! Here, we’ll give you all the details of Indianapolis and its surrounding areas so that you can make the best informed decision you can about where you want to be.

- For each city/town, we’ll cover the following:
  - Size and Median Income
  - History
  - Schools
  - Parks and Outdoor Activities
  - Shopping and Business
  - Entertainment and Dining

Ready? Let’s get started!

Weather

If you’re going to be moving to the Indianapolis area, you need to know that the weather is constantly changing. In fact, a commonly-heard phrase is “Don’t like the weather? Just wait a minute... it’ll change!” One minute, it might be raining, but a few hours later the clouds give way to abundant sunshine.

The changing weather is one of the most beautiful perks of living in Indiana with its four, diverse seasons. Our summers can get as warm as 100 degrees during the dog days of summer, but they quickly fade into fall with its gorgeous tree leaves and comfortable 60-75 degree days. Winter comes too soon, and with it a lot of snow with temps dipping into the negatives at night. But spring always rolls around soon enough, bringing with it rain and warmer temperatures.
MAP OF INDIANAPOLIS AND SURROUNDING SUBURBS
Among the towns in the Greater Indianapolis area, Avon is a hidden gem. This small town occupies just 6.5 square miles in Hendricks County, a mere 8 miles west of Indianapolis. Avon is a cozy community with fantastic access to all that the big city has to offer.

Avon is just a hop-skip-and-a-jump from the city’s beltway, Interstate-465, and conveniently only ten minutes from the Indianapolis International Airport.

The median age of Avon’s 12,500 inhabitants is 37, and with an average household income of
$68,000, Avon’s families are relatively affluent. One quarter of Avon’s households have incomes over $100,000, and three-quarters of Avon residents fully own their own homes.

Incorporated in 1996, the once sleepy hamlet soon became a thriving community with active residents who organize many entertaining, educational, and charitable events throughout the year such as a Family 5K Bike Ride, Avon’s Relay for Life, and a model boat regatta.

Although its economy has grown and the population of the Greater Avon area has swelled to about 45,000, Avon still radiates small-town energy and friendliness.

Avon Schools

Simply put, Avon schools are outstanding. The Avon Community School Corporation has been honored by the State of Indiana with a Four Star rating, which means that Avon schools rank in the state’s top 25% when it comes to standardized test scores and graduation rates.

Avon has six elementary schools for grades K-4, two intermediate schools for grades 5 and 6, two middle schools for grades 7 and 8, and one high school, for grades 9-12.

Avon’s intermediate schools have full-time teachers in art and music as well as full-time teachers for students with special needs. Middle school students are introduced to courses in industrial technology, computers, choir and band. Middle schools also have team sports such as basketball, football, golf and track.
Avon High School, built in 1999, has top-notch facilities including a 4,100-seat gymnasium, a 3-court gym with a track, an eight-lane swimming pool and a 1,000-seat auditorium. The sports teams are the Avon Orioles. Avon High School also is home to an award-winning student newspaper.

Notably, the school’s marching band, the “Avon Marching Black and Gold,” has won numerous State and National championships. The Marching Black and Gold performed in the 2012 New Year’s Day Rose Parade in Pasadena, California, and members of the drum line performed with Madonna at the Super Bowl XLVI Halftime Show.

Shopping and Business

Despite the town’s size, Avon residents don’t have to travel far for work or shopping. Avon’s proximity to Indy and its relatively-affluent population make the town a prime location for major retailers, manufacturing firms, and professional services such as insurance, accounting, and real estate.

The town’s main shopping venue is the Avon Commons shopping center. Popular retail outlets include Meijer, Menards, Lowe’s, Super Target, Wal-Mart, Dick’s Sporting Goods, Barnes and Noble, and Starbucks.

Businesses in Avon enjoy access to more than 100 freight trucking companies in the Indianapolis area – a commercial benefit which fosters competitive pricing and high customer service standards for Avon companies.
Railroad services are offered via Amtrak and CSX at Avon Yard. Avon’s access to major interstate and highways, as well as, air and rail transport, provide further inducements for economic development.

Notable companies located in Avon include Harlan Bakeries, Phoenix Fabricators, Acme Masking, American Fasteners, and Mears Machine.

Other large employers in Avon include Indiana University Health Medical Center, Hendricks Regional Health, Duke Energy, Hendricks County Government, and Avon Community Schools.

**Parks and Outdoor Activities**

Avon is the only Tree City USA community in Hendricks County, which illustrates the town’s commitment to maintaining natural beauty in a suburban environment. Avon boasts two very large community parks.

In 2002, Avon opened the modern, 84-acre Town Hall Park. The site features lakes and ponds, a prairie garden, walking trails, playgrounds, picnic shelters, an 18-hole Frisbee golf course – and Wi-Fi access. Local anglers make good use of the park’s stocked ponds for catch-and-release fishing.

Avon’s **Washington Township Community Park** opened in 1989. More than 100,000 people visit this 155-acre park annually. This interesting property boasts one of the last remaining Iron Whipple Truss Bridges in Indiana, built around 1876. There are walking and mountain bike trails, horseshoe pits, playgrounds, and courts for basketball and volleyball. A popular “Paw Park” for dogs opened in 2009.

Each summer, Township Community Park hosts the popular Avon Community Heritage Festival and the Hendricks County Rib Fest, an event that draws about 10,000 BBQ aficionados from surrounding cities every year.

For foodies, Avon also supports a vibrant Farmer’s Market. On Tuesday afternoons from June through September, shoppers make weekly pilgrimages to the farmer’s market to purchase locally grown produce and crafts from Avon artisans.
A home gardener’s dream, the Avon Perennial Gardens is an unusual plant nursery that offers five acres of perfectly designed display gardens, fountains, waterfalls, and ponds. In the temperate months, the gardens host musical events and private parties.

**Entertainment and Dining**

Although nearby Indianapolis offers plenty of attractive entertainment and dining opportunities, Avon provides ample family-oriented ways to have fun.

The amazing 75-member Hendricks Symphony and Choir is Avon’s local treasure. Since 2007, the Hendricks Symphony has been performing masterworks from composers such as Beethoven, Brahms, Dvorak and Poulenc. Concerts take place at Avon Middle School South. The group runs many community-service programs in the area and performs free concerts throughout the year, including at Avon schools.

For fun, Avonians frequent playtime establishments like Monster Mini Golf (an 18-hole, glow-in-the-dark monument to monsters), the Rock & Rollers skating rink, and Xtreme Laser Tag.

Favorite restaurants in Avon include the regularly-packed Emmy’s Pancake House & Grill, Asian fare at Thai Lanna, and healthy, hearty meals at the Mediterranean Grill.

**Searching for a home in Avon?**
Brownsburg, Indiana

One of Indiana’s original pioneer towns, Brownsburg is a thriving community just northwest of Indianapolis. The city occupies about 11 square miles in Hendricks County.

In 2009, Money Magazine ranked Brownsburg as the #1 place to live in Indiana and the 33rd best place to live in the nation, lauding the city’s affordable housing and low crime rates.

The median age of Brownsburg’s 22,000 inhabitants is about 36, and with an average household income of $68,000, Brownsburg’s young families are relatively affluent. Brownsburg’s home ownership rate is 82%, and the unemployment is comparatively low, only 7.4%.

Brownsburg has a long history, dating back to 1824 when James B. Brown, a Kentucky native, settled in Brown Township. In those days, the region was a wilderness, dense with trees and foliage.

Trappers and hunters traversed the area, and Delaware Indians lived along White Lick Creek, which they called “Wa-pe-ke-way,” which means “white salt.” The first church in Brownsburg was built in 1840.
Brownsburg Schools

Schools in Brownsburg are excellent. In fact, for the last school year, Brownsburg public schools were awarded an “A” rating by the Indiana Department of Education. That’s because Brownsburg’s schools placed above the state average in Indiana’s ISTEP and ECA standardized assessments.

Overall, Brownsburg’s public school system is comprised of six elementary schools, two middle schools, and three high schools, making this town’s school system one of the larger school corporations in the region.

There are six elementary schools—grades K through 5—within the Brownsburg Community School Corporation (BCSC). At these schools, children have the chance to participate in fun, brain-building extracurricular activities like the Spell Bowl, the Math Pentathlon, and a Geography Bee.

Brownsburg’s two middle schools, West Middle School and East Middle School, serve Brownsburg children in grades six through eight. After school, students can participate in the Junior National Honor Society to build their academic portfolios, or practice with the school band or orchestra, or suit up for one of the many team sports offered.
There are three high schools operated by BCSC. As well as Brownsburg High School, the Harris Academy and the Senior Academy provide unique curricula for students, including capstone projects and career preparation opportunities.

At Brownsburg’s high schools, there’s a sport for every student to play, from football to soccer. And the Brownsburg teams, the Bulldogs, are no pushovers. In 2008, the Brownsburg High School boys’ basketball team won the Indiana High School Athletic Association 4A State Championship after defeating Marion 40-39, with a shot at the final buzzer.

**Shopping and Business**

Although the residents of Brownsburg can easily travel to Indianapolis to shop, Brownsburg shopping has plenty going for it. Most stores in the town are locally owned and operated by individual families, not huge corporations. Many of these businesses are in downtown Brownsburg, which is home to two shopping malls: Eaglepoint Village and Brownsburg Square Shopping Center.

These shopping centers have stores dealing in everything from men’s and women’s clothing to consumer electronics and include stores like K-Mart and Kroger.

In fact for over 100 years, downtown Brownsburg has been a hotbed of business activity. The Brownsburg Chamber of Commerce has its offices here, as does the town hall, the police department, and the fire department. A number of Brownsburg restaurants also dot the historic downtown area.

Regarding jobs in Brownsburg, 30% of employed residents are in sales and office work, and 25% work in professional occupations.

**Recreation and Entertainment**

There are loads of things to do in Brownsburg, from spending a day at the races, to dining out, to enjoying the outdoors. Racing fans in Brownsburg are lucky to have the venerable Lucas Oil Raceway located just outside of town on U.S.Highway 136.
The USAC Silver Crown, Sprint Car and Midget Car races take place on this 2.5 mile oval, along with other events suited to a shorter track.

Traditionally the Raceway stages an extensive program on the Saturday nights of major races. A major feature of the Lucas Oil Raceway is its 4,400-foot long straightaway, which is used as a dragstrip.

Brownsburg residents are fortunate to have a variety of first-rate, home-grown restaurants in town, such as the Boulder Creek Dining Company. Specialties of this upscale restaurant are the crab and artichoke dip and horseradish-Dijon crusted sirloin. Looking for sushi? Find it beautifully prepared at the elegant Tegry Bistro. And for sports fans, the TVs at Sweet Home Chicago play all the Indianapolis Pacers and Colts games for dinners noshing pizza or sandwiches.

Golfers have two excellent choices, right in Brownsburg. The beautiful West Chase Golf Club provides top-notch event facilities as well as a championship level, 18-hole course. The club also has a highly-rated golfing school. Lesser known but loved by locals is the White Lick Golf Course, a secluded, 9-hole course with an inexpensive greens fee.

For relaxation and fun, families flock to the Brownsburg Bowl bowling alley, a 28-lane facility with pool tables, a game room, a lounge, and a snack bar.
For foodies, Brownsburg supports a vibrant Farmer’s Market. Every Thursday afternoon, from June through September, shoppers can find locally-grown fruits and vegetables, baked goods, and artisanal items such as soaps and candles – all from Brownsburg.

Outdoor adventures are easy to arrange nearby. Brownsburg is home to two fantastic outdoor facilities, Williams Park and Arbuckle Acres Park.

The 77-acre Williams Park is famous with local children for its Blast-Off playground, a large wooden play structure. The playground was conceived by Brownsburg school kids and built by more than 2,500 volunteers. The trails at Williams Park meander through woods and along White Lick Creek. The facility includes picnic shelters, a second playground, basketball courts and plenty of open space to play.

**Arbuckle Acres is Brownsburg**’s oldest park. The original 38 acres once belonged to the Alex H. Arbuckle, for whom the park is named. This park, now 68 acres, has baseball diamonds and lighted basketball and tennis courts. The playground is shaded by mature trees, and many of the park’s shelters sit alongside White Lick Creek. The park offers trails, trees, and open spaces for games and events. Locals come to Arbuckle Acres to take photos at the walking bridge and at the beautiful Carmony Fountain.

One of the biggest events of the year in Brownsburg, the Festival for the Arts, takes place in July at Arbuckle Acres Park. The event, sponsored by the Brownsburg Chamber of Commerce, features live music, food vendors, and an arts and crafts fair.

**Searching for a home in Brownsburg?**
For Hoosiers, the city of Carmel, Indiana, embodies the gracious, upper-middle-class lifestyle. Along with Zionsville and Fishers, Carmel is one of the most affluent suburbs in the Indianapolis area.

CNN Money Magazine consistently ranks this city of 80,000 among the best places to live. Indeed, in 2012, Money Magazine selected Carmel as the "Best Place to Live" in the U.S.

As the bases for ranking Carmel tops in the nation, the magazine praised the city’s large number of professional job opportunities and exceptional amenities, including its parks and trail system, its Arts & Design District and the city’s new Center for the Performing Arts.

Carmel is located about 20 miles north of downtown Indianapolis in Hamilton County and occupies nearly 50 square miles. The median age of residents is in the late-30s, and their estimated annual household income is over $95,000. Carmel has a very low crime rate. In Carmel, the last time a law enforcement officer was killed in the line of duty was over 100 years ago.
The city has a long history. In 1837, the city, then called Bethlehem, was platted. A general store was constructed, and the area soon became known as a fur trading center. The land, once inhabited by Delaware Indians, in time became home to a Quaker community. In 1872, the U.S. Post Office informed the town’s city fathers that the name “Bethlehem” was already taken. So, a referendum was held to rename the town “Carmel.”

**Carmel Schools**

Happily for Carmel parents, the city’s schools are national class. Recently, Carmel High School could boast having 48 National Merit Scholar Semifinalists, and its senior-year students won a total of $11.7 million in college scholarships. The average SAT score for Carmel students is 1,691, which is 53 points higher than the state average. In math, Carmel students score 39 points above the national average. In verbal skills, they score 31 points above the national average.

Carmel’s graduation rate is nearly perfect, at 96.5%.

Carmel High School occupies 55 acres of land, and its buildings cover more than 22 acres. Carmel regularly upgrades the school’s facilities. Recently, the school completed construction on a three-story Freshman Center, a 182,000-square-foot complex.

In the May 2005 issue of Sports Illustrated, the Carmel Athletics Department was recognized in a feature on America’s top 25 high school athletic programs. Carmel was ranked #10 nationally and #1 in the state of Indiana. The rankings were based on overall success in the last decade, including state championships and student-athletes earning college scholarships.

Carmel teams are dubbed The Greyhounds. Overall, of the 19 varsity sports offered at Carmel High School, all of them have captured either a state championship or state runner-up title, or both. In addition, the Greyhound Varsity Cheerleaders have won the Indiana Cheerleading Association state championship three times, in 2000, 2005 and 2006.
Shopping and Business

The downtown portion of Carmel is sometimes referred to as Old Town Carmel, but these days, it’s all new. The arts-loving city planners have arranged a facelift for downtown by developing the national-class Arts and Design District and the adjacent Carmel City Center project. Add these sparkling innovations to the recently constructed, state-of-the art, $80-million Performing Arts Center and you have a magnificently transformed downtown Carmel and environs.

It’s understandable, then, that when people in the greater Indy area “go to town” to shop, often they simply mean “Carmel.” In and around this accommodating community you will find the most eclectic, high-end shopping centers in the greater Indy area, if not the region. For example, in Carmel proper there is Clay Terrace, an outdoor-lifestyle mall, located at 146th and Meridian. Find upscale establishments like Ann Taylor, Eddie Bauer, Whole Foods and Biaggi’s. Nearby, there is The Fashion Mall at Keystone, where fashionistas will find Kate Spade, J.Jill, Louis Vuitton and Burberry stores.
Also in the vicinity is the enormous Castleton Square Mall, Indiana’s largest shopping mall, offering a traditional shopping experience with anchor stores like Macy’s and Von Maur, plus over 100 additional specialty shops like Lego and Disney.

Innovation is no stranger to the city. Carmel is the site of one of the first automated traffic lights in the country. As time and technology have progressed, the city has become home to a crowd of companies, large and small. Pearson Education, Conseco and Midwest ISO all have established their national headquarters in Carmel. This forward-looking city also is the headquarters of the ITT Technical Institute.

In 2002, Mayor Jim Brainard asked the Department of Community Relations to create the Carmel Small Business Association Network. This group was created to give small business owners in Carmel a direct communications link to the mayor and other city employees.

The Arts in Carmel

Although business and technology are cornerstones to Carmel’s success, the true essence of the city lies in its longstanding support of the arts.

Carmel’s city planners have cleverly -- and strategically -- combined these ideals. Recently, a key section of Carmel’s downtown area was rededicated as the official “Arts and Design District.” This area, which is encompassed by Fourth Street South, Range Line Road, Fourth Avenue East and Main Street, is an inspiring place to live or simply spend a day. Unsurprisingly, the District attracts visitors and shoppers from around the Indy area and, indeed, the entire region.

The District is home to numerous art galleries, many located in the Lurie Building. Interior design stores, antiques emporia and specialty shops also grace this charming downtown setting. Indeed, many consider the Carmel Arts & Design District one of the prime artist-communities in the state.

Additionally, this pleasantly walkable area features restaurants, coffee shops and other unique businesses. Homes in the Arts District include elegant condos and historic houses. As well, the District is the location for art festivals, such as Artomobilia, a national class car show, and the Carmel International Arts Festival, a weekend-long art show attracting 30,000 visitors or more.
Besides all this, Carmel has shown its dedication to the performing arts by building The Palladium, a national-class concert hall situated within the city’s Center for Performing Arts. Completed in 2011, this gem-like venue seats 1,600.

Parks in Carmel

A member of the Tree City USA program, Carmel is renowned for actually exceeding this ambitious program’s requirements. The benefits of living in a “Tree City” are immediately apparent as you drive through the green-leafy streets on a warm summer day or walk down one of park areas throughout the city. In addition the city operates the Carmel Monon Center, a state-of-the-art fitness center and water park.

The Monon Greenway, essentially a 5.2 mile asphalt bike-trail, is a favorite among Carmel residents. As part of the Rails to Trails program, the Monon Greenway runs north and south through the very center of the town. Many people enjoy living near the Monon where one may walk, jog, bike or cross country ski. In fact, traveling on the Monon, one can admire many fine homes situated along this scenic trail.
Regarding scenic delights, Coxhall Gardens is yet another beautiful Carmel park, featuring 125 acres of open green-space, a lake, playground, gazebos, and fountains. This park is located within a comfortable walking distance of some of Carmel’s most popular neighborhoods, such as the Village of West Clay.

And, recreationally speaking, the Carmel Soccer Complex is a true favorite for Carmel kids hoping to be the next David Beckham or Mia Hamm. Overall, there is an abundance of neighborhood parks and picturesque trails beautifying the town.

Recreation and Entertainment

Besides being tree friendly, Carmel is bicycle friendly. In particular, this scenic town is recognized as a Bronze Level Bicycle Friendly City by the National League of Bicyclists. In addition to the Monon Greenway, many of Carmel’s streets offer bike paths; and the city has worked hard to incorporate trails and paths in many of the new residential developments. The Carmel Access Bikeway includes eight cross-city bike routes and five bike loops. These bike routes consist of two east-west bound routes and six north-south routes.

As well as pleasant bike rides, Carmel offers an abundance of arts-related recreation. Indeed, Carmel’s arts events abound. For instance, every Wednesday evening in June, July and August there is the “Summer Family Concert Series at the Gazebo,” free music on the lawn at the Carmel Civic Square.

Finally, we can’t forget to mention the Carmel International Arts Festival, staged annually in September and located on Main Street, within the Carmel Arts & Design District. This captivating arts extravaganza features a juried exhibition of various types of artists and entertainers, hailing from around the world. At this Carmel arts festival, visitors of all ages can enjoy concerts, dance performances and hands-on activities for children.

Searching for a home in Carmel?
Now is a fine time for all good house-hunters to consider relocating to the thriving, modern, upscale town of Fishers, Indiana. Located about 15 miles northeast of Indianapolis, along the beautiful West Fork of the White River, Fishers Indiana regularly ranks high in many popular “Best Places to Live” lists published by Money Magazine, Business Week Magazine, and other notable publications.

The city of Fishers occupies about 36 square miles in Hamilton County, just east of Carmel, another popular bedroom community in the Indy area. With Geist Reservoir within its borders, Fishers residents enjoy natural beauty, easy access to national-class arts and entertainment, excellent schools and a vibrant economy. What’s not to like?

**Fishers’ History**

Like many towns in Indiana, Fishers was settled first by land-seeking pioneers in the early 1800s. In 1825, one of the city fathers established a horse-powered grinding mill, a blacksmith shop, and the area’s first elementary school. In 1849, track for the railroad connecting Indianapolis and Chicago was laid through the hamlet, which soon became known as “Fisher’s Station” or “Fisher’s Switch.”
Later, in 1872, one Salathial Fisher platted the area and divided the land that was to hold its first post office. In 1891, the Indiana General Assembly incorporated the town as Fisher’s Station. Finally, in 1908, the town post office shortened the town’s name to simply “Fishers.”

Who lives in Fishers?
In 2012, an estimated 80,000 people were living in Fishers, an amazing figure considering the fact that in 1980 the town’s population was a mere 2,000. In 2010, the median household income in Fishers was $90,000, and the home ownership rate is over 80%. And Fishers is a surprisingly youthful town. The median age of its citizens is 33, and 33% of its residents are under 18.

Fishers Schools
Unsurprisingly, this growing and affluent community populated with numerous youngsters boasts of many truly superb schools: 12 elementary schools, 3 intermediate ones, 3 junior highs, and 2 high schools.

Regarding scholastic performance in particular, Fishers High School ranks number 8 in the state. In fact, based on student scores on state exit exams, 92% of this Fishers school’s graduates were proficient in English and 89% were proficient in Algebra. Quite an achievement!

Business and economic development
The Fishers Chamber of Commerce encourages business development and entrepreneurship and sponsors a young professionals club. The Fishers Advantage website encourages companies to relocate to the town by helping businesses find their best new physical address in Fishers.

Fishers is vibrant with commerce, partly owing to its access to vital transportation arteries. Interstate 69 runs through the city, and Fishers has quick access to Indy’s 465 beltway. The busy commercial corridor of State Road 37 runs along the east side of town and is a prime area for new business development. According to a Fishers economic development group, the city has the absolutely lowest municipal tax rate in all of Hamilton County, which makes Fishers a highly-trafficked area that is also extremely business friendly. Obviously, there are good reasons why this forward-thinking community has citizens with a high level of household income.
Regarding household money-matters, employers in Fishers include Sallie Mae, the Hamilton Southeastern School District, and Roche Diagnostics. Financial services are big in Fishers, with companies like Charles Schwab and Freedom Mortgage choosing to locate in this business-friendly town.

The Universal Music Group also has offices in Fishers, as does ADT Corporation. IU Health also employs many at IU Health Saxony Hospital. No wonder Fishers enjoys a phenomenally low unemployment rate: 5% in 2012—3% less than the 8% rate in the rest of the state! If you want work in a great place—come to Fishers!

**Things to Do Year ‘Round**

And if you want fun in a nice place, you should come lickety-split to Fishers, too. Throughout the year, the town holds 3 large-scale festivals. At the end of June, the Fishers Freedom Festival celebrates the community with a parade, competitions, music, and fundraising events.

At the end of July, the Flavor of Fishers is a fun opportunity for residents to mingle and taste the wares of local food establishments. And in the fall, during the Fishers Renaissance Fair at Conner Prairie, visitors will find themselves transported to the world of Merrie Olde Elizabethan England.
Perhaps the most well-known attraction in Fishers is the Conner Prairie living history museum, essentially a preserved prairie-farmstead that once belonged to a successful settler and fur trader, William Conner. In 1823, Conner built one of the first brick houses in central Indiana overlooking the White River. Conner and his descendants lived on the property until the 1860s. The home also served as a governmental office and a mail stop for Hamilton County. In the 1930s, pharmaceutical executive Eli Lilly purchased the property, restored it, and eventually donated it as an historical “living museum.”

Today, Conner Prairie is on the U.S. Register of Historic Places. The site offers educational tours of pioneer and Indian life and hosts many community events, such as a popular summer concert series, Symphony on the Prairie.

For a whole decade, numerous locals and wise out-of-towners have flocked to the Fishers Farmers Market, located on the grounds of the Town’s Nickel Plate Park, in front of the Fish-ers Amphitheater. Every Saturday, the market is packed with high-quality vendors offering fresh produce, baked goods, and exquisite specialty food items. On any given Saturday, as many as 2,500 eager shoppers will stroll, hunt and gather throughout the gustatory paradise of this glorious farmer’s market.

**Parks in Fishers**

Perhaps because Fishers has such an active, youthful, growing and affluent population, the town has created a five-star parks and recreation department, managing a wealth of natural leisure-time activities.

Fishers has 12 parks, consisting of nearly 400 acres of trails, many picnic-areas, playgrounds and sports facilities. For bird-watchers, nature-lovers and hikers, the sylvan delights are numerous: Hoosier Woods, the Ritchey Woods Nature Preserve and Fishers Heritage Park on the White River are wondrous places to leave the urban hubbub behind and explore the secret world of trees, squirrels and hawks.
And for sports enthusiasts, venues like Mudsock Fields, Fishers Park and Harrison Thompson Park offer well-maintained sports and recreational facilities for ball-club members and the entire community to use, practice on and enjoy.

Last but hardly least is the beautiful and scenic Geist Reservoir, including its surrounding community which recently was annexed by Fishers. Most conveniently, two public marinas provide easy access to “Geist Lake” for the pleasures of boating, swimming, and fishing. At the Geist Marina, visitors can even rent kayaks and pontoon boats.

In Fishers, the numerous enriching recreational activities as well as the many opportunities for work and growth look to be almost boundless!

**Searching for a home in Fishers?**
GREENWOOD, INDIANA

A gem hidden in nearby, plain sight, Greenwood, Indiana is an ideal location for raising a young family. Situated just south of Indianapolis in Johnson County, Greenwood is also an easy, comfortable commute to any downtown destination and to the I-465 beltway. Nevertheless, despite its proximity to Indiana’s capital city, Greenwood, Indiana, is a thriving community of 14-square-miles with an attractive identity all its own.

Greenwood History

Like most of Indiana, the ground where Greenwood now stands was once a swampy, thickly wooded wilderness, occasionally hunted and inhabited by Delaware Indians. In 1818, treaties with local Indian tribes opened the way for American settlers from Eastern states to discover the attractions of this central region of the Hoosier State. In fact, the “Whetzel Trace,” the first east-west trail through central Indiana, ran right through Greenwood, just south of what is now Main Street.

In 1823, the Smock family arrived in the area from Kentucky. The town they and others founded was first called Smocktown, then Greenfield, and then in 1833 the town became known as Greenwood, to prevent its confusion with another Greenfield, located in Hancock County. The town of Greenwood was incorporated in 1846, nearly 170 years ago.
Throughout the 19th and 20th centuries, Greenwood was known as the home of the Polk Canning Company, which packed corn, tomatoes and beans from farmers all around the region. For years it was Greenwood’s largest company. Eventually the Polk Company was purchased by the Stokely canning company, which operated the cannery until 1959.

**Who lives in Greenwood?**

Although originally from agricultural roots, today’s Greenwood is nearly 100% urban. Its 52,000 residents are almost entirely Caucasian—a few of whom are ethnically Latin—and a small minority of the citizenry is of Asian descent. The median household income in Greenwood is about $55,000. More than 25% of its residents have bachelors’ degrees, and 90% of Greenwoodians are high school graduates.

**K-12 Education in Greenwood**

In Greenwood, there are 15 elementary schools, 3 middle schools, and 2 high schools: Greenwood High and Center Grove.

Over 1,000 kids are enrolled in Greenwood High School, and parental involvement is keen. The curriculum is driven by the “Core 40” requirements, and teachers work diligently to ensure students meet them. The Greenwood “Woodmen” play sports throughout the year and compete with teams around the state. The graduation rate at Greenwood High is 86%, and most students matriculate to college.

Center Grove High has over 2,000 students, and its sports teams are called the Trojans.

**Business and economic development**

Greenwood is an excellent place for starting and growing a business, with easy access to major highways, including the 465 beltway around Indianapolis. Greenwood also enjoys its own municipal airport.

Predominating industries are construction, finance, and insurance. Technical and scientific services have proliferated in the area, too. The Swiss instrumentation firm Endress Hauser, which operates in Greenwood, is planning a sizeable expansion, bringing more jobs to Greenwood.
Large employers in Greenwood also include United Natural Foods Distribution Center, Nachi Technology, Inc, and the ALDI Inc. Food Warehouse.

**Things to Do in Greenwood**

Greenwood organizes a series of high-end events throughout the year. At the end of June, the venerable Freedom Festival, credibly touted as the finest summer festival in all of Indiana, rings in the summer with fireworks, a parade, great food, and endless rounds of music.

In late August, Greenwood’s annual “WAMM-fest” is highly attended. Last year, nearly 7,000 people traveled to Craig Park to socialize and delight in a festival designed for grown-ups, with a focus on Wine, Art, Music and Microbrews. (Not to mention more fabulous food!)

For those who enjoy a jaunt on the green, if not a detour in the rough, Greenwood boasts five golf courses, including one 18-hole masterpiece designed by Pete Dye.

For supreme summer fun, Greenwoodians frequent City Center Park, which recently launched a new splash pad. Next year, Greenwood’s Freedom Park will debut its new aquatics center with 3 pools, slides, and lots more.
Greenwood Arts and Parks

Greenwood was one of the first cities in the Indy area to open a dog park. The Four Paws dog park, located in University Park, is an acre of ground for dogs to meet and frolic. Greenwood’s Freedom Park also will be opening a dog park soon. Bow WOW!

Locals in Greenwood enjoy jogging and biking on over 20 miles of trails, paths, and greenways.

Greenwood’s Parks and Recreation Department provides programs for kids and grownups, from a national-class soccer facility, softball fields and martial-arts venues for kids, to volleyball teams, art classes, and water-aerobics pools for adults.

At the Greenwood Amphitheater, residents gather with blankets and picnic baskets to enjoy the summer concert series. The Greenwood Community Band plays rousing music all-year-round.

The Southside Art League runs a gallery and offers art classes for local residents. People who hike or walk along the Polk Hill Trail can enjoy plenty of outdoor sculpture. And the Madison Village on Madison Avenue is a prime place to delight in local arts, crafts and antiques.

Of course, Greenwood’s close proximity to Indianapolis makes it convenient and tempting to attend the national-class Indianapolis Symphony, the Indiana Repertory Theatre, the Indianapolis Children’s Museum, and the Indianapolis Museum of Art. Enjoy!

Searching for a home in Greenwood?
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA

The City of Indianapolis is the largest metropolitan area in Indiana, and it is located smack-dab in the middle of the state. The nine diverse townships that comprise the city are loosely circled by the Interstate 465 beltway, which is a convenient thoroughfare for navigating the more than 350 square miles that make up the greater Indy area.

Indianapolis History

By the early 1800's, the Delaware and Miami Indian tribes that once roamed the central Indiana woods, prairies and swamps had been displaced by American settlers who streamed in from Kentucky and Virginia. Indiana was granted statehood in 1816; and in 1820, Indianapolis was selected as the state capital. The name Indianapolis – a combination of the state name “Indiana” and the Greek word for “city,” polis – means “Indiana City.”
Indy was founded on the White River, which promised to be a natural transportation artery. Unfortunately for 19th century entrepreneurs, the river in fact proved too shallow and sandy to accommodate trade. The best laid plans of mice and men, etc. Nevertheless, where there is a will, there is a way. So, Indy inhabitants built a railway and many roads that radiated from Indianapolis, which grew into a lively American crossroads. By the turn of the 20th century, Indianapolis was a major automobile manufacturer and home to such companies as the Stutz Motor Car Company and the Duesenberg Motors Company. In the 1970’s and 1980’s, Indianapolis suffered a period of urban decay, as did many Midwestern cities.

Happily, the metropolis experienced a renaissance in the late 1980’s, when the city and state began rebuilding the area’s infrastructure, which included the I-465 beltway, the convention center, and a new terminal for the Indianapolis International Airport.

**Indianapolis neighborhoods**

Within Indy’s nine townships are dozens of neighborhoods and subdivisions, suiting myriad lifestyles. Young couples and families, artists, bohemians and entrepreneurs gravitate to communities such as Broad Ripple, about 6 miles north of the city center, and Irvington, about 5 miles east. Nightclubs, microbreweries, unique and foreign-food eateries, boutique shopping, and the arts all are important economic and entertainment components of these districts.
For active, community-oriented types, the Monon Trail provides a 10-mile corridor for activities such as biking, hiking, shopping, dog-walking and congregating with friends and neighbors. The trail stretches from 10th Street downtown to 96th Street on the north side, into the suburbs of Carmel and Westfield.

In Indy proper, the Monon Trail skirts the White River and links schools, commercial districts, parks, and many of Indy neighborhoods, including Maple- ton-Fall Creek, Broad Ripple, and Meridian-Kessler. At the southern end it connects with the Cultural Trail which snakes its way through the art districts of Indianapolis.

The upscale Meridian Kessler district, also north of downtown, is one of the city’s most desirable communities. Venerable, stately homes abound, and there are several Meridian Kessler Home Tours throughout the year.

Woodruff Place, located in the center of town, is one of Indy’s best-known historic neighborhoods. Speaking of history, Woodruff Place probably was the nation’s first planned suburb, and the area was the setting for Booth Tarkington’s novel “The Magnificent Ambersons,” This is the book-source of the great movie-maker Orson Welles’ second-best masterpiece, of the same title.
The homes in Woodruff Place are architecturally diverse and include grand Victorian, Tudor, and Craftsman styles. Woodruff Place residents are keen on maintaining the old character of the district, which includes unique lighting and fountains in the street medians.

Another historic district is Homecroft, about 4 miles south of the city center. Amazingly, this delightful suburb, designed in the 1920’s, has managed to retain the feel of a secluded small town. Many homes are still shaded by the neighborhood’s original maple trees.

Ah—the Midwest! The Heartland!

The Camby neighborhood in Decatur Township is southwest of Indy’s city center. Founded by Quakers, many residents trace their roots to the area’s original settlers. In recent years, the Indianapolis International Airport constructed its new terminal near here, and many new subdivisions have sprung up. Unlike other districts in Indianapolis, parts of Camby have a rural flavor, and it’s possible to buy a home here with fairly large acreage, a unique feature for a large metro area.

Who lives in Indianapolis?

Over 2 million people reside in the greater Indianapolis area. Nearly 80% are Caucasian, about 13% are black Americans, and about 6% are Latin.

Interestingly, a University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee study conducted in 2010 found that Indianapolis was the least segregated city in the northern United States, with 25% of the population living on a city block with both white and black residents.

About a quarter of residents in the area have bachelor’s degrees, and the median annual family household income is nearly $50,000.

Education

The Indianapolis Public Schools district operates 12 high schools, two of which have been nationally recognized in the US News Best High Schools rankings. Opportunities for higher education abound in the city.
College bound students have their choice of attending Indiana University-Purdue University – Indianapolis (IUPUI), Butler University, or the University of Indianapolis. Conveniently for many, Ivy Tech Community College operates two campuses in the city.

**Business & economic development**

Indianapolis is home to multiple large corporations. In the healthcare and pharmaceutical sectors, big names include Indiana University Health, St. Vincent Hospitals, and Eli Lilly. In manufacturing, Rolls-Royce and Allison Transmission are located here.

Also, Indianapolis specializes in goods transportation. Major trucking companies headquartered in Indy include Celadon Trucking, Venture Logistics, and TransCorr. In addition, the Indianapolis Airport is a major hub for Federal Express. In the education sector, the IUPUI campus and Indianapolis Public School Corporation also are major employers.

In addition to traditional services and industries, Indianapolis nurtures a strong new-business
startup culture. Cha Cha, one of the Internet’s first search engines, was founded in Indy and Angie’s List, one of the country’s first service-referral services is a similar story.

ExactTarget, one of the world’s first email marketing companies, is another home-grown, high-tech company that got its start in Indianapolis. In Indy, which is definitely business-friendly, new-business is booming.

When it comes to consumer pleasures, Indianapolis has it all. Popular, upscale shopping malls include the Fashion Mall Keystone on the swanky north side, and the Circle Centre Mall, downtown, which is connected by skywalks to the downtown hotels.

Also downtown is the Midland Arts and Antiques Market, a 40,000 square-foot warehouse filled with national-class collectibles from over 200 dealers. For boutique lovers, the Mass. Avenue district has unique shops eateries and theater. For a bohemian, retro experience, visit the Fountain Square district for antiques, irresistible doo-dads, music shops, and art galleries.

Eclectic, ample and scrumptious are the watchwords for dining out in Indianapolis. Downtown alone has over 200 restaurants, including The Skyline Club and the Eagle’s Nest, which provide diners gorgeous views of downtown.

For foodies and cooks, the city has many notable specialty markets, such as Kincaid’s Meat Market and Claus’s German Sausage and Meat Market. Specialty groceries abound as well, including Saraga International Market, on the west side, and the Good Earth Natural Food Store in Broad Ripple.

**Arts & Entertainment**

In their leisure time, Indianapolis residents have a bounty of choices, from high-culture to national league sports, to outdoor community events. The world-class Indianapolis Symphony, conducted by the up-and-coming Polish maestro Krzysztof Urbański, includes musicians trained by, or on faculty with, the world-renowned Indiana University Jacobs School of Music.

The Indianapolis Museum of Art hosts collections by well-known artists, such as Matisse and Hogarth, as well as modern artists and international works, like a recent popular exhibit of
Japanese prints. For children, the Indianapolis Zoo and the Indianapolis Children’s Museum are prime and delightful destinations, and many Indy families help support these institutions with their annual memberships.

Throughout the year, Indy residents have plenty of activities on their calendars. For families, attending the Circle of Lights, the lighting of the huge Christmas display in the downtown circle, is a beloved annual tradition.

Sports fans head to the Bankers Life Fieldhouse for Pacers basketball games and to Lucas Oil Stadium for Colts football.

As the weather warms, natives join tourists who flock to the Indianapolis 500 and Brickyard 500 races, both of which stretch into multi-day festivals. In spring and summer, the city hosts many outdoor events, such as the Rib Fest, the renowned Indy Jazz Festival, and the “Monumental” marathon and half-marathons. Of course, the fun-filled Indiana State Fair takes place every year at the city fairgrounds, whose coliseum facility has just been brilliantly remodeled.

Indy residents don’t have to drive a country-mile to find themselves in gorgeous wooded surroundings. On the city’s east side, Fort Benjamin Harrison State Park is a 1,700 acre facility with hiking, a nature center, horseback riding, and a military museum. It’s also home to an up-scale
inn and a Pete Dye golf course. On the city’s west side, Eagle Creek Park is Indy’s largest park, with a 1,400 acre reservoir and nearly 40,000 acres of stunning parkland. Primarily a nature preserve, with a bird sanctuary and 10 miles of trails, it is also a full-fledged recreation area, with amenities such as a pistol range, a golf course, and plenty of indoor and outdoor classes for kids and adults. It is also a favorite spot for kayakers and sailboaters.

Downtown, local residents regularly stroll through the White River State Park, which, as an urban park, focuses on cultural activities. Located here are the Indianapolis Zoo and White River Gardens, the IMAX theater, the Victory Field baseball park, the Military Park festival grounds, as well as a venue for big-name outdoor concerts. Visitors meander and picnic along the well-tended Central Canal, a 3-mile stretch of water where, from a paddle boat or a gondola, fun-seekers can relax and take in the downtown sights. Indy indeed is rich with all types of opportunities for fun!

**Searching for a home in Indianapolis?**
If you seek to settle in the perfect Indy suburb, you won’t go wrong in Noblesville. Located about 25 miles north of Indianapolis, the City of Noblesville regularly ranks high on “best of” lists, including the Top 100 Best Places to Raise your Family, by Sperling and Sander, the Top 25 Best Suburbs, by Business Week, and the 100 Best Places to Live by CNN Money, where it ranked near the top. Most recently, the ”Move-to” blog named Noblesville the 4th Best Small City in the U.S.

With its “hipstoric” downtown, plenty of shopping and recreational amenities, an attractive business climate – and affordable housing, no one can argue that this notable Midwestern city is a wonderful place to live and raise a family.

How it all started
In the early 1800’s, William Conner (of Conner Prairie fame) and his family, the first settlers in the area, established a trading post here. Conner and his friend Josiah Polk laid out the future town in 1823, which soon became the Hamilton County seat. Some say the budding city was named for Polk’s fiancée Lavina Noble, but it is more likely the town was named for James Noble, one of Indiana’s first U.S. senators.
A railroad soon rolled through Noblesville, boosting the town's economy, and in the late 1800's, the discovery of underground natural gas further spurred its growth. Many of Noblesville’s handsome Victorian homes were built during those prosperous days.

**Modern success:** Noblesville’s more recent good fortunes are due to its close proximity to Indianapolis, a booming metropolis. Between 2000 and 2010, the population of Noblesville nearly doubled in size. Recent census estimates put the current population of the city at about 55,000 souls.

**Who lives in Noblesville?**
Noblesville is a young town, with about 43% of its households having children under 18, and 27% being single-member households. As a suburb, Noblesville is not as racially diverse as Indianapolis; the great majority of Noblesville residents are Caucasian, about 3.6% are African American, and about 4.3% are Hispanic.

**Schools in Noblesville**
Noblesville has one high school, two middle schools, and multiple elementary schools. According to U.S. News and World Report ratings, Noblesville High School ranks number 12 in the Indiana, based on students' college readiness and their proficiency in Algebra and English. Opportunities for advanced education are nearby, too. Campuses for Ball State, Indiana University, Purdue University, and Butler University are all less than 30 miles away.

Noblesville K-12 schools have a unique focus on healthy living. The district’s Wellness Policy and
Wellness Advisory Council helps the city's schools ensure that students, faculty, and staff are taking good care of themselves. Schools provide healthy food and drink choices, and they emphasize the importance of maintaining good health in their health and physical education classes.

**Business & economic development**

Many of Noblesville's largest private sector employers are manufacturing concerns, including SMC Corporation, King Systems, Industrial Dielectrics, and Helmer Labs. In the public sector, Riverview Hospital is the area's largest employer.

The Noblesville Chamber of Commerce aggressively courts new businesses and the city itself provides plenty of incentives for companies to locate here, including tax abatements, fast-track permitting, and small business loans.

**Downtown Noblesville**

Looking for some casual entertainment? Mosey on downtown for a bite to eat and a little specialty shopping. Hunt for treasures and unusual gifts in antique shops and art galleries, and then grab a table at one of the numerous cafes or brewpubs.
The Hamilton County Courthouse, a masterpiece of French Renaissance architecture with an enormous clock tower and mansard roof, crowns the area. While you’re exploring downtown, be sure to visit the Hamilton County Museum of History, located in the Old Hamilton County Sheriff’s Residence and Jail.

The annual Noblesville Street Dance is a huge summer music festival that turns downtown Noblesville into a sound stage. Musicians on two stages get everyone up on their feet and dancing. The Street Dance festival also includes events such as an antique-tractor show, a special Kids’ Zone, an ice cream eating-contest, a classic-car show, and a “drive-in” style movie-presentation.

Local foodies are devoted shoppers at the Noblesville Farmer’s Market, which takes place every Saturday from May to October. The Noblesville Farmers Market has been in operation since 1991.

Parks and recreation

Noblesville city government makes a special effort to keep the community active and vibrant. For instance, the town’s 150-acre Forest Park is dedicated to providing outdoor activities to residents. The park offers a 9-hole golf course, picnic and shelter areas, an aquatic center with an Olympic-sized swimming pool, tennis courts, and ball fields. The Indiana Transportation Museum, which runs real locomotives, is located in Forest Park, too.

For outdoor watersports, visit Morse Reservoir, whose southern harbors are located in Noblesville. Morse Reservoir covers 35 miles of shoreline and is deeper than Geist Reservoir. Be sure to bring a Frisbee and play the disc golf course at Morse Beach.

Noblesville residents are crazy for golf. The town, comprised of 32 square miles, has 10 golf courses, most of them public, 18-hole facilities. One of Noblesville’s most famously challenging courses is the aptly named Purgatory Golf Course, which, among other awards, was named the #2 Best Public Golf Course in Indiana by PGA.com.

Searching for a home in Noblesville?
**PLAINFIELD, INDIANA**

The city of Plainfield is anything but plain. In 2011, this small city was ranked as one of the top 100 places to live in the U.S. by CNN Money. It’s no wonder. With its prime suburban location, excellent schools, and booming economy, Plainfield is a fine place to settle and raise a family.

This pleasant community of about 30,000 residents is located just southwest of Indianapolis, along the eastern edge of Hendricks County. Residents are a 15-minute drive from downtown Indianapolis and only 5 minutes to the Indianapolis International Airport.

*Plainfield history*

Plainfield was laid out and incorporated in 1839, and its first settlers were Quakers, the “plain” people who gave the town its name. Quakers established several meetinghouses in the area, including the Western Yearly Meeting of Friends church.

Although this meeting house still attracts practicing Quakers from around the Midwest, the predominance of Quakers in Plainfield faded in the late 1800’s with the coming of Highway 40, the “national road,” which brought many non-Quaker families to the area.
Education

Many families are attracted to Plainfield for its excellent schools; the Plainfield School Corporation manages four elementary schools, a middle school, and a high school. The sports teams are the “Quakers.” Plainfield High provides plenty of educational extra-curricular activities, including a robotics team called the “Earthquakers.” Isn’t that cute?

Plainfield schools are consistently ranked as “Four Star” schools by the Indiana Department of Education. In fact, Plainfield’s is the only public school system in Indiana to earn a four-star rating 2 years in a row. The U.S. News & World Report index ranks Plainfield High School the 14th in the state. Amazingly, 82% of all Plainfield High School graduates advance to college.

As well as academics, Plainfield teaches kids key values. The Plainfield Community Values Program is an integral element of the Community School Corporation. Each month is assigned a value and teachers work with their students to instill that value.

Business and economic development

Plainfield is nationally recognized as a major logistics and distribution center with more than 25,000,000 square feet of industrial and distribution space. More than 100 companies, including Eli Lilly, Becton Dickinson, Epson, and FoxConn occupy this space, providing thousands of high-paying jobs. Plainfield is also the corporate home of Ingram Micro and Duke Energy.

Over the last 15 years, Plainfield has become one of the largest and most concentrated centers for manufacturing and distribution in the U.S. The city’s explosive growth shows no signs of slowing. Plainfield is a high-flying place!

Speaking of which, a key business feature is Plainfield’s proximity to the Indianapolis airport and transportation routes U.S. 40 and I-70, which connect the city to Indy, the nation, and the world.

Similarly, Plainfield’s proximity to the airport has spurred strong growth in the hospitality industry. The city’s hotels and restaurants support business clientele traveling to and from Plainfield and Indianapolis.
Shopping and dining

Unlike other Indy suburbs, Plainfield has developed its own open-air “lifestyle” shopping center, Metropolis, which has 550,000 square feet of retail, dining and entertainment space. As a result, Plainfield residents don’t have to visit Indianapolis to find upscale shopping and dining. Naturally, the city also has multiple smaller shopping centers that host national and regional chains and box stores, as well as local establishments.

Events, Arts & Entertainment

Plainfield’s most famous event is the Quaker Day Festival, a two-day event that takes place each fall. Although few of today’s residents actually descend from the town’s original Quaker settlers, the townspeople do enjoy celebrating this group’s noble, Americana heritage. In the party-like atmosphere, there are rides, activities for kids, a car show, a 5K run, and of course, plenty of food. In recent years, the “Plainfield’s Got Talent” contest has attracted a big audience.

Most, if not all, Plainfield schools and organizations participate in the parade featuring marching bands, motorcycles, restaurant vendors, and more.
**Places to go in Plainfield**

Having plenty of open, green spaces where people can gather is important to the residents of Plainfield. The city is working to complete a “Greenway,” a connected system of trails and parks.

There are a variety of recreational and entertainment venues available to residents and visitors. In fact, the city has more than 460 acres of property dedicated to parks and recreation facilities, distributed throughout five different parks. Hummel Park, Anderson Park, Swinford Park, Friendship Gardens, Franklin Park, and the Plainfield Recreation & Aquatic Center are all located in or adjacent to the White Lick Creek floodway, and are all linked by the north-south White Lick Creek Trail.

The Al and Jan Barker Sports Complex is a 58-acre team sports facility for Plainfield team sports programs. Local charities worked hard to improve the grounds which now host 5 baseball diamonds, 15 soccer fields, and 2 regulation football fields. The huge facility is perfect for tournaments.

Wine connoisseurs and amateurs all love to tour this renowned local winery. It offers wine tasting events and tours, and holds classes such as yoga and painting. Plus, in summer, Chateau Thomas stages musical and other family-friendly events, such as “Music on the Veranda,” a free, outdoor concert series held every Friday night from June through September.

The Sketch Pad Art Studio is both a gallery for viewing artworks by Plainfield artists and a wonderful space to take art classes. The studio holds art summer camps for kids, too.

This 4.3-acre, indoor-outdoor water park has enormous slides, a lazy river, a vortex, a professional lap pool, a snack bar and more. The indoor facility, which is open all year round, offers exercise classes and swimming lessons.

As you can see, the town of Plainfield is anything but plain. Nonetheless, plainly, it is a fun, good and friendly place to be. Stop in for a visit and you may want to stay a while longer!

**Searching for a home in Plainfield?**
Westfield, Indiana

The city of Westfield is another hidden gem in the greater Indianapolis area. But it won’t be hidden much longer. In 2013, CNN Money Magazine named it one of the top 50 “Best Places to Live.” Overall, Westfield ranked 5th in the Midwest and 18th in the nation. Amazing!

Located in Hamilton County, Westfield is the northernmost suburb of Indianapolis, just north of Carmel and west of Noblesville.

History

The town of Westfield was founded by Quakers in 1834. Some say the town was planned as a stop on the Underground Railroad, with many founding families supporting the anti-slavery cause. History buffs will enjoy exploring the Asa Bales Park, a former “freedom cemetery” where both slaves and local anti-slavery activists are buried.

Who lives in Westfield?

This town on the northern edge of Indy was only incorporated in 2008. Westfield has about 30,000 residents and is growing rapidly, thanks in part to recent satellite-neighborhood annexations.
Since 2000, its population has increased nearly 250%! The city is planning a major downtown revitalization. A new library and city hall also are in the works.

Although most residents are Caucasian, there is increasing racial diversity in Westfield. Nearly 6% of residents are Hispanic, 2.5% Asian, and 2% black.

Most adult residents have earned a college diploma, and more than half have earned a bachelor’s degree. The median income here is high, $82,500 – significantly higher than Indiana’s average of $46,500.

Downtown

The historic, small-town feel of Westfield is reflected in its downtown. In the summer, the Westfield Market is open every Friday afternoon. The NUMA arts festival takes place downtown in September. Another prime attraction downtown is the “Grand Junction” of the Midland Trails. In fact, soon the “Grand Junction Park and Plaza” will be the focal point for the new downtown, with an amphitheatre, a water-play area, an arts garden, a full-size skating rink – as well as access to the famed local trails that connect Westfield with its neighboring communities. Two other city parks, Hadley Park and Asa Bales Park, are also downtown.
Business and industry

Major employers in the area are Macmillan Publishing, Delta Faucet, and Thomson Consumer Electronics. The large insurance firm Conseco, Inc., is headquartered in nearby Carmel. Westfield residents work in manufacturing and construction, and in professions such as engineering, technology, and sales.

Westfield is close to the upscale shopping and arts districts in nearby Carmel, and to the big city amenities in Indianapolis, including the Indianapolis Children’s Museum, and the White River State Park Complex, which includes the Indianapolis Zoo.

Westfield residents also have plenty of opportunities to enjoy national sports teams like the Indianapolis Colts and the Pacers, as well as world-class sporting events such as the Indianapolis 500.

Westfield Schools

Westfield Washington Schools serve the community with exceptional standards and success. There are 6 elementary schools, an intermediate school, a middle school, and one high school, Westfield High. The student to teacher ratio here is 20:1, an ideal learning environment. The Westfield High sports teams are the Shamrocks, or the “Rocks.” And the school’s extra-curricular activities are high quality. In 2014, the Westfield High Marching Band was invited to play in the New York City St. Patrick’s Day parade.

Academically, Westfield High School has an outstanding record. In fact, Westfield High is ranked 9th in the state of Indiana by the renowned U.S. News & World Report.

The Westfield Community

Westfield has plenty of charming amenities for active families, including the Wood Wind Golf Club, an 18-hole course that has hosted its share of national tournaments. Westfield also has the Indiana Soccer Academy, the Roundtripper Baseball Academy, as well as Cheer World of Indiana, a fantastic facility for learning the art of cheerleading.
Yes, if sports are your thing, you’ll be impressed by Westfield’s Grand Park, a brand new, 400-acre sporting complex for all kinds of outdoor sports. It offers 26 baseball/softball diamonds, 31 fields for soccer, rugby, and football, as well as two indoor facilities for year-round sporting activities. The community stands to attract team tournaments from around the region, host 1.5 million visitors each year, and add about 1,400 jobs over 5 years. This family sports park stands to boost Westfield’s economy by $1 billion dollars over 5 years.

So although Westfield may be a hidden treasure, visitors easily discover that the town’s valuable amenities are accessible to everyone!

**Searching for a home in Westfield?**
Zionsville, Indiana

Quiet and upscale, yet energetic and entrepreneurial: that’s Zionsville, Indiana. In 2011, this small town 20 minutes north of downtown Indianapolis was named one of the best places to live in the U.S. by CNNMoney magazine. And in CNNMoney’s latest list of the “100 best places to live and launch,” Zionsville ranks #57.

History

Even the town’s pioneer families had the entrepreneurial spirit. In the early 1820’s settlers arrived in the region and formed a village in the Eagle Creek Valley. Around 1850, railroad entrepreneur William Zion from Lebanon, Indiana, realized that a nearby, unoccupied plot of land would be an ideal spot for a train station, and a town to support it. He convinced the landowners from the nearby village, the Cross family, to join his venture; together they founded the town of Zionsville.

The town was platted in 1851 and chartered in 1852. Gradually, residents from the nearby village moved to Zionsville. By 1860, the town had 364 residents.
Who lives in Zionsville?

According to 2012 census estimates, Zionsville has grown to 24,000 residents—still small compared to neighboring towns such as Carmel and Noblesville. Also according to U.S. census data, the median household income here is $108,000, very high by Indiana standards. Nearly 98% of Zionsville residents are Caucasian, about 1% are of Asian heritage, and .33% are black. Sixty-seven percent of households are married couples, and 44% of Zionsville’s families have children under 18 living at home.

In this affluent suburb, most residents have professional or managerial careers. Not only have most adults in Zionsville graduated from high school, 64% of them have college degrees. Thirty percent have graduate or professional degree.

Zionsville Schools

It is no surprise, then, when you ask Zionsville citizens what they admire most about their town, you’ll often hear: “the schools.” The Zionsville Community School Corporation supports 5 elementary schools, 2 middle schools, and a high school.
According to a recent national survey by The Washington Post, Zionsville Community High School ranked #1 in Indiana, and #5 among the “Most Challenging.” That’s because 65% of ZCHS graduates have taken Advanced Placement (AP) courses and exams.

**Downtown Zionsville**

Downtown Zionsville aims to retain its original village charm. Quaint shops, galleries and restaurants line Main Street, which still is paved in the original brick. The century-old, Victorian-style homes in the near-downtown area are meticulously well-maintained. In the surrounding Zionsville neighborhoods are tree-filled developments, multi-acre properties with room for livestock, and large, custom-built homes.

At the corner of Main and Cedar Streets, the Village Corner Park provides green space for shoppers and tourists. The town bell tower is located here. Local events take place in this pocket park, like the arrival of Santa Claus for the “Christmas in the Village” event.

There are plenty of artsy attractions downtown, including the CCA Gallery, a long-standing artist’s cooperative. Artists also showcase their work at downtown galleries such the Kellar Mehaney Gallery, A King’s Gallery, and The Sanctuary. The SooriGallery specializes in upscale sculpture.

Downtown Zionsville hosts many annual events. The Farmers Market is held here, every week from May through September.

The Lincoln Park concert series stages free weekly musical performances from June through July. An every June during Father’s Day weekend, the Central Indiana Porsche Club hosts “Cruzionsville,” a fun street festival and car show.
Business Climate

In 2010, Zionsville grew from about 14 square miles to 50, thanks to consolidation with two nearby Boone County townships. As a result, the town has plenty of room for growth, including commercial and business expansion.

There are ample development and building sites, and the Zionsville Chamber of Commerce welcomes tech and niche companies. For existing small businesses, Zionsville runs a micro-loan program for capital improvements – that aims to help fledgling companies who need a boost. For corporate travelers, Zionsville hosts the Indianapolis Executive airport, weather-canopied facility owned by the Hamilton County Airport Authority.

Even more exciting, town’s Redevelopment Commission has recently unveiled plans for developing the new, 66-acre Creekside Corporate Park.

Unlike typical, isolated business parks, Creekside will be within walking distance of Zionsville’s bricked Main Street and be close to trails on the north side of Eagle Creek. It will be the first development in the Indianapolis area to employ the “Low Impact Development” strategy that will include the planting of native plants and minimal stormwater runoff.

Things to do in Zionsville

Local culture: The Sullivan Munce Museum and Cultural Center serves as a community center and resource for local art and history. Visitors may view artworks from artists around the region, attend special art exhibits, and enroll in art classes. There are even summer art camps for kids. Its genealogical library boasts over 5,000 volumes on local history.

Outdoor sports: The Zionsville Golf Course is a 9-hole, par 36 course. It is a public facility with over 3,000 yards to play. The Jennings Field is a 10-acre green space with 4 athletic fields, a playground, restrooms and picnic shelter house.
Traderspoint Creamery. This 150-acre, family-owned, organic dairy farm is a wonderful place to tour and learn about sustainable farming, eat at The Loft restaurant, or shop for local artisan foods and goods. All summer, Traderspoint holds its special Green Market and Dinner on the Deck events when visitors can shop for organic products, have a grilled meal, sip wine and beer and listen to live music. It’s a treat you’ll find only in Zionsville.

Zionsville Parks

Zionsville has been called a town within a park. That’s because the city supports about 20 parks! Here are just two:

Maintained by the local Lions Club, Lions Park is a full-featured, 18-acre recreational facility. As well as hosting athletic clubs like the Zionsville Little League, the park is the site for traditional city events, such as the outstanding 4th of July Festival, the 55-year-old Fall Festival, a Sunday concert series, and other beloved community events.

Starkey Park. For nature lovers, the 72-acre Starkey Park is located just south of town, nestled along Eagle Creek. With plenty of trees, rolling topography and three miles of trails, it’s a great place to exercise the dogs, the kids, and yourself. Be sure to take your camera!

With so many upscale amenities, family-centric activities, and pro-business growth, Zionsville is a perfect place to find a unique home and raise a family.

Searching for a home in Zionsville?
CONCLUSION

From Noblesville to Plainfield - and everywhere in between - the Indianapolis area has something for everyone. It’s a great place to live!

About Home to Indy

The Home to Indy Team of professional Realtors® know the Indianapolis real estate market. Our agents are experienced in both listing homes and representing buyers. Each agent is a full time realtor, which means they are readily accessible to clients.

While the use of technology has changed our business, we know you want to speak with a person, not a machine. We utilize the latest in technology to maximize exposure to our clients’ listings, while maintaining a personal touch.

Every client is treated with respect. You will never be pressured during the process of buying or selling a home. We believe our clients are smart people who are capable of making an informed decision when presented with all the facts and data.

We maintain relationships with service providers in all professional areas related to real estate so you will always have competent advice in every aspect of the transaction. From home inspectors and contractors to title officers and attorneys, we’ve got you covered.

All our agents are members in good standing with our local, state and National Association of Realtors® and adhere to the Realtor Code of Ethics. We believe in our fiduciary responsibility to our clients, which means we will treat your assets as if they were our own.

Need help with your real estate needs in the Indianapolis area? Call Home to Indy at

317.731-2319