Pullman is located on the rolling hills of the Palouse in Southeastern Washington at the confluence of Missouri Flat Creek, Dry Creek, and the South Fork of the Palouse River near the border of Idaho. Pullman currently stands within the original homelands of Upper Palouse and Nez Perce Indians, who were forced from the area by various treaties. Local histories often credit either Rolin Farr or Daniel G. McKenzie as the first permanent resident, arriving in 1876 or 1877, and naming the town for American industrialist George Pullman, who had no connection to the town. Another version attributes the town’s naming to Orville Stewart, who established an informal post office in his general store and named it Pullman in June 1881.

Washington State University, originally named the Agricultural College, Experiment Station, and School of Science of the State of Washington, was established in 1892 as a land-grant college. The university contributed to the town’s population growth and became the center of cultural life. Two museums are located on the campus: the new Jordan Schnitzer Museum, which houses a permanent collection of approximately 3,500 objects, and the Museum of Anthropology, which rehabilitates and curates archaeological and ethnographic collections and houses objects representative of the culture of Native American tribes. Washington State University Performing Arts presents world-class entertainment across multiple genres, including theatre, comedy, and world and American roots music. Venues include Jones Theatre, Wadleigh Theatre, Bryan Hall Theatre, Daggy Kibmorth Concert Hall, and Beasley Performing Arts Coliseum.

Pullman is also home to the Palouse Discovery Science Center, which offers hands-on science activities, educational programs, and exhibits. The Bell Tower is a church-turned-music venue that hosts both local and big-name indie bands. Pullman Civic Theatre produces two-act plays, radio plays, classic musicals, and dinner theatre shows in the Nye Street Theatre. Regional Theatre of the Palouse presents Broadway classics, revivals, premieres, and award-winning shows.

**NEIGHBORHOODS**

Downtown Pullman is primarily a commercial center. Some apartments are located on the second floor above ground floor commercial establishments. A new large apartment building that will have commercial activities on the street level is under construction.

Pullman is situated across four major hills that divide the city into nearly equal quarters: Pioneer Hill, Sunnyside Hill, Military Hill, and College Hill. Pioneer Hill is located in the southeast section of town. Homes in Pioneer Hill range from vintage bungalows to newer, larger, contemporary-styled, two-story homes in such neighborhoods as the Meadows adjacent to Lawson Gardens. Located on the southwest section of Pullman, Sunnyside Hill also has vintage as well as many new homes and is a favorite area for new construction of traditional two-story single-family homes. Military Hill occupies the northwestern part of town and was developed later than other areas, with home construction beginning in the 1950s. Many newer homes dating from the 1990s have been built around Military Hill Park. New construction is also underway in this area. Single-family housing styles include ranch, bungalow, and two-story; condominiums and townhouses are also available. In the northeast section of town, College Hill offers houses, condominiums, and apartments for both students and faculty. This neighborhood features tree-lined streets with vintage homes as well as homes that were built in the 1960s and 1970s.

**PARKS AND RECREATION**

Pullman has 14 parks and numerous green spaces. City Playfields consist of 3 softball fields, 2 soccer fields, 2 soccer/football fields, a jogging track, exercise stations, volleyball standards, and a batting cage.

At 7.95 acres, Kruegel Park offers 2 tennis courts, an expansive playground, a small football field, a little league baseball diamond, a soccer field, and volleyball standards. The park also has a grove of shade trees.

Oriented around a large reflecting pool and gazebo, Lawson Gardens’ 13 acres feature seasonal plantings of colorful annuals accenting walkways and terraced lawns. The garden also has a circular rose garden that was planted with 600 assorted rose bushes.

With 25 acres, Military Hill Park is a shared facility with Pullman High School and provides 6 tennis courts, 2 baseball diamonds, a playground, and a children’s playground. Surrounding the park is an extensive exercise trail with a par course.

Sunnyside Park’s 25 acres is home to Pullman’s annual Fourth of July celebration. This expansive park follows the natural terrain of the Palouse and features 2 ponds fed by a waterfall and connected by a creek that is home to assorted ducks and turtles. Park amenities include 2 tennis courts, a little league baseball field, volleyball standards, a disc golf course, and trails. The south side of the park is used for community gardens.

Reaney Park hosts a summer concert series and is the headquarters of the annual National Lentil Festival to celebrate one of the area’s most popular crops in August.

**EDUCATION**

The Pullman School District educates 2,800 students in 3 elementary schools, a middle school, and a high school. Higher education is available at Washington State University, a public research university that offers programs leading to undergraduate, master’s, and doctoral degrees. The university also has professional degree programs that include the new Elson S. Floyd College of Medicine, the College of Pharmacy, and the College of Veterinary Medicine.

Spokane Falls Community College Pullman Campus has relocated to the Washington State University campus and offers associates degrees, continuing education, and GED preparation. Nearby Moscow, Idaho, is home to the University of Idaho, a research university that offers undergraduate and graduate degree programs.

**HEALTH CARE**

Pullman is served by Pullman Regional Hospital with 42 licensed beds.