Morgantown, West Virginia, is located on the east bank of the Monongahela River. Colonel Zaquill Morgan, for whom the city was named, established a homestead in the area in 1772. Morgantown became a center of glass production because it has large quantities of silica sand, stone, and other chemical compounds necessary to produce glass, as well as reserves of natural gas to fuel production.

Morgantown’s museums include the Morgantown History Museum, which offers a view of Morgantown’s High Street in the mid-20th century that includes the Summers Printing Press display, the Morgan Shirt Company display, and the Metropolitan Theater display. The West Virginia Geological and Economic Survey has a mini-museum in its lobby that contains displays of minerals and fossils, including a full-sized Edmontosaurus dinosaur skeleton. The Easton Roller Mill displays an antique steam engine and roller mills used in grinding wheat. The Children’s Discovery Museum of West Virginia offers children learning experiences and interactive play. The Morgantown Glass Museum exhibits more than 5000 pieces of glass manufactured from late 1892 to 1980 at the Morgantown, Gentile Glass, and Seneca Glass factories. Although it is now a commercial center known as Seneca Center, the former home of the Seneca Glass Company retains the furnace, tools, and murals of the glassmaking process.

West Virginia University is the site of the Royce J. and Caroline B. Watts Museum, which exhibits a collection of coal, oil, and natural gas mining equipment, and the Cook Hayman Pharmacy Museum, which is dedicated to medicinal practices of the 19th century. A new art museum is under construction on the campus.

The Metropolitan Theatre hosts plays and national musical entertainers and is the home of the Morgantown Theater Company; a children’s theatre troupe; and the Morgantown and University High School band and choirs. The Morgantown Events Center hosts the West Virginia Public Theater, concerts, sporting events, and many more cultural events.

**NEIGHBORHOODS**

Downtown Morgantown is a mixture of small retail businesses, professional services, restaurants, and apartment buildings, mostly occupied by students. Most buildings have been in place since the 1900s. The large houses in the South Park Historic District date from between the 1880s and 1930s and were primarily built in the Queen Anne or Victorian style on small lots. Other housing styles include Colonial Revival, Italianate, and English Tudor. Within South Park, Knob Hill features larger Tudor Revival and cottage-style homes on larger lots.

Most homes in the Wiles Hill Neighborhood were constructed on small lots between 1900 and 1930 in the Craftsman Bungalow style. The neighborhood includes apartments and rental properties. Another historic neighborhood is Greenmont, which began as a separate town before being incorporated into Morgantown. Most Greenmont homes were constructed between 1901 and 1925, are set on small city lots, and consist of modest two or two and one-half stories with plain front gables or American Four Squares. Other styles found in the neighborhood include Bungalows, Colonial Revival, Queen Anne, Dutch Colonial, Gothic Revival, Beaux Arts, and Mediterranean Revival. Greenmont also has several apartment buildings. As West Virginia University’s enrollment has grown, students have moved into Wiles Hill and Greenmont, which had previously been occupied by single-family owners.

The Suncrest neighborhood also began as a separate town. Most homes were constructed from brick or stone on larger lots between 1940 and 1985, in styles that include ranch, split-level, and two-story colonial. Two developments within Suncrest, Vintner Reserve and French Quarter, have new custom-built houses under construction on small lots. South Hills, another development, features large homes built between 1950 and 1980 on larger wooded lots and has lots available for new construction.

**PARKS AND RECREATION**

Morgantown has 15 parks and operates two pools, a tennis center, a recreation center, an ice arena and sports courts center, two dog parks, a senior center, baseball fields, tennis courts, and basketball courts. Dorsey’s Knob Park has a disc golf course, hiking trails, and a seven-bedroom lodge. Sky Rock stands nearly 600 feet above a landscape of deep valleys and tall pines. Krepps Park features an outdoor swimming pool with a children’s aquatic area; a dog park; basketball, tennis, and sand volleyball courts; athletic fields; playground areas and equipment; and hiking and biking trails. Marilla Park features tennis courts, an outdoor pool with zero-grade entry and two water slides, a recreation center, and an outdoor skateboarding and BMX bike facility. Mylan Park’s facilities include an equestrian center, professional horseshoe pitching courts; a lighted four-field baseball and softball complex; a strength, conditioning, and fitness center; and the Miracle Sports Complex, a synthetic surface field designed for easy mobility of wheelchairs and walking devices.

The West Virginia University Core Arboretum has miles of trails and three acres of lawn planted with specimen trees.

**EDUCATION**

Monongalia County Schools serves approximately 3,300 students in Morgantown with two elementary schools, two middle schools, and one high school. The district also operates a technical center and alternative education programs that serve Morgantown students as well.

Higher education is available at West Virginia University, which offers bachelor’s, master’s, doctoral, and professional degree programs and includes schools of medicine, dentistry, nursing, and pharmacy. West Virginia Junior College Morgantown Campus offers many associate degrees in medical and business fields with career-focused, hands-on training. Pierpont Community & Technical College–Morgantown provides associate degree programs, one-year certificates, and customized workplace training.

**HEALTH CARE**

Morgantown is served by two hospital systems with a combined total of 720 licensed acute care beds. The city is also served by a comprehensive acute medical rehabilitation hospital.

**CITY STATS**

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<tr>
<td>City Population</td>
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<td>Metropolitan Statistical Area Population</td>
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<td>Per Capita Personal Income, Morgantown, WV, MSA</td>
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Photograph courtesy of Susan Sullivan, City of Morgantown.