



The City of Morgantown invites applications for
Airport Director

Morgantown Municipal Airport (MGW)
Morgantown, West Virginia

EXECUTIVE SEARCH SERVICES PROVIDED BY ADK CONSULTING & EXECUTIVE SEARCH



The Airport

Morgantown Municipal Airport (MGW), also known as Walter L. Bill Hart Field, serves as an important aviation gateway for North Central West Virginia. Located approximately three miles east of downtown Morgantown, the airport provides convenient and efficient air transportation for residents, businesses, students, and visitors traveling throughout the region and beyond.

Owned and operated by the City of Morgantown, MGW supports a diverse range of aviation activity, including scheduled commercial service, corporate aviation, medical transport, flight training, and general aviation operations, as well as a city-owned and operated fixed base operator (FBO) providing fuel, hangar, and aircraft services. The airport plays a vital role in supporting regional mobility and economic development while providing reliable air access for the surrounding communities of North Central West Virginia.

Commercial Air Service and Connectivity

Morgantown Municipal Airport offers scheduled commercial passenger service through United Express, operated by SkyWest Airlines. The airport currently provides daily flights to two major United Airlines hub airports—Washington Dulles International Airport and Chicago O'Hare International Airport.

As a federally supported Essential Air Service (EAS) airport, MGW plays a critical role in maintaining reliable commercial connectivity for the region.

These hub connections provide travelers with convenient access to United Airlines' extensive global network, allowing passengers to reach destinations throughout the United States and internationally with a single connection. Reliable hub service is especially valuable for the region's universities, healthcare systems, research institutions, and corporate partners that depend on efficient national and international travel.

Passenger Experience

MGW provides the convenience and accessibility often associated with community airports while maintaining the safety and operational standards expected of a commercial aviation facility. Travelers benefit from shorter security lines, easy terminal access, and a streamlined travel experience compared with larger metropolitan airports.



The Airport *(continued)*

Passenger amenities include:

- Free parking located close to the terminal
- Complimentary wireless internet throughout the terminal
- On-site rental car services
- Comfortable passenger waiting areas and meeting space
- Access to light snacks and beverages

These features allow passengers to move easily from curbside to gate while enjoying a simple and efficient airport experience.

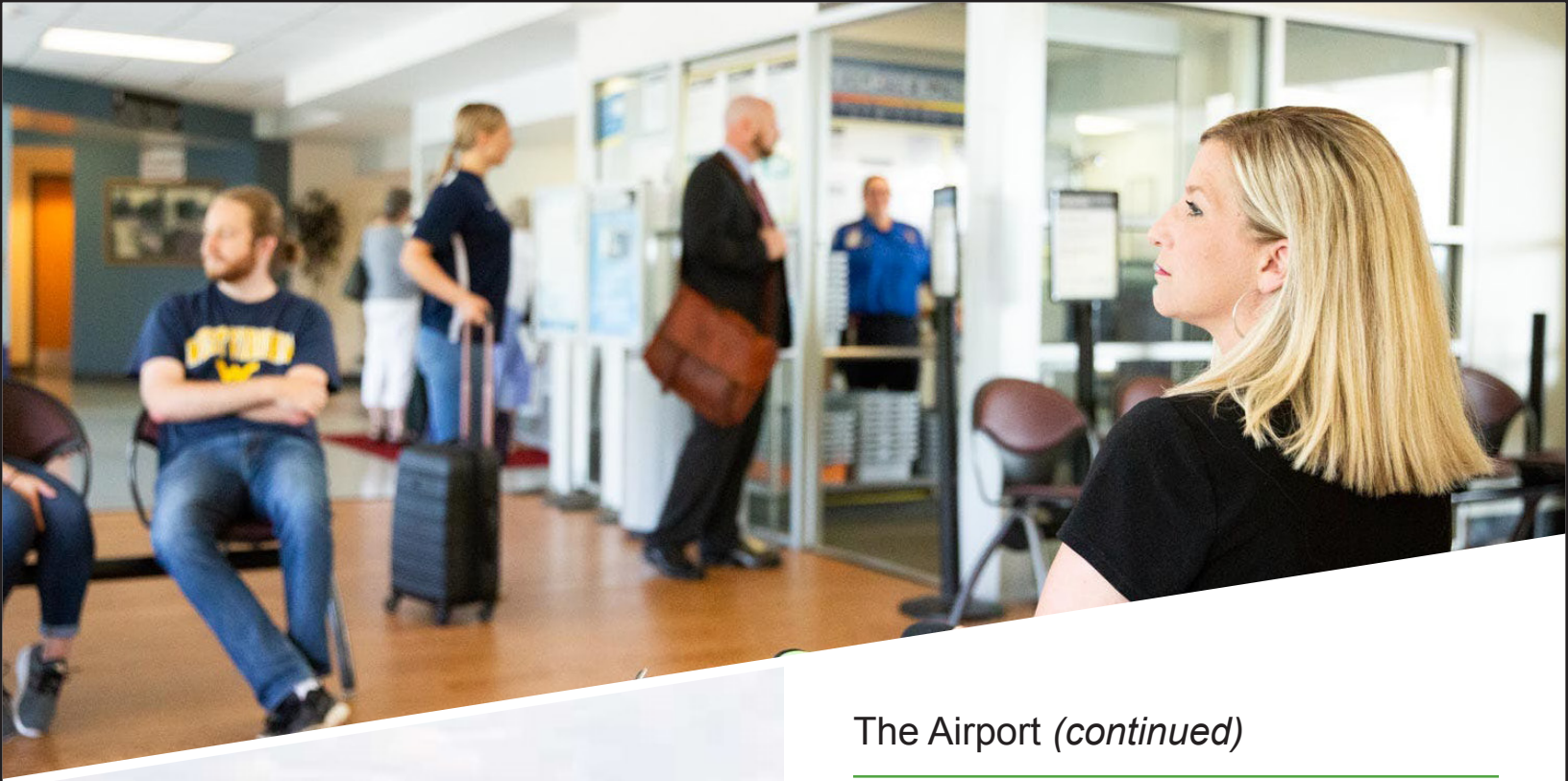
General Aviation and Business Aviation

In addition to commercial airline service, Morgantown Municipal Airport supports an active general aviation community. Corporate aircraft, private aviation, flight training operations, and aviation service providers operate at the airport, supporting a wide range of regional business and aviation activities.

The airport includes T-hangars and aircraft storage facilities, as well as a city-operated FBO supporting fueling and tenant services. MGW also supports Civil Air Patrol operations, reinforcing its role in community service and emergency response.

MGW also serves as an important transportation resource for organizations across the region, including higher education institutions, healthcare providers, research organizations, and local industries. Reliable aviation access allows these institutions to maintain strong national and global connections while supporting business development and economic growth throughout North Central West Virginia.





The Airport (*continued*)

Infrastructure Investment and Future Growth

The City of Morgantown is currently investing in significant infrastructure improvements designed to strengthen the airport's operational capabilities and support future growth. A major runway extension project will extend the airport's primary runway by approximately 1,001 feet, increasing the total runway length to approximately 6,200 feet.

To date, the project has secured approximately \$37 million in federal funding, with additional funding anticipated to complete the full program, which is expected to exceed \$90 million in total investment. This project will enhance aircraft performance and operational safety while allowing the airport to accommodate a broader range of aircraft types. The runway extension represents a strategic investment in the region's transportation infrastructure and positions Morgantown Municipal Airport for expanded aviation opportunities and improved regional connectivity.

In addition, the airport is evaluating future terminal upgrades, parking expansion, and broader modernization efforts to support continued growth.

With its convenient location, reliable airline service, and ongoing infrastructure investments, Morgantown Municipal Airport continues to serve as a key transportation asset for North Central West Virginia, connecting the region to national and international destinations while supporting economic development and community growth.



The Community

Nestled among the rolling hills of North Central West Virginia, Morgantown offers a compelling blend of natural beauty, academic energy, and Appalachian character. As the home of West Virginia University (WVU) and the largest city in Monongalia County, Morgantown serves as a regional hub for education, healthcare, research, and innovation. With a welcoming atmosphere, strong economic anchors, and abundant recreational opportunities, the community provides an exceptional quality of life for professionals and families alike.

A University City with Global Reach

Morgantown is anchored by West Virginia University, the state's flagship land-grant institution and a major driver of economic vitality and cultural life. With more than 30,000 students from all 50 states and over 100 countries, WVU brings global perspective and energy to the region. The university is recognized for programs in engineering, medicine, energy, business, and public administration, as well as its commitment to research and innovation.

The presence of WVU creates a vibrant environment filled with lectures, performances, athletics, and cultural events year-round. Mountaineer football and basketball are a central source of community pride, drawing residents and visitors together for spirited game-day experiences.

Beyond academics and athletics, WVU contributes significantly to the region's research and healthcare sectors. The WVU Rockefeller Neuroscience Institute, WVU Medicine, and the WVU Health Sciences Center attract top-tier professionals and investment, reinforcing Morgantown's role as a center for advanced healthcare and innovation.

A Diverse and Growing Economy

While WVU is a cornerstone of the local economy, Morgantown has developed a diverse economic base. Key sectors include healthcare, technology, education, energy, and advanced research. The nearby National Energy Technology Laboratory (NETL), a U.S. Department of Energy facility, strengthens the region's leadership in energy research and technological development.

Healthcare remains a major employer and economic driver. WVU Medicine operates a leading academic medical center, providing advanced clinical services while serving as a teaching and research institution. Vandalia Health also plays an important role in delivering healthcare services and supporting regional employment.





photo courtesy of Sparks Media Agency



The Community *(continued)*

Morgantown’s strategic location—approximately 75 miles south of Pittsburgh—offers convenient access to a larger metropolitan economy while maintaining the affordability and charm of a smaller community. Residents benefit from regional connectivity, airport access, and cultural amenities while enjoying a lower cost of living and a more relaxed pace of life.

Exceptional Outdoor Recreation

Morgantown’s connection to nature is one of its defining features. Surrounded by the Appalachian Mountains and lush forests, the area offers year-round opportunities for outdoor recreation, including hiking, cycling, fishing, kayaking, and camping—often just minutes from downtown.

A centerpiece of the community’s outdoor lifestyle is the Mon River Rail-Trail System, a network of scenic trails stretching more than 40 miles along the Monongahela River. Popular with cyclists, runners, and walkers, the trails provide scenic views and convenient access to parks, neighborhoods, and local amenities.

Nearby Coopers Rock State Forest is one of the region’s most celebrated natural destinations, offering hiking, rock climbing, cross-country skiing, and wildlife viewing. Its iconic overlook provides sweeping views of the Cheat River Canyon and remains a favorite for residents and visitors. Cheat Lake also offers boating, fishing, and waterfront recreation in a relaxed setting ideal for weekend activities.

The Community *(continued)*

Arts, Culture, and Community Life

Despite its size, Morgantown offers a lively arts and cultural scene. The Ruby Amphitheater hosts concerts and community events along the riverfront, while the historic downtown district features locally owned restaurants, breweries, boutiques, and galleries. Cultural venues such as the Creative Arts Center at WVU and the Metropolitan Theatre provide year-round programming, including concerts, theater productions, and performances by nationally recognized artists. The community hosts numerous festivals and events throughout the year, including the International Street Festival, Morgantown Art Walk, and seasonal farmers' markets. These gatherings celebrate local culture, food, and creativity while reinforcing the city's strong sense of community.

Livability and Quality of Life

Morgantown consistently ranks among the most livable small cities in the United States, supported by strong educational resources, high-quality healthcare, and access to outdoor recreation. The community offers a wide range of housing options, from historic neighborhoods near downtown to suburban developments and scenic rural properties.

Families benefit from quality public and private schools, as well as access to WVU's educational and cultural resources. Parks, recreational facilities, and community programs further support an active, family-friendly lifestyle.

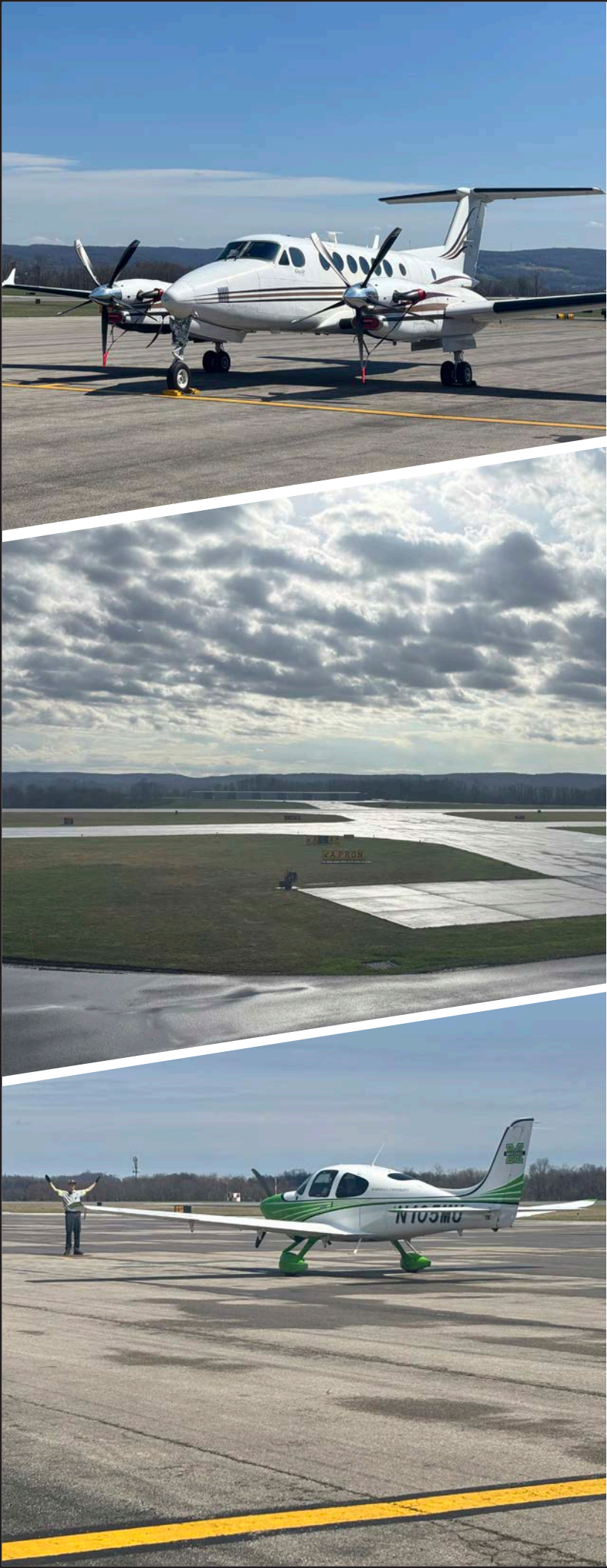
Residents often highlight Morgantown's sense of community as one of its greatest strengths. The city combines the energy of a university town with the accessibility of a close-knit community, where local businesses thrive and civic engagement remains strong.

A Community Positioned for the Future

Morgantown continues to grow with a focus on thoughtful development that preserves its natural setting while expanding economic opportunity. Ongoing investments in infrastructure, research, healthcare, and education are positioning the city for long-term success.

For professionals considering relocation, Morgantown offers a balanced combination of career opportunity, cultural vitality, and outdoor lifestyle—making it an attractive place to live, work, and build a future.





Position Overview

The Airport Director serves as the senior leader responsible for the management, operation, and long-term development of the Morgantown Municipal Airport. Reporting to the City Manager, this position directs all airport operations and ensures the facility functions safely, efficiently, and in full compliance with federal and state aviation regulations.

The Director is responsible for oversight of all aspects of the airport's administration, including financial management, regulatory compliance, infrastructure development, and community relations.

About the Role

The Airport Director leads both the operational and strategic functions of the airport, balancing day-to-day oversight with long-range planning to support the airport's continued development and regulatory compliance. The role oversees operational programs, maintenance activities, emergency preparedness, and administrative functions while ensuring adherence to Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and Transportation Security Administration (TSA) requirements.

The role includes oversight of the city-owned FBO operations and administration of FAA and other grant programs supporting airport capital improvements.

Working closely with the City Manager and City Council, the Director guides financial planning, including annual operating budgets and a multi-year capital improvement program. The position maintains regular engagement with staff, airlines, tenants, contractors, and government agencies to support airport growth, regulatory compliance, and operational excellence.

The Director also oversees revenue-generating activities, including fuel pricing, lease management, and tenant relations.

In addition, the Director represents the airport in regional aviation matters and coordinates closely with law enforcement, emergency services, and regulatory partners to maintain a safe and secure operating environment.



Key Responsibilities

- Lead the 24-hour operation of the airport to ensure safe, secure, and efficient airfield and facility performance
- Ensure compliance with FAA, TSA, and applicable federal, state, and local aviation regulations, including Part 139 requirements
- Direct airport operational, maintenance, and administrative programs, including FBO operations
- Ensure daily operations meet operating budget
- Develop and manage the airport's annual operating budget and multi-year capital improvement program
- Administer FAA and other grant funding for airport rehabilitation and capital improvement projects
- Oversee airport planning initiatives, including development and implementation of the Airport Master Plan
- Manage relationships with airlines, tenants, contractors, and government agencies
- Ensure the airport and its facilities present a strong and positive first impression
- Supervise key staff and guide organizational performance, professional development, and operational accountability while fostering a positive and engaged work environment and maintaining a visible presence with staff across operations

Leadership Qualities and Style

The successful candidate is a collaborative and operationally focused leader who brings sound judgment, strong communication skills, and the ability to manage complex aviation environments. This individual demonstrates a proactive approach to regulatory compliance, safety management, and operational planning while fostering a culture of teamwork and accountability.

The Airport Director is expected to be a visible and engaged leader who actively connects with staff across all levels of the organization, supports daily operations, and leads by example. This includes maintaining a hands-on presence in airport activities, building strong relationships with employees, and fostering a positive and inclusive work environment.

The Airport Director must be comfortable working with public officials, regulatory agencies, and community stakeholders, representing the airport with professionalism and credibility. A practical problem-solver with strong organizational skills, the ideal leader can balance strategic planning with hands-on operational leadership in a dynamic airport environment.





Preferred Qualifications

- Bachelor's degree in aviation management, transportation, business administration, or a related field required; master's degree and relevant industry certifications or accreditations preferred
- Minimum of six years of airport operations or administration experience, including leadership or supervisory responsibility
- Experience working at a Part 139 commercial service airport preferred
- Demonstrated knowledge of Federal Aviation Regulations and airport regulatory compliance
- Experience overseeing airport infrastructure projects or construction programs in a regulated environment
- Experience at an Essential Air Service (EAS) airport and/or managing an FBO is desirable
- Accreditation from the American Association of Airport Executives (AAAE) or a pilot license is desirable

For the full job description, [click here](#).

Salary and Benefits

The starting salary for this position is \$100,000-\$125,000 annually, with placement dependent on qualifications and experience.

How To Apply

To apply online, [click here](#).

Deadline for applications: May 24, 2026

The contact for this search is:

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The City of Morgantown is an equal-opportunity employer. We support diversity and are committed to creating an inclusive environment for employees.

