Morgantown, West Virginia, is located on the east bank of the Monongahela River. Colonel Zapull Morgan, for whom the city was named, established a homestead in the area in 1772. Morgantown became a center of glass production because of its 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 middle of the 20th century that includes displays from Summers Printing Press, the Morgan Shirt Company, and the Metropolitan Theatre. The lobby of the West Virginia Geological and Economic Survey has a mini-museum that contains displays of minerals and fossils, dinosaur models, and a full-sized Edmontosaurus dinosaur skeleton. The Easton Roller Mill displays an antique steam engine and roller mills used in grinding wheat. Spark! Imagination and Science Center offers children’s learning experiences and interactive play. The Morgantown Glass Museum exhibits more than 5,000 pieces of glass manufactured from late 1892 to 1980 at the Morgantown, Gentle Glass, and Seneca Glass factories.

West Virginia University is home to three museums. The Royce I. and Caroline B. Watts Museum is dedicated to the mining and petroleum industries and features a vast collection of mining paraphernalia. The Cook Hayman Pharmacy Museum houses a collection of 18th and 19th century pharmacy memorabilia. The Art Museum of West Virginia University features two galleries with changing exhibits and the 2.5-acre Nath Sculpture Garden.

The Metropolitan Theatre hosts productions by Morgantown Theater Company, West Virginia Public Theatre, and West Virginia University. The Morgantown Event Center holds concerts, sporting events, and many cultural events. Hazel Ruby McQuain Amphitheatre is home to Movies on the Mon series and concerts. Mainstage is another live music and entertainment venue.

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, and 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.

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.

Morgantown is served by the following health care facilities: J.W. Ruby Memorial Hospital: 645 licensed beds; Mon Health Medical Center: 199 licensed beds; Healthsouth Mountainview Regional Rehab Hospital: 96 licensed beds.