

Citizen Participation

Volunteering and service continue to be a valued part of community life in Springfield and Greene County. The people of Springfield participate in numerous non-profit organizations and philanthropic endeavors. They contribute time, talent, and resources to worthy causes that improve the quality of life for the entire community.

Our community has witnessed an explosion in the nonprofit sector. Springfield has more than 1,000 nonprofit organizations, and these groups play an increasingly important role in providing human services, nurturing young people and enriching our culture. The United Way of the Ozarks, the Community Foundation of the Ozarks, The Junior League, and scores of private foundations provide charitable support in excess of \$8,000,000 per year (Source: Community Foundation of the Ozarks). Volunteerism

is extremely important, the Junior League alone provided over 27,000 hours of service last year.

Voter registration remains strong in Greene County. However, voter turnout tends to fluctuate in accordance with ballot issues. The most recent 2004 Primary election

had a record turnout for an August election of 47% or more than 79,000 voters.

Registered Voters	2002	2004
Greene County	177,086	170,000*

*This number will increase as the November election approaches.

Population Over 18 in Greene Co. (2000 Census)	187,043
Voted in Presidential Primary Election 2004	36,337
Voted in County Sales Tax Election 2004	35,432
Voted in School Board Election 2003	44,718
Voted in Congressional Election 2002	83,061
Voted in Presidential Election 2000	102,926

(Source: Greene County Clerk)



United Way of the Ozarks Campaign

Total Amount Raised (Source: United Way of the Ozarks)

2002	2003	2004
\$3,202,163	\$3,305,938	\$3,309,134

United Way Day of Caring

Companies and Volunteers participating; number of projects

	2001	2002	2003
Companies	93	95	100
Volunteers	1300	1500	1400
Projects	100	102	112

181,964 people were served by United Way of the Ozarks in Greene County in 2002.

Community Foundation of the Ozarks

ASSETS

2001	\$38,578,733
2002	\$44,108,976
2003	\$51,061,895
2004	\$71,450,000


“Make no small plans...” begins a passage written by Daniel Burnham in 1907 and taken to heart by the hundreds of citizen volunteers who crafted Vision 20/20, the long-range plan for Springfield and Greene County.

The community began working in 1994 to create a comprehensive plan that would be a living document of distinct visions to enhance our quality of life. More than 350 citizens contributed some 25,000 hours to create the original set of recommendations to guide our future; in 2003-04, dozens more spent many hours revisiting Vision 20/20 to create an updated five-year action plan.

The planning covered a variety of areas ranging from transportation and water quality to parks and historic preservation. The Vision 20/20 process spurred a number of significant initiatives, most notably the creation of Jordan Valley Park as the centerpiece of an historic revitalization in Center City. In addition, citizens have supported Vision 20/20 plans with eight successful referendums linked to capital improvements, parks and Jordan Valley Park.

Key initiatives linked to Vision 20/20 include:

- Creating a Neighborhood Assessment process that seeks residents’ input on issues affecting their neighborhoods and aggressively taking action on dangerous and abandoned buildings. This initiative is designed particularly to thwart the blight that threatens our urban neighborhoods to maintain a strong core around Center City.
- Developing the innovative partnership between the City and the Missouri Department of Transportation to win voter approval for a 1/8-cent sales tax for transportation that permits major improvements on state roads within the City.
- Using revenue from a special 1/4-cent sales tax for parks approved by voters to build school parks, develop more Greenway trails, acquire major tracts for metropolitan parks, and construct new facilities such as the Doling Family Center and Chesterfield Aquatic Center.
- Developing the Partnership Industrial Center West, working with major institutions to develop master expansion plans and facilitating Center City growth and linkages.



“Make big plans; aim high in hope and work, remembering that a noble, logical diagram once recorded will never die, but long after we are gone will be a living thing, asserting itself with ever-growing insistency.”

—Daniel Burnham