

# TOWN OF ETNA GREEN

*Through this data collection and analysis, the County, and the incorporated communities, can better understand what is happening today and what can be expected for the future. The key finding conclusion statements, highlighted within each community section, set the stage for the goals, objectives, and recommendations outlined within the final FORWARD Kosciusko County Comprehensive Plan. Unless otherwise noted, all data points were gathered from the US Census.*



## ETNA GREEN

# PEOPLE

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### ***Demographic Trends***

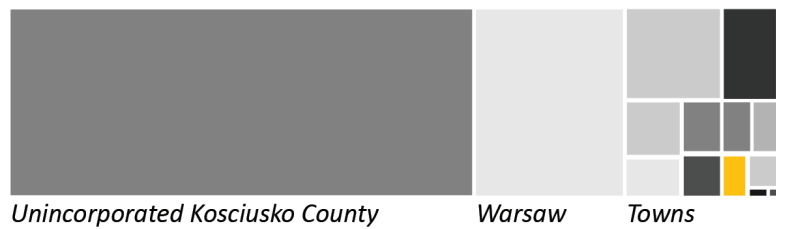
Etna Green has seen slow population decline since 2000. The Town's population is currently 582 people, less than 1% of the County's total population. Etna Green's population has decreased by 12.2% since 2000 and is projected to fall another 2.0% by 2030.

The median age of residents living within Etna Green is 38.6 years, a slight increase from 2010 when the median age was 35.9 years. This increase signifies that the local population is aging, but aging slower than other communities within Kosciusko County. The largest age cohort living within Etna Green are those individuals between 25 and 34 years of age (16.2%). The Town has seen an increased population of those over the age of 65 and a decrease of school-aged children since 2010, both of which contribute to the Town's rising median age.

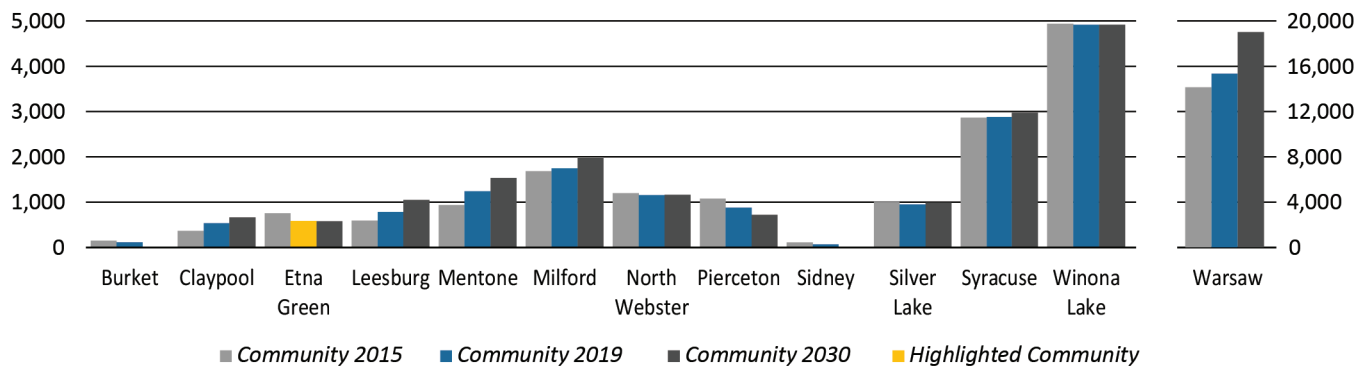
The majority (98.8%) of those living within Etna Green identify as Caucasian, while 1.2% identify as Two or more races. Approximately 4.5% of residents also identify as Hispanic or Latino in origin, a slight increase since 2010 (4.1%).

Etna Green's median household income is \$50,469, a \$14,844 (41.7%) increase since 2000 but \$10,897 (17.7%) less than the County's median household income. The Town's income per capita (\$22,761) follows a similar trend, rising 30.4% from 2000 to 2019. Per capita income is the average income of an area spread among all residents (including children) and is most often used to describe a community's purchasing power or income per resident. These increases in both median and per capita income are also reflected in the Town's relatively low poverty rate (7.8% in 2019), which is the third lowest out of all incorporated communities within the County. Unlike other communities within the County, Etna Green's incomes have remained steady over the last two decades.

582

Total  
population  
(2019)

## Population Growth



## Income and Poverty



\$50,469

Median  
Household  
Income

9.8%

County  
Poverty Rate

## Race and Ethnicity



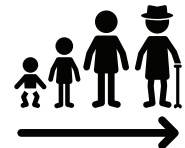
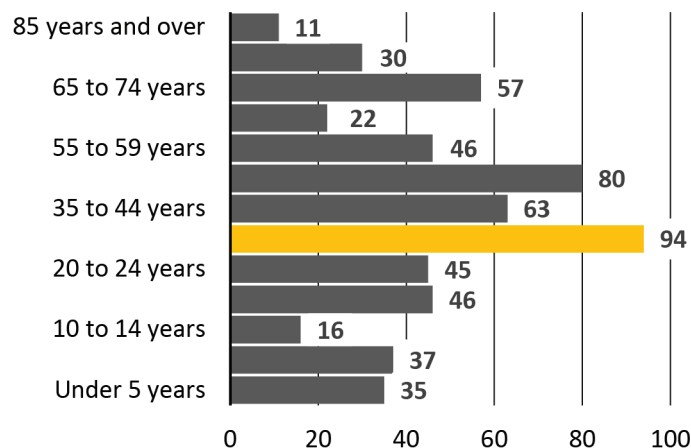
98.8%

Identify as Caucasian

4.5%

Identify as Hispanic

## Population Age



38.6

Median Age

### ***Employment and Industry***

86.6% of residents 25 years or older have a high school degree or higher and 7.4% have a bachelor degree or higher. Etna Green saw a slight increase in educational attainment since 2010 where 83.0% of residents over the age of 25 held a high school degree or higher, but a decline since 2010 in residents with a bachelor's degree or higher (12.5%)

Etna Green's the labor force (69.0%) has decreased by 5.7% since 2010, which parallels the Town's population decline over the last decade. This could be explained by the increase in specific age cohorts over the last ten years including children under the age of 5 (7.4%), children between the ages of 5-9 (7.5%) and individuals between the ages of 65-74 (11.6%). Manufacturing industries (31.0%) are the largest employers for Etna Green's residents, while educational services, healthcare and social assistance (16.7%), and retail trade (14.6%) are the next highest. The average earning for manufacturing jobs within the County is \$91,815, the second highest out of all major industry types.

The mean commute travel time for Etna Green residents is 19.4 minutes. Most are driving to work alone (79.4%), while 14.9% carpool with others and 3.5% take public transportation or some vehicle (motorcycle, taxicab, etc.). The majority of residents are commuting outside Etna Green (89.2%) for work, but are still staying within Kosciusko County (64.9%). An estimated 7,549 (13.5%) Kosciusko County residents leave the County for work each day.



**339** Total  
Residential  
Labor Force  
(2019)

**93.8%**

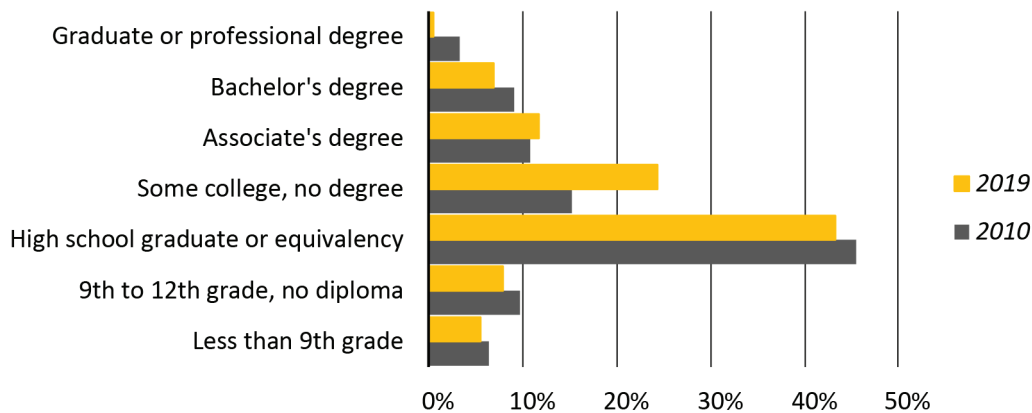
Of the local labor force is  
employed



**6.2%**

Of the local labor force is  
unemployed

## Educational Attainment



**86.6%**

Have obtained a high school  
degree or higher

## Average Earnings for Manufacturing Jobs



**\$91,815**

Average  
earnings  
within the  
County

Second highest out of all major  
industry types

## Commuting Time



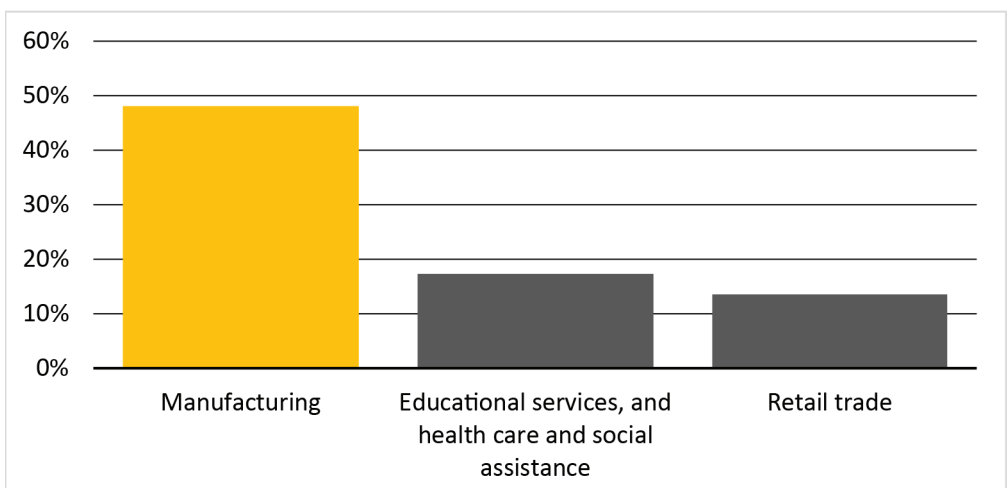
**19.4**

Average travel time in minutes

**79.4%**

Of workers prefer to drive to  
work alone

## Local Industries and Earnings



## ***Housing***

Etna Green has 250 housing units and has only declined by a single unit (0.4%) since 2000. The Town's housing stock has been the most static of any community within the County. Lack of housing growth can be attributed to a declining population; however, the town's vacancy rate has remained low (6.0%).

The housing within Etna Green is aging with 60.8% of housing built before 1960. Modern housing codes began to take effect throughout the County in 1970, meaning the majority of Etna Green's housing stock likely does not include modern updates and does not reflect modern building requirements. Since 2010, approximately 5 units have been built within Etna Green, just 2.0% of the Town's total housing inventory. This is slightly less than the County, where the housing units built after 2010 make up just 4.2% of the total units.

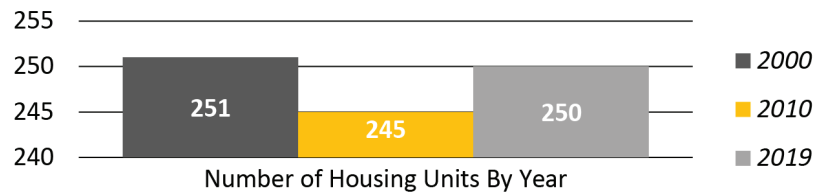
The most common type of housing structures within Etna Green are single-unit, detached homes, making up 61.6% of total housing units. The next highest are mobile homes (26.4%) and then 2-unit, multi-family housing structures (10.4%). The occupied households within the Town are predominately owner-occupied (74.8%), with 78.3% of units being family households and 15.7% as single-person. The percentage of rented households (23.4%) in Etna Green is slightly lower than the County (25.2%). The Town's vacancy rate is 6.0% (15 units), which is lower than many other communities within the County.

The median home value in Etna Green is \$92,400, which is less than the County's median value (\$150,000) and falls in the middle of the other incorporated communities within the County. Although Etna Green's home values are lower, they have been rising since 2000, increasing by 28.2% from \$72,100.

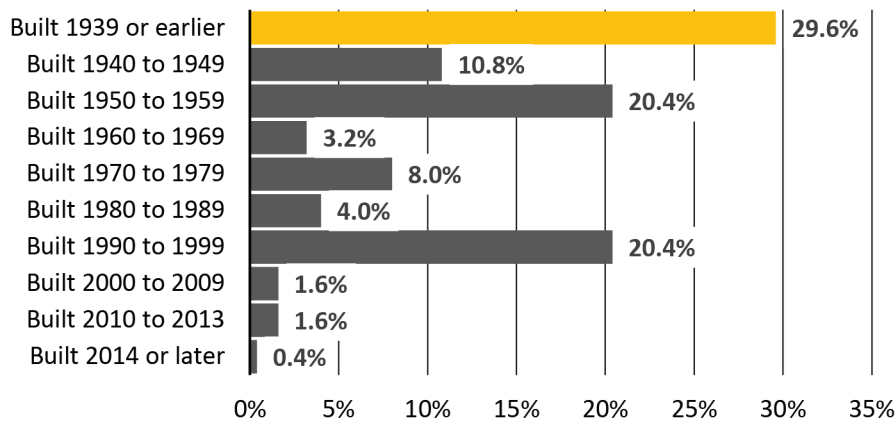
Currently, based on Zillow Research data on the prices of homes being sold within the Community, there is a large difference between the sales prices and the median assessed value of the homes as defined by the US Census. In 2019, the median home sale price was \$177,854 (compared to an assessed value of \$92,400), an increase of 56.6% since 2000 (\$113,583), and has increased 3.9% from 2019 to 2020 alone.

# 250

**Total housing units**



## Age of Housing



# 60.8%

Of local housing units were built before 1960

## Home Value

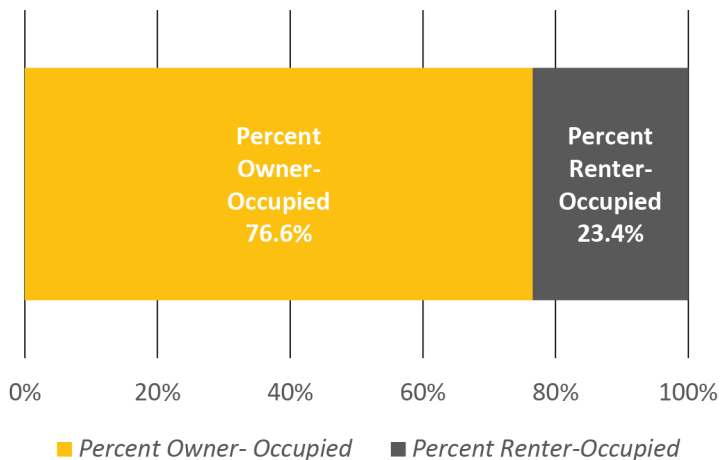


# \$92,400

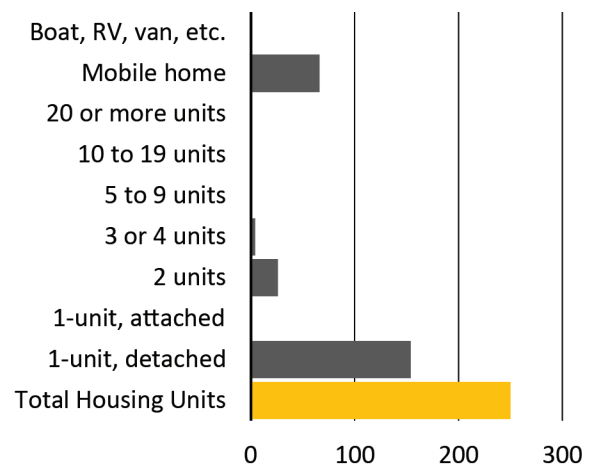
**Median Home Value**

Versus a median home sale price of \$177,854 (Zillow Research)

## Housing Occupancy



## Housing Type



## ETNA GREEN PLACES

### ***Existing development***

Land use is the term used to describe the type of activity or development occurring on a parcel or within a structure located on the parcel. An existing land use map can often reveal development patterns that have occurred over time, potential conflicts or challenges, and opportunities for growth. Using Kosciusko County Assessor Office Class Code information at the property level, existing land uses were identified within the Town. Due to the way the data is aggregated, some inconsistencies may exist. Etna Green's existing development patterns include the following:

#### **Residential**

The majority of Etna Green's footprint is primarily residential in use. While predominately fixed, single-family dwellings, there are mobile homes stationed along the Town's western border at Etna Street and CR 300 N. Additionally, there are apartments located on the upper floor(s) of the commercial and office buildings located within the downtown core. There is capability to expand residential land uses south of High Street and down to W 250 N, if demand rises in the future.

#### **Commercial/ Industrial**

The commercial core of Etna Green is largely located around the intersection of Walnut Street and the railroad crossing. The historic grain elevator, located just off the railroad tracks and still active to this day, was once the main economic driver of the community. The town has the unique advantage of having U.S. 30 running along its northern boundary, attracting industrial properties who need access to the highway. There are currently two industrial sites – Gulf Stream and Winona Powder Coating – located on the south side of the highway with minor room for expansion.

Etna Green currently has two restaurants, George's Highlander Bar and Grill and the Etna Green Café. Both establishments serve as local hubs for the gathering of friends and family throughout the day.

#### **Government/ Civic**

Etna Green Town Hall, and the majority of all government/civic land uses, are located at or near the intersection of Broadway and Walnut Street. The exception to this is a community building on the southern end of town at the intersection of Pearly and Broadway Streets. This building is located in Heritage Park and is available for rentals to local residents.

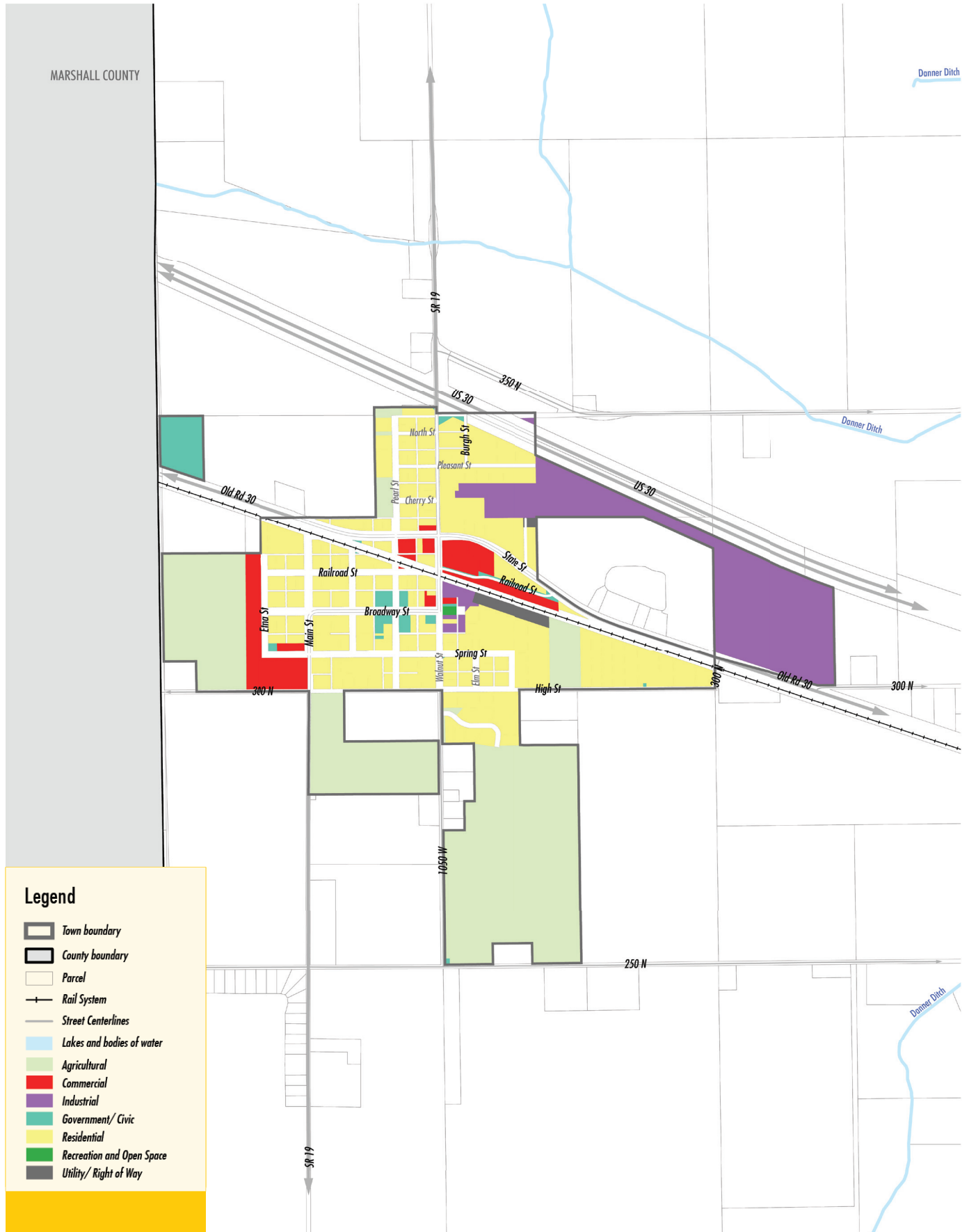
The Town is also home to the Etna Green Museum, a single-room building within Heritage Park containing sports memorabilia, newspaper articles and other items of significance. Established in 2009, the museum is open Saturdays or by appointment.

#### **Recreation**

The town's largest park, Heritage Park, is located on the southern edge of the community along High Street, it holds both playground equipment and sports fields/courts. Etna Green's second park, Remembrance Park, is in downtown to the east of the intersection of Broadway and Walnut Street.

#### **Agriculture**

Agricultural land uses surround Etna Green and are also present within town limits on the southern edge of the Community along 1050 W.



## Zoning

Zoning refers to municipal or local regulations that govern how property can and cannot be used in certain geographic areas. A zoning map and/ or ordinance includes designated districts that determine the appropriate uses and development criteria for each parcel of land. Within each district, there are regulations stating the permitted types of development, lot sizes, building area, setbacks, etc. In addition to preventing conflicts, zoning can play a major role in preserving the Community's character and enhancing the local quality of life.

Etna Green is a part of the Kosciusko County Area Plan Commission (APC). The APC is a cooperative effort between Kosciusko County and many of the incorporated towns and is responsible for reviewing and making recommendations on rezoning requests, ordinance amendments and right of way vacations to the County Commissioners or associated Town boards. The Town of Etna Green, is divided into the following zoning districts:

**Public Use District:** The district is designated for and limited to uses that benefit the public. These uses may or may not be taxed and are owned and operated either privately or publicly.

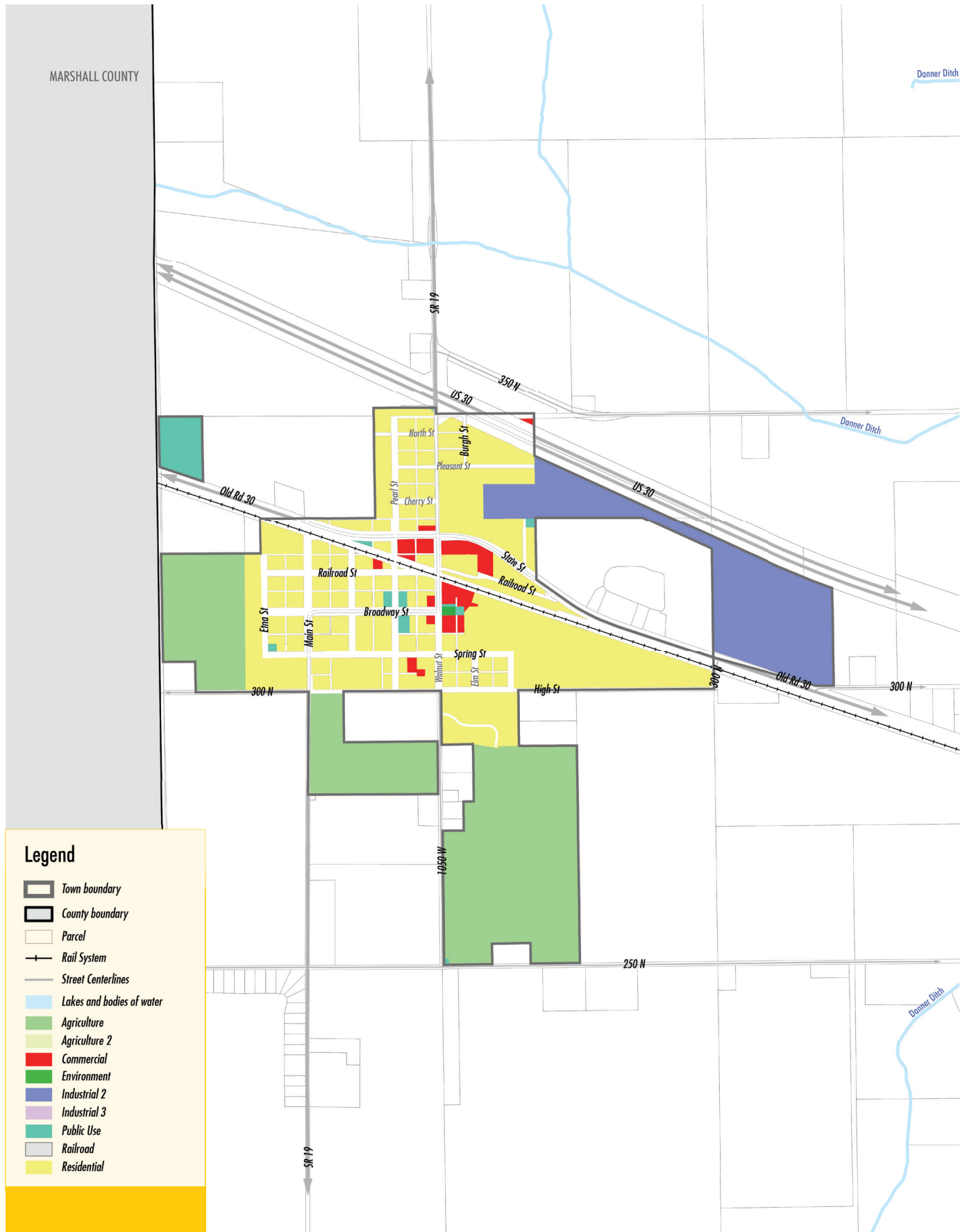
**Agricultural District:** The purpose of this district is to protect prime agricultural land and related uses from undesirable urban growth. It establishes a quarter (1/4) mile protective zone for livestock operations to protect them from urban development that is not compatible.

**Residential District:** The residential district is limited to dwellings as well as public and semi-public uses that are normally associated with residential neighborhoods.

**Commercial District:** The commercial district is primarily for retail or service uses.

**Light Industrial District:** This district is intended to provide areas for industrial uses such as the operations associated with fabricating, manufacturing, processing, wholesaling, warehousing, and ancillary-related offices.





## ***Redevelopment and Development Opportunities***

A key component to planning for future growth and development requires addressing the unique opportunities and needs of older or transitioning parts of the town. These areas present an opportunity to conserve land resources, leverage existing infrastructure, repurpose existing structures and capitalize on economic development tools, if appropriate.

### ***Historic Features and Districts***

Etna Green has an informal downtown core that spans approximately two blocks along Broadway Street and an additional four blocks along Walnut Street. The area includes multiple buildings such as Town Hall, the post office, the Fire Station as well as one notable restaurant. While the area serves as the center of the Community, there is no Main Street organization and no defined downtown district.

Contributing to the informal downtown core, there are a number of structures classified by the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (IDNR). The Indiana State Historic Architectural and Archaeological Research Database (SHAARD) allows users to search cultural resource information on known historic resources throughout Indiana. The data contained in SHAARD was collected from previously conducted cultural resource inventories, National Register nominations, and cultural resource management projects. The quality of the data varies with the completeness and precision of the original records and may be out-of-date. Absence of data does not necessarily indicate the absence of resources. The SHAARD is an ongoing initiative, and the associated data will undergo staged enhancements and constant updating. However, it offers insight into properties that may be of historical significance. The database uses four primary classifications for properties and structures:

**Outstanding:** The property has sufficient historic or architectural significance that is listed, or is eligible for individual listing, in the National Register of Historic Places. Outstanding resources can be of local, state, or national importance.

**Notable:** The property does not merit the outstanding rating, but is still above average in its importance. Notable structures may be eligible for the National Register.

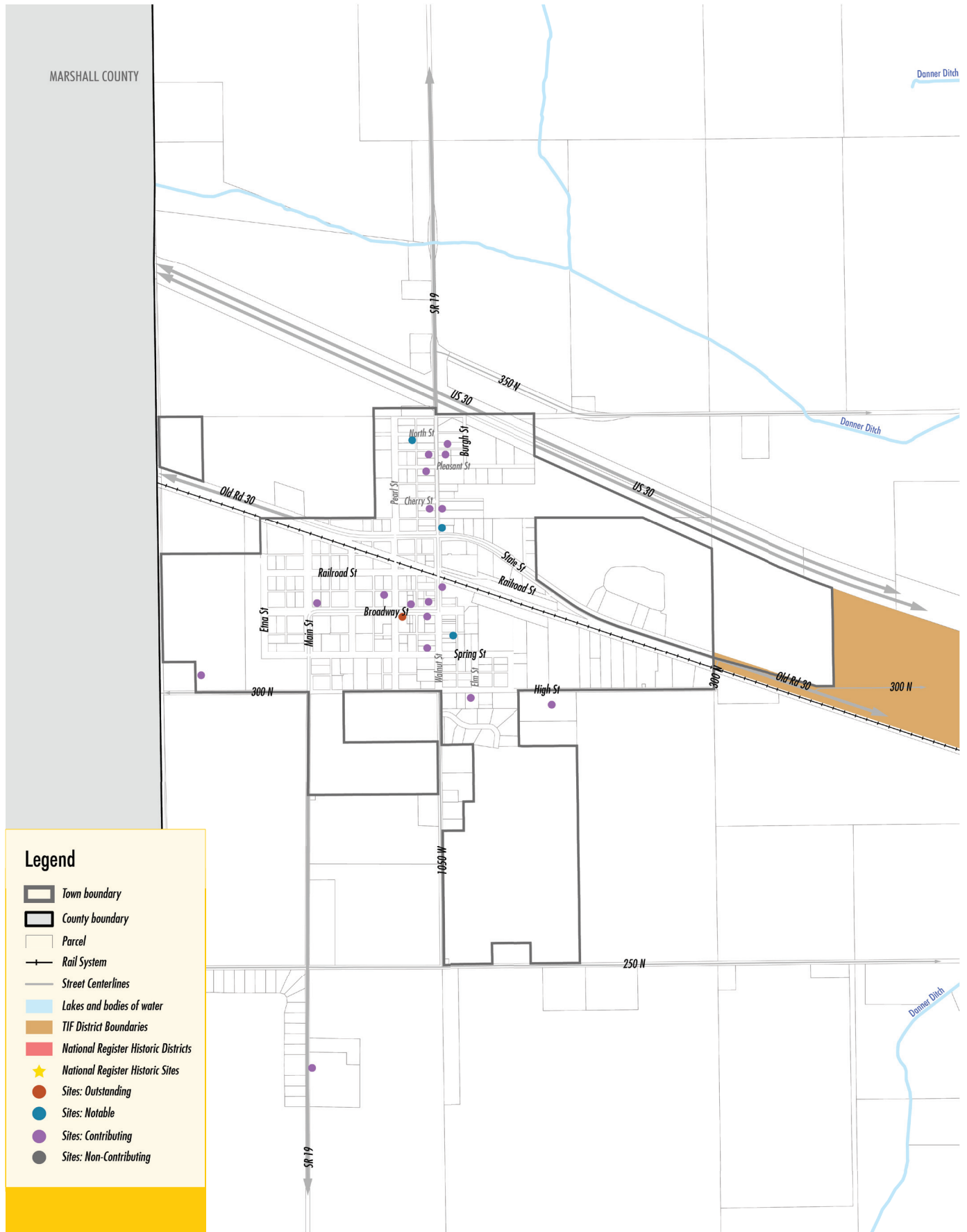
**Contributing:** The property is at least 40 years old, but does not meet the criteria of outstanding or notable. These resources are important to the density or continuity of the area's historic fabric. Contributing structures can only be listed in the National Register as part of a historic district.

**Non-contributing:** The property is not included in an inventory unless it is located within the boundaries of a historic district. These properties may be less than 50 years old, or may be older structures that have been altered in such a way that they have lost their historic character. These properties are not eligible for listing in the National Register.

Within Etna Green, there are numerous properties mapped within the SHAARD database, one of which is noted as an 'outstanding' structure. The Etna Green Methodist Episcopal Church at the intersection of Pearl Street and Broadway Street is noted in as being an outstanding example of twentieth century Gothic Revival architecture with a high degree of detail in the stained glass windows and stone work. Etna Green also features three 'notable' properties along Walnut Street with additional 'contributing' structures located throughout the Community.

### ***Development Incentive Districts***

There is one tax increment finance (TIF) district directly adjacent to the town. A TIF district is an economic development tool used by local governments to encourage development or redevelopment in an area of the community where private investment has not occurred or is difficult because of a number of limiting factors. The 30 West largest stretches east along US 30 from Etna Green to Warsaw and includes the Warsaw Technology Park. While the 30 West TIF is outside of the Town's limits, the district could offer opportunities to Etna Green moving forward but would be limited to the specific project types and locations based on regulations determined when the TIF was established.



## ETNA GREEN

# TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS

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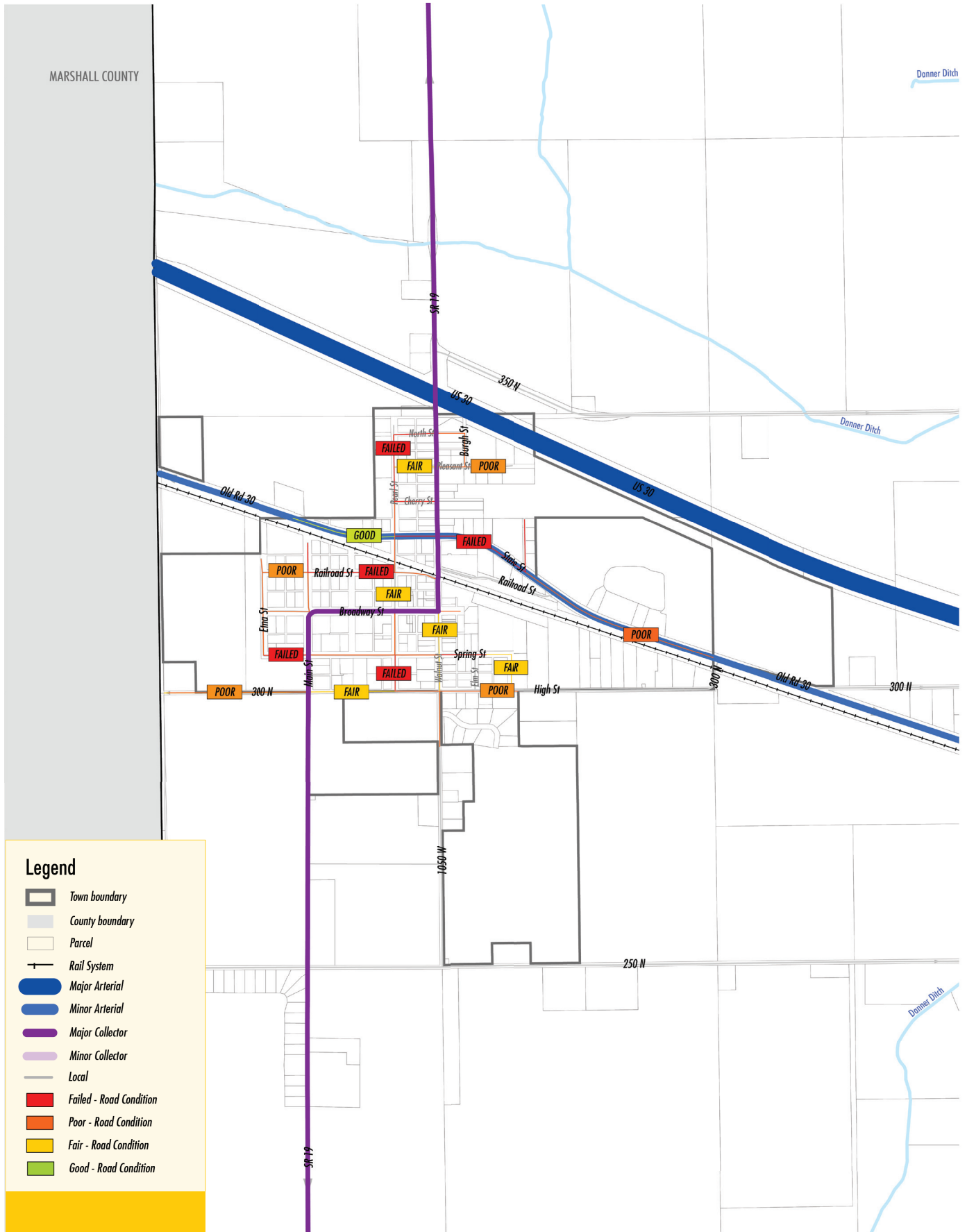
**Motorized**

Roadways within and surrounding the Town of Etna Green can be classified under the Highway Functional Classification system established by the Federal Highway Administration. This system was established to group streets and highways into classes based on the level of service they are intended to provide. These classifications not only allow the road network to be evaluated and maintained in an efficient manner, but also rate roadways based on their level of mobility and accessibility.

Etna Green is served almost entirely by Local Collector roadways, with the three primary exceptions being SR 19 (major collector), Lincoln Highway/Old US 30 (minor arterial), and US 30 (principal arterial- other freeways or expressways). US 30 provides the most direct route between the major cities of Fort Wayne, Indiana and Chicago, Illinois. This same route also provides a direct connection with the County seat of Warsaw, and neighboring cities Plymouth and Columbia City. While much more limited in volume and continuity, SR 19 provides a route north to the communities of South Bend and Elkhart and south to the smaller communities of Peru, Logansport, and Wabash.

Local collectors are most often left to the management and maintenance of the local municipalities in which they reside, unless influenced by a higher level of classification. Higher levels of classification typically have a shared level of responsibility or are entirely managed by the State/Federal Government.

The vast majority of traffic passing through Etna Green is along US 30, with an average of over 10,000 daily travelers. This can be attributed to traffic moving north and south along SR 19 and joining/leaving traffic flow to/from US 30.



### Roadway Character and Condition

The roadways within and surrounding Etna Green, while rural in nature, vary in character. SR 19 is the Town's primary corridor and provides thru access from the north to the south. At the southern end of the Town, SR 19 consists only of two travel lanes which are separated by a center pavement marking. On either side there are narrow shoulders which are either paved or gravel. As SR 19 turns eastward into Town, the right of way also includes a pedestrian sidewalk along the north side. Within the downtown core, SR 19 widens to accommodate on street parking with parallel parking being provided on the north side and angle parking on the south. SR 19 then turns north and narrows to eliminate on-street parking but the pedestrian sidewalks on either side remain and terminate at the Town's northern boundary. Within the downtown core, SR 19 also includes concrete curbs on either side of the roadway.

SR 19 includes wider travel lanes, a center left turn lane, pavement markings and roadway shoulders, but the corridor lacks any additional enhancements such as overhead lighting and streetscape plantings.

The character of Walnut Street matches SR 19 with two travel lanes, on-street parking, concrete curbs and pedestrian sidewalks. Outside those primary streets, Etna Green's roadways consist of two-lane roads, approximately 20-24' in width that lack shoulders, curbs and centerline pavement markings.

As an incorporated community, Etna Green is responsible for the public right of way within the Town boundary. Kosciusko County, and many of the incorporated communities, utilize the Pavement Surface Evaluation and Rating System (PASER) to visually assess and rate the condition of local roads. The PASER system rates the condition of the road from 1 (failing) to 10 (excellent). With this information, local governments are able to project future conditions of the pavement and plan for the most effective maintenance. Pavement conditions, as defined by the PASER system, have been collected on a regular basis for County roads from 2016 to 2020, including all roads within the Town of Etna Green. Nearly all of the roads within Town are classified as a "Fair" rating or below, with several roadway segments being noted in "Failed" condition. Segments of road in Etna Green that have failed the PASER rating system include: State Street (from Pearl Street to Tower Street), Pearl Street (from Cherry Street to North Street), Railroad Street (from Pearl Street to Main Street) and portions of Spring Street.

Based on available data, there are no known roadway improvement projects currently being planned or considered within the Community by Kosciusko County or the Town of Etna Green itself. However, the Town will be impacted by two projects that are being led by the Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) just outside of its borders. Minor structural improvements including a HMA (hot mix asphalt) overlay to repair and resurface a 6.9-mile segment between Mentone and Etna Green is currently underway. This \$1.6 million effort is anticipated to be completed by the end of 2021.

INDOT is also in the beginning phases of a study to improve the US 30 corridor from Valparaiso to the Ohio State line. The Planning and Environment Linkages Study, born out of safety concerns and perceived economic disadvantages of the corridor's current structure, will examine various options to improve the safety, traffic flow, freight movement and economic development potential of the corridor, including the construction of a freeway. An announcement regarding the planned initiative was released in early 2021 with no additional defined timeline. While the corridor alternatives are still in development, Etna Green will primarily be impacted by recommendations to the SR 19 and US 30 interchange that is located along the Town's northern boundary.

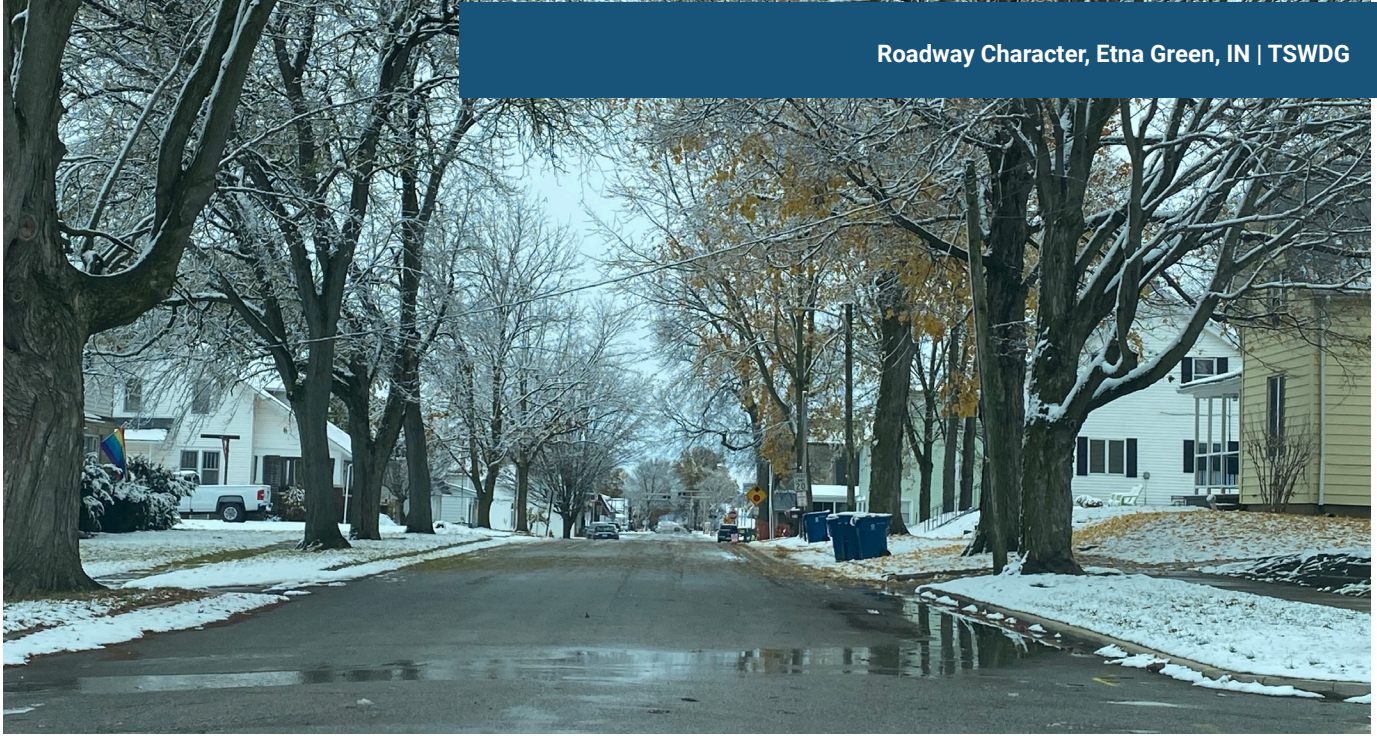
### Rail Corridors

One of Kosciusko County's three active rail lines passes through Etna Green and runs parallel to the US 30 corridor. This freight line, known as the Chicago, Ft. Wayne and Eastern Railroad (CFER), is part of a 323-mile-long track stretching from Chicago, Illinois to Crestline, Ohio. Top commodities transported include agricultural products, chemicals and plastics, metals, minerals and stone.

While the corridor is a dominate feature and bisects the Town into northern and southern halves, there are only two at-grade crossings that pose conflicts for vehicular and pedestrian traffic. The crossing at Pearl Street includes crossing signage. The larger crossing at SR 19 features signage and signals to indicate the presence of an oncoming train.



Roadway Character, Etna Green, IN | TSWDG





**Public Transportation**

The Kosciusko Area Bus Service (KABS) provides countywide, demand-responsive public transportation service. The service is operated by Cardinal Services of Indiana, a not-for-profit corporation that provides services for persons with disabilities and other life challenges. Ridership in 2019 was about 58,000 trips, a slight reduction from the 2018 figure of about 59,000 trips. The system owned 12 ADA-accessible vehicles in 2019 and received funding from fares and contributions from Kosciusko County, the Indiana Department of Transportation, and the U.S. Federal Transit Administration.

**Non-Motorized**

To compliment a community's vehicular transportation system, often a series of sidewalks, multi-use paths and trails are established to provide residents and visitors with transportation alternatives. These non-motorized systems can be used for both commuting and recreational purposes. In the case of Etna Green, there are limited non-motorized facilities currently in place within the Community.

Currently, very limited sidewalk infrastructure exists within the Etna Green Community. Any existing sidewalks primarily branch off Walnut Street and West Broadway Street as these are the two main Downtown street corridors with businesses, the local post office, and Town Hall. The existing sidewalk network located along Walnut Street does extend down to Heritage Park, providing direct connectivity to the eastern park entrance. There are no additional sidewalks or trails within the park itself. Ancillary sidewalks and remnants of previous sidewalks can be found throughout the Community; however, their widths, conditions, and level of connectivity vary.

There are no other trails or dedicated biking infrastructure existing within the Community.



## Etna Green, IN | TSWDG





## ETNA GREEN UTILITY SYSTEMS

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### Water and Wastewater

Currently, the Town of Etna Green owns and operates its own water utility and treatment plant, providing water and wastewater services to all residents within the municipal boundary. Provided services also extend slightly outside of the municipal boundary, specifically north and south of the Community. The existing water and wastewater systems do have the capacity to handle the addition of future residential, commercial and industrial development.

### Gas and Electric

The Town of Etna Green owns and operates its own electric utility, which provides service to all residents and businesses within the municipal boundary. Provided services also extend slightly outside of the municipal boundary, specifically north and south of the Community. Since Etna Green wholly owns its electric distribution system, the Town is able to maintain local control of the utility and all revenue generated goes directly back to paying for maintenance of the system. Recently, the Town is planning for an upgrade to their electrical system that includes a designated back-up service, which the system currently lacks. The only utility not locally provided is natural gas, which is instead provided by the Northern Indiana Public Service Company via a gas line connecting in the south of Etna Green.

### Broadband

According to BroadbandNow, a digital database that utilizes data from the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and local service providers, there are 12 internet providers that service Etna Green, with 8 offering residential service. The majority of service within the Town is gained through DSL or satellite providers, although commercial service is available through cable/fiber. Due to the way broadband data is reported, and collected by the FCC, some zip codes report having a higher number of providers and subscription plans available to local residents. While there are numerous providers, coverage varies depending on the specific provider. Broadband speeds are measured by upload and download speeds in Megabytes per second (Mbps). The average download speed within Etna Green is 86 Mbps, which is 20.6% slower than Indiana's average. The average upload speed is 3.0 Mbps. For reference, the Federal Communications Commission identifies effective broadband access as having a minimum download speed of 25Mbps and upload speed of 3Mbps.

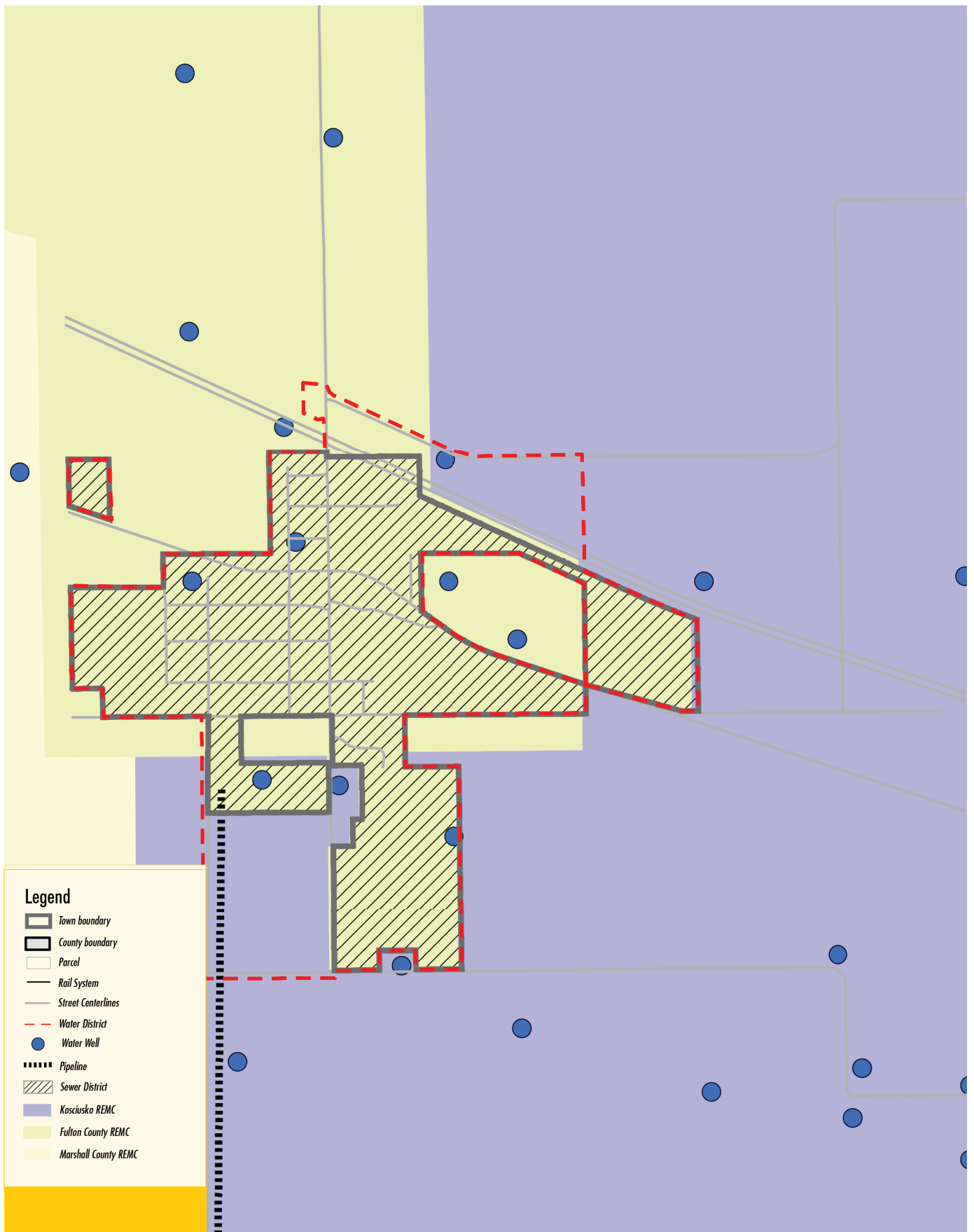
Rural Indiana Stats, an application managed by Purdue University and the Indiana Office of Community & Rural Affairs, offers an alternative view of local broadband statistics. The application, which aggregates FCC data at the Census-tract level, reports that 20.2% of area residents do not subscribe to the internet, 14.3% have no computing device, and nearly 14.5% of residents use only a mobile device. Due to the way data is aggregated and reported, both databases use geographic boundaries that include the Town of Etna Green as well as unincorporated areas of the County in the statistics identified above.

### Public Safety Systems

Through a yearly, contractual agreement, the Etna Township Volunteer Fire Department provides fire protection for Etna Green. The fire station is located within Etna Green at the corner of Broadway Street and Pearl Street.

The Town currently has a contract with the County Sheriff for policing needs, which covers one full day, patrolled shift per week. Based on local perceptions this agreement may need to be expanded in the future to include more coverage.

EMS services are contracted through Tri-County EMS, with payments going to the Township.



## ETNA GREEN

# DESTINATIONS

## ***Community Facilities and Support Services***

Community facilities and support services provide the services and amenities that support local quality of life. This section describes the key locations and service providers within Etna Green along with an analysis of the facilities and services the community is currently lacking.

### **Government Facilities**

Etna Green has recently moved the Town offices to a new location on Walnut Street. The new location is located across the street from Remembrance Park. The Town's post office is located along Walnut Street as well. The fire department is located in the old town hall at the intersection of Broadway and Pearl Streets. Etna Green does not have a public library.

### **Public Health Facilities**

Etna Green does not have any form of healthcare offices within the Town, forcing residents to travel to neighboring communities for treatment and services. Bourbon, located in Marshall County approximately four miles away, has the nearest doctor's office, and Warsaw, approximately 12 miles away, has the nearest hospital and specialized treatment center. Public health facilities can also be found in Nappanee, approximately 13 miles north of Etna Green.

### **Schools and Learning Institutions**

The Town is part of the Triton School Corporation, located outside Kosciusko County. All three Triton schools are located in the neighboring Town of Bourbon and cover kindergarten through 12th grade.

### **Child Care and Early Childhood Facilities**

Based on a search of INconnect, an online database of childcare or early childhood facilities, Etna Green has no childcare or early childhood facilities within the Town, forcing parents to take their children outside the community for such services. The closest facilities are located in Bourbon and Warsaw. INconnect allows any individual to search for care providers by a variety of criteria and provides listings for both licensed and unlicensed, centers, homes and ministry-based facilities. While not identified as a part of the state-wide data base, community members have indicated that there is a nursery school that operates out of Etna Green Church of Christ, which is located at the intersection of Broadway and Pearl Streets.

### **Grocery and Convenience Stores**

The Town lacks any form of grocery or convenience store. The closest available location for buying pantry staples is located in Bourbon, approximately four miles to the west. The closest option for local residents to purchase fresh foods is in Warsaw, approximately 8 miles to the east. Etna Green is in a food desert, defined as an area where people have limited access to a variety of healthy and fresh foods.

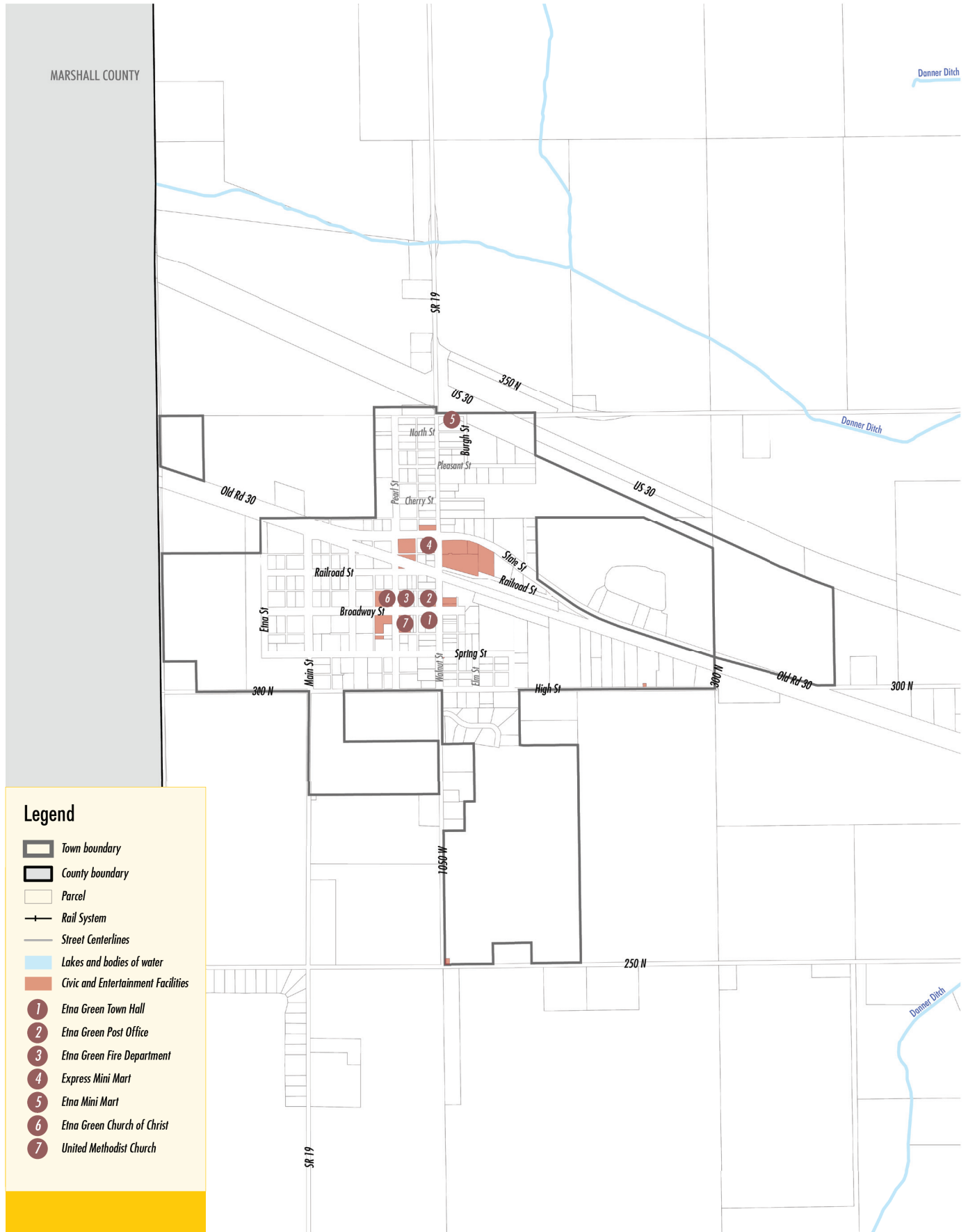
### **Civic and Entertainment Facilities**

Etna Green's Lions Club, located along 1050 W near Heritage Park, provides event space for those in the community and hosts a variety of events throughout the year. While Etna Green lacks some of the entertainment options seen in other communities, the Town does have a café and a number of historic assets such as the Etna Green Museum located in Heritage Park, the historic bandstand which once stood at the center of Broadway and Walnut Street, and the Etna Green Elevator Building which has been operational since 1907.

### **Religious and Cultural Facilities**

There are three religious institutions within Etna Green.





## ***Parks and recreation***

Etna Green has two distinct park spaces within town limits. Each offers a unique experience with Remembrance Park being focused more on passive recreation and Heritage Park catering to active recreation.

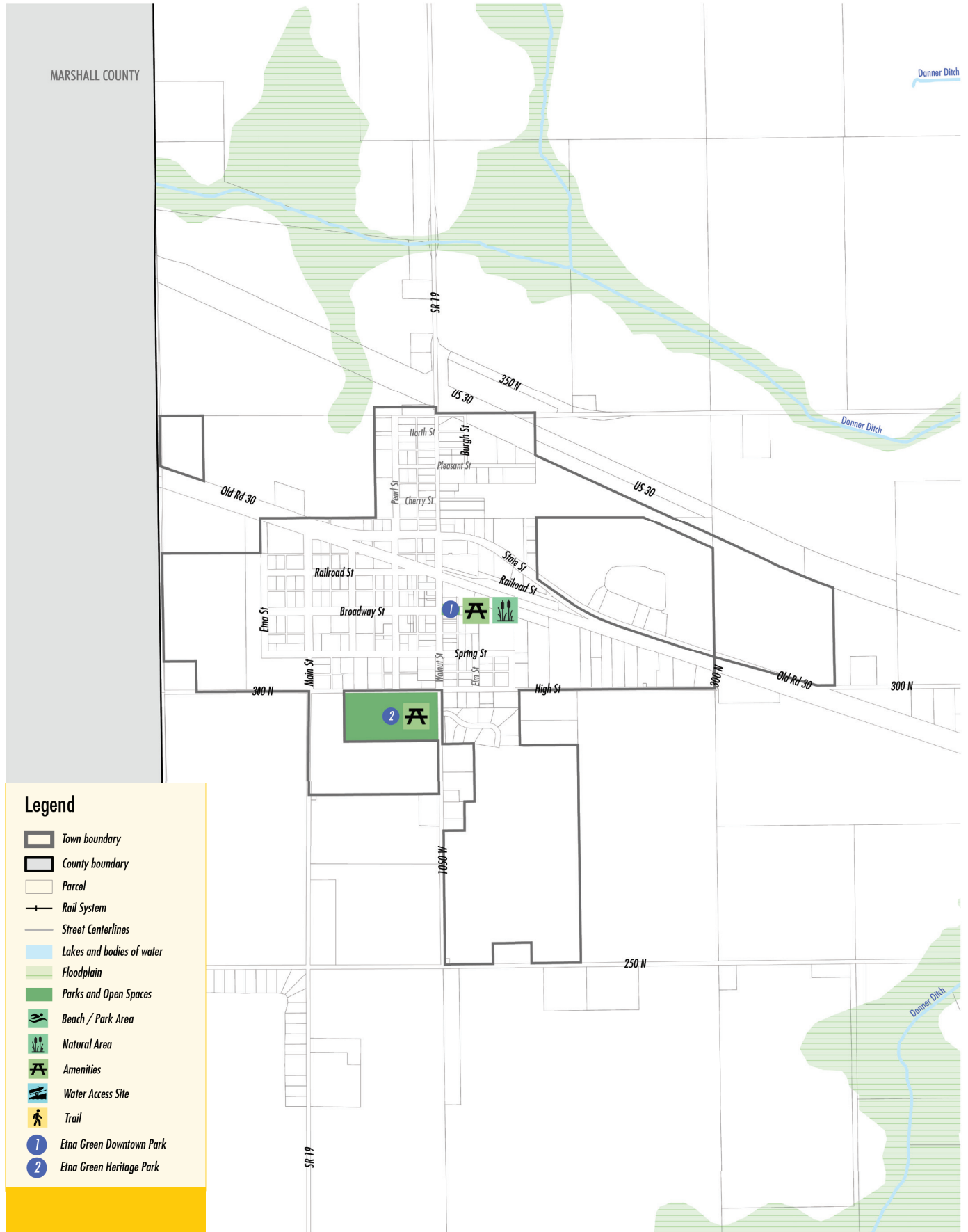
Remembrance Park is roughly 0.4 acres of community gathering space located in the heart of downtown Etna Green, at the terminus of West Broadway Street intersecting North Walnut Street. It is next to the historic Etna Green Elevator, which was built in 1907 and is still operational to this day. Along the northern portion of the site exists a linear garden with ornamental plantings, a winding path, and intermittent seating, including a picnic table. This is the location of the Park's most notable feature, a stone fountain along Walnut Street acting as the welcoming gateway into the space. A central, circular paver plaza encompasses an island that includes the historic bandstand (once located at the intersection of Broadway and Walnut), benches for respite from downtown, and ornamental plantings. The southern edge of the Park is defined with a hand-painted mural by local artist Robert A. Hudson spanning the wall of the adjacent business structure.

Heritage Park encompasses nearly 10 acres of land on the southern edge of Etna Green town limits and offers the Community athletic amenities, play equipment, community gathering and educational spaces, and open lawn space. It is surrounded by residential properties to the north along West High Street, residential properties and farmland to the east along N 1050 W and farmland along the south and west edges. The athletic amenities include two paved basketball courts, abutted by their long edge as one large paved area in the northeast quadrant of the site, as well as a multi-use, turf sports field with goal posts and an aggregate ball field that overlap in their current spatial arrangement in the western half of the site. Play equipment is distributed around the northeast corner, adjacent to the basketball courts, and is comprised of swings, seesaws, slides, and climbing structures. The southeast quadrant is home to the Etna Green Museum, which showcases the history of the Town through displays from Etna Green School Alumni, and a 1934 caboose rail car. A rental pavilion sits between the museum on the southern side and the recreation area on the northern side. This pavilion has the ability to host both indoor and outdoor events with the covered outdoor portion containing picnic tables and a fireplace.

It should be noted that the parks in Etna Green are not currently governed by any form of a Parks Board nor is there a current Five-Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan for the continued support, maintenance, and improvement of these spaces. The evolution of such a plan could address some of the identified issues regarding the lack of a park system with safe, dedicated connections between these parks and other community spaces.

## ***Lakes and waterways***

There are no dominant waterways or floodplains impacting the Town of Etna Green. While there are no bodies of water within the town boundary, residents are in close proximity to Hoffman Lake, which is approximately three miles east along US 30. While close in proximity, Hoffman Lake is only accessible to local residents and visitors through the Hoffman Lake Campground, which is located east off of CR 800 N.



## ETNA GREEN

## KEY FINDINGS

*The key findings of the Etna Green community condition assessment have been organized into two key categories: Strengths/ Opportunities and Weaknesses/ Threats. Strengths and opportunities are internal, positive attributes of your department and/or system. These are things that are within your control. Opportunities are external factors in your environment that are likely to contribute to your success. Conversely, weaknesses and threats are negative factors that detract from your strengths. These are things that you might need to improve on to be competitive. Threats are external factors that you have no control over. You may want to consider putting in place contingency plans for dealing with them as/ if they occur.*

### ***Strengths and Opportunities:***

- There has been slow population decline since 2000, although there is room for new residential development on the south end of the community.
- Etna Green is located directly off U.S. 30, which gives the Community a large advantage in attracting manufacturing-related employers.
- The Town's parks, although ready for updates, are large for the Community's size and can be leveraged for attracting new residents or events in the future.
- The Town has a number of historic sites which it can use for future attractions. There is ongoing interest to expand the Etna Green Museum into a larger visitor attraction.
- There is one tax increment finance (TIF) district located immediately east of the Town. The district is directly adjacent to the Town's boundary and the existing industrial development. This TIF district poses as an opportunity for the Town, if development were to occur within the defined area.
- The existing sidewalk infrastructure within the Town can be improved and expanded to provide alternative transportation routes to local residents.
- There is a strong sense of community through Etna Green. The Lions Club and the Etna Green Café serve as community facilities offering entertainment venues for local residents. Additionally, local employers, including Hartzell Farm Feed and Supply, support the Town by sponsoring local events such as the Fourth of July Parade and Community Festival.
- Recent improvements to Heritage Park have been made and ongoing improvements are being considered. This area provides a needed amenity for local residents.

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### ***Weaknesses and Threats:***

- The Town's commercial strip has faltered over the years and now many storefronts are empty and buildings are in need of structural and façade repairs.
- Sidewalk infrastructure is present but portions of the system are in varying conditions. Improvements may be needed to repair existing segments.
- The major freight rail line running through Town limits vehicular and pedestrian connectivity. Crossing improvements would be needed to enhance connectivity and ensure safe crossings for motorists and pedestrians.
- The lack of residential amenities including grocery and convenience stores, child care and early childhood education facilities, and public health facilities negatively impacts the Town's ability to draw new residents.
- The Town has portions of roadways that have been categorized as 'Failed' condition per the PASER rating system. Improvements will be needed.
- Improvements to the US 30 corridor and the interchange at SR 19 and US 30 are in the process of being identified and analyzed. Final design recommendations may impact commuting traffic both in and out of Etna Green.
- Improvements are needed to the Town's existing electrical utility system to ensure that a dedicated back-up system is in place.
- Local broadband services fall far below the national baseline of 25 Mbps download and 3Mbps upload. Additionally, most services are based off wireless and satellite technologies which are unreliable.



