



MASTER FACILITIES PLAN

Morgantown Public Library System

September 2025



MARGARET SULLIVAN STUDIO

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Adopted September 2025



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Acknowledgements

The development of the Morgantown Public Library System's Master Facilities Plan has been a collaborative and community-driven process. We extend our sincere gratitude to all those who contributed their time, insights, and expertise to help shape the future of the Morgantown Public Library System.

We would like to thank the Morgantown Public Library System Board of Trustees for their leadership, vision, and unwavering commitment to providing accessible and innovative library services to the MPLS community.

To the Library Staff—your dedication, creativity, and deep knowledge of our facilities and the communities we serve have been essential in informing every step of this planning process. Your open-mindedness to this process is unmatched, bringing so much energy and enthusiasm into our workshops and conversations.

We are deeply appreciative of the community members who completed the community survey, participated in town halls or focus groups, and engaged with us on the Mon River Trail. Your voices have helped ensure this plan reflects the values and aspirations of the people it serves.

A special thank you goes to MPLS' partners, including city leaders and county staff, educational institutions, and local organizations, whose insights and shared commitment to the library and your communities have strengthened this planning effort.

We also wish to acknowledge the valuable input received through our one-on-one stakeholder conversations. These thoughtful discussions provided critical context, uncovered key opportunities, and helped ensure our plan is both forward-looking and aligned at State and local levels. Secretary Chelsea Ruby and Deputy Secretary Ennis Smith at WV Tourism along with Susan Riddle, President and CEO of Mountaineer County CVB have shared great insights into tourism. We're excited to share what we know to be the first of its kind, a library master facilities plan that is rooted in tourism.

Together, your contributions have laid the foundation for a Master Facilities Plan that will guide us in creating welcoming, inclusive, and future-ready library spaces for all.

Thank you.



The background of the page is a watercolor-style illustration. It features a mix of soft, blended colors including various shades of green (from light lime to deep forest green) and warm yellow-gold tones. The colors are applied in irregular, organic shapes that overlap and fade into each other, creating a textured, painterly effect. The overall composition is balanced and visually appealing, serving as a backdrop for the central text.

LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR



On behalf of the staff I am pleased to present the Master Facility Plan for the Morgantown Public Library System. It is an aspirational plan that will serve as a guide to meet the very real challenges of a modern library system and a roadmap to say yes to opportunities that are unique to our community. The framework supports our mission of enriching our community through open access to information, resources, and experiences.

I am so grateful for the deep and intentional thought that Margaret Sullivan Studio encouraged from the staff leadership team. Everyone brought their experiences, their curiosity, and their hopes for the future to every discussion and activity. The partnership with Library IQ has enabled access to our own data, creating a shared vision for what our collection should look like and a simple path to get there. It's easy to think that the end result is just a document, but the work has been transformative to everyone who participated.

The focus of this plan is on the physical buildings of the Morgantown Public Library System. Our buildings should support the work of the staff instead of limiting their creativity and ability to support the patron's individual goals. Library patrons today have a widening scope of

expectations. They want collections in multiple formats, concierge-level customer service, and programming for every age and interest. Patrons expect both quiet study spaces and vibrant play areas, plus community gathering spaces that inspire civic engagement. Our community's expectations are high, and so is our dedication to meeting and exceeding them.

We honor the intersection of nostalgia and innovation, a crossroads that represents the deep love and nostalgia of the libraries of our youth and the evolving needs of tomorrow. We can only assume that change will continue to happen and meet those changes with the guiding principles laid out in this plan.

On the cusp of our one hundredth anniversary we can't help but wonder how public spaces will evolve. This plan provides the framework necessary to continue to meet changing community needs and inspire community pride for the next century.

Sincerely,

Sarah Cranstoun
Morgantown Public Library, Director

The background is a watercolor-style illustration. It features large, overlapping circles and irregular shapes in various shades of green, from light lime to deep forest green. These are set against a textured, yellowish-gold background that resembles aged paper or a light wash of paint. The overall effect is soft and organic.

LETTER FROM THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Since its founding in 1926 by the Morgantown Women’s Club, the Morgantown Public Library’s success has been a testament to the collective support and commitment of the community. Now, as members of the Morgantown Public Library System (MPLS) Board of Trustees, it is our role to strengthen public confidence in one of our most beloved public institutions and ensure its vibrant, lasting future.

Under Sarah Cranstoun’s leadership, MPLS is flourishing. Partnerships are stronger than ever, staff are providing high-quality programs, and the public perceives MPLS as a center of community life. Our recent facilities planning process validates the library’s essential role, yet it also gives us critical insights.

As we look to the future, we must ensure a healthy financial and operational model for growth. This strategy will honor and build on successful past planning decisions, while also addressing some well-intentioned past choices that are no longer sustainable. Reconciling these issues is essential to maximizing MPLS’s service to everyone in Monongalia County.

The strength of the facilities planning process has been its two-fold approach: deep analysis and broad collaboration. Highly data-driven, the analysis of how patrons currently use and will want to use the library in the future reflects a nationwide shift in library use. While public libraries will continue to fulfill a core mission of providing materials in a wide variety of formats, evolved strategies informed by patrons’ consumption habits will ensure library services meet customer demand. As part of our planning work, the Library IQ platform now in place provides us with real-time data to align and right-size collections—to tailor them for the community.

During the planning process, we actively engaged with residents to cocreate a vision for the library’s services. As we connected with the public, we listened. Together we defined what the community needs MPLS to be for our friends, families, and neighbors. As a Board, we are invigorated by the community’s love of the library, and even more impressed by their imagination!

This facilities plan will guide the Board’s leadership for the next 20 years. Its creative structure honors the unique characteristics that make the City of Morgantown and all of Monongalia County a wonderful place to live. The recommendations and thoughtful transition strategy provide the tools to guarantee uninterrupted, high-quality services as our facilities’ footprint evolves, ensures the community remains a central partner in the ongoing planning process, and gives the Board a framework to make responsible, sound decisions.

We are delighted to present this aspirational vision—which supports the growth and prosperity of Morgantown and all of Monongalia County—for the library’s development. By committing MPLS as a strategic partner in the region’s overall community economic development goals, this long-term work will enrich the quality of life for all residents. We know libraries naturally excel at centering communities, and we truly believe that this plan positions the Morgantown Public Library System as a fundamental cornerstone of the community.



INTRODUCTION

Introduction

The Morgantown Public Library Master Facilities Plan (MFP) is a comprehensive roadmap designed to guide the long-term development, management, and optimization of MPLS' built environment. As we look toward the future, the MFP provides a strategic framework that aligns our facility infrastructure with our mission, operational needs, and growth objectives.

This plan outlines the rationale, methodology, key findings, and recommendations that form the Master Facilities Plan.

Background and Purpose

MPLS' facilities are central to delivering effective services, ensuring learning and growth opportunities, cultivating innovation, and enhancing the overall quality of life of Monongalia County residents — whether they be families, students, or the community at large. Over time, changing demographics, technological advancements, and evolving best practices have shifted the demands placed upon our physical

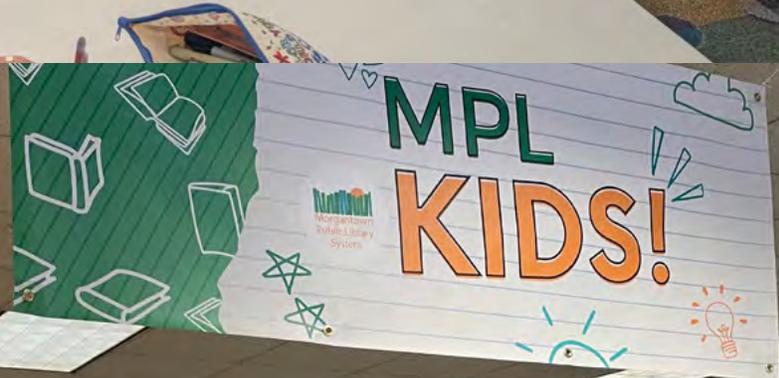
spaces. The purpose of the Master Facilities Plan is to ensure that our system and facilities can adapt to these changes, support our mission and vision, and remain resilient in the face of future uncertainties.

Directive

The goals of the Master Facilities Plan as defined by MPLS' request for proposal included:

- Strategic financial stewardship
- Visionary planning for community needs and growth
- Creating community centered spaces
- Creating a roadmap for maintaining and renovating library facilities
- Expansion recommendations for the library system
- Consensus driven approach to prioritization





The background is a watercolor-style illustration with various shades of green and brown. It features large, soft-edged shapes in different tones, including light green, medium green, dark green, and earthy brown. The overall effect is organic and textured, resembling natural elements like leaves or watercolor washes.

FINDINGS & OPPORTUNITIES



Findings & Opportunities

Context

Although it's named after the City of Morgantown, the Morgantown Public Library System (MPLS) serves all of Monongalia County's approximately 105,000 residents (2020 census) across 368 square miles of varying density and resources. It is essential for this plan to align with the objectives and planned development patterns of Monongalia County and the City of Morgantown.

The establishment and growth of MPLS over seven decades reveals a system built on varying approaches to facility development. MPLS currently operates six facilities with varying service levels. The downtown Morgantown Public Library is a full-scale facility requiring significant investment every 30 years. To continue to serve their communities and modernize this investment oftentimes costs approximately 2/3 of the cost of new construction.

The branches developed in two distinct forms: Clay-Battelle, Cheat Area, and Clinton District

Public Libraries were designed as temporary 20-year solutions with limited architectural lifespans, while Arnettsville Public Library and the Aull Center were incorporated into MPLS as existing structures neither originally designed as libraries nor efficiently meeting modern standards. This creates a system where only the main branch meets modern library standards.

Methodology

This master facilities plan employed a comprehensive, community-centered approach that combined quantitative analysis with extensive stakeholder engagement to understand current conditions, identify community needs, and develop responsive solutions. The methodology prioritized authentic community input alongside data-driven insights to ensure recommendations reflect both demographic realities and resident aspirations. Key components of the planning process included:

- Regional studies
- Data analysis
- Staff engagement
- Community survey
- Community outreach
- Partner breakfast

The Challenges

Physical & Operational

The existing MPLS branch network faces significant operational and physical challenges that prevent the facilities from fulfilling their essential role as public libraries. Building conditions across multiple branches compromise both safety and service delivery, with facilities operating in structures never designed for library use or exceeding their intended 20-year lifespans by decades. These physical limitations directly impact service hours, creating stark disparities across the system: while the main branch operates 58 hours per week, branches range from Clinton's 32 hours to Arnettville's limited 18-hour schedule. This uneven service availability undermines equitable access and forces the system to allocate substantial resources toward maintaining underutilized buildings that cannot adequately serve their communities. The combination of deteriorating infrastructure, restricted operating hours, and suboptimal building configurations prevents these facilities from functioning as the dynamic community anchors and essential service providers that modern public libraries are designed to be, ultimately limiting MPLS's ability to fulfill its mission across Monongalia County. A significant portion of the existing collections are currently overstocked and underutilized. With 34% of the collection not circulating in three years, MPLS is positioned to think about their facilities differently.

Locations



Morgantown Public Library

The 24,120 ft², three-story facility operates 58 hours weekly but suffers from poor multi-story layout with limited visibility, inadequate gathering spaces, and staff relegated to basement areas. Despite its excellent walkable downtown location, safety perceptions around unhoused populations and street crossing challenges impact accessibility.



Aull Center

The beautifully restored 4000 ft² former residence houses special collections but operates only 43 hours weekly in poor conditioned spaces with small, disconnected rooms. While architecturally significant, the building feels isolated from downtown despite its proximity.



Cheat Area Public Library

The 3200 ft² temporary structure has expanded over time and offers warm, family-oriented programming for 43 hours weekly, but suffers from poor visibility, road closure issues, and lacks adequate study spaces despite serving families from the adjacent school.



Clinton District Public Library

This deteriorating 1200 ft² temporary facility operates only 32 hours weekly and is too small for its senior and family programming needs, with the building falling apart after exceeding its intended lifespan.



Arnettsville Public Library

Operating just 18 hours weekly in a 1200 ft² former school, this facility suffers from disrepair, dysfunctional layout, and access challenges due to poor road conditions and limited staffing availability.



Clay-Battelle Public Library

The 1200 ft² temporary structure operates 36 hours weekly with strong school partnerships and cross-state service delivery, but faces significant access challenges due to road conditions and staffing limitations.

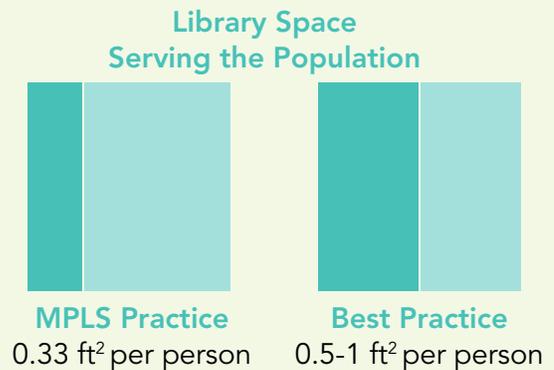
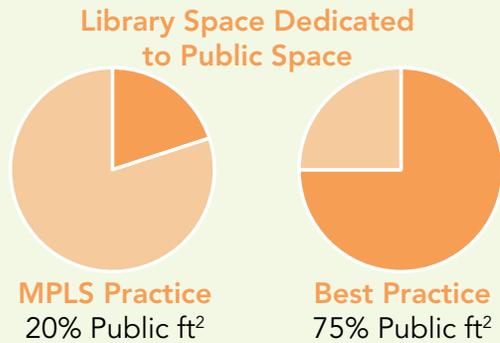
The Contemporary MPLS Experience

As public libraries transform from transactional service models to dynamic community environments, MPLS excels daily with innovative programming despite significant facility limitations. All locations lack fundamental elements of modern library service: insufficient electrical outlets, no group study rooms, and inadequate digital literacy spaces. At Morgantown Main, patrons conduct virtual meetings in stairwells.

MPLS staff members represent the system’s greatest asset—beloved and trusted community partners who bring experiences to life while “fighting with their buildings” daily. These trusted relationships ensure the next century of service will continue creating social, educational, and cultural experiences through intentional facility design that serves the community’s evolving needs.

Redefining Facilities Standards

Current MPLS facilities significantly underperform industry standards for public space allocation and population service ratios. Analysis reveals that only 20% of MPLS library space is dedicated to public use, compared to the 75% best practice standard that maximizes community access and programming potential. The 20% is a portion of the total square footage of the system. Morgantown Public Library contributes significantly to this 20%. The branch locations have very little public space allocated, as an example about 8% of the Clinton District Public library can be used as public space, accommodating only four patrons and one staff member at any one time. Similarly, the system provides just 0.33 ft² per person, well below the recommended 0.5-1.0 ft² per person for library facilities ft² per population served. For a County of approximately 105,000 residents, the current real estate portfolio totals just under 30,000 ft². These metrics reflect a branch network built on outdated temporary planning assumptions. This presents the need to redefine facility standards by moving beyond the temporary mindset toward sustainable, flexible infrastructure that maximizes public space and achieves optimal population service ratios. New standards emphasize strategic typology selection and community-centered design that positions libraries as dynamic community assets meeting contemporary service benchmarks.



Climate Concerns

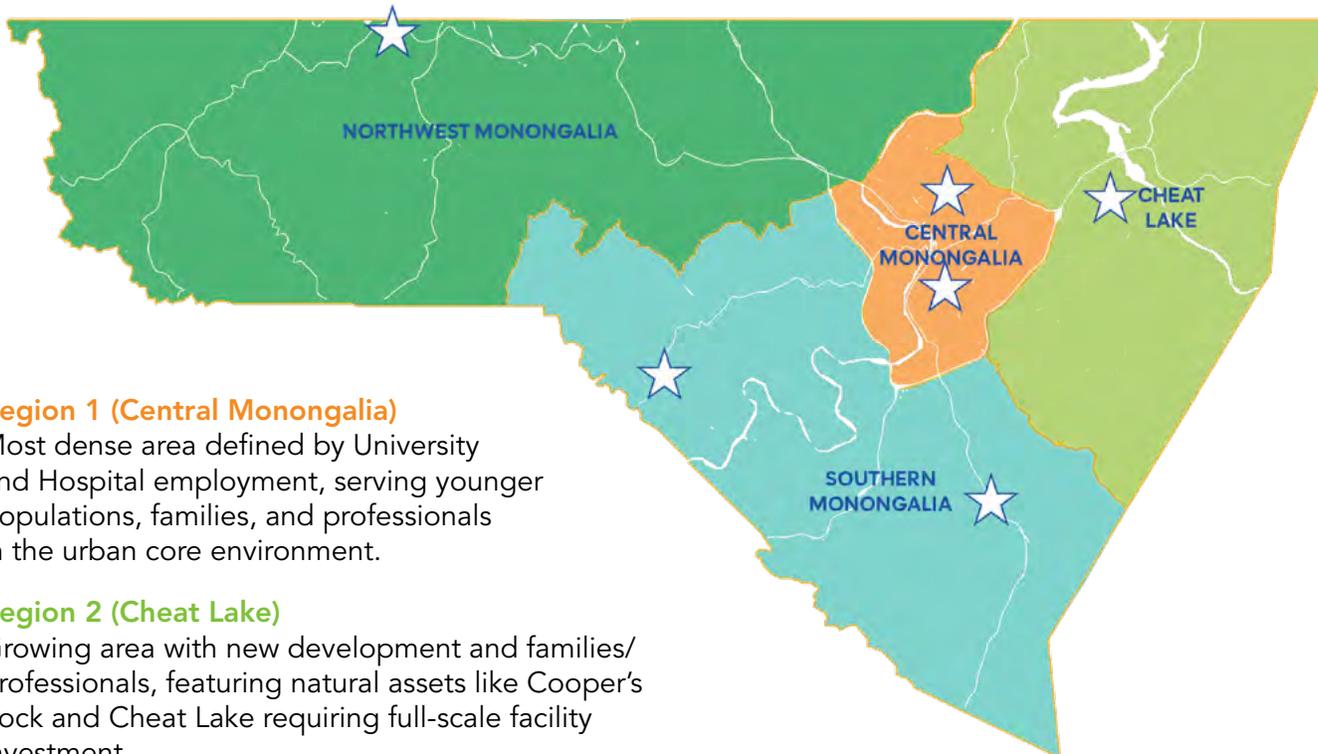
The County's unique topography and environmental features present both assets and challenges for library facility planning. The region's steep rolling hills, while providing scenic beauty and recreational opportunities, create significant constraints for development. More critically, climate-related risks pose ongoing threats to library operations and community access. Flooding has become increasingly frequent, extending beyond designated floodplain areas and creating potential service disruptions. Stormwater management challenges also compromise building safety and accessibility during severe water events. Additionally, frequent power outages and increased wildfire risks further threaten service delivery, particularly for facilities operating in aging buildings beyond their intended lifespans. These climate vulnerabilities underscore the importance of strategic facility placement, resilient building design, and emergency preparedness planning that ensures MPLS can continue serving as a community refuge and essential service provider during environmental crises.

Taking a Regional Approach

MPLS serves a geographically diverse county spanning urban neighborhoods, suburban developments, and rural communities, each with distinct needs and challenges. Rather than applying a one-size-fits-all solution, this planning process employed a regional lens recognizing the unique characteristics of different areas within Monongalia County. This approach acknowledges that effective library service requires understanding local community dynamics, existing partnerships, transportation patterns, and cultural preferences. By analyzing the county through distinct regions, the plan recommends targeted facility typologies, programming approaches, and partnership strategies that respond to specific community contexts while maintaining system-wide cohesion.

Regional Differences

Four distinct regions emerge within Monongalia County, each with unique demographic profiles, development patterns, and library service needs that inform strategic facility planning.



Region 1 (Central Monongalia)

Most dense area defined by University and Hospital employment, serving younger populations, families, and professionals in the urban core environment.

Region 2 (Cheat Lake)

Growing area with new development and families/professionals, featuring natural assets like Cooper's Rock and Cheat Lake requiring full-scale facility investment.

Region 3 (Northwest Monongalia)

Mountainous terrain with limited one-lane road access, weather/traffic concerns, low-density development, and coal mining industry serving rural communities.

Region 4 (Southern Monongalia)

Mixed families and empty nesters in clustered developments off main roads, featuring shopping centers, agriculture, and minimal infrastructure connectivity.

Who We Are Serving

These regional differences reflect the diverse communities that make up Monongalia County, spanning household incomes from under \$25,000 to over \$150,000, encompassing young families, empty nesters, first-generation Americans, and working professionals across urban, suburban, and rural settings. Some residents have easy resource access while others face geographic or economic barriers. Community members also face significant shared challenges that cut across demographic lines, with 52% reporting experiencing job loss or job insecurity, 44% struggling with mental health issues, 43% lacking affordable housing choices, 37% needing quality affordable childcare, and 33% experiencing loss of connection with friends and family. These challenges underscore the critical role libraries can play as community support systems and resource centers.

This demographic diversity brings distinct interests from outdoor recreation to workforce development, requiring a library system capable of responding to varied user expectations across all county regions through targeted facility typologies and programming approaches.



Community Inputs

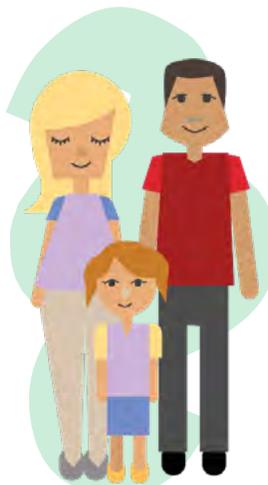
The community survey generated 862 responses from residents across Monongalia County, providing crucial insights into what residents want from their library system. These responses reveal both specific service gaps and broader aspirations for how libraries can better serve diverse community needs.

How Would You Describe Yourself and Your Interest in MPLS?



Reader 77%

Looking to borrow books, attend author readings and book clubs, and/or receive reading recommendations



Family or Individual 77%

Looking for free educational and cultural activities in Monongalia County area



Adult 27%

Looking for somewhere to hang out



Caregiver 24%

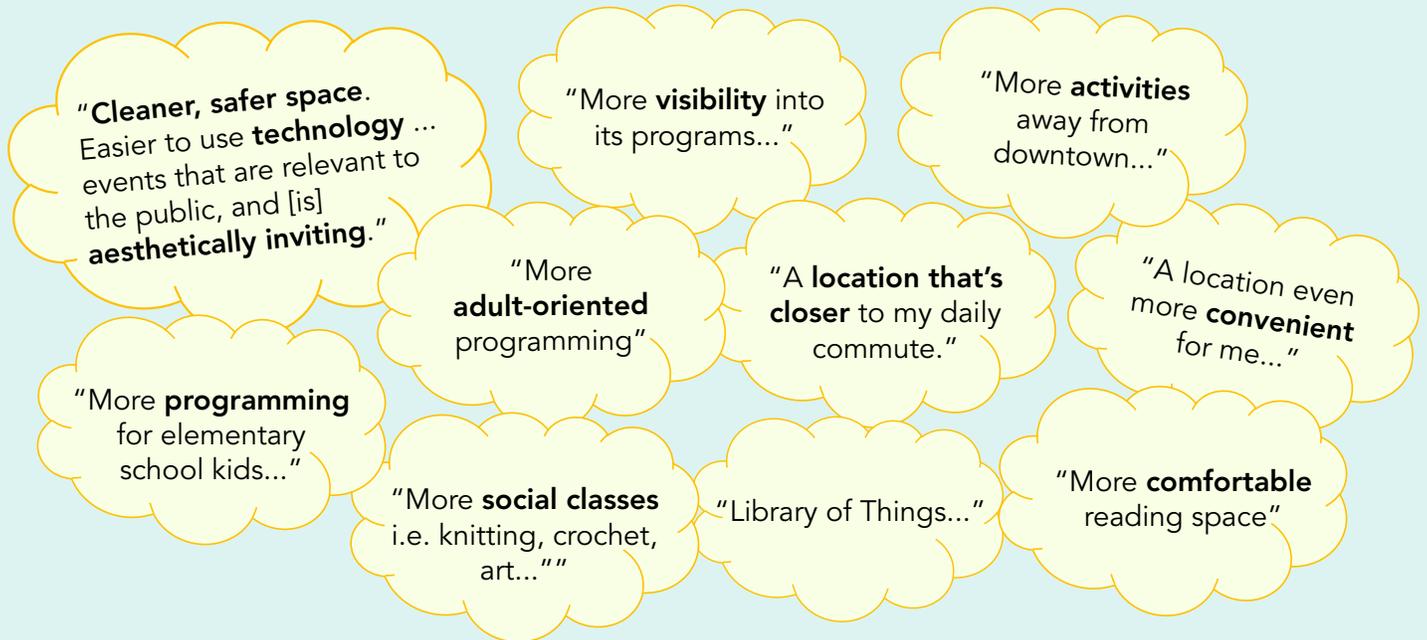
Looking for books, technologies, and programs for my kids, grandkids, or others in my care



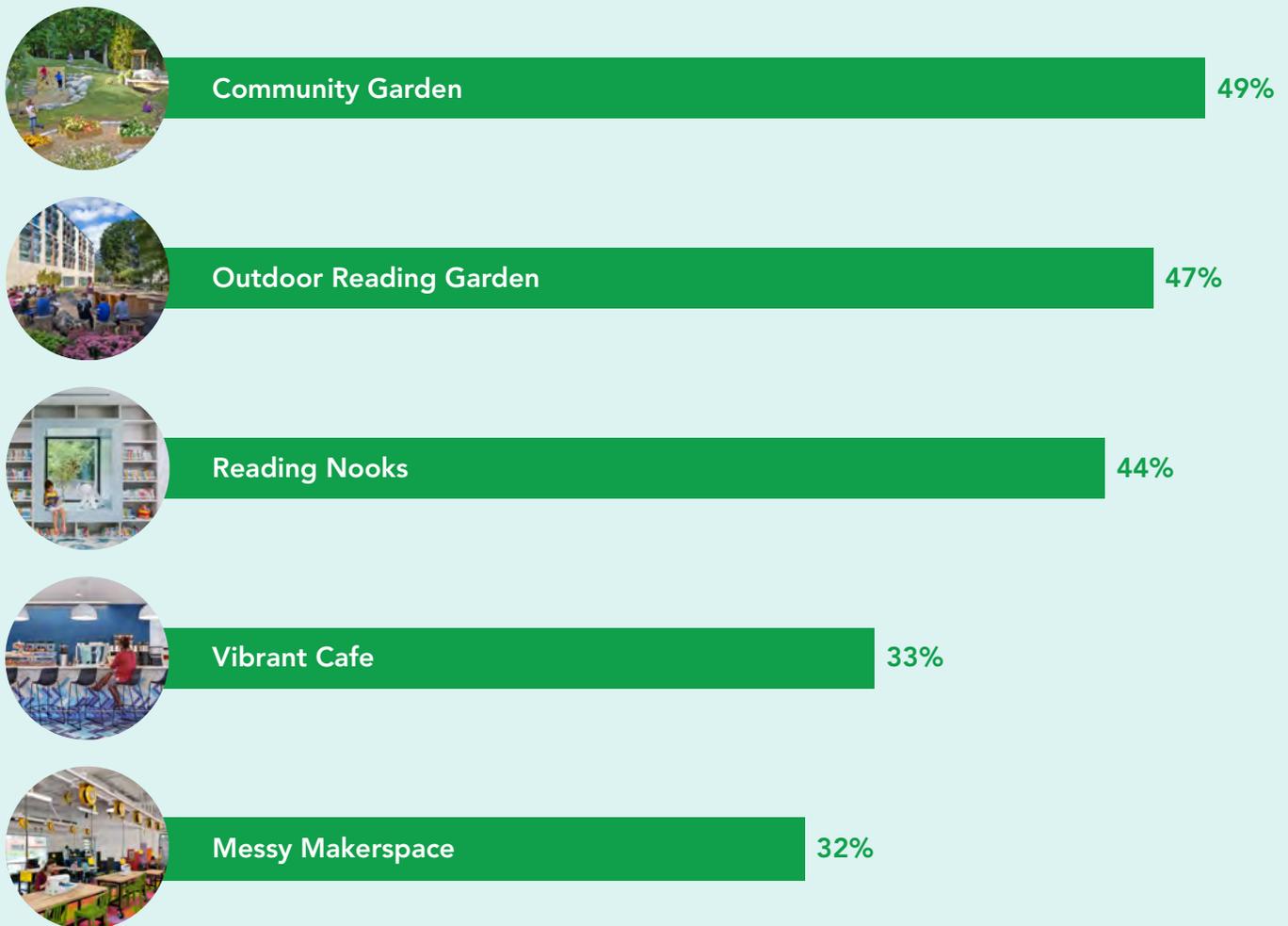
Maker or Creative 21%

Looking for access to crafting, laser cutting, and/or 3-D Lab tools; design or engineering software; and/or studio space

What Does The Community Want?



What Spaces and Places Would Help The Community Achieve Their Personal, Family, and Community Goals at Their Neighborhood Library?



In the future, our libraries will foster a Morgantown that is more...



The community survey findings reveal a clear vision for libraries as comprehensive community hubs that extend far beyond traditional book lending. Residents prioritize safety, accessibility, and convenience while demanding programming that reflects diverse interests and life stages across all regions of the county. The strong interest in outdoor spaces, maker environments, and social programming demonstrates appetite for libraries as active, engaging destinations rather than quiet study halls.

Most significantly, the responses show residents understand libraries' potential as community catalysts—spaces that can foster civic engagement, promote health and wellness, advance equity, and spark innovation. The emphasis on programming “away from downtown” and locations that fit daily commute patterns reveals geographic barriers that current facilities cannot address, supporting the need for diverse typologies and strategic regional placement.

The combination of practical requests (cleaner spaces, better technology, convenient locations) with aspirational goals (more civically engaged, equitable communities) indicates residents are ready for transformational library services that address both immediate needs and long-term community building. These findings validate the strategic shift from temporary branch solutions toward permanent, community-centered facilities designed to serve as essential infrastructure for social cohesion and individual development across Monongalia County's diverse demographic landscape.





Town Halls



Partner Breakfast



Partner Breakfast

Closing

The findings reveal a library system operating facilities decades beyond their intended lifespans while serving diverse communities facing shared challenges around economic security, social connection, and access to essential services. However, these challenges illuminate clear opportunities for transformation. Strong community engagement, alignment with county and city development goals, and potential tourism collaboration create favorable conditions for strategic reinvestment.

With this plan, Morgantown Public Library System can move beyond temporary fixes toward sustainable, community-centered infrastructure that addresses the full spectrum of resident challenges and aspirations.

“The library is important; we all need to step in a concentrated effort to support it.

This is the effort we need for progress.

The will exists: can the will be targeted to the library?”

DAVID SATTERFIELD

Director of Asset Development WVU Research and Economic Development Office CNRC (Campus Neighborhoods Revitalization Corporation)

Our Partners

- United Way
- Generation WV
- WVU Center for Community Engagement
- Main Street Morgantown
- Land Reuse Agency
- WVU Libraries
- City of Morgantown
- WVU Medicine
- Mon County Assessor’s Office
- CNRC Sunnyside
- Round Table Corp
- Mon River Trails
- Mon County Starting Points

Timeline of Facilities

Morgantown Public Library



Aull Center



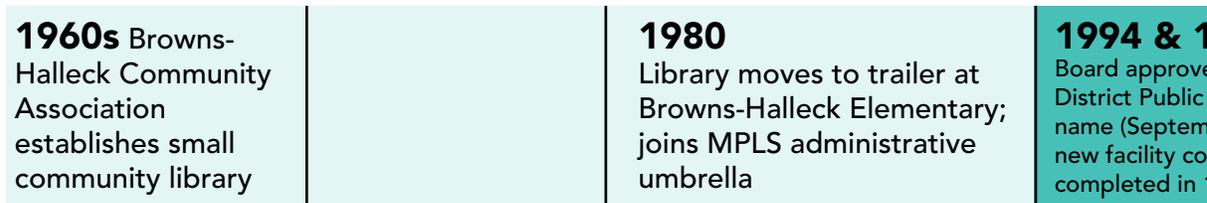
Cheat Area Public Library



Arnettville Public Library



Clinton District Public Library

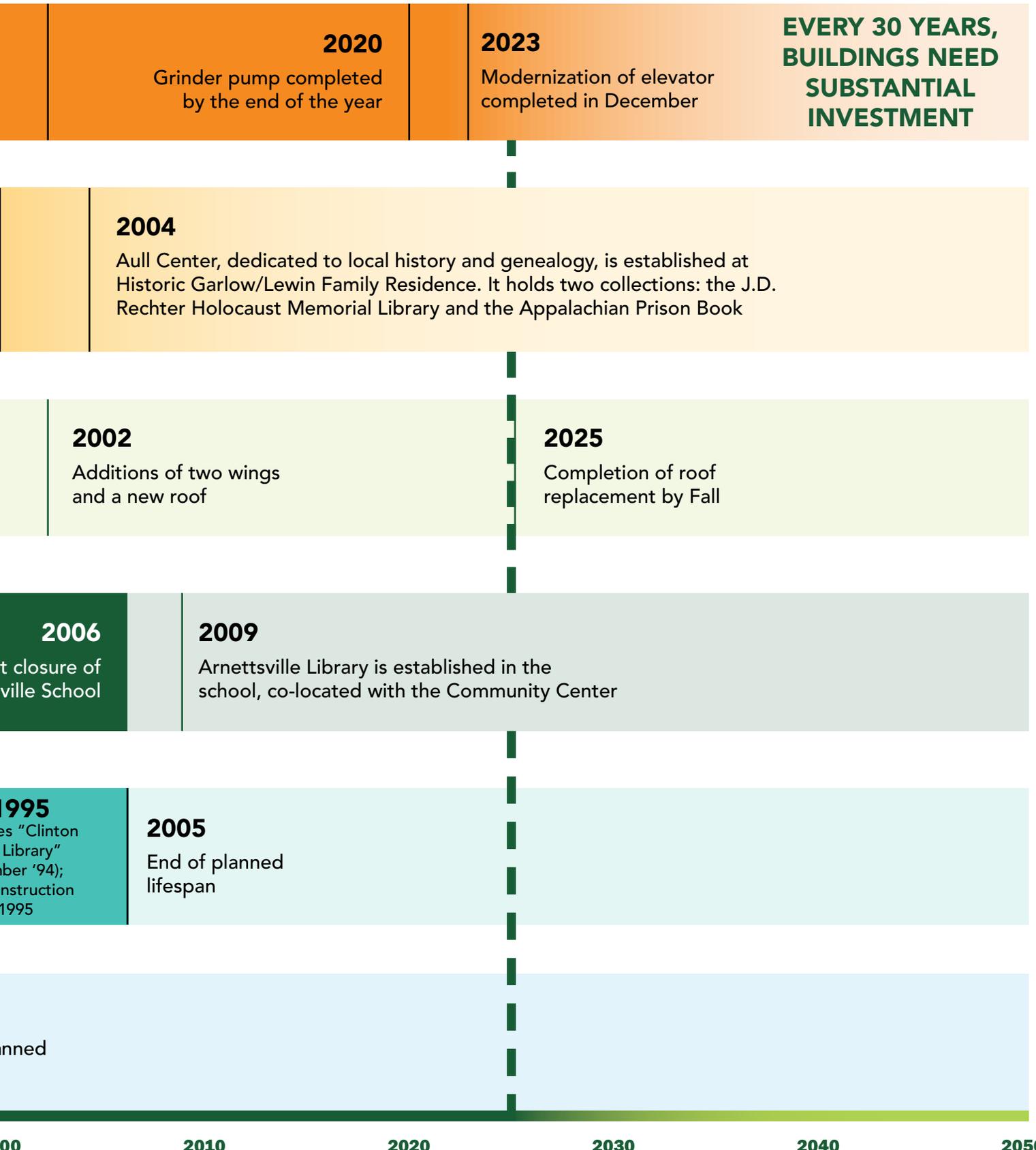


Clay-Battelle Public Library



2025

ALL SIX MORGANTOWN PUBLIC LIBRARY BRANCHES REMAIN OPEN TODAY





PIGEON

Children's Fiction

Photography Nook

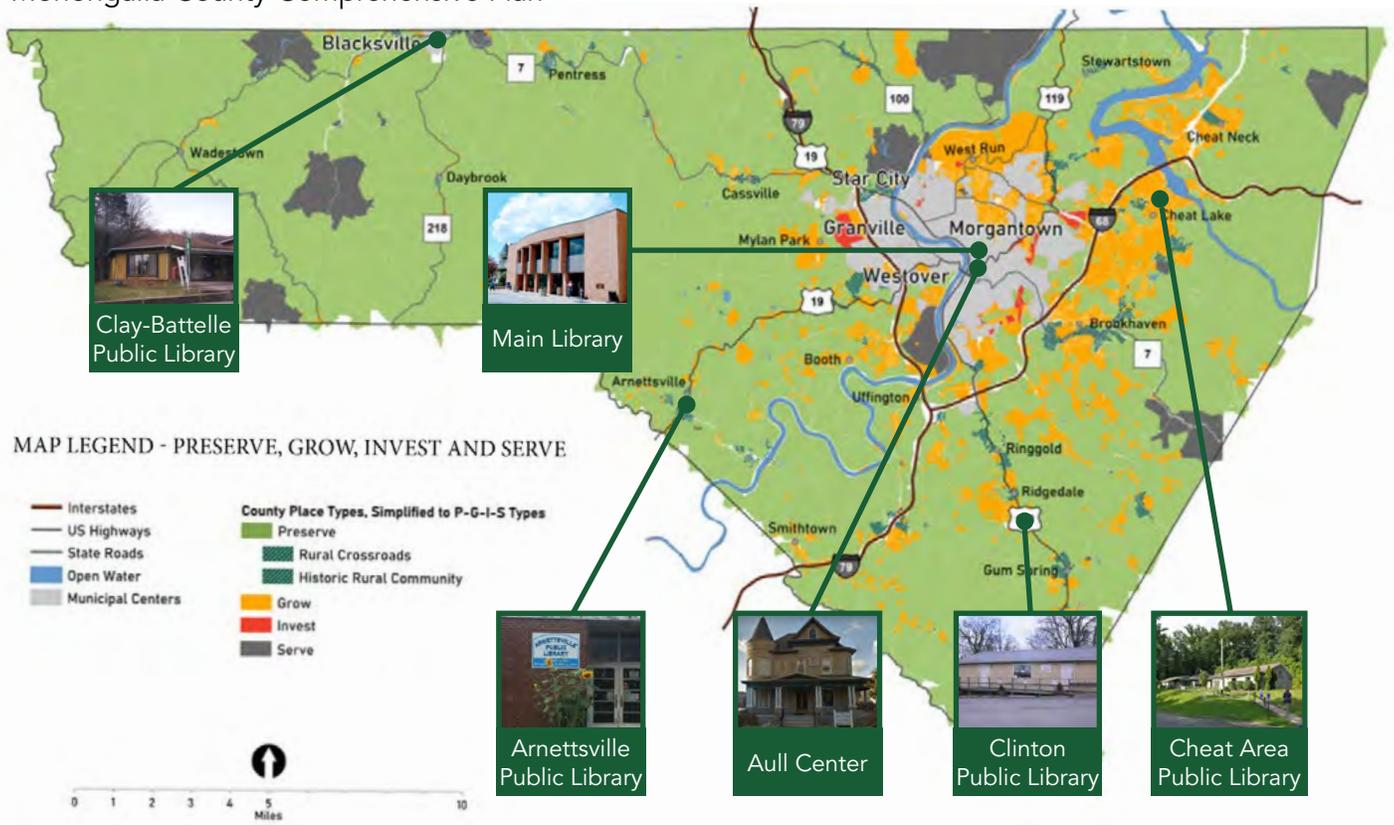
50 CENT BOOK SALE



STRENGTHENING CITY, COUNTY & STATE-WIDE OBJECTIVES

Aligning the County's Future Development

Monongalia County Comprehensive Plan



The Strategic Framework Concepts for Future Growth map above is from the Monongalia County Comprehensive Plan which was adopted in 2023. The map identifies planned development patterns throughout the county including areas to preserve, grow, invest, and serve.

Areas to grow, identified in orange are where growth is anticipated. New development is slated in these areas along with an increase in residents. There is a concentration of growth anticipated to the north and east of Morgantown in the areas of West Run, Cheat Neck, and Cheat Lake. The plan advocates for responsible growth through infill development, not wholesale redevelopment.

The plan also identifies areas to invest (red) that may need some additional intentional support

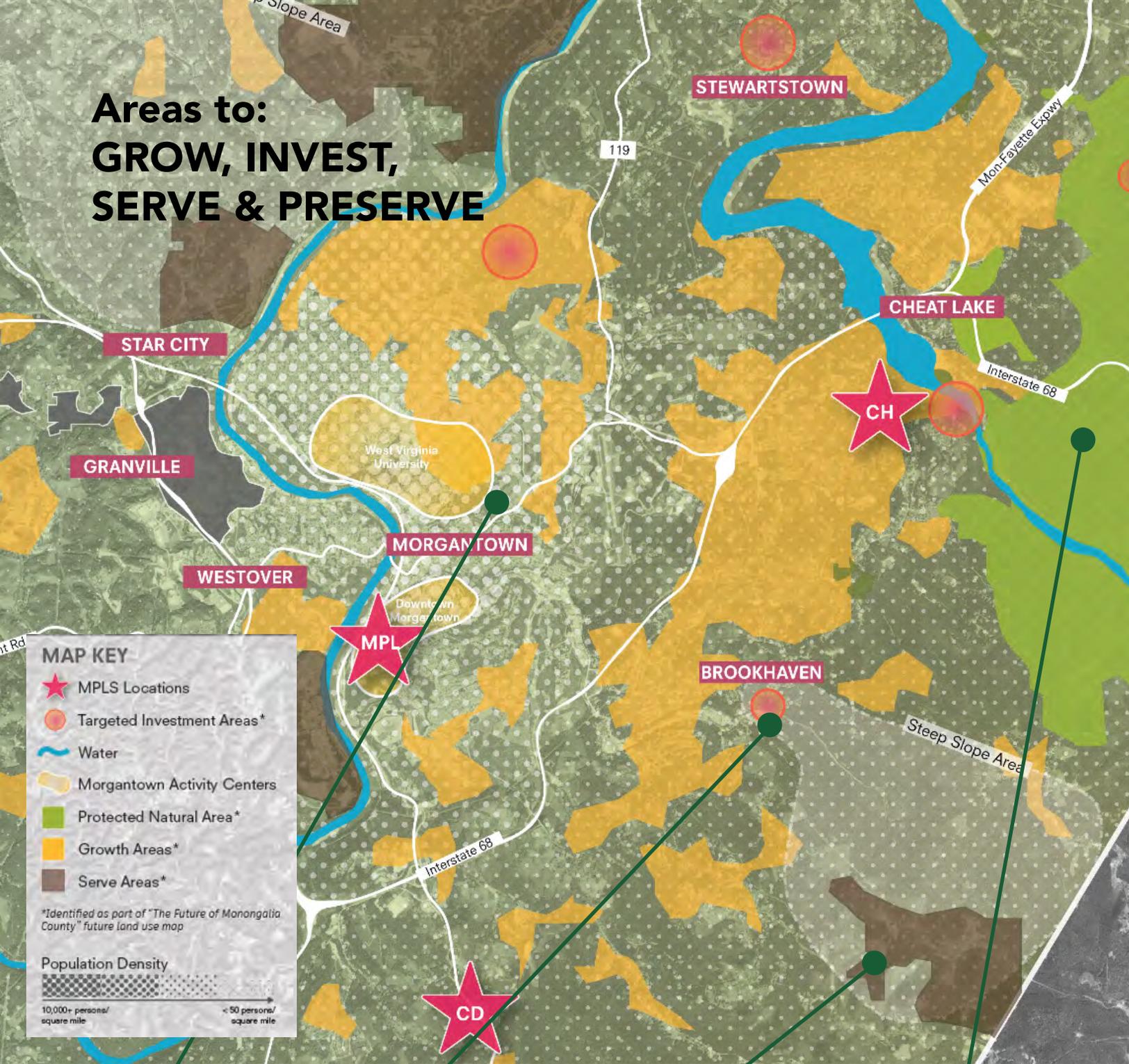
to meet their full potential. These are often commercial nodes supporting local communities.

Areas to preserve as identified in green are planned to remain largely the same, safeguarding rural and communities and environmentally vulnerable lands from further development.

Areas that serve (gray) are areas that provide essential infrastructure and services to the area. Including water, sewer, broadband, the airport, and recreation areas. Also included are coal mines which greatly shape the local economy.

In studying, analyzing and overlaying various datasets over the Strategic Framework Concepts for Future Growth map, our team was able to develop recommendations in alignment with the County's Comprehensive Plan.

Areas to: GROW, INVEST, SERVE & PRESERVE



Land Use,
Community Design,
Housing,



Economic Development
Preferred Development
Areas, Renewal and/or
Redevelopment,
Financing, Tourism, Safety



Transportation,
Community
Infrastructure, Public
Services, Recreation



Rural Areas,
Historic Preservation,
Conservation Areas,
Natural Resources/
Environment

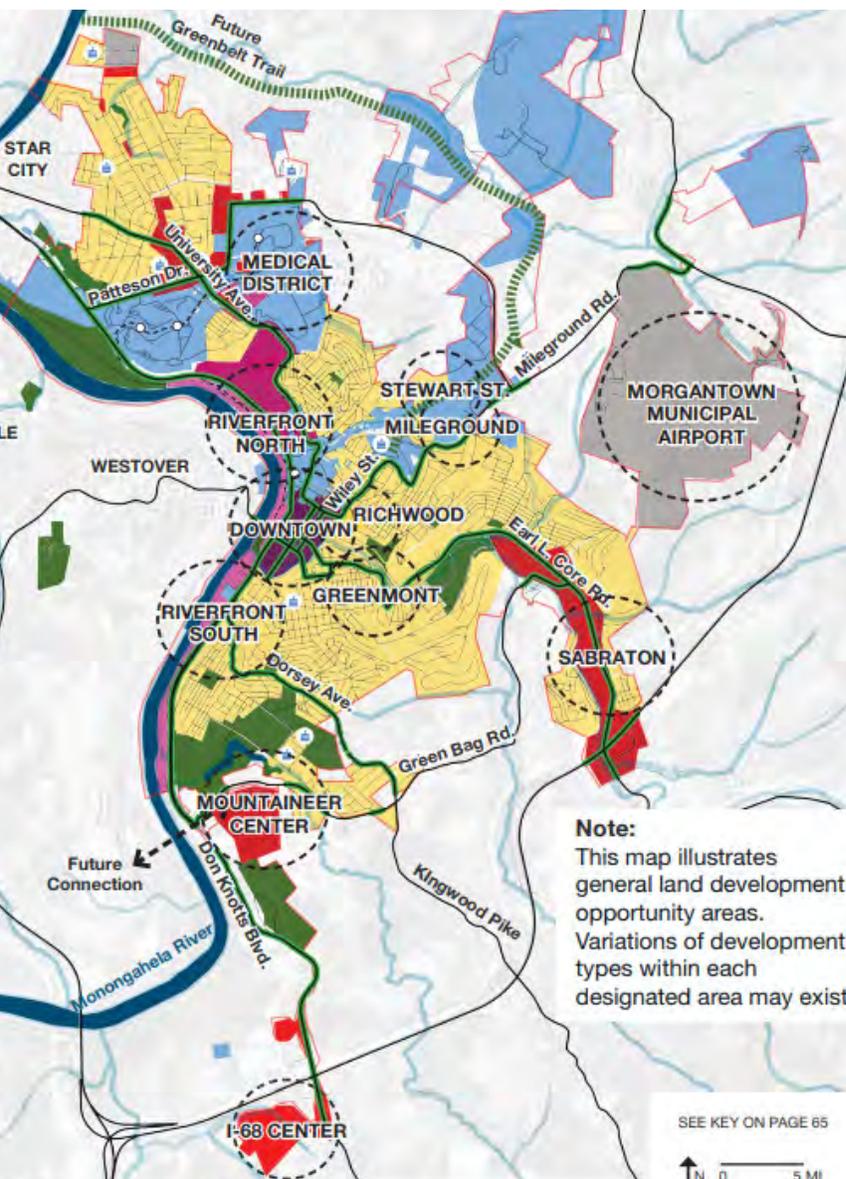
Aligning the City's Future Development

Morgantown 2033, is Morgantown's comprehensive plan that was adopted in 2023.

As its name implies, the plan looks specifically at the next ten years identifying goals and priorities to accomplish in the following decade.

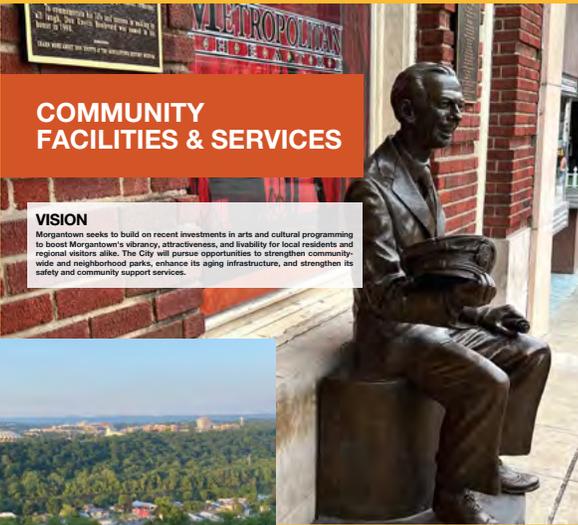
The growth framework map below identifies various approaches to growth throughout the City

of Morgantown. Our process ensures an alignment with the City's plan. In understanding where and how the city anticipates change, we can align our recommendations with areas that the city is prioritizing.



- Strengthen** Downtown as a livable and dynamic center for Morgantown and the region
- Establish** the riverfront as a distinct destination for Morgantown and the region
- Preserve** existing neighborhoods and, where appropriate, encourage a mix of housing types
- Revitalize** major commercial corridors and underutilized sites to support walkable and attractive mix of commercial and residential uses
- Continue** to improve housing and neighborhood amenities to encourage a mix of students, residents, and residential building types
- Improve** the visual character of gateway corridors into the city and create walkable streets that are supported by transit and bicycle amenities
- Support** business and logistics centers to expand economic development opportunities
- Enhance** parks and open spaces, including access to regional trails and adjacent neighborhoods
- Implement** branded districts to enhance the sense of place, improve citywide wayfinding, and to encourage revitalization
- Leverage** the University as a significant employer and amenity to anchor existing and merging mixed-used districts in the city

Growth Framework Concept



COMMUNITY FACILITIES & SERVICES

VISION
Morgantown seeks to build on recent investments in arts and cultural programming to boost Morgantown's vibrancy, attractiveness, and livability for local residents and regional visitors alike. The City will pursue opportunities to strengthen community-wide and neighborhood parks, enhance its aging infrastructure, and strengthen its safety and community support services.

PRIORITY ACTIONS

- Increase access to parks, open space, and trail networks.
- Establish and maintain robust public safety departments.
- Address the addiction crisis and increase coordination between social service agencies.
- Maximize the Morgantown Public Library as a community resource by expanding program opportunities at the facility.
- Invest in sustainable community resources such as recycling infrastructure and community garden programs.
- Improve amenities to address mental health issues, the unhoused population, and the ongoing addiction crisis.

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MORGANTOWN COMPREHENSIVE PLAN MORGANTOWN, WEST VIRGINIA

ADOPTED XX 2023

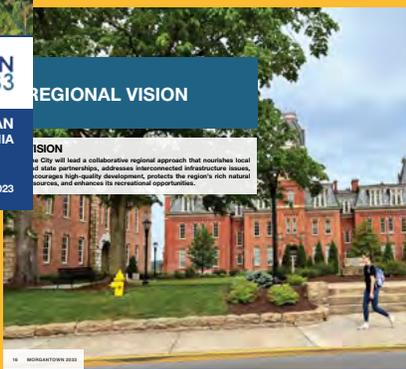
REGIONAL VISION

VISION
The City will lead a collaborative regional approach that leverages local and state partnerships, addresses interconnected infrastructure issues, encourages high-quality development, protects the region's rich natural resources, and enhances its recreational opportunities.

PRIORITY ACTIONS

- Minimize truck traffic impacts Downtown and in neighborhoods while improving the district's bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure.
- Incentivize revitalization efforts to establish Downtown as a live, work, and play destination.
- Create walkable, compact, and transit-accessible development patterns throughout the City.
- Protect natural resources while enhancing recreational opportunities.
- Build a strong regional workforce through local and regional collaboration.
- More coordination between Morgantown, the County, and neighboring municipalities in all elements of the comprehensive plan.

MORGANTOWN 2033 11



Morgantown's Vision for Growth

Morgantown's comprehensive plan demonstrates a clear commitment to collaborative community development, with library expansion as a cornerstone of the city's future. The plan explicitly prioritizes maximizing MPLS "as a community resource by expanding program opportunities at the facility", recognizing libraries as essential infrastructure for addressing complex social challenges.

The regional vision identifies a need to build a strong regional workforce through local and regional collaboration. The public library is a great place to develop and strengthen the local workforce. The plan calls for creating a more walkable downtown, which the Morgantown Public Library currently supports. With some improvements to the surrounding streetscape, Morgantown Public library would better be able to meet the City's goals of providing resources and amenities in walking distance. There's also potential to look to other parts of the city that would benefit from library resources outside of downtown. Finally, the plan commits to more coordination between the city, county and neighboring municipalities.



Tourism: What the Area & State Are Doing Already

As of July 1st 2025, West Virginia libraries fall under the State's Tourism department (WV Tourism), creating opportunities for MPLS to position facilities as tourism destinations offering distinctive experiences at each location.

To align this facilities plan with state and local tourism efforts, the process included conversations with WV Tourism and Mountaineer Country CVB focused on ongoing initiatives and collaboration potential. West Virginia actively welcomes new residents through relocation incentives, leveraging the state's natural beauty and community hospitality. The state maintains higher rates of internal travel than most states and recently emphasizes off-the-beaten-path experiences like waterfall trails, almost heaven swings, honey trails, and paranormal trails that highlight West Virginia's unique character.

Potential collaboration opportunities include intersecting libraries with recreation and partnering to showcase West Virginian stories and heritage through library programming and facilities.

Mountaineer Country CVB shared that their priority is "one more night, one more dollar" encouraging visitors who are in the area for an event to stay one more night. Events and conferences are the big generator of tourism in the county with WVU football being a big draw. Mountaineer Country CVB has various initiatives to create interest in tourism as a career path including their Leave No Trace program which teaches best tourism and trail practices to fifth graders. The organization is opportunistic and experimental trying out low-cost initiatives utilizing existing infrastructure (ex. Gravel biking trails and programs).





Library as a Tourism Destination

Libraries have evolved beyond traditional book repositories to become dynamic community destinations that attract visitors and contribute to regional cultural and economic vitality. Through stakeholder engagement, MPLS explored: "How can you make a library a tourism attraction?" Library Staff and Partner stakeholders identified compelling possibilities including:

- Library coffee shop (Charleston)
- Exhibits/museum spaces
- Creative play place
- Indoor activities for kids in winter
- Historic collections and rare books
- Event space
- Demonstrations

These concepts reflect libraries as cultural anchors that blend programming, educational experiences, and social gathering. By integrating attractions like theater rooms, interactive science experiences, or

community gardens, libraries become destinations showcasing local heritage while fostering creativity.

This tourism approach complements the diverse typology strategy, where different facility types can offer distinctive attractions that draw visitors. The result positions libraries as cultural destinations that enhance Morgantown's appeal as a vibrant college town and regional hub.



The background is a watercolor-style illustration. It features a mix of green and yellow-green hues. There are numerous overlapping, soft-edged shapes that resemble leaves or watercolor washes. The colors are layered, with some darker greens in the foreground and lighter, more yellowish-green tones in the background. The overall effect is organic and textured.

THE ASPIRATIONAL VISION

THE MISSION

Enriching our
community through
open access
to information,
resources, and
experiences.

THE VALUES

Service

Provide innovative service that is welcoming and fun for our community

Learning

Foster community well-being by offering programs, resources, and experiences

Stories

We believe stories are powerful and add meaningful value to our lives, especially when they are shared with others

Inclusion

We honor human diversity by offering access to resources that present multiple views, and we provide inclusive opportunities for all



How Our Physical Presence Makes an Impact

The Morgantown Public Library System’s network of facilities serves as more than collections of books and computers—these spaces function as vital community infrastructure that responds to both everyday needs and extraordinary circumstances. Through strategic physical presence across Monongalia County, MPLS creates tangible value that extends far beyond traditional library metrics.

Each library location operates as a community anchor, providing stable, accessible spaces where

residents can connect, learn, and grow. These facilities serve as neutral ground where diverse community members intersect, fostering the social cohesion needed for healthy civic life. MPLS facilities also demonstrate their essential nature through consistent availability during both routine daily life and crisis situations. Whether providing refuge during environmental emergencies, offering digital access when home internet fails, or serving as gathering spaces during community challenges, these physical locations prove their worth through reliable presence.

1

Foster Community Building Through Curiosity & Creativity

DEEPENING THE CORE MISSION

- Social, cultural, and learning institution
- Increase literacy
- Try new things
- Gathering

2

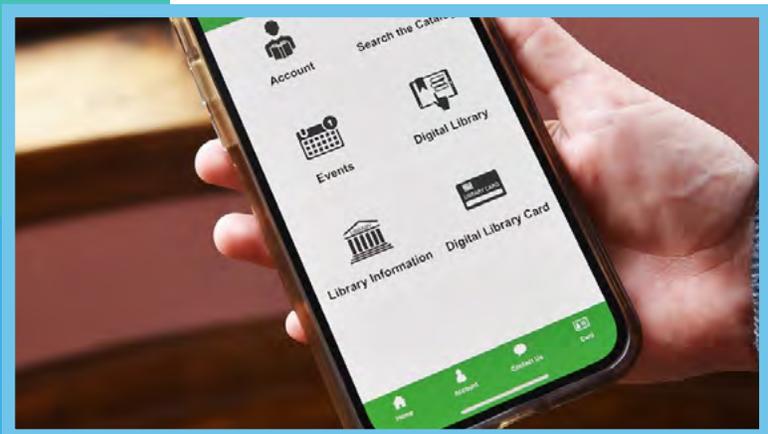
Serve as Places of Resiliency & Sustainability

A PLACE IN EVERYDAY & CRISIS

- Complimentary services
- Provide access to physical resources including space, technology, and services
- A place to exist on a daily basis
- Refuge in environmental crises

3

Ensure Access to Essential Services



ACCESS TO DIGITAL INFRASTRUCTURE

- Wi-Fi and digital equity
- Flexible typology of services (doesn't depend on brick & mortar)

Guiding Principles

The following guiding principles have been developed in identifying alignments with the Monongalia Comprehensive Plan (year), the Morgantown Comprehensive Plan and an understanding of State/ local tourism.

MEET THE INFRASTRUCTURE NEEDS OF A CONTEMPORARY LIBRARY

- Flexible space for programming
- Flexible collections
- Flexible and comfortable furniture
- Good lighting
- Contemporary technology and infrastructure
- Adequate staff and storage space
- Interior/exterior security
- Efficient staffing
- Environmentally sustainable design
- 5000 ft² One Room Schoolhouse
- 12000 ft² Full Service Library
- Awesome customer experience

BEST PRACTICES FOR COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Alignment with County and/or City Comprehensive Plan

- Areas of growth
- Investment area
- Protected natural area
- Land use criteria (steep slope)

Development Ideals for Location

- On the way route
- Dense area/mixed use
- Embedded in a neighborhood
- Public resources in the area

Development Ideals for Transit

- Car, Bike, Pedestrian



These principles are further defined through a list of requirements. Together, they establish criteria that should be seen in every MPLS location. Currently, no existing facilities meet these standards—only the Morgantown Public

Library could achieve compliance through interior modifications. Any improvements to existing facilities or future new facilities must meet these principles.

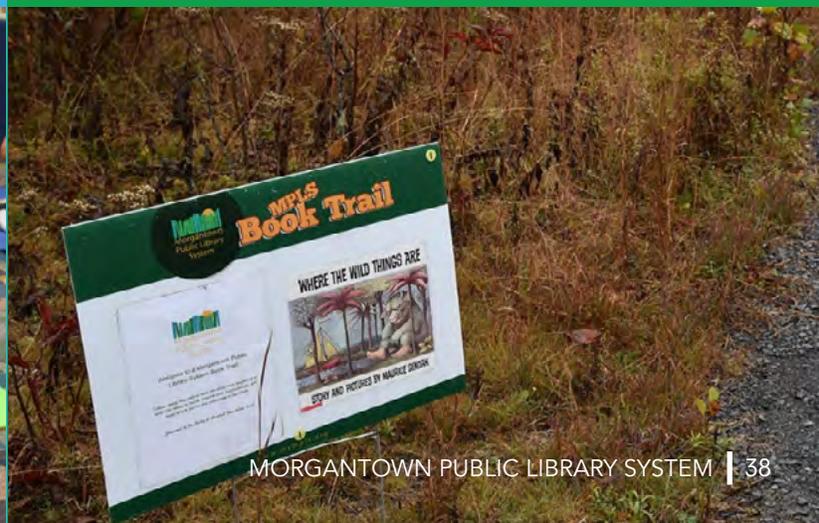
BEST PRACTICES TO FOSTER SOCIAL CONNECTIONS, LEARNING & BELONGING

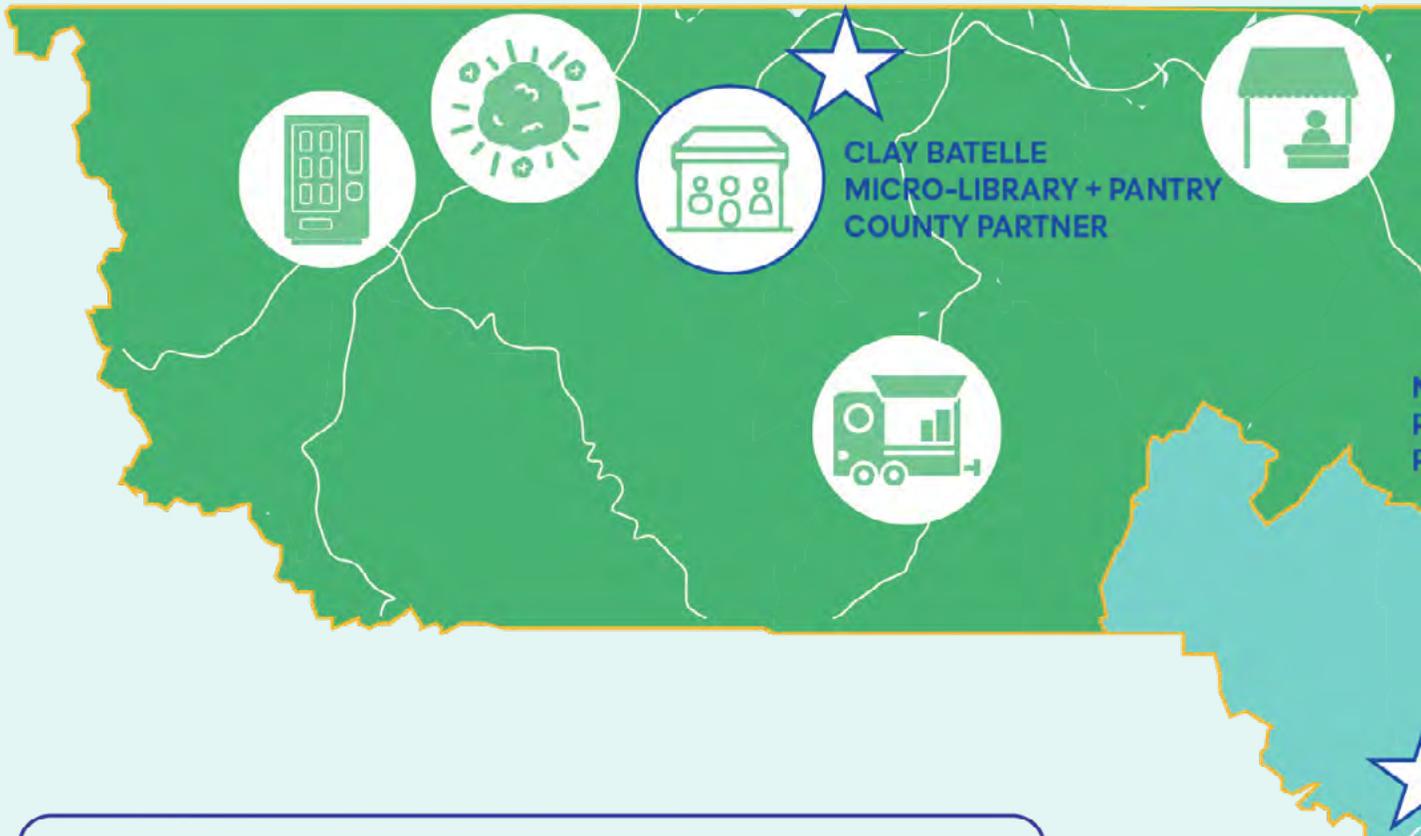
- Prioritizes social interaction
- Generates community vitality/vibrancy
- Fosters exploration and learning
- Engages opportunities with nature
- Fosters intergenerational experiences
- Encourages physical activity
- Feelings of inclusivity and belonging for all
- Adapts to ongoing community input

BEST PRACTICES FOR TOURISM

As of July 1, 2025, libraries have been classified as being under tourism, highlighting the need to prioritize tourism in decisions....

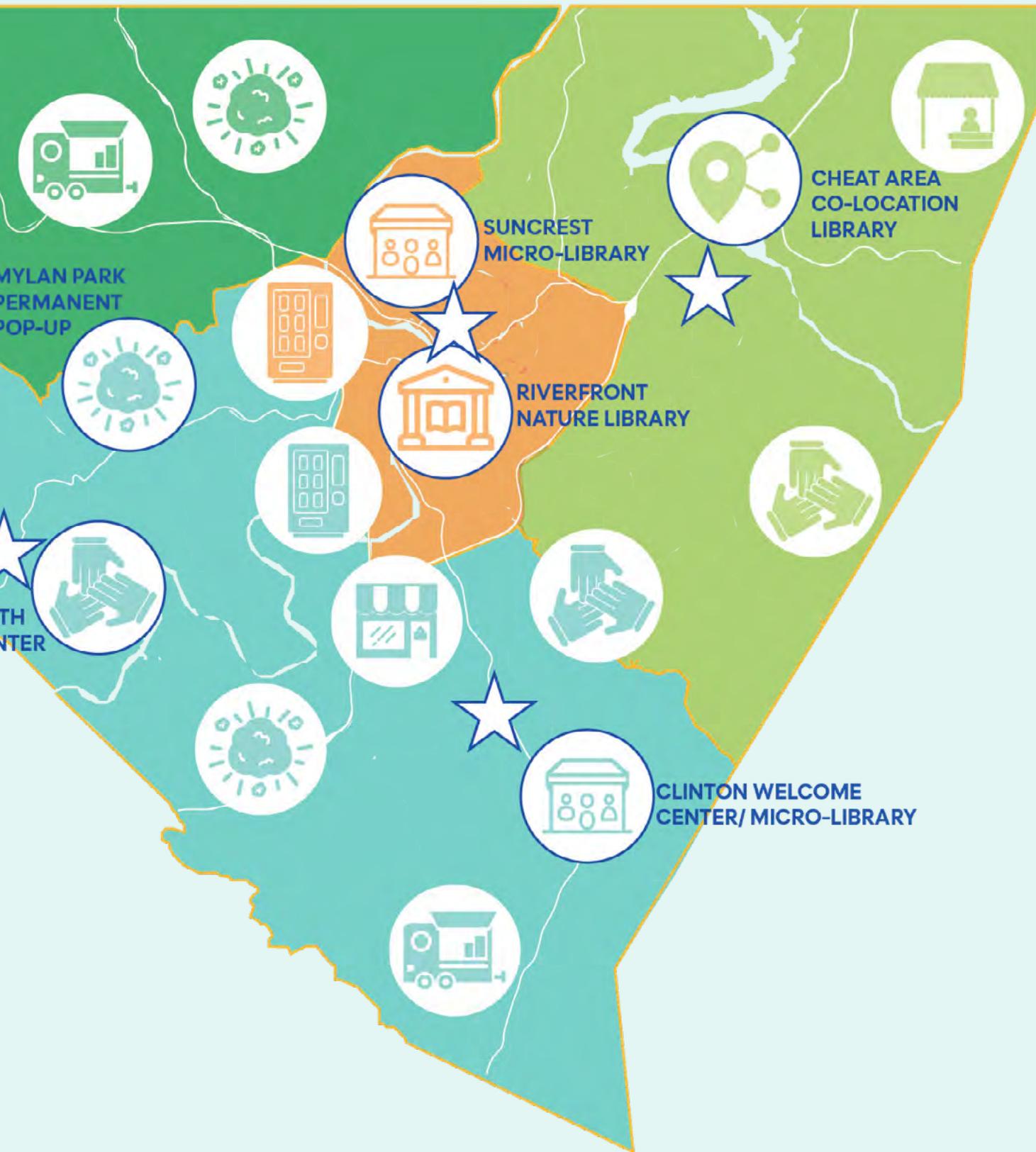
- Destination feature
- Support local economies
- Acknowledges local culture and history
- Engages local artisans and craft people
- Proximity to nature trails
- Prioritizes digitalization of cultural heritage
- Development of digital skills
- Aligns with WV Tourism and/or Mountaineer Country CVB





LEGEND

-  EXISTING MPLS FACILITY
-  TRAIL LIBRARY
-  IN-PLACE AMENITY
-  POP-UP PRESENCE
-  PROGRAM PARTNER
-  MOBILE
-  RETAIL STOREFRONT - 3,000 SF
-  MICRO-LIBRARY - 5,000 SF
-  CO-LOCATION "CAMPUS" - 12,000 SF OF LIBRARY
-  FULL-SCALE COMMUNITY LIBRARY - 12,000+ SF



MPLS Future Vision

Typologies



24 HR POP-UP

Nomadic library model relocating every few months to ensure equitable access across underserved community areas.



IN-PLACE AMENITY

Sustained library presence within existing facilities like hospitals or universities, providing embedded services.



MOBILE

Vehicle-based library services offering flexible, on-demand deployment throughout the city's high-need areas. We recommend starting with a sprinter van due to its accessible price point and usability.



TRAIL LIBRARY

Open-air library concept extending services beyond traditional buildings into community outdoor spaces.



RETAIL STOREFRONT

Temporary retail space occupation leveraging street visibility to demonstrate services and test community demand.



PROGRAM PARTNERS

Service delivery model where library staff provide programming at partner locations without physical library presence.



FULL-SCALE LIBRARY

Moderately-sized neighborhood anchor serving as the primary resource hub for surrounding communities within high-activity areas.



CO-LOCATION CAMPUS

Permanent library presence integrated with partner facilities, promoting walkable access and the “20-minute city” principle.



MICRO-LIBRARY

Neighborhood-embedded library offering community-specific programming and gathering spaces in remote areas.



Placemaking Components



The contemporary public library incorporates spaces, programs, and partnerships to support diverse community roles. MPLS serves as a vibrant community hub providing comprehensive quality of life services and offerings.

Through research, staff engagement, and community input, MSS developed placemaking components around seven strategic goals emphasizing quality of life for Monongalia County residents:

- Health & Wellness
- Arts & Culture
- Recreation & Preservation

- Pride & Community
- Learning & Growth
- Passion & Career
- Welcoming & Inclusivity

Each strategic goal is rooted in MPLS' mission of "enriching our community through open access to information, resources, and experiences." The goals include placemaking components addressing potential spaces, activities and programs, staff skills, partnerships, community needs, and desired outcomes. Library buildings should foster these strategic goals through intentional design and programming.

Health & Wellness

The library serves as a hub for physical, mental, and emotional well-being, offering resources and experiences that support whole-person health. Programming includes yoga, meditation, fitness classes, and support groups. Spaces feature consultation rooms, meeting areas, culinary literacy kitchen, meditation space, social services center, and community garden. Partnerships with local healthcare providers and fitness organizations are essential. The outcome is improved physical and mental health for county residents.



Arts & Culture

The library celebrates creative expression and cultural heritage, providing platforms for artistic exploration and community storytelling. Programming includes art workshops, cultural festivals, author readings, and performance showcases. Spaces feature galleries, maker studios, performance areas, and cultural heritage displays. Partnerships with local artists, cultural organizations, and museums are vital. The outcome is enhanced cultural vibrancy and creative capacity throughout the community.

Recreation & Preservation

The library connects residents to outdoor recreation and environmental stewardship while preserving local history and natural resources. Programming includes nature walks, conservation workshops, historical preservation projects, and outdoor skills training. Spaces feature equipment trail access points, heritage archives, environmental education clinics, community gardens, and outdoor markets. Partnerships with parks departments, conservation groups, and historical societies drive this goal. The outcome is increased environmental awareness and recreational engagement.



Pride & Community

The library fosters civic engagement and community identity, strengthening social bonds and local pride. Programming includes volunteer coordination, community celebrations, and neighborhood organizing. Spaces feature meeting rooms, community living rooms, cultural celebration hubs, and flexible gathering spaces. Partnerships with local government, nonprofits, and civic organizations are essential. The outcome is stronger community cohesion and civic participation.



Learning & Growth

The library provides lifelong learning opportunities that adapt to evolving educational and professional needs. Programming includes skill-building workshops, tutoring, language classes, and technology training. Spaces feature classrooms, study areas, computer labs, discovery zones, and collaborative learning environments. Partnerships with schools, universities, and training organizations support this mission. The outcome is enhanced educational attainment and personal development across all age groups.



Passion & Career

The library encourages curiosity enabling residents to find their passions. It also supports economic development and career advancement through skills and workshop development including job training, resume assistance, small business workshops, and professional networking. Spaces feature career counseling centers, co-working areas, youth development areas, and interview rooms. Partnerships with employers, economic development agencies, and professional organizations are crucial. The outcome is improved economic mobility and career satisfaction for residents.



Welcoming & Inclusivity

The library ensures equitable access and celebrates diversity, creating safe spaces where all community members feel valued and included. Programming includes friendly welcome areas, multicultural events, multilingual learning labs, and cultural exhibit galleries. Spaces feature universal design elements, quiet zones, family areas, and culturally responsive environments. Partnerships with social service agencies, advocacy groups, and diverse community organizations are fundamental. The outcome is increased social equity and community belonging for all residents.



Strategic Goals in Action

These seven strategic goals work synergistically to transform MPLS facilities into comprehensive community assets that address the full spectrum of resident needs. By integrating health and wellness with arts and culture, connecting learning opportunities with career development, and ensuring welcoming spaces that foster community pride, each library location becomes a multifaceted hub capable of responding to diverse community challenges.

The strategic goals provide a framework for programming decisions, partnership development, and space design that positions libraries as essential infrastructure for community resilience and individual growth across all regions of Monongalia County.



DESIGN YOUR FUTURE LIBRARY EXPERIENCE

- BLACK BOX THEATER
- ART GALLERY
- QUIET ROOM
- VIBRANT BOOK STORE
- OUTDOOR MARKET/PLAZA
- LEGO ROOM
- MESSY MAKER SPACE
- VR STUDIO
- COMPUTER LAB
- CULINARY LITERACY KITCHEN
- FOOD PANTRY
- FLEXIBLE SPORT COURTS
- HOMESCHOOL HOMEWORK AREA
- GAMING LAB
- FITNESS GYM
- SWIMMING POOL
- ROCK CLIMBING/BOULDERING WALL
- VIBRANT SAFE
- VIRTUAL SCHOOL LAB
- OLM STUDIO

1. What do you want to...
2. What would be super cool that is unexpected at...
3. When you leave the library, what would you want to have learned/experienced?
4. What would you want to feel at the library?

LAC
LOST



A PLAN DRIVEN BY 100% RESIDENT ENGAGEMENT



1 EDUCATED PROFESSIONALS LIVING AN ACTIVE LIFESTYLE



2 AVID VIDEO STREAMERS AND SOCIAL MEDIA USERS



3 SERVICE OR PART-TIME WORKERS LIKELY TO LIVE NEAR SINGLE PEOPLE



4 WELL-COMPENSATED PROFESSIONALS WITH CHILD-CENTERED LIFESTYLES

Who Makes Up Monongalia County?

Understanding community demographics is essential for developing responsive library services that meet diverse resident needs. Through comprehensive analysis, eleven distinct demographic cohorts emerge across Monongalia County, each representing different economic circumstances, family structures, cultural backgrounds, and library service expectations.

These cohorts span from high-earning executives to service workers, young families to empty nesters, and urban professionals to rural residents, with household incomes ranging from under \$25,000 to over \$150,000 annually. Each

cohort brings unique interests, challenges, and aspirations that require tailored programming, facility design, and service delivery approaches.

The following cohort profiles detail the characteristics, needs, and recommended library offerings for each demographic segment, providing the foundation for strategic facility planning and community-centered service development across all regions of the county.



5 HOMEOWNERS
IN MANAGERIAL
& PROFESSIONAL
ROLES



6 HIGH SCHOOL GRADS
RAISING FAMILIES IN
SMALL-TOWN SETTINGS



7 ETHNICALLY DIVERSE
WITH MULTIPLE
GENERATIONS
UNDER ONE ROOF

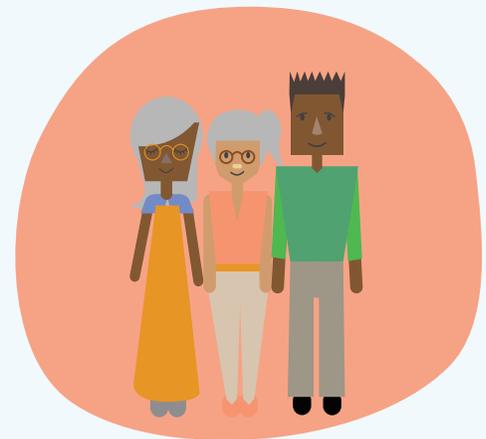


8 EXECUTIVES WITH
TIME AND MEANS TO
PURSUE A VARIETY
OF INTERESTS



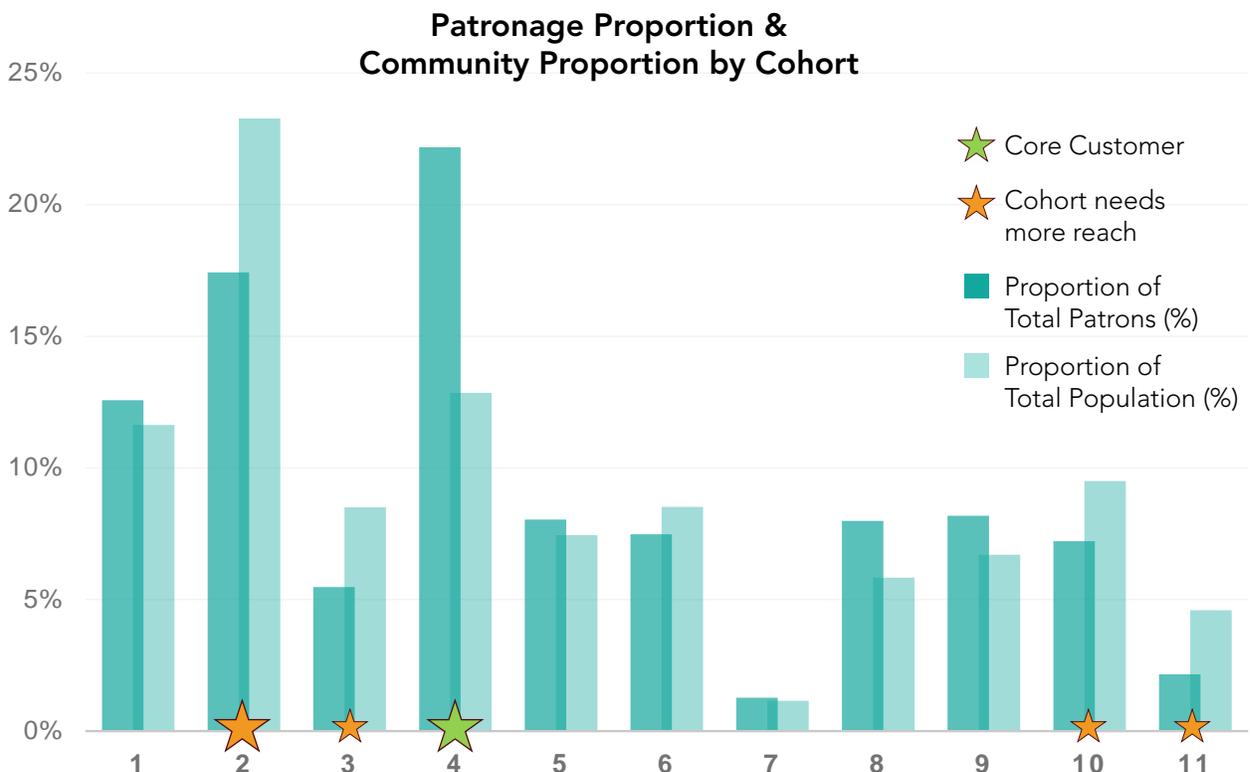
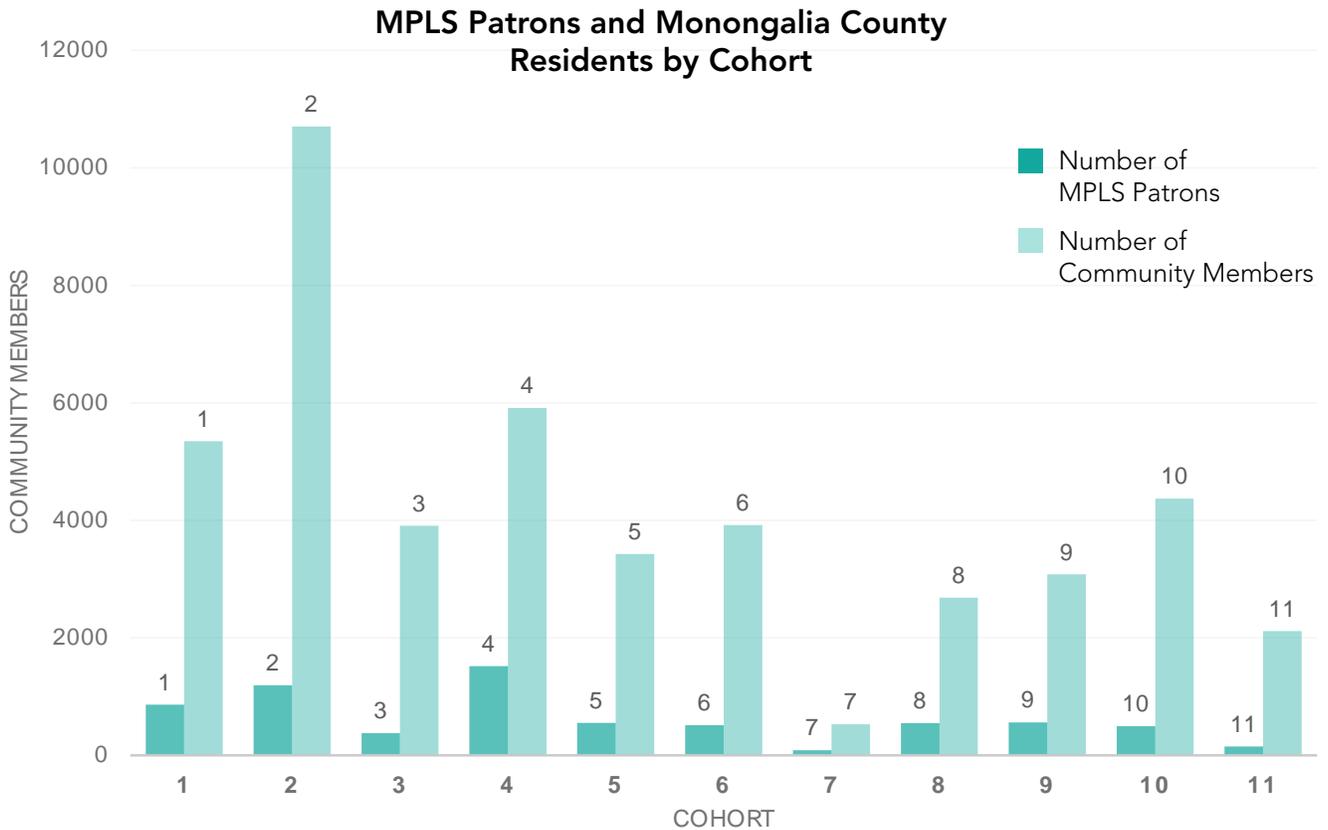
9 UPSCALE
SUBURBANITE
NEARING
RETIREMENT WITH A
SOCIAL LIFESTYLE

10 HOMEOWNERS
WHO ARE
BEGINNING
EMPTY NEST
YEARS



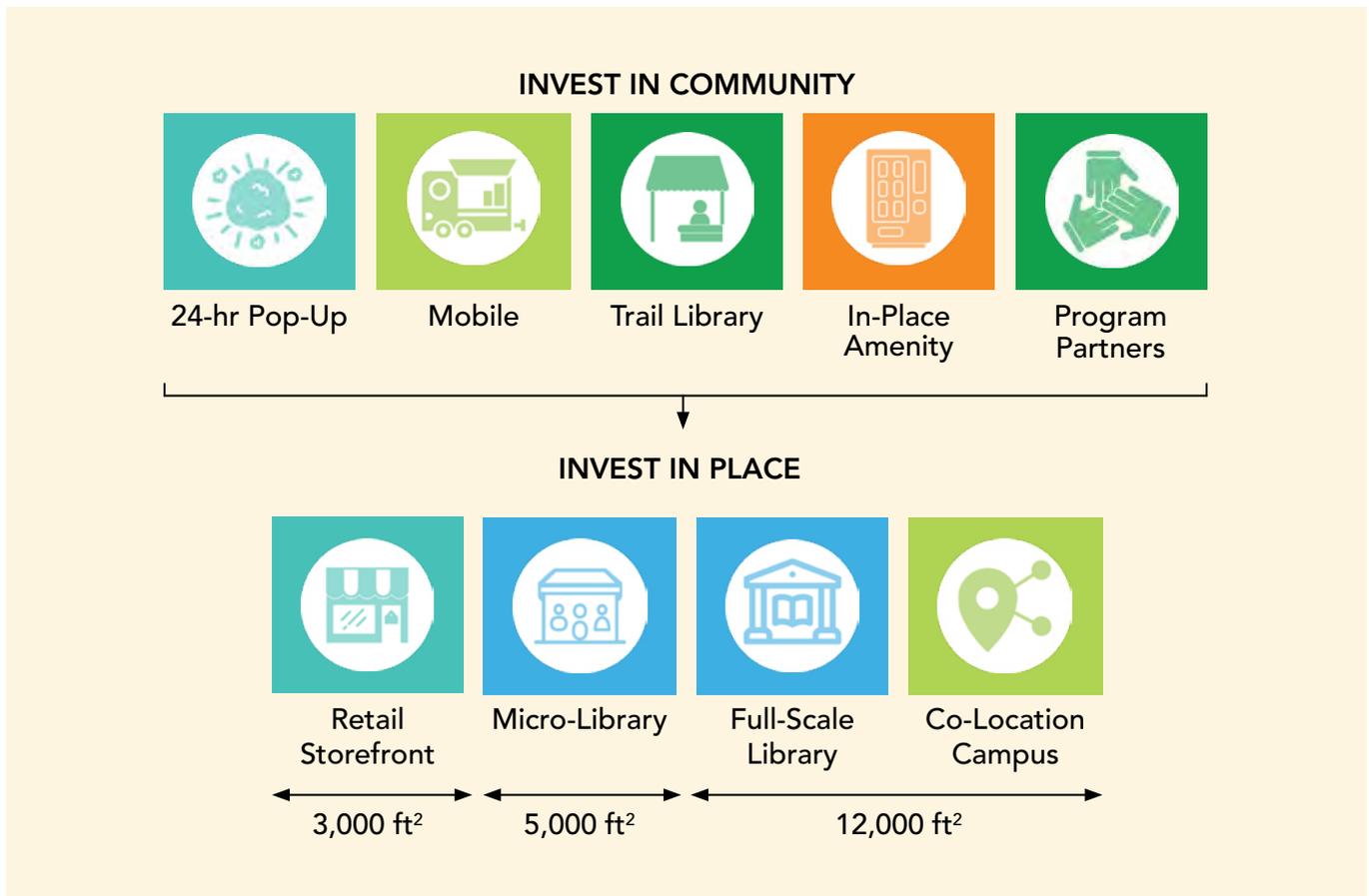
11 RURAL & SMALL
TOWN SINGLES

Growth Across Cohorts



Community Takes Root

Building strong library services requires cultivating community connections before establishing permanent facilities. In Monongalia County's Northwest and Southern regions, strategic community development is recommended to precede major infrastructure investment to ensure sustainable, responsive library presence. These two of the four regions require intensive community engagement and partnership building before facility investment. This boots-on-the-ground approach prioritizes understanding local needs, establishing trust, and creating collaborative relationships that will support long-term library success.



Investments to Yield the Highest Return

Library Typology	Full-Scale	Full-Scale	Full-Scale	Full-Scale	Micro-Library	Retail Storefront	Trail Library	Pop-Up	Mobile
									
Total SF	48,000 ft ²	36,000 ft ²	24,000 ft ²	12,000 ft ²	5,000 ft ²	3,000 ft ²	1,000 ft ²	500-700 ft ²	Varies
70% FOH	33,600 ft ²	25,200 ft ²	16,800 ft ²	8,400 ft ²	3,500 ft ²	2,500 ft ²	900 ft ²	700 ft ²	N/A
30% BOH	14,400 ft ²	10,800 ft ²	7,200 ft ²	3,600 ft ²	1,500 ft ²	500 ft ²	100 ft ²	50 ft ²	N/A
People (30 ft²/person)	1,120	840	560	280	117	84	30	17-24	N/A
Facilitation (1:30)	38	28	19	10	4	3	1	1	1
Open House Ideal	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Collection #	120,000	90,000	60,000	30,000	12,500	7,500	2,500	1,250-1,750	Varies
Tech #	Varies	Varies	Varies	Varies	Varies	Varies	Varies	Varies	Varies

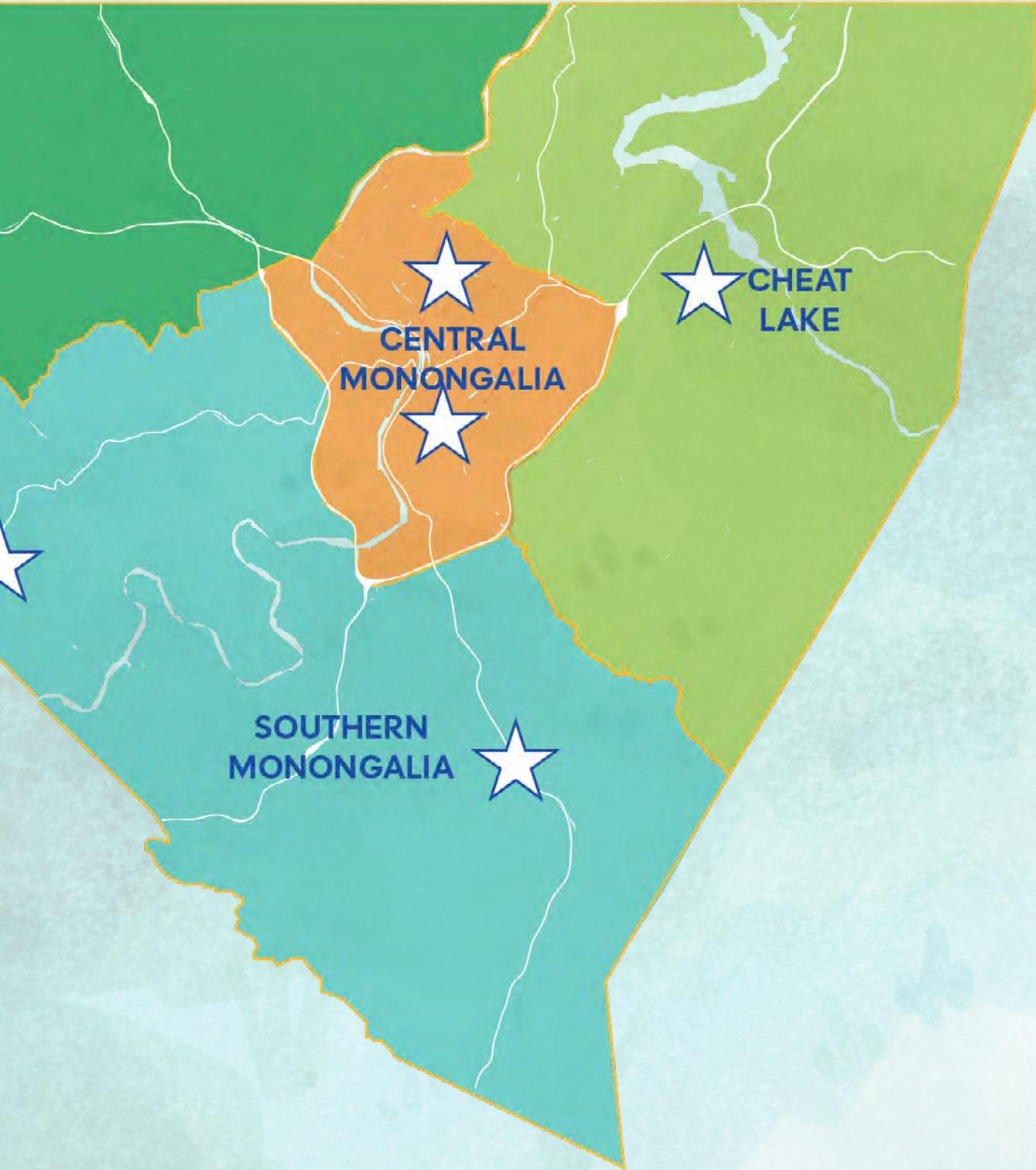
This plan calls for responsible investments customized to the needs of communities. Beyond the capital costs in building new or renovating existing facilities, the responsibility of a physical investment also requires the understanding that facilitation and tools and enablers (collections and technologies) are needed to ensure success. Facilitation of programming and operations can be provided by library staff and/or partner organizations. While it may appear that some investments would result in a higher number of people reached, that is not always the case. In some instances, multiple low-cost means of Distributing materials and services can result in a greater reach.



Rochester Public Library
Sprinter Van

REGIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS





Region 1 Central Monongalia

Each region summary identifies population, current library locations, and proposed programming and spaces based on cohort analysis. Using LibraryIQ cohort data, MSS developed targeted recommendations that best serve regional residents. Each region includes a future vision and transition plan.

Located at Monongalia County's heart, Region 1 encompasses the largest population and functions as the county hub. Comprised of

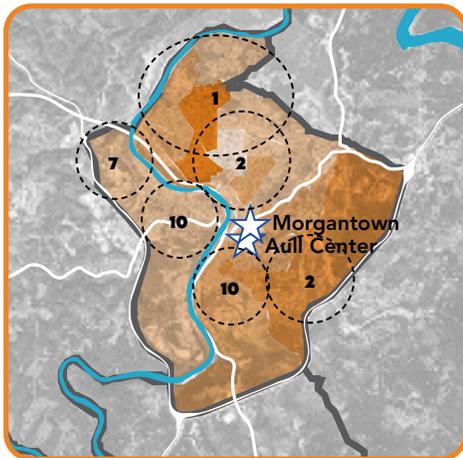
Morgantown and portions of other towns, this region houses major institutions including West Virginia University, Mon Health Medical Center, and JW Ruby Memorial Hospital.

We recommend MPLS decommission the Aull Center and investigate donating unique collections to local museums or universities.

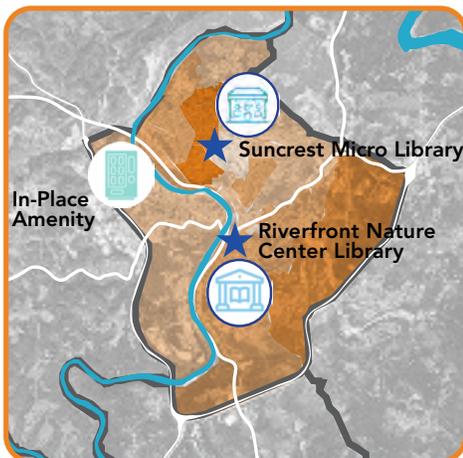
Next steps include working with a real estate agent for building assessment. In-place amenities would benefit University Town Centre and local hospitals, providing accessible services where people already gather. Trail library opportunities exist along the Mon River Trail, Deckers Creek, and other local trail systems. The following spreads detail our regional recommendations.



Existing



Future



County District	Central
Development	Municipal Center
Current Population	55,903 (2020 census)
Future Capacity	61,773 (10.5% growth by 2030)
Current Locations	Morgantown Main Aull Center

Proposed Priority Programs

Financial literacy, meet new people, expert speakers, film screenings, crafting, teaching kitchen, health and wellness, new immigrant resources, multi-lingual programming, children's programming

To Serve These Populations

Digital equity space, community garden, content creation lab, cultural celebration hub, various sized break-out rooms, culinary literacy kitchen

- Future Vision**
- Riverfront Nature Center Library
 - Suncrest Micro Library

- Transition Plan**
- Morgantown Main - Interior re-layout centering on children's programming and improved visibility & access to multipurpose room(s).
 - In-place Amenity: University Town Centre
 - Aull Center - sell and program



1

Educated professionals living an active lifestyle



2

Avid video streamers and social media users



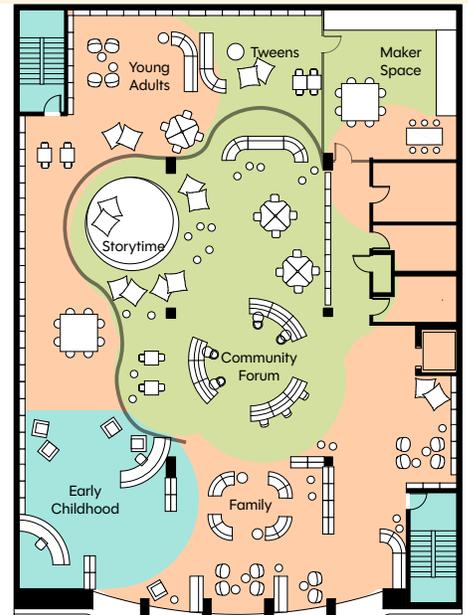
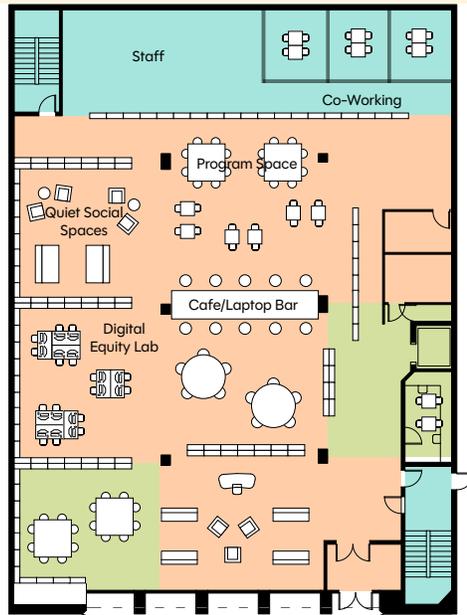
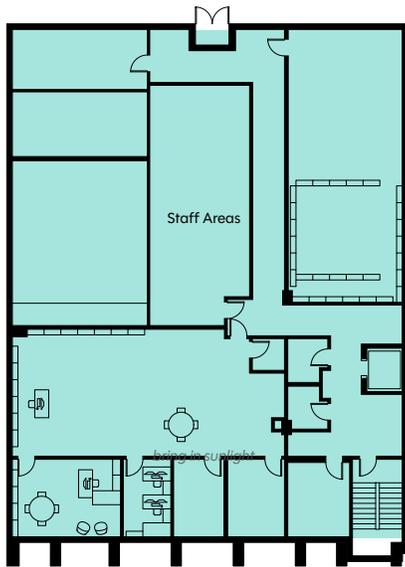
10

Homeowners who are beginning empty nest years



7

Ethnically diverse with multiple generations under one roof



Laptop Bar



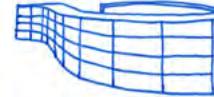
Storytime / Dress up Station



Tween and Teen Spaces



Collections



Maker Space



Reimagining Your Existing Building

The above floor plans and sketches identify an approach to reimagining Morgantown Public Library. As indicated by the findings of LibraryIQ, nearly one third of your collections are not circulating. This creates an opportunity to free up a lot of floor space and realign the floor plan to better provide programming and services to your community.

Ground Floor

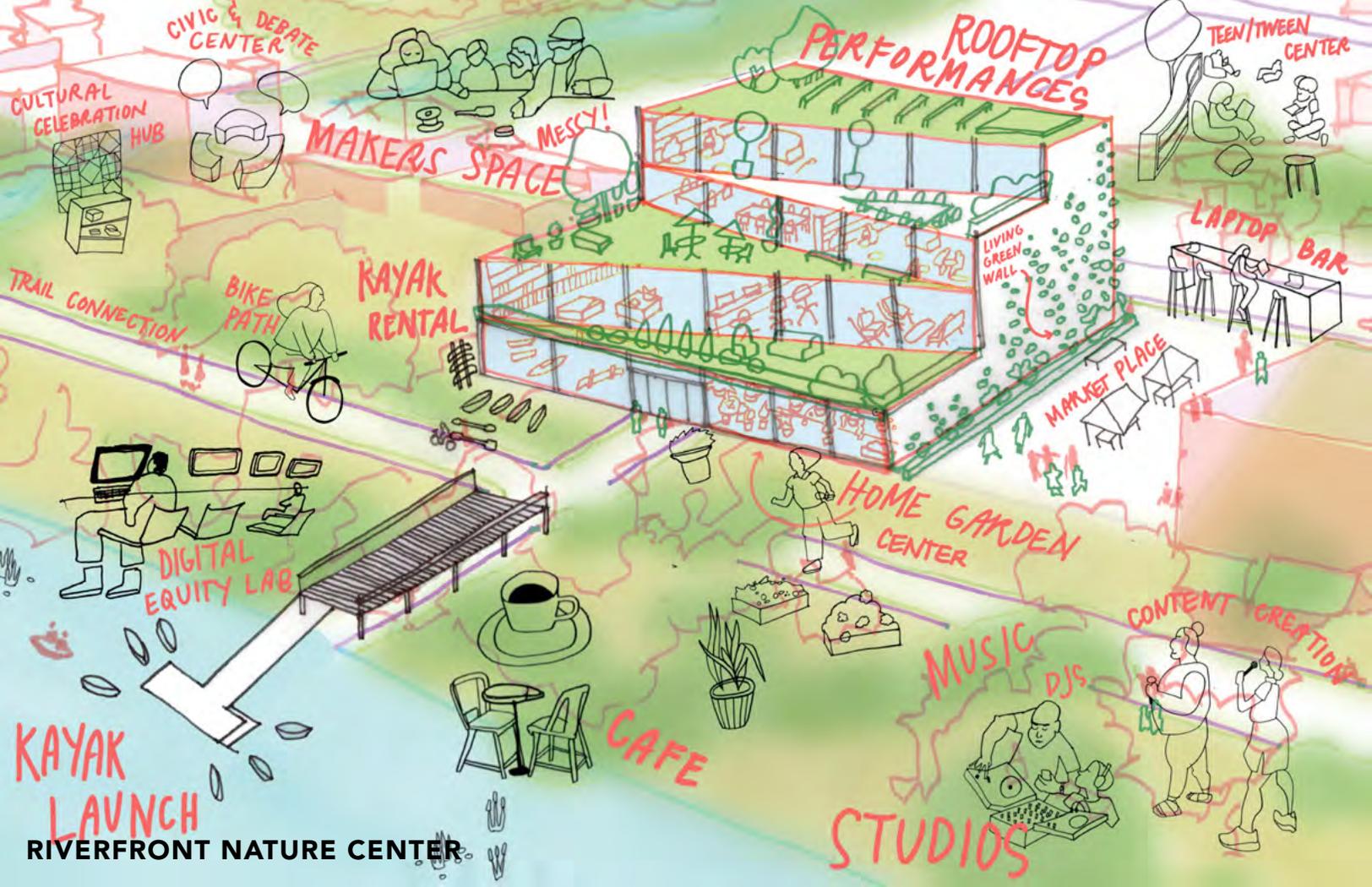
The ground floor is envisioned as a more open bookstore feel. The floor is zoned to accommodate different uses at different scales. Areas can be either isolated or expanded to enclose various programming or spatial needs. Some staff spaces would be included to the rear of the building to allow for greater interaction between staff and patrons. As most staff is currently located in the basement, this would be a significant change in your ability to provide services and engage with patrons. A series of smaller-scale meeting rooms would also be located toward the rear of the building.

Second Floor

The second floor is envisioned as a place for families and tweens/young adults to explore, create, and learn. There will be adequate separation of various age groups, with the ability to come together or expand separately for larger occupancy programs. The furniture should be flexible, allowing elements in the central area to be reconfigured to accommodate larger story times or unique programs.

Basement

The basement will continue to serve the building providing essential mechanical and utility infrastructure. The existing isolated multi-purpose room will be turned over to staff, providing more room for staff that are currently located in the Aull Center. In moving programming spaces to the ground and second floor, greater visibility into programs and offerings would expand the reach of MPLS' offerings. Creative opportunities to bring additional light into basement level staff areas should be explored.



Riverfront Nature Center

As a long-term vision for Region 1 (Central Monongalia), a riverfront nature center library would be a destination for the entire county. Approximately 30,000 ft² of library space will be co-located with a series of partners offering various programs and services. A nature center providing exhibits and learning opportunities would align perfectly with a library and could offer kayak rental and gardening spaces. This building could also house income generating tenants like an event venue that could be rented out for celebrations and events. The building should be designed in a way that allows for programming that can extend outdoors and expand onto different plazas, terraces, and rooftops creating flexible and adaptable spaces.

We recommend that MPLS start working with potential partners to further this idea. Some partners may include a local event venue developer, tourism organizations, educational institutions, and nature-oriented groups.

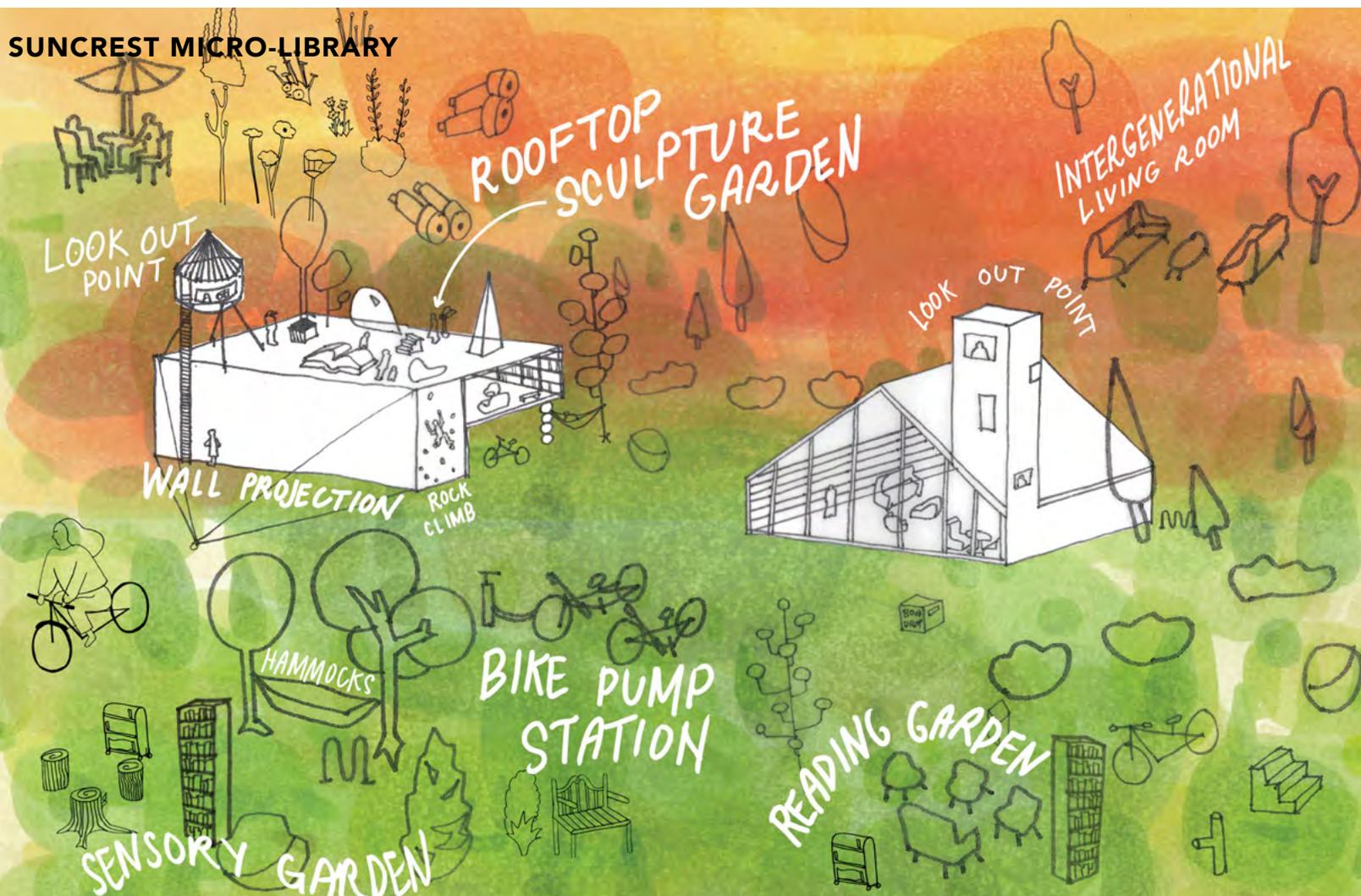


Suncrest Micro-Library

There are many families in the Suncrest neighborhood. A great addition to this neighborhood would be a Micro-Library of approx. 5,000 ft² to serve local families and provide ease of access to library facilities and services to an area that is physically disconnected from Morgantown Public Library. The sketches below show some alternatives of what a future Micro-Library in Suncrest could be. A potential feature could include a look-out point or a rooftop sculpture garden.

The new Micro-Library should be well positioned within the community for residents (especially older children) to be able to safely walk to. The Micro-Library should also function as a community gathering space, welcoming community organizations to meet.

We recommend that MPLS work towards the creation of a Suncrest Micro-Library in the near future. There are a few potential locations where some older schools have recently been demolished that are ingrained within existing established communities. Populations from Cohorts 1 (Educated Professionals Living an Active Lifestyle) and 2 (Avid Video Streamers and Social Media Users) are the majority in the Suncrest neighborhood. Notably, Cohort 1 typically tends to be library users and make up a proportional percentage of patrons to the population. This means people in this neighborhood are already library users. Cohort 2 has room to group their patronage. A library in the Suncrest neighborhood would meet existing library users and reach new library users.



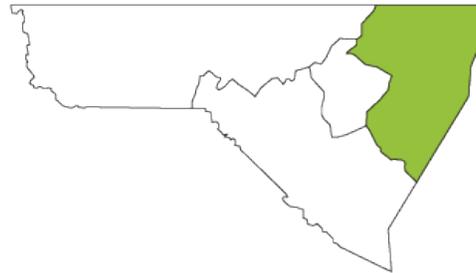
Region 2

Cheat Lake

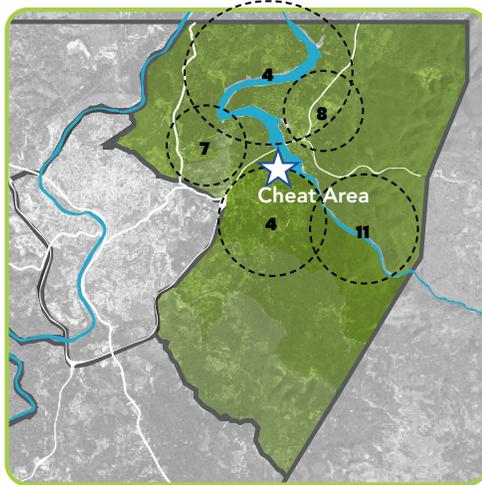
Cheat Lake has seen recent growth and is slated for continued growth in the Monongalia Comprehensive Plan.

Currently, many families utilize the Cheat Area Public Library and need more space to provide family programming and spaces for adults to work/study and learn either alongside their family or independently. The future vision for Region 2 (Cheat Lake) is to build a new library that is co-located with a recreation facility.

The library will be a full-service library at a minimum of 12,000 ft². Given the current need for more library space and the existing facility not meeting the guiding principles, we recommend that this effort be prioritized. In the immediate future, we recommend strengthening your partnerships and working to find a location for this co-located facility.



Existing



County District

Eastern

Development

Targeted Investment Areas (West Run, Stewartstown, Cheat Neck, Cheat Lake, Brook Haven)

Current Population Future Capacity

25,061 (2020 census)
27,692 (10.5% growth by 2030)

Current Locations

Cheat Area Public Library

Proposed Priority Programs

Family oriented programming, family book club, life-skills programs, intergenerational activities, community gardening, teaching kitchen, active/recreational programming, tech literacy courses/ 1-on-1 tech help



Well-compensated professionals with child-centered



Executives with means to pursue a variety of interests

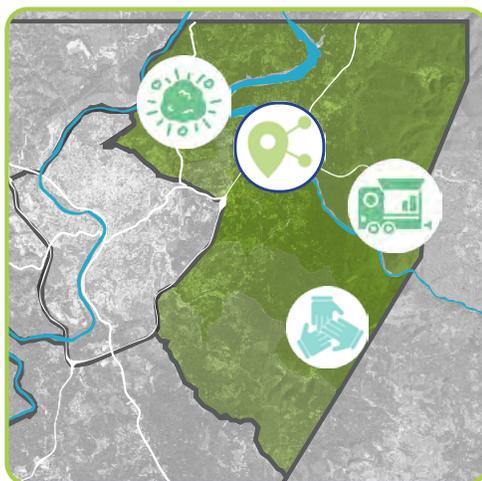


Rural Single Seniors



Ethnically diverse with multiple generations under one roof

Future



To Serve These Populations

Land stewardship lab, reading garden, immersive story telling lab, family messy maker space, break-out rooms, homeschool/homework area, culinary literacy kitchen

Future Vision

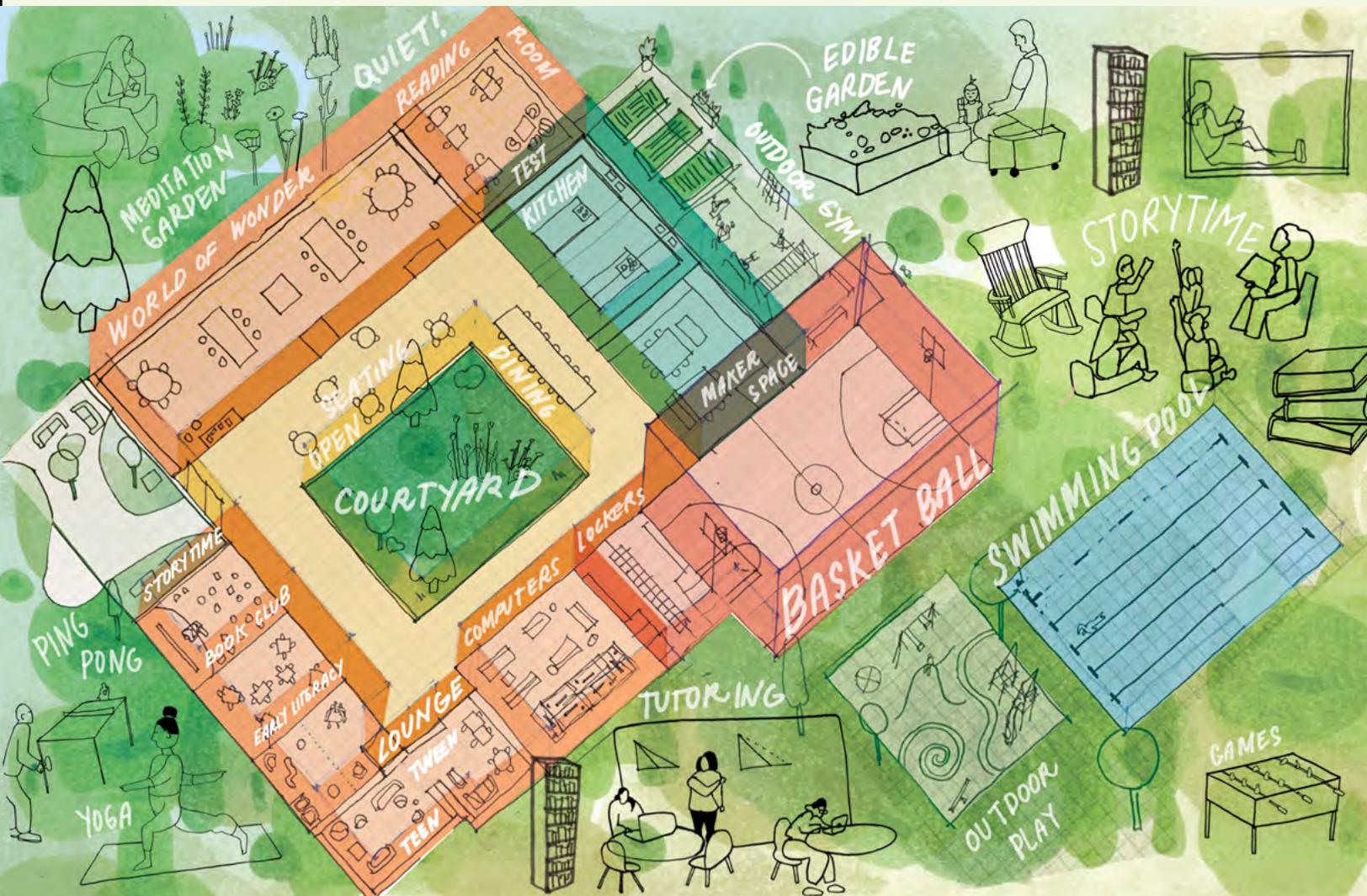
- 12,000 ft² library co-located with Parks & Recreation (location TBD: mixed use development adjacent to new development)

Transition Plan

- Strengthen partnerships: WV Botanical Gardens
- Mobile
- Pop-up



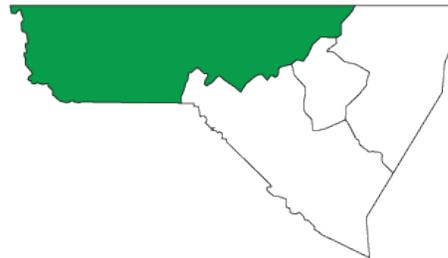
CHEAT LAKE LIBRARY/ RECREATION CENTER



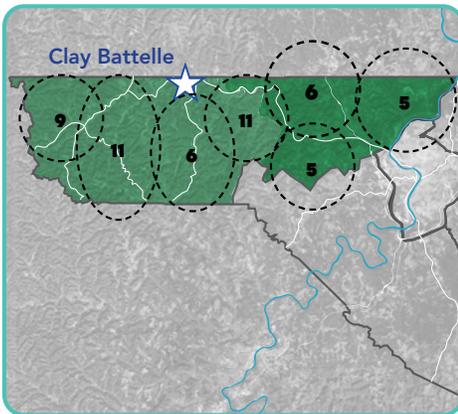
Region 3 Northwest Monongalia

Northwest Monongalia is the least densely populated of the regions and is comprised of rolling hills/mountains. Blacksville, WV which is a local hub in a rural area providing services for residents in need. In the existing Clay-Battelle location, we recommend that MPLS collaborate with the County on a joint facility featuring a 5,000 ft² Micro-Library in addition to a food pantry.

We recommend some level of library intervention at Mylan Park as it is a community and recreation hub. Should the preliminary intervention prove successful, we recommend creating a 5,000 ft² Micro-Library at Mylan Park.



Existing



County District

Western

Development

Targeted Investment Area (Blacksville)
Grow, Serve, Preserve, Historic Rural Communities

Current Population Future Capacity

8,934 (2020 census)
9,872 (10.5% growth by 2030)

Current Locations

Clay-Battelle Public Library

Proposed Priority Programs

Upcycling workshops, financial literacy, nutrition, family programming, geocaching, hot spot devices to borrow, adolescent health, social services, early literacy



Homeowners in managerial and professional roles with child-centered active lifestyles



High school graduates raising families in small-town settings

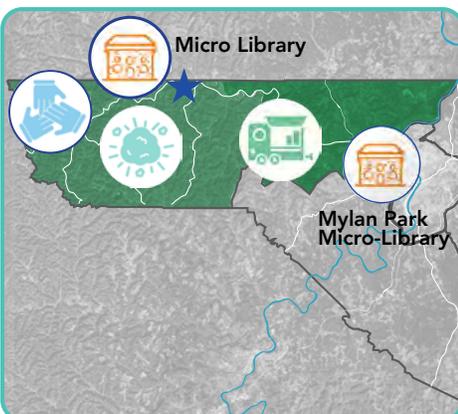


Upscale suburbanite nearing retirement with a social lifestyle



Rural & Small Town Singles

Future



To Serve These Populations

Homework area, tech free zone, co-working space, messy maker space, community meeting rooms

Future Vision

- Mylan Park Micro-Library
- New Micro-Library in partnership with County (Food Pantry partner)
- Mobile services
- Partner/Pop-Up at schools - Clay-Battelle High School and Mason Dixon Elementary School

Transition Plan

CLAY-BATTELLE
MICROLIBRARY
FOOD PANTRY

COURSES IN
FINANCIAL LITERACY

COMMUNITY
FRIDGE

FRESH PRODUCE

UPCYCLING
WORKSHOPS

SKYLIGHTS

SOCIAL SERVICES

FOOD PANTRY

MEETING ROOMS

HEALTH & NUTRITION
CLASSES

MYLAN PARK
MICROLIBRARY

INTERGENERATIONAL
STORY TIME

STEPPING STONES

FAIR
GROUNDS

BASEBALL
RECREATION
CENTER

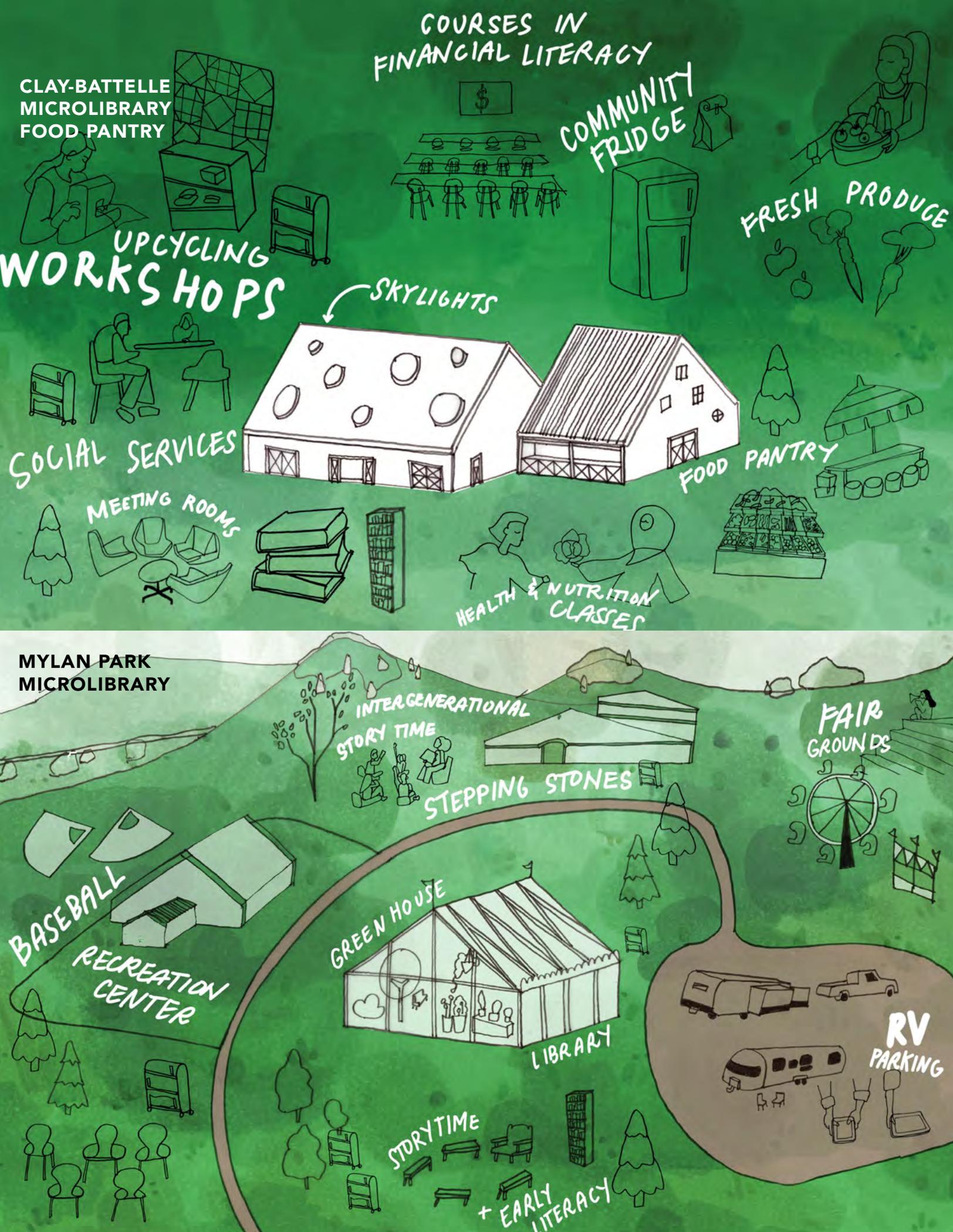
GREEN HOUSE

LIBRARY

RV
PARKING

STORYTIME

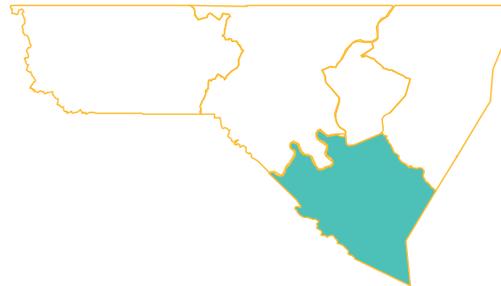
+ EARLY
LITERACY



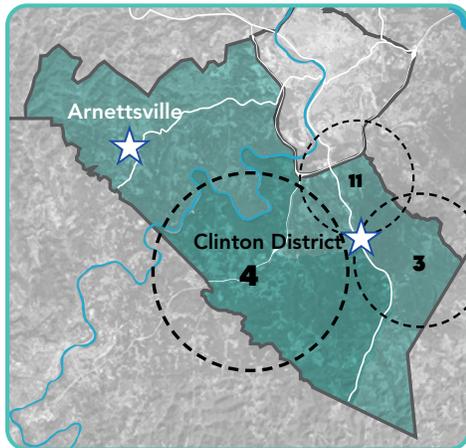
Region 4 Southern Monongalia

We recommend that MPLS decommission the Arnettsville Public Library and sell it to the community center as soon as possible. In Region 4 (Southern Monongalia), the recommended approach to facilities would be to first build your community through implementing a series of typologies throughout the region before investing in capital projects. Once the community has taken root, we recommend renting out a retail space for a Storefront library in a popular shopping location and/or the design of a welcome center

micro-library (5,000 ft²) that would be a fun and welcoming destination with food and beverage offerings and fun family programming.



Existing



County District

Western

Development

Grow, Preserve, Serve
Historic Rural Communities

Current Population
Future Capacity

13,082 (2020 census)
14,456 (10.5% growth by 2030)

Current Locations

Clinton District Public Library
Arnettsville Public Library

Proposed Priority Programs

Children's programming, financial literacy, workforce development, gardening, travel workshops/ classes, college & career prep/ counseling, resume writing workshop, foreign language learning



Service or part-time workers likely to live near single people



Well-compensated professionals with child-centered



Homeowners who are beginning empty nest years

Future



To Serve These Populations

Messy maker space, outdoor market/ plaza, early literacy space, teen/ tween center, social service center, community garden

Future Vision

- Micro Library/Welcome Center
- Storefront in Walmart/ Shopper's World Plaza

Transition Plan

- Decommission Arnettsville, sell to community center
- Close Clinton District Library
- Mobile
- In-Place Amenity

CLINTON WELCOME CENTER

DRIVE IN

DOCUMENTARIES

WIFI ACCESS 4 ALL

FOREIGN LANGUAGE LEARNING

BIERGARTEN MICRO BREWERY

SWING

HOT SPOT RENTAL

COMMUNITY GARDEN

PORCH

WRITING LABS

GAME HUB

LEGO ROOM

COLLEGE PREP

CAREER COUNSELING

ROCKING CHAIRS

BOOK STORE CAFE

STORY TIME

STORY LINES

Library Co-Op 1ST in W.V.

Storytelling Central

RX PHARMACY

AUTHOR DRESS UP

CLOTHING SWAP

LOCAL CRAFTS MARKETS

BARTER STATIONS

CORN HOLE





The background of the page is a watercolor-style wash of various shades of green, from light and airy to dark and saturated. The colors are blended together, creating a textured, organic feel. The text 'NEXT STEPS' is centered in a bold, white, sans-serif font.

NEXT STEPS

Next Steps



Decision Making Framework

The plan's methodology—from its robust engagement process to its guiding principles, locally-relevant data inputs, and best practice applications—establishes a process and provides decision-making frameworks for MPLS and its communities to continue collaborating as they advance and evolve the plan over time. The overall framework includes mechanisms for prioritizing decisions for collective impact, sustaining engagement with community partners, maintaining a community-centric focus, and leveraging the Library's trusted relationships with residents and stakeholders. With an inherent community feedback structure, the plan ensures the process, research, engagement, and alignment is continually self-generated, providing an ongoing framework for investment and growth over the next 20 years.

Measuring Success, Capturing Feedback

This master facilities plan incorporates contemporary social impact assessment tools, positioning MPLS to apply a sophisticated approach to evaluating facility transformations. The assessment approach emphasizes the Library's ability to foster community connections and generate sustained dialogue with leaders, partners, and residents to achieve conditions that activate economic opportunity and inclusive development: cohesiveness, economic connectedness, and civic engagement.

Implementation Framework

Every six months, MPLS, in strategic collaboration with Monongalia County and the City of Morgantown, will engage community members and partner organizations to evaluate community needs and opportunities. The cohort-based analysis and regional approach will continue supporting implementation by assessing countywide goals that align with demographic growth and community development patterns.

Next Steps

1. Develop an implementation and prioritization strategy based on current and future funding opportunities, MPLS capacity, and community needs.
2. At least bi-annually, review and set goals to identify facilities projects and local funding sources.
3. Further develop success metrics as a County, City, and Library team.
4. Continue to develop community partner structures for facilities development and programming.
5. MPLS leadership, in partnership with County and City officials, evolve facility approaches in response to ongoing community development learnings, development opportunities, and funding sources.

APPENDIX