

Local information

Huntington serves as the medical center for much of the central Ohio River Valley, with a regional population base of more than a quarter million people. Its progressive medical community has allowed the city to stay abreast of advances in health care, with provisions for tertiary care in a number of medical specialties as well as state of the art services such as magnetic resonance imaging.

Established in 1871 by railroad magnate Collis P. Huntington as the western terminus of his Chesapeake and Ohio Railway, the city of Huntington now has a metro population of over a quarter of a million people. Huntington has a progressive, growing economy and yet offers students many advantages more closely associated with small towns: low crime rates, relaxed lifestyle and friendly people. The city abounds in a variety of leisure activities, which are available at little or no cost, and its beautiful neighborhoods offer lovely homes with short commutes to campus.

Huntington is a hub for transportation and industrial activities and has become a center for service industries and health care. In addition to being a rail center, it is the busiest port on the Ohio River. An airport and interstate highway provides access to major cities. Manufacturing activities in the region include nickel alloys, steel, railroad cars, glass, petroleum refining, chemicals and textiles.

Ritter Park and Harris Riverfront Park have outstanding recreational amenities. The Ritter Park jogging trail is a "town square" for many residents. Golf, tennis, swimming and basketball facilities are available as are bicycle paths and hiking trails. The Huntington Museum of Art, West Virginia's largest art museum and the Huntington Chamber Orchestra present many cultural opportunities throughout the year. More than two hundred churches and civic organizations offer a variety of opportunities for personal growth and fulfillment.

The 38,000-seat football stadium at Marshall is the scene of "Thundering Herd" football, a Saturday ritual for Huntingtonians. The basketball games at Henderson Center are exciting winter activities. The Huntington Civic Center features a versatile program of entertainers and special events throughout the year.

For the outdoors person, East Lynn Lake, Lake Vesuvius and Carter Caves are nearby attractions. In addition to lakes in the tri-state region, the Ohio River is popular for pleasure boating.

A few hours away are the highlands of West Virginia with snow skiing in the winter and white water rafting, hiking and camping in the warmer months. Many national and state forests are nearby. In addition, the major league professional sports teams in Cincinnati and Pittsburgh are within driving distance, and the Kentucky bluegrass region is about a two-hour drive on Interstate 64.

Residents at Marshall enjoy a wide range of campus activities, such as athletic events, Marshall Artist Series programs, convocations, forums, and University Theater productions. On campus, the Birke Art Gallery offers exhibitions of work by students as well as regional and nationally known artists. A Fine and Performing Arts Center provides a variety of cultural events.

The Marshall Artist Series presents nationally and internationally renowned performing artists in the field of music, dance and drama. Films, lectures and prominent speakers round out the annual schedule. A student group, Campus Entertainment Inc., offers a variety of recent and classic movies, artists, lectures and special events.

Residents, with a facilities I.D. card, may use Marshall's athletic and recreational facilities that include swimming pools, racquetball and tennis.