

= Youngstown , Ohio =

Youngstown is a city in the U.S. state of Ohio and the county seat of Mahoning County . It also extends into Trumbull County . The municipality is on the Mahoning River , approximately 65 miles (105 km) southeast of Cleveland and 61 miles (100 km) northwest of Pittsburgh , Pennsylvania . Youngstown has its own metropolitan area , but is often included in commercial and cultural depictions of the Pittsburgh Tri @-@ State area and Greater Cleveland . Youngstown lies 10 miles (16 km) west of the Pennsylvania state line , midway between New York City and Chicago via Interstate 80 .

The city was named for John Young , an early settler from Whitestown , New York , who established the community 's first sawmill and gristmill . Youngstown is in a region of the United States that is often referred to as the Rust Belt . Traditionally known as a center of steel production , Youngstown was forced to redefine itself when the U.S. steel industry fell into decline in the 1970s , leaving communities throughout the region without major industry . Youngstown also falls within the Appalachian Ohio region , among the foothills of the Appalachian Mountains . The 2010 census showed that Youngstown had a total population of 66 @,@ 982 , making it Ohio 's ninth largest city . The city has experienced a decline of over 60 % of its population since 1959 .

According to the 2010 Census , the Youngstown @-@ Warren @-@ Boardman , OH @-@ PA Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) contains 565 @,@ 773 people and includes Mahoning and Trumbull counties in Ohio , and Mercer County in Pennsylvania . The Steel Valley area as a whole has 763 @,@ 207 residents .

= = History = =

= = = Early years = = =

Youngstown was named for New York native John Young , who surveyed the area in 1796 and settled there soon after . On February 9 , 1797 , Young purchased the township of 15 @,@ 560 acres (6 @,@ 300 ha) from the Western Reserve Land Company for \$ 16 @,@ 085 . The 1797 establishment of Youngstown was officially recorded on August 19 , 1802 .

The area constituting present @-@ day Youngstown was part of the Connecticut Western Reserve , a section of the Northwest Territory reserved for settlers from the state of Connecticut . While many of the area 's early settlers came from Connecticut , Youngstown attracted a significant number of Scots @-@ Irish settlers from neighboring Pennsylvania . The first European Americans to settle permanently in the area were Pittsburgh native James Hillman and wife Catherine Dougherty . By 1798 , Youngstown was the home of several families who were concentrated near the point where Mill Creek meets the Mahoning River . Boardman Township was founded in 1798 by Elijah Boardman who was a member of the Connecticut Land Company . Also founded in 1798 was Austintown by John McCollum who was a settler from New Jersey .

As the Western Reserve 's population grew , the need for administrative districts became apparent . In 1800 , territorial governor Arthur St. Clair established Trumbull County (named in honor of Connecticut Governor Jonathan Trumbull) , and designated the smaller settlement of Warren as its administrative center , or " county seat " . In 1813 , Trumbull County was divided into townships , with Youngstown Township comprising much of what became Mahoning County . The village of Youngstown was incorporated in 1848 , and in 1867 Youngstown was chartered as a city . It became the county seat in 1876 , when the administrative center of Mahoning County was moved from neighboring Canfield . Youngstown has been Mahoning County 's county seat to this day .

= = = Industrial age = = =

The discovery of coal by the community in the early 19th century paved the way for the Youngstown area 's inclusion on the network of the famed Erie Canal . The Pennsylvania and Ohio

Canal Company was organized in 1835 , and the canal was completed in 1840 . Local industrialist David Tod , who was later Ohio governor during the Civil War , persuaded Lake Erie steamboat owners that coal mined in the Mahoning Valley could fuel their vessels if canal transportation were available between Youngstown and Cleveland . The arrival of the railroad in 1856 smoothed the path for further economic growth .

Youngstown 's industrial development changed the face of the Mahoning Valley . The community 's burgeoning coal industry drew hundreds of immigrants from Wales , Germany , and Ireland . With the establishment of steel mills in the late 19th century , Youngstown became a popular destination for immigrants from Eastern Europe , Italy , and Greece . In the early 20th century , the community saw an influx of immigrants from non @-@ European countries including what is modern day Lebanon , Palestine / Israel , and Syria . By the 1920s , this dramatic demographic shift produced a nativist backlash , and the Mahoning Valley became a center of Ku Klux Klan activity . The situation reached a climax in 1924 , when street clashes between Klan members and Italian and Irish Americans in neighboring Niles led Ohio Governor A. Victor Donahey to declare martial law . By 1928 the Klan was in steep decline ; and three years later , the organization sold its Canfield , Ohio , meeting area , Kountry Klub Field .

The growth of industry attracted people from within the borders of the United States , and from Latin America . By the late 19th century , African Americans were well represented in Youngstown , and the first local congregation of the African Methodist Episcopal Church was established in 1871 . In the 1880s , local attorney William R. Stewart was the second African American elected to the Ohio House of Representatives . A large influx of African Americans in the early 20th century owed much to developments in the industrial sector . During the national Steel Strike of 1919 , local industrialists recruited thousands of workers from the South , many of whom were Black . This move inflamed racist sentiment among local Whites , and for decades , African @-@ American steelworkers experienced discrimination in the workplace . Migration from the South rose dramatically in the 1940s , when the mechanization of southern agriculture brought an end to the exploitative sharecropping system , leading onetime farm laborers to seek industrial jobs .

The city 's population became more diverse after the end of World War II , when a seemingly robust steel industry attracted thousands of workers . In the 1950s , the Latino population grew significantly ; and by the 1970s , St. Rose of Lima Roman Catholic Church and the First Spanish Baptist Church of Ohio were among the largest religious institutions for Spanish @-@ speaking residents in the Youngstown metropolitan area . While diversity is among the community 's enduring characteristics , the industrial economy that drew various groups to the area collapsed in the late 1970s . In response to subsequent challenges , the city has taken well @-@ publicized steps to diversify economically , while building on some traditional strengths .

= = = Redevelopment = = =

Downtown Youngstown has seen modest levels of new construction . Recent additions include the George Voinovich Government Center and state and federal courthouses : the Seventh District Court of Appeals and the Nathaniel R. Jones Federal Building and U.S. Courthouse . The latter features an award @-@ winning design by the architectural firm , Robert A. M. Stern Architects .

In 2005 , Federal Street , a major downtown thoroughfare that was closed off to create a pedestrian @-@ oriented plaza , was reopened to through traffic . The downtown area has seen the razing of structurally unsound buildings and the expansion or restoration of others .

In 2004 , construction began on a 60 @-@ home upscale development called Arlington Heights , and a grant from the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development allowed for the demolition of Westlake Terrace , a sprawling and dilapidated public housing project . Today , the site features a blend of senior housing , rental townhouses and for @-@ sale single @-@ family homes . Low real @-@ estate prices and the efforts of the Youngstown Central Area Improvement Corporation (CIC) have contributed to the purchase of several long @-@ abandoned downtown buildings (many by out @-@ of @-@ town investors) and their restoration and conversion into specialty shops , restaurants , and eventually condominiums . Further , a nonprofit organization

called Wick Neighbors is planning a \$ 250 million New Urbanist revitalization of Smoky Hollow , a former ethnic neighborhood that borders the downtown and university campus . The neighborhood will eventually comprise about 400 residential units , university student housing , retail space , and a central park . Construction for the project began in 2006 .

New construction has dovetailed with efforts to cultivate business growth . One of the area 's more successful business ventures in recent years has been the Youngstown Business Incubator . This nonprofit organization , based in a former downtown department store building , fosters the growth of fledgling technology @-@ based companies . The incubator , which boasts more than a dozen business tenants , has recently completed construction on the Taft Technology Center , where some of its largest tenants will locate their offices .

In line with these efforts to change the community 's image , the city government , in partnership with Youngstown State University , has organized an ambitious urban renewal plan known as Youngstown 2010 . The stated goals of Youngstown 2010 include the creation of a " cleaner , greener , and better planned and organized Youngstown " . In January 2005 , the organization unveiled a master plan prepared by Urban Strategies Inc. of Toronto , which had taken shape during an extensive process of public consultation and meetings that gathered input from citizens . The plan , which included platforms such as the acceptance of a reduced population and an improved image and quality of life , received national attention and is consistent with efforts in other metropolitan areas to address the phenomenon of urban depopulation . Youngstown 2010 received an award for public outreach from the American Planning Association in 2007 .

= = Geography and climate = =

= = = Geography = = =

According to the United States Census Bureau , the city has a total area of 34 @.@ 60 square miles (89 @.@ 61 km²) , of which 33 @.@ 96 square miles (87 @.@ 96 km²) is land and 0 @.@ 64 square miles (1 @.@ 66 km²) is water .

Located in the Cleveland tri @-@ state area , Youngstown is in the Mahoning Valley on the Glaciated Allegheny Plateau . At the end of the last Ice Age , the glaciers left behind a uniform plain with valleys eroded by the Mahoning River crossing the plain . Lakes created by glaciers that dammed small streams were eventually drained , leaving behind fertile terrain .

= = = Climate = = =

Youngstown has a humid continental climate (Köppen Dfb) , typical of the Midwest , with four distinct seasons , and lies in USDA hardiness zone 6a . Winters are cold and dry but typically bring a mix of rain , sleet , and snow with occasional heavy snowfall and icing . January is the coldest month with an average mean temperature of 25 @.@ 8 ° F (? 3 @.@ 4 ° C) , with temperatures on average dropping to or below 0 ° F (? 18 ° C) on 4 @.@ 1 days and staying at or below freezing on 43 days per year . Snowfall averages 62 @.@ 7 inches (159 cm) per season , significantly less than the snowbelt areas closer to Lake Erie . The snowiest month on record was 53 @.@ 1 inches (135 cm) in December 2010 , while winter snowfall amounts have ranged from 118 @.@ 7 in (301 cm) in 2010 ? 11 to 25 @.@ 2 in (64 cm) in 1948 ? 49 . Springs generally see a transition to fewer weather systems that produce heavier rainfall . Summers are typically very warm and humid with temperatures exceeding 90 ° F (32 ° C) on 7 @.@ 7 days per year on average ; the annual count has been as high as 40 days in 1943 , while the most recent year to not reach that mark is 2014 . July is the warmest month with an average mean temperature of 70 @.@ 5 ° F (21 ° C) . Autumn is relatively dry with many clear warm days and cool nights .

The all @-@ time record high temperature in Youngstown of 103 ° F (39 ° C) was established on July 10 , 1936 , which occurred during the Dust Bowl , and the all @-@ time record low temperature of ? 22 ° F (? 30 ° C) was set on January 19 , 1994 . The first and last freezes of the season on

average fall on October 10 and May 6 , respectively , allowing a growing season of 156 days ; freezing temperatures have been observed in every month except July . The normal annual mean temperature is 49 @. @ 0 ° F (9 @. @ 4 ° C) . Normal yearly precipitation based on the 30 @-@ year average from 1981 ? 2010 is 38 @. @ 91 inches (988 mm) , falling on an average 160 days . Monthly precipitation has ranged from 10 @. @ 66 in (271 mm) in June 1986 to 0 @. @ 16 in (4 @. @ 1 mm) in October 1924 , while for annual precipitation the historical range is 54 @. @ 01 in (1 @. @ 372 mm) in 2011 to 23 @. @ 79 in (604 mm) in 1963 .

= = Demographics = =

The 2010 United States Census population estimate was 65 @, @ 062 people . The Steel Valley area as a whole has 763 @, @ 207 residents .

The United States Census Bureau 's 2011 American Community Survey estimated a median household income of \$ 24 @, @ 006 . A 2007 report by CNNMoney.com stated that Youngstown has the lowest median income of any U.S. city with more than 65 @, @ 000 residents . Between 1960 and 2010 , the city 's population declined by over 60 % . Youngstown 's vacant @-@ housing rate is twenty times that of the national average .

= = = 2010 census = = =

According to the 2010 Census , Youngstown has 26 @, @ 839 households and 15 @, @ 150 families in the city . The population density is 755 @. @ 2 / km ² (1958 @. @ 5 / sq mi) . There are 33 @, @ 123 housing units at an average density of 968 @. @ 5 per square mile (373 @. @ 4 / km ²) . The racial makeup of the city was 47 @. @ 0 % White , 45 @. @ 2 % African American , 0 @. @ 4 % Native American , 0 @. @ 4 % Asian , 0 @. @ 02 % Pacific Islander , 3 @. @ 3 % of some other race , and 3 @. @ 7 % from two or more races . Hispanic or Latino of any race were 9 @. @ 3 % of the population . Among the White population , 10 @. @ 8 % were of Italian , 10 @. @ 8 % Irish , 10 @. @ 0 % German , and 4 @. @ 2 % English ancestries . Among the Hispanic population , 5 @. @ 7 % are Puerto Rican , 1 @. @ 9 % Mexican , 0 @. @ 1 % Cuban , and 0 @. @ 7 % some other Hispanic or Latino .

Records suggest that 28 @. @ 6 % of the households have children under the age of 18 . Of these , 25 @. @ 6 % are married couples living together , 24 @. @ 8 % have a female householder with no husband present , and 43 @. @ 6 % are non @-@ families . Meanwhile , 37 @. @ 8 % of all households comprise a single person , and 14 @. @ 5 % of households comprise a person over 65 years of age living alone . The average household size is 2 @. @ 28 and the average family size is 3 @. @ 02 .

The population is spread out with 22 @. @ 8 % under the age of 18 , 10 @. @ 8 % from 18 to 24 , 24 @. @ 3 % from 25 to 44 , 26 @. @ 2 % from 45 to 64 , and 15 @. @ 8 % who are 65 years of age or older . The median age is 38 years . For every 100 females there are 96 @. @ 9 males . For every 100 females age 18 and over , there are 95 males .

= = Economy = =

= = = History = = =

Endowed with large deposits of coal and iron as well as " old growth " hardwood forests needed to produce charcoal , the Youngstown area eventually developed a thriving steel industry , starting with the area 's blast furnace in 1803 by James and Daniel Heaton . By the mid @-@ 19th century , Youngstown was the site of several iron industrial plants , and because of easy rail connections to adjacent states , the iron industry continued to expand in the 1890s despite the depletion of local natural resources . At the turn of the 20th century , local industrialists began to convert to steel manufacturing , amid a wave of industrial consolidations that placed much of the Mahoning Valley 's

industry in the hands of national corporations .

In the late 1930s , the community 's steel sector gained national attention once again , when Youngstown became a site of the so @-@ called " Little Steel Strike " , an effort by the Steel Workers Organizing Committee , a precursor to United Steelworkers , to secure contract agreements with smaller steel companies . On June 21 , 1937 , strike @-@ related violence in Youngstown resulted in two deaths and 42 injuries . Despite the violence , historian William Lawson observed that the strike transformed industrial unions from " basically local and ineffective organizations into all @-@ encompassing , nationwide collective bargaining representatives of American workers " .

Between the 1920s and 1960s , the city was known as an important industrial hub that featured the massive furnaces and foundries of such companies as Republic Steel and U.S. Steel . At the same time , Youngstown never became economically diversified , as did larger industrial cities such as Chicago , Pittsburgh , Akron , or Cleveland . Hence , when economic changes forced the closure of plants throughout the 1970s , the city was left with few substantial economic alternatives . The September 19 , 1977 , announcement of the closure of a large portion of Youngstown Sheet and Tube , an event still referred to as " Black Monday " , is widely regarded as the death knell of the old area steel industry in Youngstown . In the wake of the steel plant shutdowns , the community lost an estimated 40 @,@ 000 manufacturing jobs , 400 satellite businesses , \$ 414 million in personal income , and from 33 to 75 percent of the school tax revenues . The Youngstown area has yet to fully recover from the loss of jobs in the steel sector .

= = = Current economy = = =

Youngstown is the site of several steel and metalworking operations , though nothing on the scale seen during the " glory days " of the " Steel Valley " . The largest employer in the city is Youngstown State University (YSU) , an urban public campus that serves about 15 @,@ 000 students , located just north of downtown .

The blow dealt to the community 's industrial economy in the 1970s was slightly mitigated by the presence of auto production plants in the metropolitan area . In the late 1980s , the Avanti , an automobile with a fiberglass body originally designed by Studebaker to compete with the Corvette , was manufactured in an industrial complex on Youngstown 's Albert Street . This company moved away after just a few years . A mainstay of Youngstown 's industrial economy has long been the GM Lordstown plant . The General Motors ' Lordstown Assembly plant is the largest industrial employer in the area . One of the nation 's largest auto plants in terms of square feet , the Lordstown facility was home to production of the Chevrolet Impala , Vega , and Cavalier . It was recently expanded and retooled with a new paint facility .

The largest industrial employers within the Youngstown city limits are Vallourec Star Steel Company (formerly North Star Steel) , in the Brier Hill district , and Exal Corporation on Poland Avenue . The latter has recently expanded its operations .

Youngstown 's downtown , which once underscored the community 's economic difficulties , is a site of new business growth . The Youngstown Business Incubator (YBI) , in the heart of the downtown , houses several start @-@ up technology companies that have received office space , furnishings , and access to utilities . Some companies supported by the incubator have earned recognition , and a few are starting to outgrow their current space . One such company ? Turning Technologies ? has been rated by Inc . Magazine as the fastest @-@ growing privately held software company in the United States and 18th fastest @-@ growing privately held company overall . In an effort to keep such companies downtown , the YBI secured approval to demolish a row of vacant buildings nearby to clear space for expansion . The project will be funded by a \$ 2 million federal grant awarded in 2006 . In 2014 , the YBI was ranked as the number 1 university associated business incubator in the world by the Swedish UBII (University Business Incubator Index) . In 2015 , the YBI was the top University Associated Incubator in North America , and came in second to the Dublin Enterprise & Technology Centre , also known as the Guinness Enterprise Centre , in Dublin .

Extensive coverage of Youngstown 's economic challenges has overshadowed the city 's long

entrepreneurial tradition . A number of products and enterprises introduced in Youngstown later became national household names . Among these is Youngstown @-@ based Schwebel 's Bakery , which was established in neighboring Campbell in the 20th century . The company now distributes bread products nationally . In the 1920s , Youngstown was the birthplace of the Good Humor brand of ice cream novelties , and the popular franchise of Handel 's Homemade Ice Cream & Yogurt was established there in the 1940s . In the 1950s , Youngstown @-@ born developer Edward J. DeBartolo , Sr. established one of the country 's first modern shopping plazas in the suburb of Boardman . The fast @-@ food chain , Arby 's , opened the first of its restaurants in Boardman in 1964 , and Arthur Treacher 's Fish & Chips was headquartered in Youngstown in the late 1970s . More recently , the city 's downtown hosted the corporate headquarters of the now @-@ defunct pharmacy chain store Phar @-@ Mor , which had been established by Youngstown native Mickey Monus .

= = Government = =

Youngstown is governed by a mayor who is elected every four years and limited to a maximum of two terms . Mayors are traditionally inaugurated on or around January 2 . The city has tended to elect Democratic mayors since the late 1920s because of the local unions ' support for Democratic candidates for office . Youngstown 's current mayor is John McNally IV . Jay Williams was the city 's first African @-@ American mayor and its first independent mayor since 1922 . Williams belonged to the Mayors Against Illegal Guns Coalition , a bi @-@ partisan group with the stated goal of " making the public safer by getting illegal guns off the streets " . He left his position in Youngstown to become President Barack Obama 's auto czar , directing the Presidential Task Force on the Auto Industry .

Residents elect an eight @-@ member city council composed of representatives of the city 's seven wards and a council president . The council , in turn , appoints a city clerk . The council traditionally meets every first and third Wednesday of the month . City council meetings are generally held from the third week in September to the third week in June . Meanwhile , the board of control oversees contracts for public projects within the municipal limits . The Youngstown Police Department and Youngstown Fire Department fall under the board 's supervision , as do the parks , civil service , community development , health , planning , and water departments .

Youngstown 's finance department oversees all municipal finances and supervises the departments of economic development and income tax . The city 's department of public works has sweeping supervisory responsibilities and oversees the departments of engineering , building inspection , building and grounds , signal and sign , demolition and housing , litter and recycling , street , and water waste treatment . The city 's law department represents the city on all legal issues , serving as counsel to all municipal departments .

= = Crime = =

Crime has been a lingering problem in many of the Rust Belt 's big and small urban communities , hampering economic recovery . In the late 1950s and early 1960s , Youngstown was nationally identified with gangland slayings that were often committed with car bombs . The town gained the nicknames " Murdertown , USA " and " Bomb City , USA , " while the phrase " Youngstown tune @-@ up " became a nationally popular slang term for car @-@ bomb assassination . The image of Youngstown 's association with crime was reinforced by the construction of prisons inside the metropolitan area . As of 2012 , three adult correctional facilities continue to operate within city limits : the Mahoning County Justice Center the Northeast Ohio Correctional Center , and the Ohio State Penitentiary .

For decades , Youngstown was a haven for organized crime , and related corruption was ingrained into the fabric of its society . A 2000 publication in The New Republic listed a " chief of police , the outgoing prosecutor , the sheriff , the county engineer , members of the local police force , a city law director , several defense attorneys , politicians , judges , and a former assistant U.S. attorney " as

controlled by the Mob . The city accelerated measures to limit the influence of organized crime upon all sectors of municipal life . The climax of this ongoing effort was the arrest , trial , and 2002 conviction of former U.S. Representative James A. Traficant , Jr . (D) , on bribery , tax fraud , and racketeering charges . Although this has since been cleaned up somewhat , in 2006 , Youngstown was ranked by Morgan Quitno Press , a Kansas @-@ based publishing and research company , as the 9th most dangerous city in the United States .

= = Education = =

= = = Primary and secondary = = =

The Youngstown City School District manages all public education within the city . As of 2007 , the school district was engaged in a process of reconfiguration , consolidating existing schools while building some new ones . District high schools once included South , North , Chaney , Rayen , East , Woodrow Wilson , Youngstown Early College , and Choffin Career and Technical Center . This roster has changed ; Chaney expanded , North , South , and the original East were closed , and Rayen and Wilson were closed to make way for a newly built and re @-@ opened East High School . Youngstown City School District participate in an " Early College " program , in cooperation with Youngstown State University . This program enables high school students to attend classes on campus and earn college credit .

The Diocese of Youngstown once oversaw more than 20 schools within the city limits . As a result of dwindling enrollment , only three Catholic schools continue to operate within Youngstown proper . These include one elementary school ? St. Christine 's ? and two secondary schools , Ursuline and Cardinal Mooney . (The two high schools share a heated and longstanding rivalry in athletics .) Several additional Catholic schools operate in Mahoning , Trumbull , Columbiana , Portage , Stark , and Ashtabula counties .

Youngstown hosts a small number of private schools . These include Valley Christian School , a nondenominational K @-@ 12 school located on the south side of the city ; Akiva Academy , a progressive K @-@ 8 school located in the Jewish Community Center ; and the Montessori School of the Mahoning Valley , which offers alternative learning environments for students ranging from preschool to eighth grade .

Youngstown has a high school graduation rate of 65 %

= = = Higher education = = =

Youngstown State University , the primary institution of higher learning in the Youngstown @-@ Warren metropolitan area , traces its origins to a local YMCA program that began offering college @-@ level courses in 1908 . YSU joined the Ohio system of higher education in 1967 . The university consists of six colleges : The College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences (CLASS) ; The College of Science , Technology , Engineering and Math (STEM) ; The Williamson College of Business ; The Bitonte College of Health and Human Services ; The College of Fine and Performing Arts (FPA) , and the College of Education . Once regarded as a commuter school , YSU serves about 13 @, @ 000 students , many from outside the Youngstown area . The campus is just north of the city 's downtown and south of Youngstown 's historic Fifth Avenue district , a neighborhood of Tudor- , Victorian- , and Spanish Colonial Revival @-@ style homes .

YSU offers tuition rates that are lower than the average of other public universities in Ohio , at \$ 3 @, @ 856 per semester for undergraduates . The university 's assets include the Dana School of Music , an All @-@ Steinway school . The Dana School of Music is one of the six oldest continuously operating schools of music in the United States . Youngstown State 's Engineering programs are accredited through ABET , making it one of the best Engineering Schools in the country , many graduates from the school have gone on to become the founders and heads for various Fortune 100 companies .

= = Attractions = =

In 2012 , Forbes.com ranked Youngstown , Ohio 4th among the best cities in the U.S. for raising a family . The article included the city 's schools , current low crime , cost @-@ of @-@ living , and property rates in its decision .

= = = Covelli Centre = = =

Despite the impact of regional economic decline , Youngstown offers an array of cultural and recreational resources . Moreover , the community 's range of attractions has increased in recent years . The newest addition is the Covelli Centre , a venue for Tier I Jr . A hockey games , concerts , " on ice " shows , and other forms of entertainment .

= = = Theater = = =

The community 's culture center is Powers Auditorium , a former Warner Brothers movie palace that serves as the area 's primary music hall while providing a home for the Youngstown Symphony Orchestra . This downtown landmark is one of five auditoriums within the city limits . Ford Recital Hall was built in 2006 as an addition to newly renovated Powers Auditorium . Imposing and neo @-@ classical Stambaugh Auditorium , on the city 's north side , has served for decades as a site of concerts and is often rented for private events . The facility also hosts the Stambaugh Youth Concert Band . Bruce Springsteen , who sang about the decline of Youngstown 's steel industry and its adverse effects on local workers in his ballad " Youngstown " , played at Stambaugh Auditorium on January 12 , 1996 , as part of his solo Ghost of Tom Joad Tour .

Oakland Center for the Arts , in the downtown area , is a venue for locally produced plays . This institution is complemented by the Youngstown Playhouse on the city 's south side . The Youngstown Playhouse , Mahoning County 's primary community theater , has served the area for more than 80 years , despite intermittent financial problems . Well known theatrical personalities from the Youngstown area include comedic actor Joe Flynn , screen actress Elizabeth Hartman , singer and Broadway performer Maureen McGovern , and television and screen actor Ed O 'Neill .

= = = Museums = = =

The Butler Institute of American Art is on the northeastern edge of the Youngstown State University campus . This institution was established by industrialist Joseph G. Butler , Jr . , in 1919 as the first museum in the country dedicated to American art . Across the street from the Butler Institute stands the McDonough Museum of Art , YSU 's University Art Museum and the Mahoning Valley 's center for contemporary art . The McDonough , established in 1991 , features regular changing exhibitions by regional , national and international artists and provides public access to the work of students , faculty and alumni from the Department of Art . The Clarence R. Smith Mineral Museum , also on the YSU campus , is operated by the university 's geology department and housed in a campus building .

To the immediate north of YSU is the Arms Family Museum of Local History . The museum , housed in a 1905 Arts & Crafts style mansion on the main artery of Wick Avenue , is managed by the Mahoning Valley Historical Society . Once the estate of a local industrialist , the museum maintains period rooms that showcase the original contents of the household , including furnishings , art objects , and personal artifacts . The museum mounts rotating exhibits on topics related to local history . Recently , the museum opened the " Anne Kilcawley Christman Hands @-@ on History Room " . The MVHS Archival Library operates in the estate 's former carriage house , near the back of the site .

The Youngstown Historical Center of Industry and Labor sits south of the YSU campus on a grade overlooking the downtown area . This museum , owned and operated by the Ohio Historical Society

, focuses on the Mahoning Valley 's history of steel production . Other museums include the Children 's Museum of the Valley , an interactive educational center in the downtown area , and the Davis Education and Recreation Center , a small museum that showcases the history of Youngstown 's Mill Creek Park . On the city 's north side the Youngstown Steel Heritage Foundation is constructing the Tod Engine Heritage Park , featuring a collection of steel industry equipment and artifacts . The main exhibit is a 1914 William Tod Co. rolling mill steam engine that was built in Youngstown and used at the Youngstown Sheet and Tube Brier Hill Works . The Tod Engine is one of three remaining rolling mill engines in the United States and is a Mechanical and Materials Engineering Landmark .

Youngstown 's most popular resource is Mill Creek Park , a five @-@ mile (8 km) -long stretch of landscaped woodland reminiscent of Rock Creek Park in Washington , D.C. Mill Creek Park is the oldest park district in Ohio , established as a township park in 1891 . The park 's highlights include the restored 19th century Lanterman 's Mill , the rock formations of Bear 's Den , scores of nature trails , the Fellows Riverside Gardens and Education Center , the " Cinderella " iron link bridge , and two 18 hole Donald Ross golf courses .

Mill Creek Park encompasses approximately 2 @, @ 600 acres (1 @, @ 100 ha) , 20 miles (32 km) of drives and 15 miles (24 km) of foot trails . Its attractions include gardens , streams , lakes , woodlands , meadows , and wildlife .

Fellows Riverside Gardens ' popular lookout point offers visitors contrasting views of the area . From the south side , the canopied woodlands overlooking Lake Glacier are visible ; from the north side , visitors are presented with a view of downtown Youngstown . The park features two 18 @-@ hole golf courses . The North Course is on rolling terrain , while the South Course features narrow , tree @-@ lined fairways . Other features include playgrounds , athletic fields , and picnic areas .

In 2005 , Mill Creek Park was placed on the National Register of Historic Places . A plaque commemorating this event is near a memorial statue of Volney Rogers , the Youngstown attorney who set aside land for the creation of Mill Creek Park .

A smaller recreational area called Wick Park is on the historic North side . Wick Park 's periphery is lined with early 20th @-@ century mansions built by the city 's industrialists , business leaders , and professionals during Youngstown 's " boom " years . Stambaugh Auditorium , a popular venue for concerts and other public events , is near the park 's southwestern edge . Another small recreational area called Crandall Park is also on the North side . Crandall Park offers well @-@ maintained and landscaped homes , tree @-@ lined streets , and walkable access to shopping and recreations . Several cemeteries (notably historic Oak Hill Cemetery) and small recreational spaces are scattered throughout the city . Some of those recreational spaces include Homestead Park , John White park , Lynn park , Borts Pool , and the Northside Pool .

= = Sports = =

Youngstown has enjoyed a long tradition of professional and semi @-@ professional sports . In earlier decades , the city produced scores of minor league baseball teams , including the Youngstown Ohio Works , Youngstown Champs , Youngstown Indians , Youngstown Steelmen , Youngstown Browns , Youngstown Gremlins , and Youngstown Athletics . Local enthusiasm for baseball was such that the community hosted championship games of the National Amateur Baseball Federation throughout the 1930s and 1940s . The area 's minor league baseball teams were supplemented by semi @-@ professional football teams , including the Youngstown Patricians , who won the 1915 championship of the informal " Ohio League " (a direct predecessor to the National Football League) , and the Youngstown Hardhats , who competed in the Middle Atlantic Football League in the 1970s and early 1980s . For three seasons , Youngstown was home to the Mahoning Valley Thunder of the now @-@ defunct af2 , the minor league for the Arena Football League until 2009 when the franchise ceased operations . Local minor league basketball teams included the Youngstown Pride of the WBA from 1987 to 1992) , the Youngstown Hawks of the IBA in 1999 , and the Mahoning Valley Wildcats of the IBL in 2005 . Covelli Centre (known then as the Chevrolet Centre) was the home of the Youngstown SteelHounds hockey team that played in the

Central Hockey League until May 2008 .

The community has a lengthy tradition of collegiate sports . The Youngstown State University Penguins , a major regional draw , compete in the Missouri Valley Football Conference . The Penguins , noted participants in FCS (I @-@ AA) football , play their games at Stambaugh Stadium and enjoy one of the more supportive fan bases . All other YSU athletic teams compete in the Horizon League . The Youngstown State men and women 's basketball teams hold their games at Youngstown State 's Beeghly Center . The teams average about 2 @,@ 500 fans per game , a number that has been on the rise the past two seasons with a new style of play under Head Coach Jerry Slocum . In addition , the YSU baseball and softball teams have enjoyed local support and success . The baseball team reached the NCAA super @-@ regionals in 2005 , and the softball team did so in 2006 .

Youngstown has produced a significant number of boxing champions , including bantamweight Greg Richardson , lightweights Ray " Boom Boom " Mancini and Harry Arroyo , and middleweight Kelly Pavlik .

One of the city 's most recent sports @-@ related attractions is the Covelli Centre , which was funded primarily through a \$ 26 million federal grant . Located on the site of an abandoned steel mill , the large , high @-@ tech facility opened in October 2005 . It was formerly called the Chevrolet Center , and during planning it was known as the Youngstown Convocation Center . The Centre 's main tenants are the Youngstown Phantoms , who play in the United States Hockey League . Previously , it was home to the Youngstown Steelhounds hockey team , who played in the CHL . The city plans to develop vacant land adjacent to the Centre for a park , a riverwalk (the Mahoning River flows through the site) , an amphitheater , or an athletic stadium for the city 's public and private high schools .

These investments reflect wide appreciation of Youngstown 's athletic tradition , which has produced noted figures in a variety of sports . Prominent athletes with connections to the city include former world boxing champions Greg Richardson , IBF lightweight champion Harry Arroyo , College Football Hall of Fame end Bob Dove , Hall of Fame umpire Billy Evans , major league pitcher Dave Dravecky , NFL quarterback Bernie Kosar , IBF cruiserweight champion Jeff Lampkin , WBA lightweight champion Ray " Boom Boom " Mancini , major league manager Jimmy McAleer , WBC and WBO middleweight champion Kelly Pavlik , legendary baseball trainer " Bonesetter " Reese , major league outfielder George Shuba , and Heisman Trophy recipient Frank Sinkwich .

= = Neighborhoods = =

= = Transportation = =

The Youngstown area is served by the Western Reserve Transit Authority (WRTA) bus system , which is supported through Mahoning County property and sales taxes . WRTA , whose main terminal is in the downtown area , provides service throughout the city and into surrounding Mahoning and Trumbull counties . The downtown terminal serves as the Youngstown area 's Greyhound terminal .

In the vicinity of the WRTA terminal is a former Baltimore and Ohio Railroad station . The historic terminal building has now been converted into a banquet hall , served Amtrak 's Three Rivers as a train station from 1995 to 2005 . The local railroads now serve freight trains exclusively .

The Youngstown @-@ Warren Regional Airport is currently served by three airlines (Allegiant Air , Sun Country Airlines and Via Air , in order of market share) , five rental car agencies Alamo , National , Enterprise , Budget , Avis , and has direct non @-@ stop flights to Orlando (Allegiant) , Fort Myers (Allegiant) , Tampa (Allegiant) , Atlantic City (Via Air) , Tunica (Via Air , Sun Country) , and Gulfport (Sun Country) . Additional seasonal service includes flights to Myrtle Beach , SC (Allegiant) .

On June 23 , 2016 , Uber launched its services in Youngstown , covering all of Mahoning County and most of Trumbull County . Before the launch , Youngstown had been the largest city in the

United States that had never had Uber in some capacity .

= = Media = =

Youngstown features diverse media , including television , print and radio . Newspapers include The Buckeye Review (bi @-@ monthly / African @-@ American) , The Business Journal (bi @-@ monthly / business) , The Catholic Exponent (bi @-@ monthly / religious) , Daily Legal News (daily / legal) , The Jambar (bi @-@ weekly / college) , The Jewish Journal (monthly / Jewish) , The Metro Monthly (monthly / news , features , calendar) , Morning Journal (daily / Columbiana County news) , The Review (weekly / news , features) , Senior News (monthly / seniors) , The Journal (weekly / Struthers , Campbell and Lowellville) , Parent Magazine (monthly / children 's) , Peace Action Youngstown (quarterly / peace activism) , The Town Crier (weekly / suburban news) , Record Courier (daily / Portage County news) , Akron Beacon Journal (daily / regional news) , The Plain Dealer (daily / regional news) , Pittsburgh Post Gazette (daily / regional news) , Warren Tribune Chronicle (daily / regional news) , and the The Vindicator (daily / regional news) , The News Outlet (university based media collaborative)

Youngstown is served by 10 television stations , three of which are repeaters of TV stations in other cities , and a fourth coming in the near future from Pittsburgh NBC affiliate WPXI in nearby New Castle , Pennsylvania , that would easily penetrate Youngstown pending FCC approval . This is unusual for a mid @-@ sized city near large metro areas such as Cleveland and Pittsburgh . Nearby Akron , with a larger population than Youngstown and Warren combined , has no local television stations and relies on Cleveland for its local news . The community 's 273 @,@ 480 television households make the Youngstown market the nation 's 106th largest , according to Nielsen Media Research .

The market is served by stations affiliated with major American networks including : WFMJ @-@ TV (channel 21 , NBC) , WYTV (channel 33 , ABC) , WYFX @-@ LD (channel 17 / 62 & 27 @.@ 2 on WKBN @-@ DT2 , Fox) , WKBN @-@ TV (channel 27 , CBS) , MY @-@ YTV (channel 33 @.@ 2 , MNTV) , and WBCB (channel 21 @.@ 2 , The CW) . WFMJ @-@ TV and its digital subchannel WBCB are both locally owned & operated by the Maag family , owners of The Vindicator . The rest of Youngstown 's commercial television stations are either owned and operated by Media General or operated by MG through a shared services agreement . Western Reserve Public Media airs on channel 45 (WNEO) from Alliance , Ohio , and channel 49 (WEOA) from Akron is a member of PBS .

Youngstown is served by 37 different radio stations in the metropolitan area making it the 119th largest radio market in the United States . Stations include 17 on the AM band and 20 on the FM band . The majority of the most powerful and popular radio stations in the Youngstown @-@ Warren market are divided between two national media companies : Clear Channel and Cumulus Media .

= = Sister cities = =

Spišská Nová Ves , Slovakia , since 1991