

Natural Environment

The people of Springfield and Greene County are fortunate to enjoy the natural beauty of the Ozarks. Our natural environment is a mixture of green, rolling hills to heavily forested, low mountain country. This diverse landscape comes together as a unique blend of scenery, which is an attraction to visitors and residents alike.



The 2003 Environmental Health Report Card indicates that Springfield's air currently meets air quality standards. The air quality in our city is currently "in attainment" of

the national ambient air levels for ozone, carbon monoxide, sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxides, and particulate matter. Advancements in emission controls on vehicles and stationary pollution sources of all kinds have led to significant improvements in our air quality. These improvements allow citizens of Springfield and Greene County to enjoy healthy air.

The water quality in Springfield's natural environment gives cause for concern. Rainwater runoff combined with the use of nitrogen rich fertilizers and other chemicals have made their way into surrounding streams. Currently, our waterways have elevated levels of mercury and nitrate. Hazardous waste disposal continues to pose challenges.



Springfield and Greene County have a number of groups working to promote environmental stewardship. Ozark Greenways, Watershed Committee of the Ozarks and the James River Basin Partnership work hand-in-hand with public agencies to promote a clean and healthy environment.

OZARKS GREENWAYS

"Ozarks Greenways, working to bring nature back into Springfield Recreation"



One unique aspect of the Springfield environment is the work of the Ozarks Greenways. Ozarks Greenways is a non-profit

group of private citizens in the greater Springfield Area who are working to preserve and enhance the Ozarks' natural heritage for public use and enjoyment. This group works closely with private landowners, developers, and governmental entities to make greenways a reality. These greenways are linear parks, which preserve undeveloped ribbons of natural habitat, usually through urban areas. Greenways typically follow stream corridors or abandoned railroad rights-of-way. Hard surfaced paths with minimal grade have been provided for the community with access for walkers, runners, bicyclists, in-line skaters, wheelchairs, and baby strollers.



ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH REPORT CARD

Greene County 2002

5 - Year Mean

Trend

NA - Not Available

NC - No Change

WATER

Greene County Private Well Testing (% testing safe)	56	58	Down
E.Coli Testing in Streams and Rivers (% testing safe)	63	NA	NA
Water Quality			
Dissolved Oxygen (mg/l)	6.3	NA	NA
E Coli (cfu/100ml)	50	NA	NA
Nitrate-Nitrogen(mg/l)	5.2	NA	NA
Mercury in Fish Tissue (ppb)			
Fellows Lake 2001	115	NA	NA
Community Well Chemistry (nitrates mg/l)	0.19	0.15	Up
Boil Orders Issued in Community/Public Wells (governed by DNR)	2	3.4	Down
Groundwater levels	+3.25 ft. or 1% increase		NA

COMMUNITY HEALTH

Greene County Giardiasis Case Rate	16	13.5	Up
Elevated Blood Lead (% of total tested < age 6)	3	1.8	Up
Food Service Inspections (% citing no critical violation 2001-02)	66	NA	NA
Animal Bite Rate (per 100,000 population 2001-02)	112.8	125.2	Down
Miles of Trail Added	1	NA	Up
Urban Ecosystem Analysis	Data Pending		
Park Land Added (acres)	156.4	NA	NA

SOLIDWASTE/ RECYCLING

Household Hazardous Waste (HHHW Total Lbs. Disposed of/Recycled 2001-2002)	99,078	89,115	Up
Percent of HHHW recycled 2001-2002	80	1.4	NC
Recycled Material at City Collection Sites (Tons)	3397.68	3383.8	NC

AIR QUALITY

Carbon Monoxide (ppm)		EPA Standards		
2nd Max 1-hr	35	5	5	NC
2nd Max 8-hr	9	3.3	3.46	NC
Nitrogen Dioxide (ppm)				
Annual Mean	0.053	0.011	0.012	NC
PM10 (ug/m3)				
2nd Max 24-hr	150	46	38.4	Up
Annual Mean	50	18	18.5	NC
PM2.5 (ug/m3)				
Annual Mean	15	12.7	NA	NC
24-hr Max	65	28	NA	NC
Sulfur Dioxide (ppm)				
2nd Max 24-hr	0.14	0.041	0.048	Down
Annual Mean	0.03	0.004	.004	NC
Ozone				
2nd Max 1-hr	0.12	0.089	.092	NC

POPULATION

Greene County Population Projections	243,355	240,325	Up
Greene County Single Family Housing Permits Issued	1,051	909	Up