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**Reclaiming the WVU farm woodlot for economic development in Morgantown, WV**

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The WVU Woodlot is part of the WVU Animal Science Farm located one-mile northeast of Morgantown, WV, and is about 100 acres in size. A 15-ac underground mine is located within this woodlot and includes a dangerous 40-high highwall, spoil piles, unsafe protruding rocks, and hazardous subsidence cracks and holes that open down into the mine. In this 100-acre woodlot, a series of popular, but uncontrolled mountain biking and hiking trails have been created and some of the trails come within a few feet of subsidence holes/cracks.

This project will remediate numerous dangerous, legacy coal mining features on the WVU Woodlot, a property heavily utilized by the public as an urban woodland park and by WVU for research and education. The work proposed here will reclaim the site and create a flat area on which a commercial composting operation will be built. The composting facility will be used by WVU and the city of Morgantown that will provide job training and workforce development, as well as create a value-added product from organic waste. Adjacent to the composting operation, a series of greenhouses will be constructed where WVU students and Veterans from the Welcome Home Project can produce and sell local food. Another section of the reclaimed area will provide a more user-friendly public trailhead, with an outdoor education center to support WVU teaching at the woodlot property. At present, a coal operator has agreed to conduct the mining and reclamation process, and other partners in this project include the Coalfield Development Corporation, the Office of the President of West Virginia University (WVU), the WVU Office of Sustainability, WVU Davis College, the City of Morgantown, Mountain Harvest Farm, ABJ LLC, the Preston Growers Association, and the Outdoor Education Development Collaborative.

**Keywords:** Abandoned mine lands, composting facility, greenhouse production