

Table 4 and **Table 5** summarize the trails and their locations in the Town of Erin.

Table 4: Existing trails owned and maintained by the Town of Erin

Location	Trail Name	Facility Type
Erin Village	Downtown Erin Heritage Walking Trail	Sidewalks and off-road route (walking trail)
Hillsburgh	Hillsburgh Heritage Walking Trail	Sidewalks and off-road route (walking trail)

Table 5: Supplementary trails within the Town of Erin

Location	Trail Name	Facility Type
Regional	Elora Cataract Trail (Credit Valley Conservation)	Off-Road route
Erin Village	Water Tower Trail	Off-Road route
	Rotary Trail	Off-Road route
	Woolen Mills Conservation Area & Trail (Credit Valley Conservation)	Off-Road route
Rural	Erin Peacock Tract	Off-Road route

The Town of Erin's 2025 Official Plan objectives included promoting the development of safe and efficient pathways and trails that encourage walking and biking, reduce reliance on motor vehicles, and minimize conflicts between pedestrians and vehicular traffic.

The existing trails network in the Town of Erin is shown in **Figure 7** and the Town's Heritage Trails, which are concentrated in the centre of Erin Village and Hillsburgh, are illustrated in **Figure 8** and **Figure 9**. The existing AT Facilities in Erin Village, Hillsburgh, Cedar Valley, Ospringe, and Orton are illustrated in **Map 8** to **Map 11**.

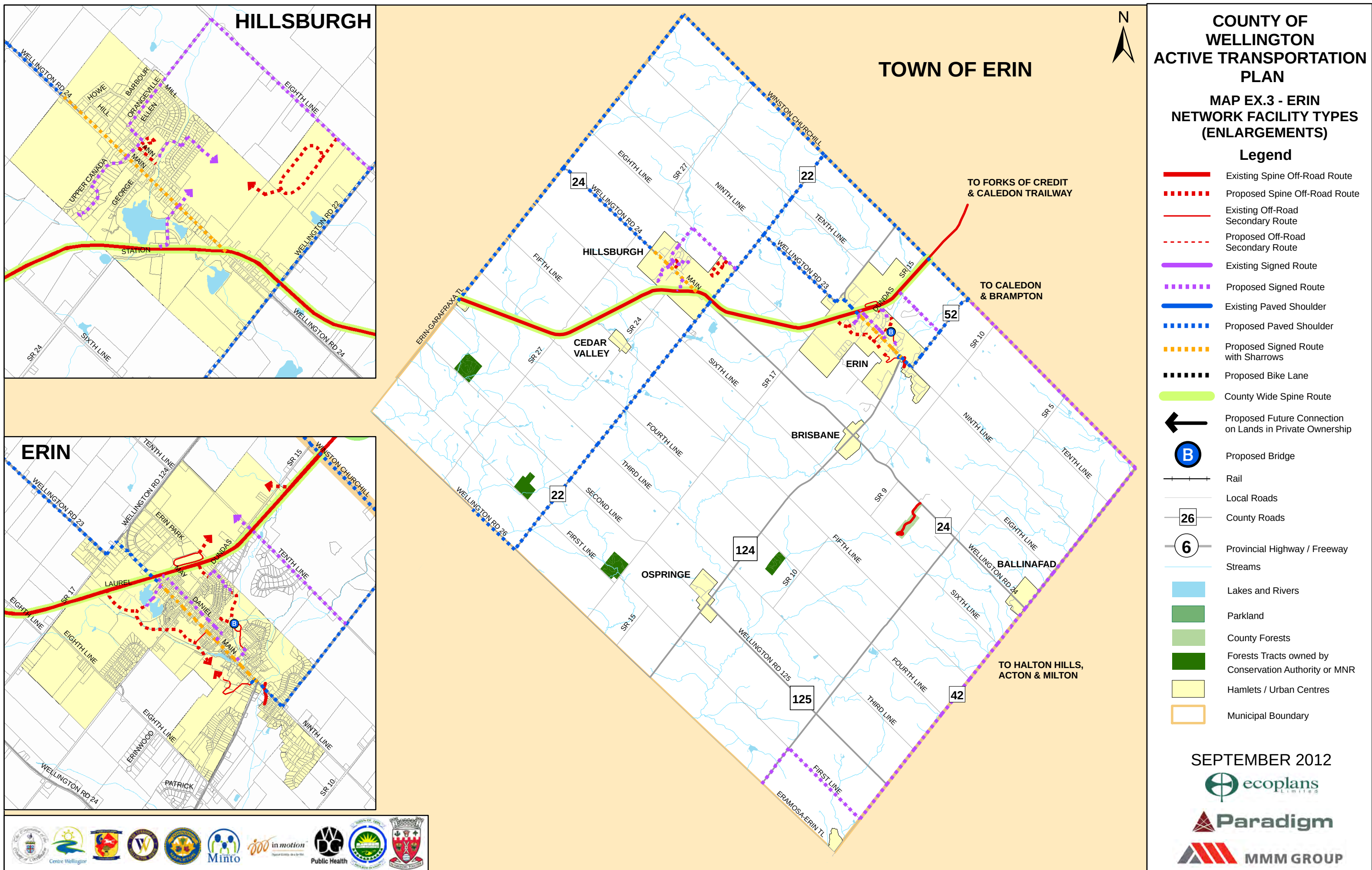


Figure 7: Existing Trails (Retrieved from Wellington County's Active Transportation Master Plan 2012)

Downtown Erin Heritage Walking Trail

See Erin's fascinating architectural history on a self-guided tour that takes less than 1 hour.

1. Founding of Erin

Check out the historical plaque next to the West Credit River by the McEnery property – a family that farmed locally from 1837. Settlement of Erin Township had started in 1820, but the village was not incorporated until 1880, when the Credit Valley Railway arrived. The township and village were amalgamated in 1998 as the Town of Erin.



2. All Saints Anglican 81 Main Street (photo#2)

The church was erected in 1867 on land provided by William Cornock, prominent business entrepreneur and distiller. The lancet windows with pointed arches are in Gothic Revival style, imitating medieval design. The square bell tower was added in 1910 and for many years the bell served as the village fire alarm.

3. Erin Grist Mill

Built in 1849, Daniel McMillan's final dam was powered by a lengthy millrace from the upper pond on the other side of Main Street and intended to supply grain to Britain. It was rebuilt twice after fires in the mid 1870s and in 1946.

4. Erin Village Alliance Church 103 Main Street

Many pioneer families worshipped at what was originally a Church of Christ Disciples, built in 1873 by Duncan McMillan, with decorative brick designs at the corners and over the rounded windows.

5. McMillan Park

Named for Daniel McMillan, an entrepreneur who with his family built five dams that powered the village's agricultural economy in the mid-1800s. The original village name was MacMillan's Mills, later changed to Erinsville, then simply Erin.

6. Erin United Church 115 Main Street

Built in 1870 by the Wesleyan Methodists to replace an octagonal church that had burned. Became part of the United Church in 1925.

7. Gear House 119 Main Street

The Edwardian mansion of Dr. Harry Gear, built in 1905 with an octagonal tower, limestone accents, stained glass and an audio tube from the porch.

8. Burns Presbyterian Church 155 Main Street (photo#8)

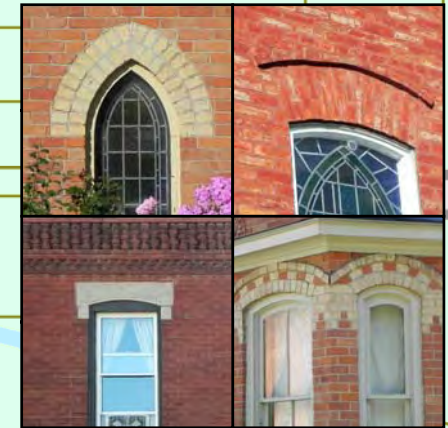
Built in 1881 to replace an older (1848) Union Church, this building features four spired buttresses topped with arrow finials, and lancet windows. Rubblestone walls behind it mark the drive shed area.

9. Victorian Homes (photo #9)

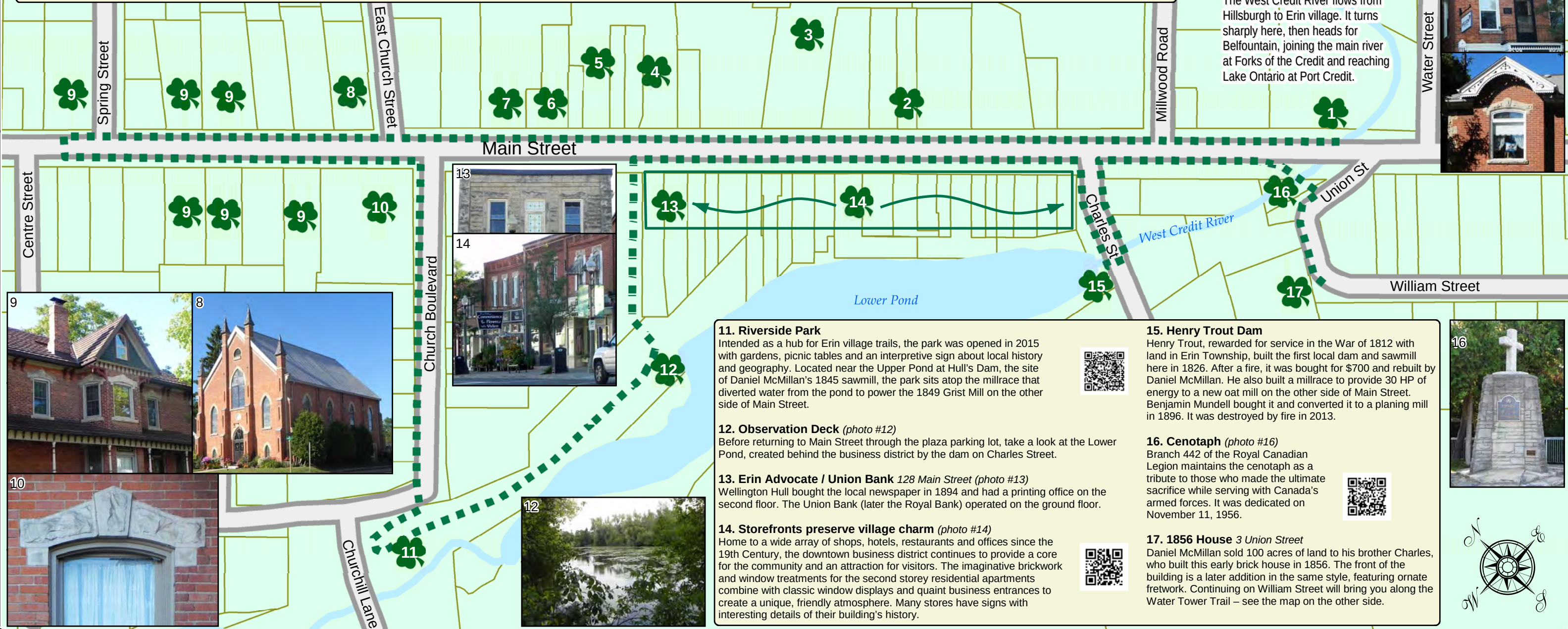
Several homes in this area feature a two-tone brick design popular in the late 1800s, with distinctive stone or brick lintels above the windows and decorative wood trim accents in the roof peaks.

10. Busholme Inn 156 Main Street (photo #10)

Intended as a hospital when it was built about 1886, the building was instead used for doctors' offices, then converted to a hotel in 1924. The arched lintels with a central keystone, unique to the Erin-Hillsburgh area, were made with sandstone from the Credit Forks quarry.



The West Credit River flows from Hillsburgh to Erin village. It turns sharply here, then heads for Belfountain, joining the main river at Forks of the Credit and reaching Lake Ontario at Port Credit.



11. Riverside Park

Intended as a hub for Erin village trails, the park was opened in 2015 with gardens, picnic tables and an interpretive sign about local history and geography. Located near the Upper Pond at Hull's Dam, the site of Daniel McMillan's 1845 sawmill, the park sits atop the millrace that diverted water from the pond to power the 1849 Grist Mill on the other side of Main Street.



12. Observation Deck (photo #12)

Before returning to Main Street through the plaza parking lot, take a look at the Lower Pond, created behind the business district by the dam on Charles Street.

13. Erin Advocate / Union Bank 128 Main Street (photo #13)

Wellington Hull bought the local newspaper in 1894 and had a printing office on the second floor. The Union Bank (later the Royal Bank) operated on the ground floor.

14. Storefronts preserve village charm (photo #14)

Home to a wide array of shops, hotels, restaurants and offices since the 19th Century, the downtown business district continues to provide a core for the community and an attraction for visitors. The imaginative brickwork and window treatments for the second storey residential apartments combine with classic window displays and quaint business entrances to create a unique, friendly atmosphere. Many stores have signs with interesting details of their building's history.



15. Henry Trout Dam

Henry Trout, rewarded for service in the War of 1812 with land in Erin Township, built the first local dam and sawmill here in 1826. After a fire, it was bought for \$700 and rebuilt by Daniel McMillan. He also built a millrace to provide 30 HP of energy to a new oat mill on the other side of Main Street. Benjamin Mundell bought it and converted it to a planing mill in 1896. It was destroyed by fire in 2013.

16. Cenotaph (photo #16)

Branch 442 of the Royal Canadian Legion maintains the cenotaph as a tribute to those who made the ultimate sacrifice while serving with Canada's armed forces. It was dedicated on November 11, 1956.



17. 1856 House 3 Union Street

Daniel McMillan sold 100 acres of land to his brother Charles, who built this early brick house in 1856. The front of the building is a later addition in the same style, featuring ornate fretwork. Continuing on William Street will bring you along the Water Tower Trail – see the map on the other side.

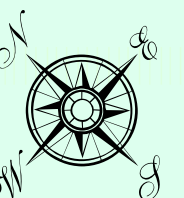
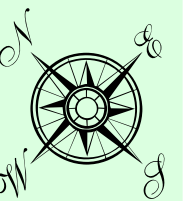
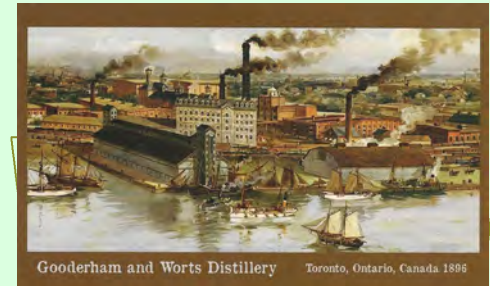


Figure 8: Downtown Erin Heritage Walking Trail (Retrieved from Town of Erin Trails Maps)



Hillsburg(h) Heritage Walking Trail

See Hillsburg(h)'s heritage and natural features on a tour that takes less than 1 hour.



1. Disciples Church (Century Church Theatre)
The Christian Disciples Church was built in 1906, with 63 charter members from the Coningsby congregation. It has an impressive Gothic Revival bell tower. The Erin Arts Foundation now operates the building as Century Church Theatre, preserving the stained-glass windows and original curved elm pews and raked (sloped) floor.



2. Station Street Bridge, Dam and Gooderham & Worts
There had been mills in Hillsburgh dating back to 1824, but in 1851 distillers Gooderham & Worts bought land along the river and built a large grist mill and pond, along with a saw mill up-river and a cooperage to produce barrels for their Toronto-based business today known as the historic "Distillery District". The road over the dam was built to connect the village with the train station on the west side of the pond when the Credit Valley Railway arrived in 1879. The current bridge was the first bridge built in 1917 by local stone mason Charles Smith.



3. Library and Mill Pond
In 2015, Wellington County acquired the upper mill pond and the 1892 house at 9 Station Street as the site of the new Hillsburgh library. The library will incorporate the brick walls of the house, one of two built by the Awrey brothers, who bought the land from John Gooderham in 1890. The pond once had a pavilion, band shell and wharf. The Awreys built a stone mill with a cider press on the lower (smaller) Ainsworth pond.



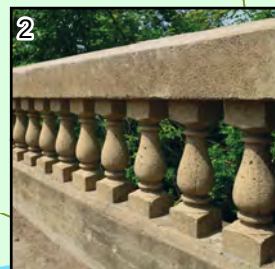
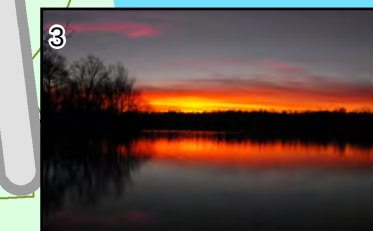
4. Train Station and Trail Head
A branch line of the Credit Valley Railway started at the village of Cataract and extended through Erin, Hillsburgh, Orton, Fergus and Elora. It enabled Hillsburgh area farmers to easily transport their potatoes and other crops to market, and brought in many visitors and cattle merchants. It was operated for many years by Canadian Pacific, but abandoned in 1988. The right-of-way was purchased by the Grand River and Credit Valley Conservation Authorities in 1993 and became the scenic Elora Cataract Trailway.



5. Upper Hillsburgh Mill Pond Lookout
The upper Hillsburgh Mill Pond owners have included Gooderham & Worts, the exclusive Caledon Mountain Trout Club and the Guelph Fishing Club. It provides a spectacular view and a habitat for fish, birds, bats and turtles. The Town and County of Wellington are hoping that more hiking trails can be developed in the area.

6. "God's Acre" Pioneer Cemetery
The first record of the cemetery that became known as God's Acre is from 1831, back when Hillsburgh was still known as Howville. Village founder William How was buried here in 1854, among other early settlers, but for many years the site was overgrown with weeds. In 1954, Dan Gray and Robert Nodwell led an effort to restore the headstones, embedding them in concrete. A Union Church also once was on this lot.

7. Historic Nodwell Farmhouse
A pre-confederation 1864 farmhouse of architectural interest, set well to the east of Trafalgar Road across from the fire station, was home to generations of the Nodwell family, and a social hub for the entire village. A smaller late 1800's Nodwell house closer to the road also displays innovative window bricking from the Victorian era.



8. Hyndman House
Local carpenter Alexander Hyndman built this brick-veneered frame house for himself in 1879-1880, in the High Victorian Gothic style that was popular for Ontario country homes in the late 1800s. It was part of a subdivision planned by George Gooderham, whose family had invested in the new Credit Valley Railway line nearby. Other early owners were Dr. Joshua Hamilton and Elias Griner, the village stationmaster.

9. St. Andrews Church and Manse
Local Presbyterians formed a congregation in 1860 and built their church in 1869, named St. Andrew's in honor of their Scottish ancestry. There was still no fire department in the village in 1965 when the church was almost destroyed by flames. The organ was saved, but only the stone walls remained standing. The church has been fully restored, and the manse is now a private residence.

10. Town Hall and date stone next door
Attractive date stones appear on the old Town Hall and the house next door. Hillsburgh was the original name of the village, with the "h" at the end coming into use some time after World War Two – the "h" date is still debated locally! The Town Hall date stone features maple leaves and a beaver. The building was home at various times to the Loyal Orange Lodge, the Public Library, the Hillsburgh Band and, from 1962 to 2009, Morette's Furniture.

11. St. John's Anglican Church
Unique window designs add elegance to this 1890s church, which had to close during the difficult years just around and after the end of World War I. It served for a time as a honey extracting plant, and was later converted with much work and dedication to a private residence.

12. Chevrolet dealership
The commercial building across from the arena was once much larger, housing up to six stores including a drug store and butcher shop. It is also known as one of Canada's earliest Chevrolet dealerships containing an indoor showroom.

13. The Hillsburgh Community Centre
Built right beside the West Credit, it once housed the Fire Department and had a tiny library building next door on the riverbank. It now boasts a banquet hall that can handle 225 people and an arena that has been adapted for sledge hockey.

14. East Side Commercial Block
Unlike the West Side Block, which was demolished to make way for a grocery store, the East Side preserves the character of the old downtown with a variety of brick styles, anchored by the Royal Bank, originally the Union Bank.

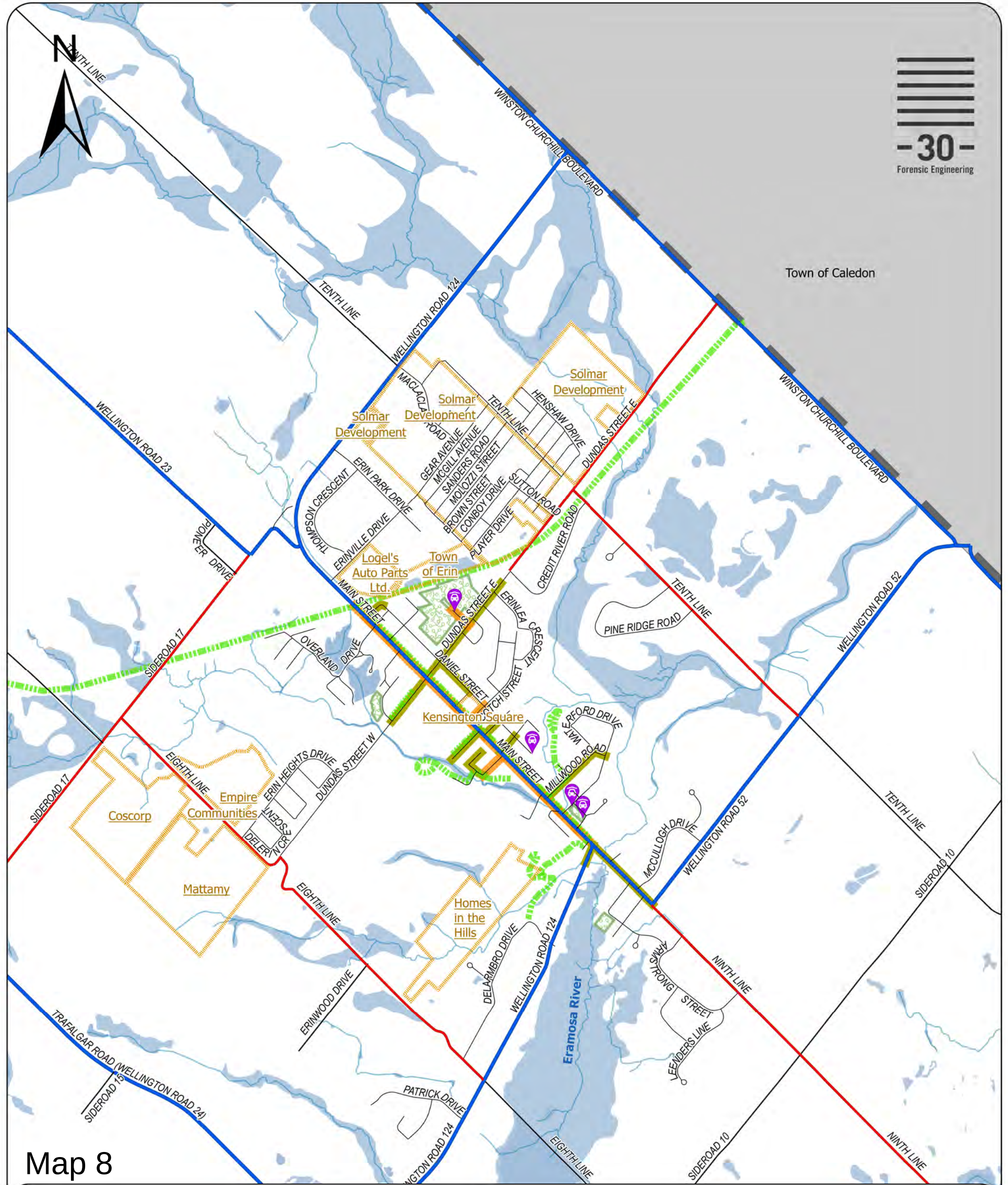
15. Butcher Furniture
Hillsburgh has a long history of furniture manufacturing and retailing. This store was established in 1959 by Dave and Betty Butcher. It has grown to 12,000 ft², with a second location opened in Orangeville in 2004. The stores are now owned by Marvin and Nancy McDougall.

16. Hillsburgh Historical Park
Once the site of a general store, the lot sat vacant for many years until the Town developed a small park with the assistance of the Hillsburgh & District Lions Club, the Hillsburgh Garden Club and other volunteers. It has benches for relaxing, beautiful gardens, historical artifacts and a stage for concerts and events. It is used for church services and the annual Christmas Tree Lighting.

17. Exchange Hotel
A local landmark built about 1883 by Bill Dwier, in the prosperous years that followed the railway construction, the Exchange was classier than its Hillsburgh rival, the Grand Central Hotel. It had elements of Italianate and Second Empire design, with an archway leading to the livery stable. Above the arch was a "sample room" where travelling salesmen would set up displays. It once served as a headquarters for the well-to-do members of the Caledon Mountain Trout Club, and the parlour was a favourite meeting place of Erin Township Council. In 2012 it was refurbished with ground floor commercial and residential units above.

18. A walk along Church and Ann Streets
To the east of Trafalgar Road are a number of interesting homes from the Victorian era. The tree lined streets feature homes with decorative brick lintels over the windows, decorative corner treatments and ornate wood and metal trim.

Figure 9: Hillsburgh Heritage Walking Trail (Retrieved from Town of Erin Trails Maps)



Map 8

Legend

Trail	Arterial Road (County)	Partial sidewalk on both sides
Wetland	Collector Road	Partial sidewalk on one side
Municipal Boundary	Local Road	Sidewalk on both sides
Town of Erin Boundary	Subdivision	Sidewalk on one side
Parking	Watercourse	
Park		

Scale

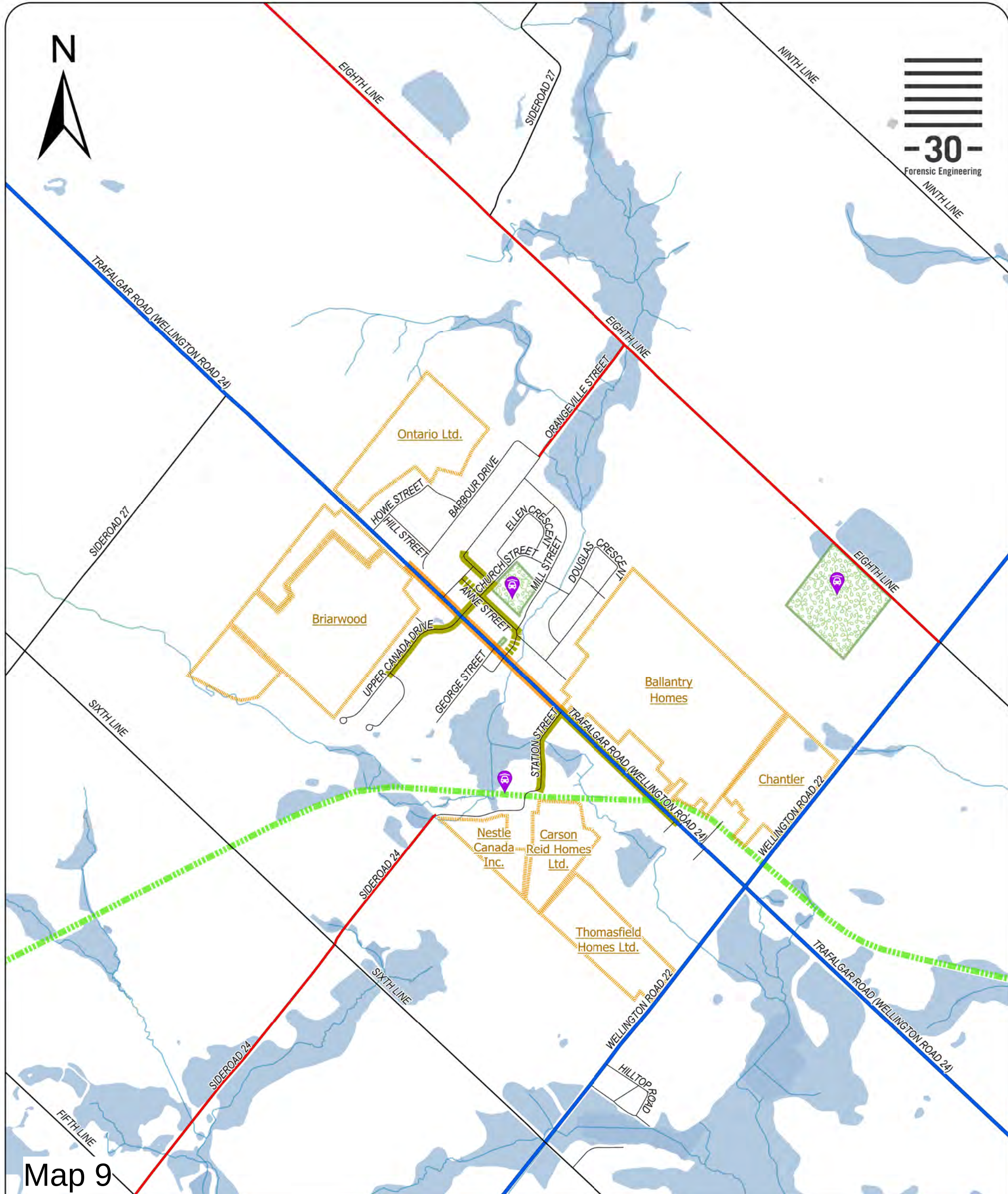
0 0.17 0.35 0.7 1.05 1.4 Kilometers

TOWN OF ERIN

Town of Erin

TRANSPORTATION MASTER PLAN

Erin Village Existing Trails and Sidewalks Network (2020)



Map 9

Legend

- | | | |
|-----------------------|------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Trail | Arterial Road (County) | Partial sidewalk on both sides |
| Wetland | Collector Road | Partial sidewalk on one side |
| Municipal Boundary | Local Road | Sidewalk on both sides |
| Town of Erin Boundary | Subdivision | Sidewalk on one side |
| Parking | Watercourse | |
| Park | | |

Scale

0 0.13 0.25 0.5 0.75 1 Kilometers

TOWN OF
ERIN

Town of Erin

TRANSPORTATION MASTER PLAN

Hillsburgh Existing Trails and Sidewalks Network (2020)

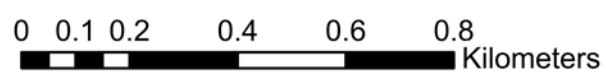


Map 10

Legend

- | | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|--------------------------------|
| Trail | County Roads | Partial sidewalk on both sides |
| Wetlands | Town Roads (Rural) | Partial sidewalk on one side |
| Municipal Boundaries | Town Roads (Urban) | Sidewalk on both sides |
| Town of Erin Boundary | Watercourse | Sidewalk on one side |
| Parking | | |
| Parks | | |

Scale



TOWN OF
ERIN

Town of Erin

TRANSPORTATION MASTER PLAN

Cedar Valley Existing Trails and Sidewalks Network



Township
of East
Garafraxa

ERIN-GARAFRAXA TOWNLINE

FIFTH LINE

FOURTH LINE

Athenwood Park

ELIZABETH CRESCENT

Elora Cataract Trailway

THIRD LINE

SIDEROAD 27

SECOND LINE

Map 11

Legend

- | | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|--------------------------------|
| Trail | County Roads | Partial sidewalk on both sides |
| Wetlands | Town Roads (Rural) | Partial sidewalk on one side |
| Municipal Boundaries | Town Roads (Urban) | Sidewalk on both sides |
| Town of Erin Boundary | Watercourse | Sidewalk on one side |
| Parking | | |
| Parks | | |

Scale

0 0.13 0.25 0.5 0.75 1 Kilometers

TOWN OF
ERIN

Town of Erin

TRANSPORTATION MASTER PLAN

Orton Existing Trails and Sidewalks Network