

This project completed with support from the following organizations,
whose leaders pledge to use the information in the report to guide their future decision-making:

Community Foundation of the Ozarks

Junior League of Springfield

Springfield Area Chamber of Commerce

Springfield-Greene County Library District

United Way of the Ozarks

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Community Focus

www.SpringfieldCommunityFocus.org

Community Focus 2005
A Report *for* Springfield *and* Greene County



www.SpringfieldCommunityFocus.org

Community Focus 2005

A Report for Springfield and Greene County

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This is the second of what will be an annual report about Springfield and Greene County. Community members often say that Springfield is a great place to live and raise a family. Indeed, the community has a thriving

economy; world-class medical facilities; access to outstanding recreational, leisure and arts activities; relatively low taxes; and excellent schools, including several colleges and universities. At the same time, increasing numbers of children grow up in poverty, access to basic medical and dental care is out of reach for many individuals, and the community faces the insidious problem of high methamphetamine production and use. These are national problems that, unfortunately, have not passed us by.

This report shines the spotlight on Springfield and Greene County—what is going well and where we need to improve. The Blue Ribbons highlight the community’s strengths and successes; the Red Flags point to problems that demand our attention. What we provide here is merely a summary; as we prepared this report, we accumulated much more data than we could include here. We invite you to look on the website, www.SpringfieldCommunityFocus.org, for additional details and supporting information, including our sources of data if we were not able to include these in this printed report.

We are proud of the sponsoring organizations’ commitment to produce this report and use the information to inform their own decision making. We are especially proud of the community’s response to the first report; several organizations will focus their efforts during the next few years to address the specific concerns identified in the previous report. We hope that other organizations will likewise use this report to help formulate their agendas and develop their plans in addressing community issues.

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.”
Margaret Mead



Springfield is a community energized by a robust economy and a dynamic small business environment.

Trends and Highlights

BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC CONDITIONS

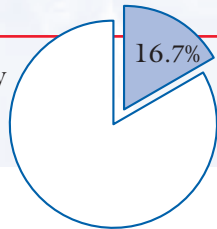
Cost of Living Index:	89%
Unemployment Rate:	4%
Public and Private Investment in Center City Renovation:	over \$130 million
Students Who Receive Free/Reduced Lunches, Springfield R-12	40.7%, 2004-05 (from 33.6%, 1997-98)

COMMUNITY HEALTH

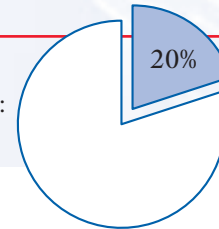
	Greene County 2003	5-Year Mean	Trend	Missouri 2003
Mothers as Medicaid Participants (as percent of total live births)	50.5	46.8	Up	45.4
Mothers Smoking during Pregnancy (as percent of total live births)	21.0	19.4	Up	18.1
Deaths from Motor Vehicle Crashes	20.3	16.4	Up	21.1

EARLY CHILDHOOD

Number of Greene County Children (0-6) in Poverty: 2,858 (16.7%)
(Source: 2000 Census)



Number of Greene County Children (0-6) on Medicaid: 10,513 (20%)
(Source: 2000 Census)



Kindergarten Screening on DIAL III (School Readiness)

Overall Average	62.8%
Children in Parents as Teachers (PAT)	74.6%
Children Not in PAT	56.5%

	Greene County 2003	5-Year Mean	Trend	Missouri 2003
Substantiated Child Abuse/Neglect, <18 (per 1,000 children)	10.9	13.1	Down	6.8

EDUCATION

	Greene County, 2004	Missouri, 2004
Average Per-Pupil Expenditure	\$6,303	\$7,394
Average Teacher Salary	\$35,516	\$38,247
Percent of Students Receiving Free and Reduced Lunch	36.3%	40.7%
Percent of Operating Funds Received from State Funds	29.4%	33.3%

HOUSING

Springfield/Greene County Housing Costs	22.8% below national average
Median Home Cost	\$100,303
Public and Section 8 Housing Units Available, 2004	1,506
Applicants for Housing Assistance Awaiting Help	1,747
Individuals Served by Emergency Shelters, Nightly	600 (including 300 children)

PUBLIC ORDER AND SAFETY

Springfield Totals	2002	2003	2004
Crimes Against Persons	1,061	1,037	857
Crimes Against Property	11,005	12,351	12,255
Number of Domestic Disturbance Calls	4,877	3,612 (Jan-Sep only)	4,432



TRANSPORTATION

Springfield's Intelligent Transportation System highlighted in *USA Today* (April 20, 2005).
 Voters approved 1/8-cent sales tax for transportation improvements (1996, 2000, 2004).

	2001	2004
Total City Utilities Bus Miles Traveled:	1,127,665	1,191,807
	2000	2004
Total Passengers, Springfield/Branson Regional Airport:	713,808	721,958

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

Volunteers in Springfield Public Schools, 2004: 1,319 registered volunteers; 54,783 volunteer hours
 Community Foundation of the Ozarks, 2004 grants and distributions: \$4.7 million
 United Way of the Ozarks, 2004: 1,400 Day of Caring volunteers; \$3,372,514 funds raised
 Junior League of Springfield, 2004: 160 volunteers; 11,000 volunteer hours; \$126,000 contributed

ARTS AND CULTURE

	2003-04	2004-05
Number of People Employed Full-Time in the Arts	71	76
Number of Arts & Cultural Organizations	43	49
Number of People Served by Local Arts & Cultural Organizations	228,692	278,277
Number of Volunteers at Art-Related Events	611	2,435

NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

	2004	5-Year Mean
Percent of Household Hazardous Waste Recycled:	83%	83%
	Pre-1993	2004
Phosphorus Removal at Southwest Wastewater Treatment Plant:	1,600 lbs/day	150 lbs/day

RECREATION, SPORTS AND LEISURE

PARKS	2003	2004	2005
Number of Parks (acreage)	62 (1,700+)	65 (2,000+)	80 (2,600+)
	2004	2005	
Library Usage	2,990,000	3,156,468	
Attendance	1,583,213	1,626,184	

Springfield is the first Missouri city to receive a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) storm water permit.

Prime Time (YMCA's before- and after-school childcare program) provides 27% of licensed day care in Springfield.

Introduction



Last year we released the first *Community Focus Report: A Report for Springfield and Greene County*, also known as the Community Report Card by many in the community. The idea was to identify our strengths—blue ribbons—and our weaknesses—red flags—on a yearly basis and

to track our community's success in changing those red flags to blue ribbons over time. We hoped that the identified red flags would rally our community and spur it into action to address these needs in our community. Through collaboration and the mobilization of resources, we believed we could change our community into one that serves all its citizens, especially the most vulnerable—our children.

Our community is stepping forward to address these challenges through the collaborative work of many organizations and individuals. These groups are working with our children in poverty, mentoring and tutoring, providing programs to address child abuse and neglect, and working together to identify the needs of all our children through groups such as the Mayor's Commission on Children. Funding grants have been awarded to organizations focused on addressing the red flags.

The latest development, occurring as this report goes to press, is that a group of local charitable funders is developing a coalition called the Grantmakers Challenge for Children to address the community red flags as they pertain to children in our community. The coalition's purpose is to marshal and leverage resources to impact problem areas, to enhance overall awareness of community problems, and to challenge other fortunate members of Springfield and Greene County to make charitable investments in the future of our children.

I would like to thank the supporters of this report: Community Foundation of the Ozarks, Junior League of Springfield, Springfield Area Chamber of Commerce, Springfield-Greene County Library District and the United Way of the Ozarks, and also the members of the Steering Committee, who committed their time and expertise to this important project. It is my hope that, by all of us working together as a community, we can meet the challenges identified in the report today and in the future.

Sincerely,
Maura Taylor, Co-Chair
Community Focus Steering Committee



I am pleased to have been a part of creating this second Community Focus report. No project this extensive is completed without the help of many individuals and organizations. Particular thanks go to the Steering Committee members, listed on the

back cover, who gave freely of their time and knowledge to produce this report. The dedication of these volunteers highlights a significant community strength: people who live in this community are willing to give their time, expertise and resources to improve our quality of life

The committee began its work in December by reviewing last year's report and discussing ways to improve it. One of our first major decisions was to involve more individuals in providing information for the report. This process worked almost too well—the subcommittees responsible for writing each section generated much more information than we could include in this summary. That led to another major decision, which was to make that additional information and data available to the community on the website dedicated to this report. We are indebted to Annie Busch and the Springfield/Greene County Library District for providing staff assistance and web space for both the report itself and for what we have been calling the “back-up report” with the details we couldn't include here, including sources of our data. Readers can access the back-up report for each section by going to the website and clicking the button following each section heading in the table of contents.

As with last year's report, this remains a work in progress. Each year, we refine and improve our process. We welcome your feedback; use the “Contact Us” link on the website (www.SpringfieldCommunityFocus.org) or call the Community Foundation, 864-6199.

Sincerely,
Gloria Galanes, Co-Chair
Community Focus Steering Committee

Profile of the Community

Springfield, Missouri, located in southwest Missouri, represents a culture that is both urban and rural. The Springfield Metropolitan Statistical Area includes Greene, Christian, Webster, Polk, and Dallas counties, and the Economic Area encompasses 27 counties in southwest Missouri.

During the past several years, Springfield has garnered the following recognitions:

- Top 10 Best Metros for Business Expansion (*Expansion Management Magazine*)
- Top 10 Places to Live and Work (*Employment Review*)
- Top 15 Cities for Doing Business (mid-sized metros) (*Inc. Magazine*)
- Top 12 Midwest Cities for High-Tech Jobs (*CorpTech, Technology Industry Growth Forecaster*)
- Top 25 Best Places in the U.S. (*Forbes Magazine*)
- Gold Medal School System (*Expansion Management Magazine*)
- 5-Star Quality of Life (*Expansion Management Magazine*)

The city of Springfield boasts over 41,000 college and university students⁵, most of whom attend Missouri State University, Ozarks Technical Community College, Drury University, and Evangel University. Likewise, the two largest Springfield employers—CoxHealth and St. John’s Health System—have each been recognized nationally as top integrated health care networks. Nearly all of these health care and higher education institutions are undergoing vast capital improvements and investing significant dollars to enhance their campuses. Large-scale shopping destinations such as Bass Pro Shops Outdoor World and Battlefield Mall help to contribute to the over \$3 billion of annual retail sales in the city.⁶

Data Sources:

- 1) Bureau of the Census, 2002 estimate
- 2) Bureau of the Census, 2003 estimate
- 3) Bureau of the Census, 2000-2003
- 4) Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2004
- 5) Springfield Area Chamber of Commerce, Fall 2004
- 6) City of Springfield, 2004

QUICK POPULATION FACTS

Springfield City Limits	150,867 ¹
Five-County MSA	390,986 ²
Economic Area	936,502 ²

Population Growth

The population in the five-county area is growing at a rate of 1.6% annually.³ The workforce within the metropolitan area is 202,785 and has grown 4% since 2000,⁴ despite the national recession.

Employment and Education

Some of the area’s largest employers include CoxHealth, St. John’s Health System, Wal-Mart, Springfield Public Schools, Missouri State University, and Bass Pro Shops.

Springfield serves as a regional hub for health care, higher education, and retail which all have a significant impact on the local economy. Millions of dollars are infused into the economy on a daily basis by those who attend school, seek medical services, or shop within Springfield’s city limits.



Springfield City Hall

*“In all things
(good and bad)
there is
opportunity.”*

Proverb

Overall, the following represent the most significant strengths and areas for improvement in our community. Details are provided throughout the report.

The community has responded to the 2004 Community Focus Report. The community took the information provided in the 2004 report seriously and responded quickly. Several organizations, including the Community Foundation of the Ozarks, Junior League of Springfield, and Community Partnership, have chosen to focus their initiatives on the red flags noted in last year’s report.

Many organizations in Springfield collaborate to benefit the community. This report provides numerous instances of organizations working together for the community. Examples: the Springfield-Greene County Park Board collaborates with the Springfield Public Schools to provide recreational opportunities for school children, the Community Partnership established a Continuum of Care Committee to meet a variety of housing needs especially for the homeless, and 67 organizations have joined the Ozarks Regional Economic Partnership to collaborate in regional economic planning.

The Springfield-Greene County economic boom fuels the economic growth for the entire state. The regional economy cultivates a strong small business climate that serves as the impetus for the area’s economic vitality. The presence of strong education and health sectors and a relatively low cost of living support the area’s favorable business environment.

The community has a rich variety of medical and health care programs and facilities. Two major hospital systems, St. John’s Health System and CoxHealth, provide comprehensive care to the entire southwest Missouri region. The Jordan Valley Community Health Center, opened in 2002, offers primary medical and dental care to Greene County residents. Missouri State University’s Ozarks Public Health Institute collaborates with various organizations to provide education, training, public service and research programs pertaining to public health issues.

The community is well served by several institutions of higher education. The complete range of educational options, from technical education through doctoral work, is available at Ozarks Technical Community College, Drury University, Evangel University, and Missouri State University. The presence of these institutions touches every aspect of the community but particularly benefits the public schools with everything from teacher pre-service opportunities through professional development for experienced teachers.

Too many children suffer from the effects of poverty.

The statistics are alarming; the number of children growing up in poverty is increasing. The menacing availability of methamphetamines contributes to poverty and breakdowns in the public order, but other contributing factors include the area’s relatively low wage rate.



Too many children and adults lack access to medical, dental, and mental health care.

Despite the presence in the area of excellent medical care resources, many individuals cannot afford these services. Recent cuts in state spending for medical and social services are likely to exacerbate this problem of access.

Methamphetamine traffic touches all areas of community life.

Southwest Missouri has the bleak distinction of being a meth center for the United States. Meth production is dangerous for the children who live where it is produced and for the officials charged with enforcing anti-drug laws. A new law requiring pseudoephedrine medications (ingredients of meth) to be available only behind the counter in pharmacies will likely reduce meth production.

Funding for public education has increasingly been shifted from state to local responsibility.

Over the last decade, the burden of financing public schools has been increasingly borne by local districts, with the percentage contributed by the state falling as the local percentage has risen. Recent legislation has changed the state funding formula, but several local districts have continued their legal challenge of the formula as inadequate. Local public school per-pupil expenditures and teacher salaries lag far behind the state average, impairing the districts’ abilities to serve the growing numbers of at-risk children.

Business and Economic Conditions

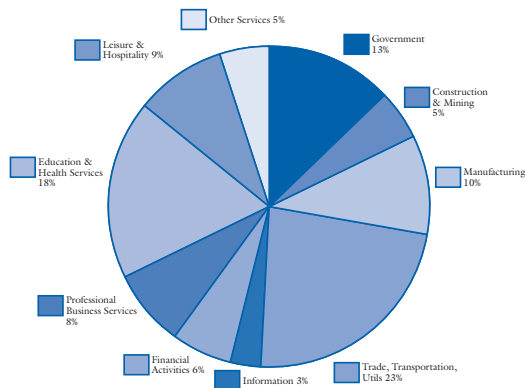
"I can't think of a more exciting time to be living in our region than right now! I believe historians will record the time we're living in now as truly a renaissance period in the growth, development, and redevelopment of our area."

Jim Anderson, President, Springfield Area Chamber of Commerce

The Springfield/Greene County area is thriving economically and has many assets to benefit its citizens. At the same time, the economic prosperity is not equally distributed.

Diversity of Businesses/Entrepreneurship. Springfield's thriving business community is one of its greatest strengths. Health care, retail, higher education, manufacturing, and tourism provide a strong foundation for a diverse economy. The metropolitan area does not depend on any one sector, which helps to sustain continued growth, even during times when other Missouri and U.S. cities have sluggish economies. Springfield's economic environment bolsters the entrepreneurial spirit and cultivates small business growth.

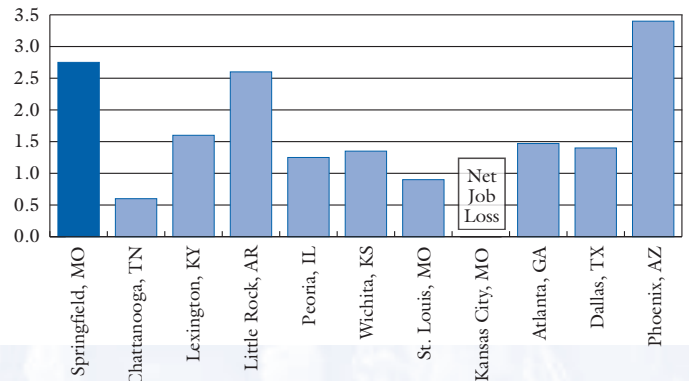
EMPLOYMENT BY SECTOR



Data from Current Employment Statistics series from Bureau of Labor Statistics.

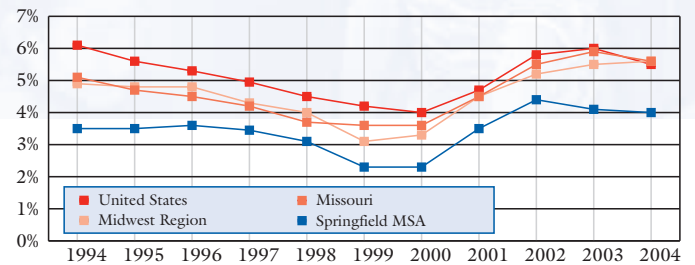
Strong Economy with Steady Job Growth and Low Unemployment. The region's economy is robust and continues to outpace the rest of the state. The local economy's consistent job growth accounts for nearly one third of the new jobs in the state, yet the area represents only 7% of the state's workforce.¹ Additionally, the region's unemployment rate is 4%, far lower than around the state.¹ Both steady unemployment and strong job growth are key factors that contribute to the area's strong economy.

2004 JOB GROWTH RATE



Data from Local Area Unemployment Statistics Series of Bureau of Labor Statistics.

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE



Data from Local Area Unemployment Statistics Series of Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Low Cost of Living. The cost of living in the region ranks considerably lower than every other comparison city. With a cost of living index at 89%, it is less expensive to live in Springfield than in nearby cities such as St. Louis, Kansas City, Tulsa, or Little Rock.²

Bustling and Thriving Downtown. The revitalization efforts of Springfield's downtown/center city area have changed the city's landscape. Significant development dollars invested during the past 12 months continue a trend that began several years ago. Public and private developers have invested over \$130 million in center city renovation projects, including loft apartments, corner grocery stores, upscale retail boutiques, coffeehouses and restaurants, and art galleries.⁴ This urban renewal has been further enhanced with the addition of Hammons Field and the Springfield Cardinals, an expo center with 100,000 square feet of new exhibition space, and parks and greenways at Jordan Valley Park, all within walking distance from one another.

Atmosphere Of United Collaboration. Setting the region apart from others around Missouri and the U.S. is its ability to collaborate effectively and plan for the future. Community and civic leaders believe strongly

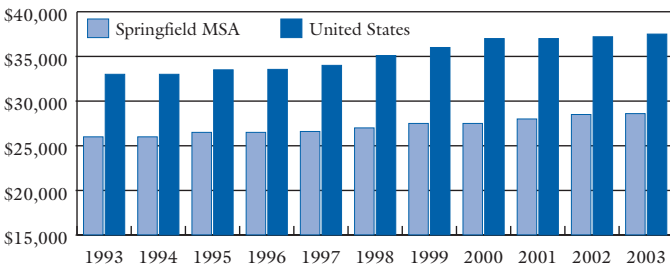
that uniting our efforts to address challenges means greater quality of life for all of us. One example of this is the Ozarks Regional Economic Partnership, where 67 organizations (representing cities, counties, and chambers of commerce) collaborate to plan for the region's future.

Conscious Effort to Develop Tomorrow's Workforce. Ozarks Technical Community College, now in its 15th year, has significantly affected workforce development in this community. The fastest growing community college in the country, OTC has filled the need for associate degrees for a trained workforce. Additionally, each higher education institution including Drury University, Evangel University, Missouri State University, and OTC strive to create curriculum to meet the labor needs of the region's largest employers such as CoxHealth and St. John's Health System.

Finally, the community understands that the effectiveness of its future workforce depends upon how well we instill core values in our young children. As a result, several community programs have been established during the past year. Two examples include the Community Partnership's Building Blocks program and the long-term, community-wide Character Education initiative, which has over 600 partners, including schools, churches, businesses, and service organizations.

Income and Wages Lag Behind Comparison Cities. Our average wage rate and per capita income levels are notably lower than in other comparison cities. Even adjusting wage information to reflect cost-of-living differences, Springfield remains below comparable cities. Additionally, our wage rate growth has slowed over recent years, widening the gap between Springfield and the national average.

AVERAGE WAGE PER JOB *(Adjusted for Inflation)*



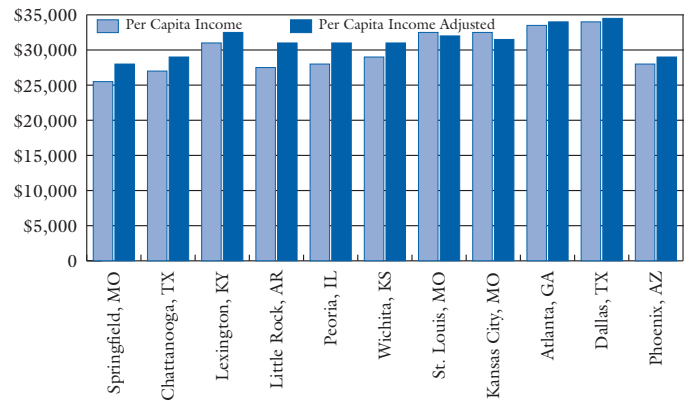
Average Wage Per Job data from Bureau of Economic Analysis; Inflation adjustments done using Consumer Price Index from Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Editor's Note: Throughout this document, we refer to comparison cities. These 10 cities represent cities comparable in size and demographics to Springfield, as well as a representative sample of large metropolitan cities across the state and nation.

Footnote: Key Data Are Unavailable
The Steering Committee that formulated this report sought data to provide the reader insight into the disparity of income levels within the five-county area. After exhaustive research and partnership with local university faculty, all agreed that data showing the distribution of income are not currently available.

Data Sources:
1) Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2004
2) ACCRA, 2004 average
3) Bureau of the Census, 2003 estimate
4) Urban Districts Alliance, 2005

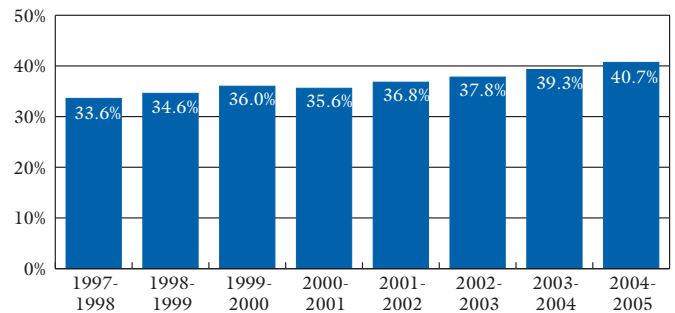
PER CAPITA INCOME *(Adjusted by Cost of Living Index)*



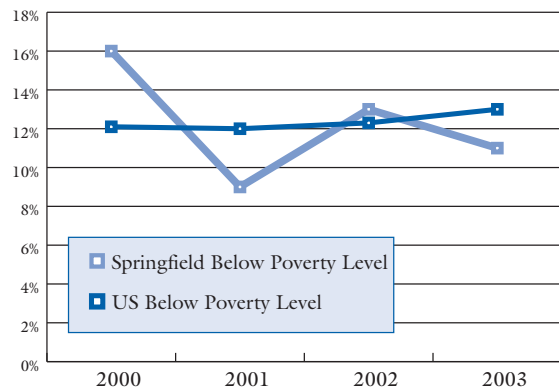
Per Capita Income data for MSAs from Bureau of Economic Analysis; Cost of Living Index data for cities from ACCRA.

Families in Poverty. A growing number of families are living below the poverty level, as suggested by the dramatic growth in number of children enrolled in the free and reduced lunch program. This troublesome trend has significant implications; the lingering effects of poverty can be felt in every area of community life. Child abuse and neglect, family violence, crime, drug and alcohol abuse, teen pregnancy, and other societal problems happen in every segment of society but are most prevalent among the poor. The economic cost of lost potential and productivity is staggering, and the cost of treatment burdens all Springfield and Greene County residents.

PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS RECEIVING FREE AND REDUCED LUNCH, SPRINGFIELD R-12 SCHOOLS



POPULATION BELOW POVERTY LEVEL



Community Health

“Limiting access to health care will not resolve the present health care crisis. The costs of care for the uninsured and Medicaid patients are passed on to all of us. Community Health Centers can provide excellent care to these patients and are one part of the answer to a very complex question—how to limit rising health care costs and increase accessibility.”

Dr. John D. Bentley, Jordan Valley Community Health Center

Springfield-Greene County Health Department. The dedicated staff of this department constantly works in many different areas to promote community health and its value to our citizens. The Health Department is widely recognized as an innovative public health organization for its efforts in serving Greene County residents.

Health Education – Allied Health Program. Education and training of new health professionals is constantly on the rise in Springfield. Strategic alliances between the Public Health Department and local colleges help ensure the ongoing focus on the importance of promoting community health and increasing the number of health professionals in our community.

Health Care Resources. Springfield’s “Medical Mile” is home to two of the nation’s top integrated health care networks—CoxHealth and St. John’s Health Systems—numerous outpatient surgical centers, mental health facilities, and home health care services. State-of-the-art technology and compassionate care combine to make Springfield a regional hub for health care.

Resources for Children and Adolescents. The Center for Child and Adolescent Development, a \$6.5 million facility opened by Burrell Behavioral Health, has been described as the best facility of its kind nationally. Burrell received \$25 million in grants over the last few years primarily for children’s mental health programming; of this, \$8 million was distributed to other community agencies, including the Mayor’s Commission on Children, Springfield

Public Schools, Community Partnership, the Springfield-Greene County Health Department, Springfield-Greene County Library District, and other agencies.

Child Abuse and Neglect. This issue is highly recognized within the community and is being met head-on by public officials and in the community’s public school system.

The Mayor’s Commission on Children is actively promoting best practices to ensure that our community offers children opportunities to grow up strong, healthy, and unaffected by detouring influences.

Community Partnership Building Blocks and research by the Search Institute has determined 40 Building Blocks (developmental assets) that children need in order to grow up healthy. Young people who have 31 of the 40 Building Blocks are much less likely to be involved with problem behaviors such as early alcohol use, sexual activity, school failure, depression/suicide, and violent behavior, and much more likely to make positive choices and to exhibit school success and caring behavior.

R-12 Building Blocks is a program working diligently with new mothers promoting healthy pregnancies, improving parental care, and improving families’ futures. Taking active roles in these problem areas is expected to reduce child abuse and neglect rates within the home and benefit the entire community.

The Junior League of Springfield will partner with the Community Partnership, United Way, CoxHealth, and St. John’s Hospital to develop a crisis nursery in Springfield. A crisis nursery is a proven child abuse prevention tool and a recognized community need.

Access to Care. Greene County is one of only ten counties in Missouri not designated as Health Professional Shortage Areas. However, access to dental and preventative care is limited for much of the population. This is apparent at Jordan Valley Community Health Center Dental Clinic, where the waiting list is currently over 3 years and 5,000 patients long. In addition, there has been an increase in mothers receiving Medicaid assistance, due partly to working mothers without employer health care benefits.

Mothers Smoking. Tobacco use during pregnancy directly affects many infant diseases. Tobacco use during pregnancy has increased over the last three years and is consistently higher than national averages. Tobacco use also reflects increases in low infant birth weight.

Communicable Disease. Our community has witnessed over a 100% increase in gonorrhea cases over the past seven years. This rate continues to grow. Recently, the community has also experienced a dramatic increase in syphilis cases.

Recent State Budget Cuts. Recent state cuts in health care and social services will significantly and negatively affect access to primary care.

Concerns

Aging Population. A looming concern to the health care environment nationwide is the aging of the baby boomer generation. Health care facilities and professionals will be hard pressed to keep up with the growth of this demand. However, this threat also presents a great opportunity for the health care industry to grow and advance to meet the needs of these citizens.

2005 COMMUNITY HEALTH DATA

	Greene County, 2003	5-Year Mean	Trend	Missouri 2003
Maternal Health (percent of total live births)				
Low Birth Weight	7.7	7.0	UP	8.0
Mothers as Medicaid Participants	50.5	46.8	UP	45.4
First Trimester Prenatal Care	89.5	89.3	NC	88.5
Births to Mothers Under Age 18	3.1	3.9	Down	3.5
Mothers Smoking During Pregnancy	21.0	19.4	Up	18.1
Children's Health and Wellness				
Child Abuse/Neglect (rate per 1,000 children)	10.9	13.1	Down	6.8
Immunization Rate (percentage of children, public clinics)	87.2	90.4	NC	84.9
Infant Deaths (per 1,000 live births)	7.1	6.9	NC	78
Communicable Disease (incidence per 100,000 population)				
Gonorrhea	113.0	80.6	Up	157.1
Tuberculosis	3.7	4.4	Down	2.3
HIV	3.3	5.9	Down	6.9
Deaths (rate per 100,000)				
Cardiovascular Disease	354.4	378.5	Down	369.9
Lung Cancer	65.9	70.3	Down	66.1
Breast Cancer	19.5	15.8	Up	16.2
Motor Vehicle Crashes	20.3	16.4	Up	21.1
Suicide	13.4	13.5	NC	12.1

Early Childhood

Maternal and Child Health Indicators

(Additional data in Community Health section. Information sources available at www.SpringfieldCommunityFocus.org)

TRENDS IMPROVING

- Births to mothers without high school educations declined; low maternal education helps predict poverty, reducing chances of child’s success in life.
- The amount of prenatal care, infant deaths, and immunization rates were stable and better than the state average.
- The percent of children receiving mental health services for serious emotional disturbances rose, partly because we are doing better in getting help for such children.

Indicator	Greene County 2003	5-year Mean	Trend	Missouri 2003
Births to Mothers w/o HS Education (% of all live births)	16.6%	17.5%	Down	18.6%
Children Receiving SED Mental Health Services (% of all children)	4.1%	Not Available	Up	2.9%

TRENDS TO WATCH

- Data about child poverty and homelessness are hard to gather; a local sampling from The Kitchen, Salvation Army, Victory House, and Family Violence Center indicates that an estimated 20% of the sheltered homeless were children under six.
- The percentages of children in poverty and receiving Medicaid are high.

Indicators	Greene County 2003
Number of Children (0-6 years) on Medicaid	10,513
% of Total Child Population	20%
Number of Children < 6 yrs in Poverty (2000 census)	2,858
% of children < 6 yrs in poverty (as % of < 6 population)	16.7%

Child Care in Greene County

Child care providers cared for approximately 9,200 children, allowing 6,000 families to remain employed. In 2005, fewer licensed providers cared for more children. Infant/Toddler

“Children are our county’s most valuable resource and hope for the future . . . Among [indicators of school readiness] are children’s physical, social, emotional, and cognitive development, exposure to child abuse and neglect, use of foster care, mother’s educational level, numbers of children in poverty, availability of health insurance and prenatal care, and the delivery of quality services in child care and public schools.”

National School Readiness Indicators Initiative, www.GettingReady.org

care (birth-2 yrs) is at capacity in Greene County, with limited availability for preschool aged children. The number of accredited programs, with a curriculum in place, increased teacher qualifications, and enhanced parental communication, has doubled. Studies show that children whose caregivers have higher education and training do better upon entering school.

	# in 2001	# in 2005
Licensed Homes/Group Homes/Centers	182	170
Accredited Programs	5	10
Total Capacity (# of slots)	7,927	9,048
Registered Vendors	310	256

Average Early Care Tuition Cost in Greene County

Child care generates \$35 million in gross revenue in Greene County. The industry employs 1,947 people who make, on average, \$6.16/hour. This compares to doggie day care employees, who make \$6.75/hour.

Cost of Childcare, Weekly	In 2002	In 2005	% Increase, 2002 to 2005
Infant/Toddler Care Home	\$97.41	\$105.00	7%
Infant/Toddler Care Center	\$130.72	\$144.00	9.2%
2+ Years Care Home	\$79.05	\$87.00	9.1%
2+ Years Care Center	\$83.71	\$91.00	8%

Kindergarten Readiness

DIAL III, a kindergarten screening tool, measures cognitive (not social/emotional) development and is one component in assessing a child’s school readiness. Data indicate an overall decrease in cognitive development readiness among Greene County children. Children whose families participate in Parents As Teachers (PAT) score higher than their peers whose families

CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

Concentrated mandated reporter training in 2003 led to increased hotline and mandated reports, but substantiated child abuse and neglect rates decreased (although they are higher than the Missouri average). Children are removed from their homes primarily due to neglect, parental

involvement with drugs/alcohol, inadequate housing, physical/sexual abuse, and incarceration of their caretaker. Efforts are being made to decrease the amount of time children spend away from their homes.

	Greene County 2003	5-year Mean	Missouri 2003
Child Abuse/Neglect-Substantiated (<18 yrs) (per 1,000 children)	10.9	13.1	6.8
	Calendar Year 2003	Calendar Year 2004	+/-
Hotline/Letter Reports	5,173	5,660	+487
Children in Custody (remain in the home)	262	318	+56
Children in Placement (removed from the home)	901	819	-82
Children Placed Outside Greene County (*2002 Base Yr)	271	159	-112
Prevalent Reasons for Removal (may have more than one indicator)			
Neglect		721	
Parent Drugs/Alcohol		418/176	
Inadequate Housing		292	
Physical Abuse/Sexual Abuse		243/147	
Caretaker Incarcerated		205	

do not participate. Children who participate in PAT and additional early childhood programs (e.g., child care, preschool, Headstart) score even better on the screening. Sadly, less than half of eligible families participate in PAT, which is free.

Parents As Teachers (PAT) Participation

Kindergarten screening*	2001-02	2004-05
Overall Screening Average	66.5%	62.8%
Screening Average for Children Participating in PAT	N/A	74.63%
Screening Average for Children <u>not</u> Participating in PAT	N/A	56.47%
% of Eligible Families (Prenatal-5 yrs) Participating in PAT	N/A	46.6%

*Includes PAT data from Fair Grove, Republic, Springfield, Strafford and Willard.

Head Start

The Ozarks Area Community Action Corporation provides a comprehensive early childhood Head Start program for low-income children, ages 0 to 5. Some centers also offer medical, dental, psychological, and early intervention services at no charge. In Greene County, 669 children participate in Head Start programs.

In Summary

Poverty is intertwined with all early childhood indicators: homelessness, single-parent families, consequences of methamphetamine use, lack of health care,

dropping out of school, and child abuse and neglect. Finding affordable and accessible child care for families and encouraging provider certification and continued training can help improve our service to poor children.

Growing community awareness and attention. Greene County has had increased community dialogue about the importance of properly developing the 0-5 age group. In 2004 the Mayor's Commission on Children was formed to focus the community's attention on early childhood needs. Several community organizations have developed specific initiatives, stemming in part from the 2004 Community Report Card, focused on young children: The Community Foundation of the Ozarks, the Junior League of Springfield, Community Partnership's Early Childhood Collaborative, and the Greene County Commission, who included early childhood development programs as a centerpiece in the Community Safety Initiative sales tax proposal.

Burrell Behavioral Health also received an ELOA grant focusing on early childhood needs. The following agencies have partnered with Burrell in this initiative: Churches of Springfield, Council of Churches of the Ozarks, Forest Institute of Professional Psychology, Head Start, Mayor's Commission for Children, Missouri State University, Ozarks Literacy Council, Parents as Teachers, Republic School System RIII, Springfield Area Chamber of Commerce, Springfield-Greene County Library District, and WIC.

Education

Improving Student Achievement Through Teacher Training and Preparation

Greene County's eight public school districts continually stress student achievement. Teachers encourage students to become actively engaged in the learning process and to combine a strong knowledge foundation with higher level thinking skills.

Several quality teacher preparation institutions in Greene County prepare teachers for classroom settings and also provide follow-up training and assistance for new teachers. Teacher preparation programs and ongoing, job-embedded professional development offer outstanding curriculum and instructional support, with several initiatives at local universities providing expertise and resources for local school district programs. Student achievement in Greene County has consistently shown improvement; many districts received the Distinction in Performance Award by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

Teacher to Student Ratios

Greene County's total student enrollment was 36,293 for the 2003-04 school year. Class sizes in most schools were slightly above the state average. Some county schools are growing quickly, which presents a challenge for maintaining smaller class sizes. Other districts have fewer new students or have a decreasing student population, which produces a lower student-teacher ratio.

5-YEAR PUBLIC SCHOOL ENROLLMENT TREND

	2000	2004	Enrollment Change	Percent Increase/Decrease in Enrollment
Springfield	24,585	24,285	-300	-1.2%
Willard	3,098	3,441	343	11.1%
Republic	2,822	3,269	447	15.8%
Logan-Rogersville	1,837	1,892	55	3.0%
Strafford	1,012	1,114	102	10.1%
Fair Grove	1,010	1,061	51	5.0%
Ash Grove	836	858	22	2.6%
Walnut Grove	340	312	-28	-8.2%
Greene County	35,540	36,232	692	1.9%
State of Missouri	895,624	893,270	-2,354	-0.3

"All who have meditated on the art of governing mankind have been convinced that the fate of empires depends on the education of youth."

Aristotle

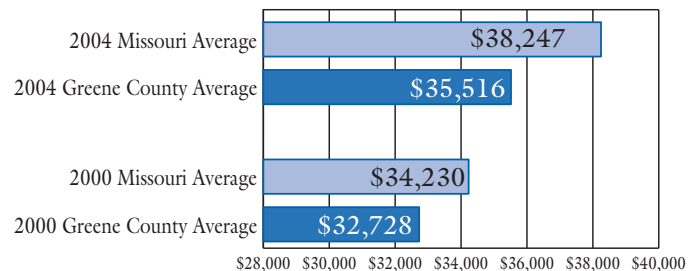
5-YEAR CLASSROOM TEACHER-STUDENT RATIO TREND

	2000	2004
Springfield	21	22
Willard	20	19
Republic	22	22
Logan-Rogersville	22	22
Strafford	17	18
Fair Grove	21	20
Ash Grove	19	18
Walnut Grove	17	19
District Average in Greene County	19.9	20.0
State of Missouri	19	19

Teacher Salaries in Greene County

In 2000, the average salary for teachers in Greene County was \$32,728 (state-wide, this figure was \$34,230); this increased to \$35,516 in 2004 (state-wide, \$38,247). Districts vary from 27.2% to 58.8% in teachers with master's degrees (state average is 47.6%). Because educational level helps determine teacher pay, the variance in this category directly affects average teacher salary per district.

Average Teacher's Salary
Greene County and State of Missouri 2000 and 2004



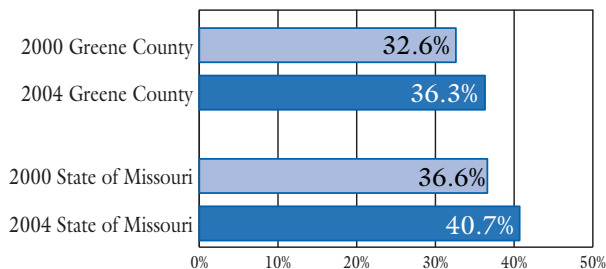
Who Are Our Students?

Public education is the prevailing choice for most Greene County families, but many students are educated in private, parochial and home school settings. Residents can choose from many good options to make the best educational decisions for their children.

Reflecting state and national trends, Springfield Public Schools and surrounding districts educate an increasing number of

economically disadvantaged students, as indicated by the percentage of students receiving free or reduced lunch rates. Children living in poverty face numerous academic obstacles.

Percent Free and Reduced Lunch Public School Students



(Greene County data compiled by aggregating student data within the eight school districts in the county.)

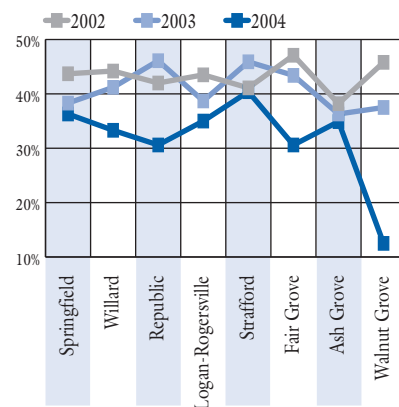
Despite the growing number of students in poverty, Springfield and Greene County student academic performance is on par with or exceeds state averages. For five of eight districts, the percent of graduates scoring at or above the national ACT average is higher than the state percent. Attendance rates in all Greene County school districts surpassed the state average of 93.7%. While the drop-out rate for most county districts slightly increased over the previous year, most districts were below Missouri’s average of 3.9%. Community programs, such as those sponsored by the Greene County Prosecutor’s Office, emphasize the importance of regular school attendance and high school completion. Continued and persistent community attention to these areas will also positively affect public safety and workforce development.

State Testing for Adequate Yearly Progress

To comply with federal and state law, students are tested annually to determine academic progress. The Missouri Assessment Program (MAP) Test is the standard measure used for scholastic performance. Reading is assessed at the third-grade level; the results provide one component of the Adequate Yearly Progress required by No Child Left Behind.

Greene County Adequate Yearly Progress trends for reading proficiently at the third-grade level are provided to the right. The state defines proficient as “... able to go beyond the typical grade-level expectations for reading. They not only demonstrate mastery of basic reading skills, they are able to apply what they comprehend in complex and sophisticated ways.”

Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP)



Budgetary Issues

Adequate and equitable public funding remains a top concern for county districts. Several Greene County districts joined a lawsuit intended to force the state to remedy the inadequacies of the current state education funding formula. The state recently changed the funding formula, but many districts still perceive the formula to be inadequate. Possible solutions that will affect local districts include consolidating small districts and mandating minimum levels of local tax support.

District budgets rely on a combination of local, state, and federal revenues. The reductions in and general uncertainty surrounding state support has challenged local districts, increasing the percentage of their budgets that districts fund through local taxes. In 2000, 60.5% of operating funds for the Greene County school districts came from local sources (state-wide, that number was 56.2%); however, in 2004, 61.9% of operating funds were local (state-wide, 57.9%).

Five of the eight county districts passed increases to their local operating levy rates during 2004. Despite these increases, per pupil expenditures remain well below the state average.

2000 STUDENT DATA

	MO	Springfield	Willard	Republic	Logan-Rogersville	Stafford	Fair Grove	Ash Grove	Walnut Grove
ACT – Graduates Scoring at or Above Nat'l. Avg.	35.4%	46.6%	35.3%	41.6%	40.2%	47.7%	39.6%	31.3%	40.0%
Attendance	93.6%	93.8%	95.0%	93.8%	93.5%	94.7%	94.4%	95.0%	95.4%
Dropouts	4.50%	7.50%	2.80%	1.60%	4.00%	2.40	2.70%	2.40%	3.70%

2004 STUDENT DATA

	MO	Springfield	Willard	Republic	Logan-Rogersville	Stafford	Fair Grove	Ash Grove	Walnut Grove
ACT – Graduates Scoring at or Above Nat'l. Avg.	33.3%	39.0%	34.3%	35.1%	30.0%	42.0%	44.6%	35.8%	15.8%
Attendance	93.6%	94.2%	93.9%	94.5%	95.5%	95.2%	95.2%	95.4%	94.7%
Dropouts	3.90%	4.65%	3.70%	2.80%	1.90%	6.00%	2.90%	3.40%	2.80%

Public Order and Safety

“The recent meth bill will significantly impact the ability for local meth cooks to obtain the products they need to do their cooking. With cooperation from local drug stores, police will be able to investigate individuals who purchase more than the amount allowed by the new law.”

Lynn Rowe, Chief of Police, Springfield

The people of Springfield and Greene County are fortunate to enjoy the services of dedicated law enforcement, firefighters and emergency services personnel.

The number of DWIs and crimes against persons decreased significantly in 2004, the murder rate in the City is below that of many comparable urban areas, and our Insurance Services Organization (ISO) rating of 2 is excellent.

According to the 11th annual Police Department Citizen Survey (2004), 88% of respondents believe police are serving the community’s needs and 74% said police officers respond quickly to emergency situations. Citizens’ top request was for increased visibility in the neighborhoods, and top priorities identified were drugs, especially methamphetamine (57%) and running red lights (68%).

“We are so fortunate in Greene County to have a tremendous cooperative spirit in the law enforcement community. This certainly contributes to many successful operations and sharing of resources.”

Jack Merritt, Sheriff, Greene County

PUBLIC SAFETY SNAPSHOT

	2002	2003	2004
DWIs (Springfield Police)	1,812	1,388	1,133
DWIs (Greene County Sheriff)	730	789	719
Number meth labs found (Springfield Police)	60	76	89
Number meth labs found (Greene County Sheriff)	15	14	34
Number red light violations, Springfield	1,480	1,432	1,431

The City of Springfield is recognized by the state as having one of the most aggressive DWI enforcement efforts. The number of meth labs found has significantly increased, partly due to a multi-media campaign urging citizens to report these labs and to increased enforcement efforts.

Meth production contaminates the area where it is “cooked” and jeopardizes the health of children and adults living there; it also contributes to the crime rate.

A new law requires cold and allergy medications containing pseudoephedrine, the main ingredient in meth, to be moved behind the pharmacy counter, with pharmacists maintaining a log of purchasers. Springfield Police Chief Lynn Rowe notes that, with surrounding states enacting similar laws, the number of active meth labs in the state should decrease, as should property crimes. Chief Rowe credits agencies such as the Community Partnership and its coalition, Ozarks Fighting Back, with raising local awareness about meth and with formation of the Drug Endangered Child Team.

Greene County’s domestic violence rate is nearly double the state average; in part, this domestic instability is attributable to the area’s methamphetamine traffic. Greene County law enforcement officials aggressively prosecute all incidents of domestic violence.

TOTAL NUMBER DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE CALLS IN SPRINGFIELD

2002 – 4,877
 2003 – 3,612 (Jan. – Sep. only due to computer glitch)
 2004 – 4,432

ALCOHOL-RELATED ACCIDENTS REPORTED BY SPRINGFIELD POLICE

2003 – 244
 2004 – 259

CRIME TOTALS IN SPRINGFIELD

	2002	2003	2004
Manslaughter		0	2
Robbery	222	171	184
Murder	4	6	8
Forcible Rape	102	73	85
Aggravated Assault	733	787	578
Total Crime Against Persons	1,061	1,037	857
Burglary	1,882	1,833	1,857
Motor Vehicle Theft	771	764	808
Larceny/Theft	8,352	9,754	9,590
Total Crime Against Property	11,005	12,351	12,255

CRIME RATES IN GREENE COUNTY

	2003	2004
Larceny/Theft	992	836
Murder	1	2
Forcible Rape	3	2
Assault	790	725
Burglary	353	298
Motor Vehicle Theft	99	82

GREENE COUNTY JUVENILE

Referral Type	Total Referrals
Abuse/Neglect	
2002	972
2003	727
2004	887
Delinquency/Status Offenses	
2002	3,420
2003	2,980
2004	2,968

Source: Greene County Juvenile Office

*note – not all referrals result in formal court proceedings

Fire And Emergency Services

INSURANCE SERVICES ORGANIZATION

(ISO) RATING

ISO is a company that rates cities according to fire loss risks based on factors such as the capabilities of the fire department and the water system. Cities are rated from one to ten, with one as the top rating. This information is used by insurance companies to set fire insurance rates. In general, the better the ISO rating a city has, the lower the property insurance rates will be. There has been no significant change since 2002.

City	ISO Class 2004	Response Time 2004
Springfield, MO	2	4:29
Peoria, IL	2	4:20
Chattanooga, TN	3	5:08
Little Rock, AR	2	6:12
Phoenix, AZ	2	4:56

AUTOMATED EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATOR CENTER FOR EXCELLENCE

In sudden cardiac death, the use of a defibrillator is the only known successful treatment. Recognizing the importance of immediate access, the AED Center for Excellence was developed, and has facilitated the installation and oversight of more than 200 AEDs throughout Greene County in public places such as golf courses and retail stores.



MURDER & VIOLENT CRIMES 2003

City/State	Population	Number of Murders	Murder Rate Per 100,000	Number of Violent Crime Cases	Violent Crime Rate Per 100,000
Springfield, MO	151,859	6	4.0	1,038	683.5
Peoria, IL	113,143	7	6.2	Not Provided	Not Provided
Chattanooga, TN	156,596	19	12.1	1,973	1,259.1
Little Rock, AR	185,117	44	23.8	2,858	1,543.9
Lexington, KY	265,224	18	6.8	1,242	468.3
Wichita, KS	356,123	18	5.1	2,227	625.3
Phoenix, AZ	1,403,228	241	17.2	9,722	692.8

Housing

“The strength of a nation lies in the homes of its people.”

Abraham Lincoln

Springfield, MO, a “. . . well kept secret,” won’t remain so for long. It was recently named a top 10 place to live and work by *Employment Review*, in part because Springfield has long enjoyed a full range of affordable home prices and a healthy balance between residential building and housing demand, even during the recent population boom.

Housing costs are 22.8 percent below the national average.¹ The current median price of a home is \$100,303.² Sixty-three percent of Springfield households are owned by their residents and the median monthly homeowner costs are \$843.²

However, the area faces many challenges in providing a balanced mix of housing opportunities that are income-appropriate and age-appropriate for its residents, including the homeless and those with special housing needs. Fortunately, several organizations, developers and private property owners are dedicated to preserving our existing housing, creating new affordable housing, and promoting access to safe and decent housing for everyone.

Defining the Need

Unfortunately, 14.1 percent, or 19,711 households, earn less than \$15,000 annually.² This equates to a full-time hourly wage of \$7.21.

The standard measure of housing affordability is thirty percent of adjusted gross income. However, the number of low- to moderate-income working families paying more than fifty percent of their income for housing increased seventy-six percent nationally between 1997 and 2003. With the fair market monthly rent rate of \$520³ for a two-bedroom unit, a full-time worker would need to earn an hourly rate of \$10 to afford this.

This level of income reduces the opportunities low-income residents have for *quality* affordable housing and increases the need for supportive services to assist such families. A deficit of housing units for households earning less than \$15,000 is projected, which challenges the entire community to collaborate, leverage resources, and expand opportunities.



Meeting the Need

Vision 20/20, the long-range plan for Springfield and Greene County, found that 74 percent of respondents thought a greater effort should be made to provide affordable housing for low-income families. Area housing providers agree and convene monthly as a Housing Collaborative to help meet this need. Springfield’s housing leaders work together to decrease substandard housing; their work seems to have paid off. According to the City’s Housing Quality survey, the number of substandard dwellings dropped significantly, from eighteen percent in 1994 to twelve percent in 2004.

The Housing Authority of Springfield offered 1,506 public and Section 8 housing units in 2004. At that time all available units were full; approximately 1,747 households had applied for housing assistance and were awaiting help. The Housing Collaborative reports that less than ten percent needing public and assisted housing receive it each year, leaving families at risk for homelessness.

The Affordable Housing Action Board works to increase the number of quality rental units. During 2004, AHAB released three new units that are now available to eligible families at monthly rates below Fair Market Rent.

Additionally, 27 new or rehabilitated housing units were financed in 2004 through the City of Springfield’s Community Development Block Grant/HOME program. Although funding for this initiative has dropped nineteen percent since 2001, Springfield continues to offer low-interest loan dollars for families and property owners for rehabilitation and construction.



With state, federal and private dollars, Habitat for Humanity and Affordable Homes Development are taking an innovative approach in the creation of 10 new units in 2004 now available for home ownership.

Homeless Services. Nearly 600 individuals per night are homeless. For this population, our community has formed a Continuum of Care Committee, which brings over \$971,000 in funding from the Department of Housing and Urban Development to sustain six emergency shelters and transitional housing facilities. In 2004, the Continuum of Care found that:

- Emergency Shelters serve over 600 individuals per night, of which nearly 300 were children.
- Shelters report 100% occupancy with overflow facilities in high demand.
- An estimated 200 individuals remain unsheltered, living in camps around the city.
- Untreated mental illness is the primary cause of chronic homeless.

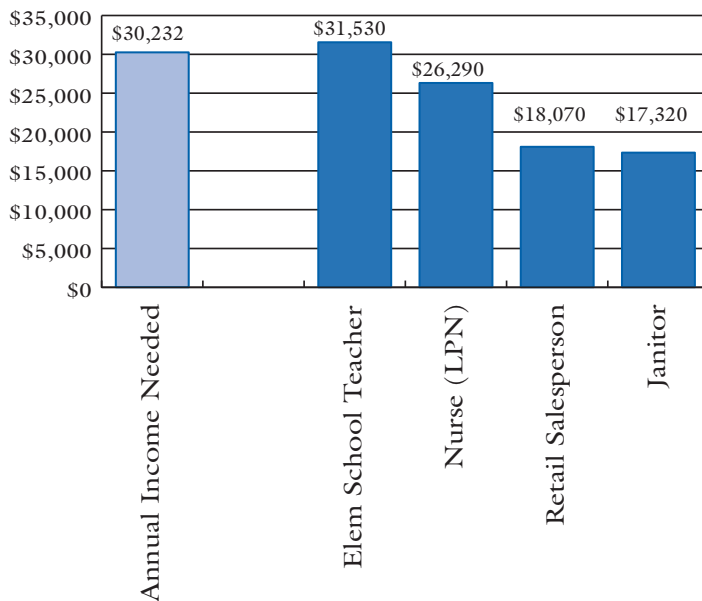
Collaborative Efforts. The Housing Community continues to work collaboratively to meet the growing housing needs of Springfield residents with state, federal and private funding. Innovative use of this funding has resulted in a decrease in substandard housing, an increase in newly developed housing units and an increase in the coordination of supportive services. Through these collaborative efforts the following initiatives have been accomplished:

- Vision 20/20 Affordable Housing Plan
- Safe Haven: Permanent Housing Facility to Address Chronic Homelessness
- Housing Quality Survey

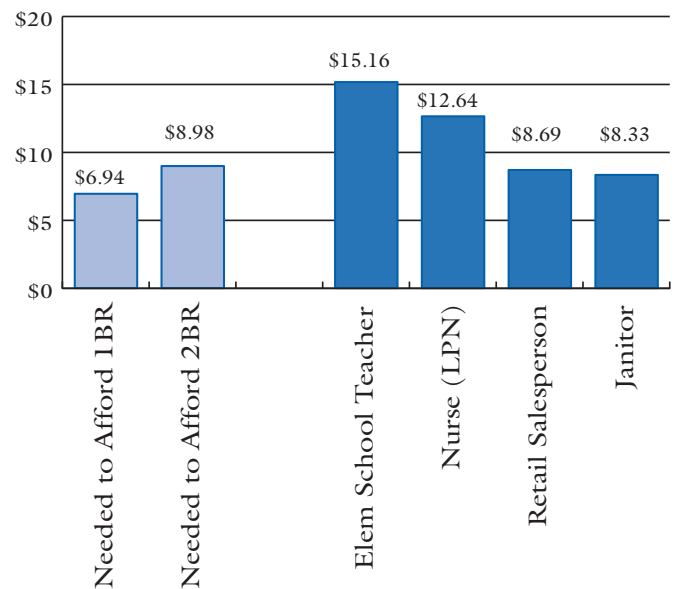
Available funding to meet the growing need for affordable housing has decreased significantly over the last year. This creates longer waiting lists for supportive services and increases the risk for homelessness.

Sources:
 1) ACCRA, Cost of Living Index, 2004 average
 2) Bureau of the Census, American Community Survey, 2003
 3) Department of Housing and Urban Development, Fair Market Rents, 2005

Homeownership Market
 2003 Median Priced Home: \$97,000



Rental Market
 2003 Fair Market Rent: 1BR \$361/month, 2BR \$467/month



Transportation

Roadways

Transportation is a high priority in Springfield and Greene County. The City of Springfield’s Capital Improvements Program funds high-priority transportation needs through a ¼-cent sales tax with a three-year sunset provision. This provision holds the City accountable for fulfilling its pledges before seeking renewed taxpayer support. More than \$400 million in capital improvement projects have been completed in the past six years. Renewed in February 2004, the sales tax raised \$26 million to widen streets, improve intersections, add school sidewalks and traffic signals, and fund other projects such as neighborhood improvements.

The City of Springfield and Missouri Department of Transportation partner to use a ⅛-cent sales tax for such improvements as dual left-turn lanes on state roads within the City. This renewable sales tax was approved in 1996 and renewed in 2000 and 2004. It allows the city to move more quickly on projects without having to wait for state funding to become available. (<http://www.ci.springfield.mo.us/transportation/transportation.html>)

Springfield’s average commute time is comparatively low. In 1990, the commute time was 15.7 minutes and in 2000 the average commute time was 17 minutes. The upward trend is expected to continue with the increasing population and traffic volumes. All major streets are experiencing increasing traffic volumes, which means additional roadway improvements will be needed.

Safety is a top priority for the region (and for the state). Springfield and Greene County monitor accidents and make intersection improvements to decrease accident rates at major intersections.

- 20 intersections improved since 2000; 19 intersection improvement projects are planned.
- MoDOT’s safety campaign focuses on corridors with high accident rates.
- Concentration on engineering, enforcement and emergency response to reduce fatalities on Missouri’s roads.

Springfield, in conjunction with MoDOT, has developed a state-of-the-art Intelligent Transportation System (ITS), which uses technology to monitor and improve the flow of traffic in the area. The efficiency of Springfield’s system was highlighted in *USA Today* on April 20th, 2005.

- Traffic signals are connected by a loop system so they can be timed for the most efficient movement of traffic.
- This Advance Traffic Management System uses traffic signals, CCTV cameras, vehicle detectors, roadside electronic message signs, a traffic information website, and coordinates with Springfield-Greene County Emergency Communications (911) and other emergency response personnel.
- Dynamic message boards alert drivers of major delays and upcoming roadway construction.
- Most major intersections have cameras that feed real-time video to the traffic management center, to verify accidents and monitor traffic.
- Planned ITS advancements include additional cameras, dynamic message boards, vehicle detector stations, and related communications equipment.
- A new Regional Traffic Management Center Construction Project began in summer 2005 in the lower level of Heer’s Tower on Park Central Square downtown; this facility will allow City and MoDOT personnel to actively manage the regional roadway network through traffic signal control, roadway incident response, and traveler information.

Comparison Cities	Average Commute Time (minutes)
Peoria, IL	16.6
Springfield, MO	17.0
Wichita, KS	18.1
Chattanooga, TN	19.8
Little Rock, AR	19.5
Lexington, KY	19.3
Kansas City, MO	21.9
St. Louis, MO	25.1
Phoenix, AZ	26.1
Dallas, TX	26.9
Atlanta, GA	28.3

Source: 2000 census

Pedestrians

Providing transportation opportunities for pedestrians has been a focus of capital improvements in the Springfield area.

- 3.22 miles of new sidewalks constructed by Springfield and three miles by Greene County, primarily near public schools, since 2003.
- Ozark Greenways provides important pedestrian connections for the area, especially for important recreational areas including the Springfield Nature Center, area parks, a golf course, Springfield Lake, and the James River. A future

Greenway connection to Wilson's Creek National Battlefield is planned.

The Springfield Public School System, due to budget constraints, can no longer provide bus service to students who live within 1½ miles of school.

- Partnership with City Utilities has helped fill the gap; CU provides public transit service to each high school in town, six middle schools, and many elementary schools.
- The sidewalk programs of Springfield and Greene County have improved safety for students walking to school.
- Ozark Greenways provide connections to six area public schools with additional connections planned.

Bicycles as Transportation. The many active bicyclists in the Springfield area use an extensive on-street bicycle network; many improvements to the network are planned.

- Over two miles of bicycle lanes have been constructed in Springfield and Greene County.
- More than 50 miles of “Share the Road” routes exist.
- About 62 miles of Greenway trails exist, with many more miles planned.
- All CU buses have bike racks; the Park Central bus transfer station offers free secured bicycle storage.
- Bicycle Parking Racks are required on new commercial construction.

Transit and Paratransit. City Utilities operates a fixed route and paratransit (for disabled passengers) bus system. The fixed route system operates on a fixed schedule seven days a week (see <http://www.cityutilities.net> for the schedule). Ridership has increased by 6,000 passengers since 2003. There are 26 fixed route buses and five paratransit buses (for disabled passengers) in the fleet.

CU and the City of Springfield have partnered to reduce bus and automobile congestion by constructing bus turnouts on major roadways. Since 2000, 25 bus turnouts have been constructed (seven in 2004). More than 30 additional turnouts are planned in the next few years.

CITY UTILITIES BUS SYSTEM

	2001	2002	2003	2004
CU Total Passengers	1,515,611	1,509,686	1,539,264	1,545,267
CU Bus Miles	1,127,665	1,215,805	1,229,100	1,191,807

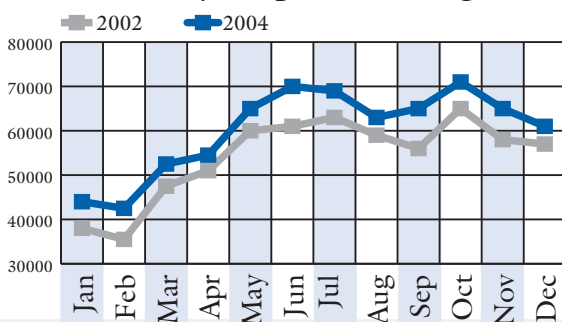
Paratransit service gives those who, due to a disability, cannot access the fixed routes. CU Access Express provides curb-to-curb service by reservation. Older Adults Transportation System (OATS) provides service both inside and outside of the city limits. Several not-for-profit agencies also provide paratransit services to their clients, including Eldercare Transit Service's door-through-door service.

However, there is a growing need for door-through-door service for the many elderly and disabled individuals without transportation, and Eldercare cannot accommodate everyone who needs help. The high costs of liability insurance for door-through-door paratransit service contributes to this shortage. Additional funding is needed to meet the increasing paratransit demands. In addition, coordination is needed among the more than 20 not-for-profit transportation providers that currently offer a variety of transportation services with little coordination among the various groups.

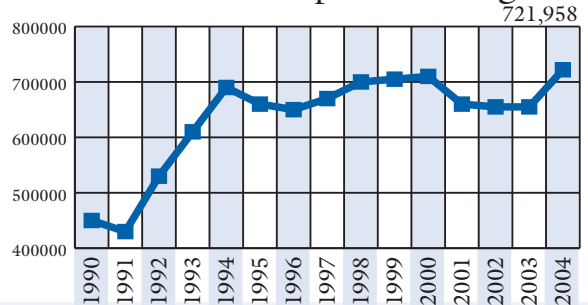
Airport. The Springfield-Branson Regional Airport serves as the primary airport for the region. The total number of airport passengers is increasing and the airport is growing.

- In 2004, 721,958 passengers flew into or out of the airport, surpassing the previous, pre-9/11 record from 2000.
- Non-stop service to nine cities is offered (up from six in 2000), with two more planned by the end of 2005 (http://sgf-branson-airport.com/about_us/index.htm).
- The number of available daily seats is 1,802, up from 1,217 in 2000—an increase of 67% in five years.
- Departure studies consistently find about 60% of passengers traveling for business and 40% for leisure.
- The current terminal is operating at capacity; a new mid-field terminal, now being designed and expected to be completed by late 2008, will accommodate increasing demand for many years.

SGF Monthly Airport Passenger Trend



SGF Total Airport Passengers



Citizen Participation

“Collaboration is the hallmark of volunteerism in Springfield.”

Tom Carlson, Mayor, Springfield

Citizen participation enriches the social capital of our community. The degree of volunteerism and the extent of willing cooperation among agencies and organizations in Springfield and Greene County are, if not unique, unusual and noteworthy. Citizen involvement creates information networks and fuels collective action; these strengthen our ability to be truly self-governing.

VOTING INFORMATION

Greene County Registered Voters, November 2004	184,000
August 2004 Primary Election Voters	79,178 (47%)
November 2004 Presidential Election Voters	126,258 (69%, a record)

Voter registration is strong and for the presidential election in November 2004, sixty-nine percent of registered voters came out to the polls. The League of Women Voters publishes two periodicals a year, maintains a website, provides displays at our public libraries, and broadcasts a weekly radio show. Over 1,500 volunteer hours were given to these endeavors.

Volunteers Make a Difference

Springfield is the beneficiary of generous individuals and groups working collaboratively to deal with observed needs. No job is too small or great for volunteers, who do such diverse things as clear Greenways trails, build Habitat houses and usher at theaters.

Volunteering fosters our ability to trust one another, increases our commitment to shared goals, and expands our vision about what can and should be done to shape our community. Springfield/Greene County’s civic life is rich in social capital; it strengthens our connections to one another and provides resources for maintaining the health of our community. The following is a representative accounting of volunteer activities and hours.



People in Springfield and Greene County are generous with their time. The Southwest Missouri Volunteer Administrators Association lists the following counts for recent volunteer hours:

Organization	2003 Estimated Number, Volunteer Hours	2004 Estimated Number, Volunteer Hours
Community Hospices of America	5,999	Not available
Convention and Visitors Bureau	9,181	N/A
Dickerson Park Zoo	4,706	N/A
Girl Scouts of Dogwood Trails Council	92,000	N/A
Juanita K. Hammons Hall for the Performing Arts	10,800	N/A
Habitat for Humanity	40,000	N/A
Master Gardeners	11,432	13,470
Ozark Greenways	3,157	3,260
Springfield Conservation Nature Center	15,500	N/A
Springfield-Greene County Library District	16,000	16,000
Springfield Little Theatre	47,000	N/A
Wonders of Wildlife	23,621	16,000

St. John’s Health System	654 Volunteers	138,477 hours (July, 2003 to June, 2004)
CoxHealth System	1,263 Volunteers	129,029 hours (2004)

SPRINGFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Parent-Teacher Associations	
Operate in Each School:	8,927 members (2004)
Volunteers in Springfield Public Schools:	1,319 registered volunteers 54,783 volunteer hours logged

Members of the community are also generous with their money and resources. Numerous individuals and foundations give to worthy projects and organizations.

COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF THE OZARKS (CFO)

Assets, 2003	Assets, 2004	Assets, 2005, through March
\$52.2 million	\$71.2 million	\$81.2 million
CFO Grants and Distributions, 2004: \$4.7 million		

In response to needs identified in the 2004 Community Focus Report, CFO has pledged \$1 million in unrestricted funds to tackle community red flags over the next four years. CFO anticipates awarding annually, an additional \$600,000 (approximately) in discretionary grants for projects addressing the red flags noted in this report.

UNITED WAY OF THE OZARKS (UWO)

United Way of the Ozarks has partnered with many of its current member agencies since its origin in 1930. In 2004 the UWO raised \$3,372,514 and managed an additional \$2,174,951 in grants and contracts in collaboration with Community Partnership. The 26 member agencies generated 1,406,284 volunteer hours through the efforts of 23,235 volunteers. Day of Caring alone had 1,400 volunteers painting, cleaning trails, and building structures. UWO is the only United Way known to include both endowment and grant initiatives (Cancer Fund, Children and Youth, Women's Initiative, and Children's Dental Fund) in its annual campaign.

THE JUNIOR LEAGUE OF SPRINGFIELD

The Junior League of Springfield (JLS), an organization of women, has impacted our community since April 1959. League members identify unmet needs, forge effective coalitions, and work together for change. Since 1959, the League has grown from 31 to 600 members (160 active), given over \$2 million and



Junior League members "make over" a cottage at the Regional Girls Shelter this spring.

volunteered more than 1 million hours of time to the community. In 2004, JLS assisted 14 non-profit agencies with resources and volunteers.

JUNIOR LEAGUE VOLUNTEER HOUR AND MONEY COMPARISON WITH PEORIA

	Number of Volunteers 2004	Volunteer Hours 2004	Money Contributed 2004
Springfield	160	11,000	\$126,000
Peoria	160	18,000	\$ 25,000

As a result of last year's Community Focus report, the Junior League of Springfield will be addressing the issue of child abuse and neglect for the next three to five years.

Faith-Based Organizations

COUNCIL OF CHURCHES OF THE OZARKS

The Council of Churches of the Ozarks is a 36-year-old umbrella organization sponsored by 84 area churches and supported by funds raised from the community at large. It currently administers nine social action projects, including Ozarks Food Harvest, Crosslines, and Daybreak Adult Day Care.

Total estimated volunteer hours for all Council projects:	262,820
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CHURCHES OF SPRINGFIELD

Churches of Springfield represents a group of individuals from some 70 churches who provide 200 reading tutors for Springfield Public School children, grades K-3, one day per week. These volunteers also address the five-year maintenance needs in a designated school, as identified by city leaders, in a one-day annual megaproject involving more than 200 people.



Community Focus | *A Report for*
Arts and Culture

“The many great gardens of the world, of literature and poetry, of painting and music, of religion and architecture, all make the point as clear as possible: The soul cannot thrive in the absence of a garden.”

Thomas Moore

As the Springfield region fully acknowledges its role as a metropolitan community, arts and culture have taken center stage. Local government, foundations, business leaders, and the arts organizations realize the importance of collaboration and communication in order to build a healthy community. The arts play a role in economic development, job creation, downtown stabilization, education, social services, and quality of life.

The result is a community that offers a variety of events, including the acclaimed Artsfest, which just celebrated its 25th year, The Greater Ozarks Blues Festival, and WinterFest, now at the ten-year mark. Two new festivals were started in 2004-05 due to the influence of Springfield’s two sister cities: Isesaki, Japan and Tlaquepaque, Mexico. The Cherry Blossom Kite Festival celebrates the Japanese culture and ArtsFiesta! provides a strong link to Springfield’s growing Hispanic population.

In addition to festivals, Springfield has its own professional organizations in opera, ballet, symphony, and theatre. New galleries and performing arts groups have opened space downtown within the past year. Residents of, and visitors to, the Springfield area have a vast array of entertainment and cultural opportunities on almost any night of the week, with a growing downtown at the core of the attractions.

Examples of the community focus on the arts and cultural development include:

The Creamery Arts Center.

A 35,000 square foot facility located in the City’s premier Jordan Valley Park, The Creamery has been a focus as it completes Phase I of its renovation and opens to the public. A highlight is the recently completed Rotary Centennial Outdoor Classroom.



Springfield Mayor Tom Carlson presents a gift of locally-made pottery to Mayor Miguel Castro of our sister city, Tlaquepaque, Mexico

Collaborative Efforts.

- First Friday Art Walk, a partnership among 15 local galleries.
- Joint grant writing, which has led to almost \$200,000 in direct collaborative grant awards plus \$1.4 million in federal appropriations.
- Artist-in-residence and internship opportunities with local universities.

Local arts organizations do a good job of working with service agencies. A program called, “Arts in the Park,” for example, offers ten weeks of instruction to minority and underserved children through the Springfield Community Center.

One of the outgrowths of these partnerships has been a team approach to event management among local not-for-profit organizations, the City of Springfield and the Springfield-Greene County Park Board. By working together to provide free family entertainment at Jordan Valley Park venues, we address the community red flag of at-risk families and offer positive opportunities for family activities and interaction.

Operating Revenues.

Funding for arts and cultural organizations is the biggest red flag. The majority of the arts and cultural organizations operate primarily with volunteers, with few paid staff. Endowment funds have been established for the leading organizations; however, a lack of consistent contributions to those endowments is a concern.

The majority of the organizations fund their operations through sponsorships, donations, membership fees, corporate support, grants, ticket sales, program guide ad sales, and fundraisers.

The arts organizations make good community partners, and provide discounted or free performance tickets in support of



SPRINGFIELD'S ESTABLISHED ARTS & CULTURAL ORGANIZATIONS & MUSEUMS

Springfield-Greene County Library District – Established 1903
Springfield Art Museum – Established 1928
Springfield Little Theatre – Established 1934
Springfield Symphony – Established 1934
History Museum for Springfield-Greene County – Established 1976
Springfield Ballet – Established 1976
Springfield Regional Arts Council – Established 1978
Springfield Opera – Established 1979
Children's Choirs of Southwest Missouri – Established 1986
Springfield Sister Cities Association – Established 1986
Air & Military Museum of the Ozarks – Established 1990
Discovery Center of Springfield – Established 1991
American National Fish & Wildlife Museum – Established 2001

tourism and non-profit events. Organizations offer a variety of performances, educational opportunities and special events, serving over 285,000 people per year. There are numerous children's programs and school outreaches, serving thousands of students and teachers. Regional programming is growing, although still identified as a need.

Arts organizations have indicated their top three needs as operational dollars, funding, and marketing. Specific areas most needing attention for the further development and sustainability of local arts organizations include:

- Funding, particularly for day-to-day operations
- Marketing
- Continued implementation of the Cultural Plan
- Endowment building
- More educational programs for children
- Regional programming

Additional information about the arts and cultural opportunities in the Springfield region is available online at www.springfieldarts.org or by calling 417.862.2787.

Resources: www.springfieldarts.org
 SRAC 2005 survey
 Missouri Arts Council
 Americans for the Arts
 Jordan Valley Marketing Council

Website links: www.springfieldarts.org
www.missouriartscouncil.org
<http://ww3.artsusa.org/>

DATA	2003-04	2004-05
Number of People Employed Full-time in the Arts	71	76 *
Number of Arts & Cultural Organizations	43	49
Number of People Served by Local Arts & Cultural Organizations	228,692	278,277
Number of Museums	3	4
Number of Local Arts Festivals & Events	12	14
Number of Organizations Offering Art/Dance/Music/Theatre Classes	7	8
Budget Springfield Regional Arts Council (SRAC)	\$211,000	\$229,061
Number of SRAC Members	135	135
Springfield Art Museum Attendance	39,329	56,227
SRAC Event Attendance	96,900	63,170**
Number of Volunteers at Art Related Events	611	2,435

* National average for a city our size for jobs in the arts is 448 FTEs; it is not known if that includes educators (local figure does NOT).

**Rain conditions at Artsfest 2004 caused an estimated 25,000 decline in that event alone.

Recreation, Sports and Leisure

In Springfield-Greene County, there's a leisure activity or sport for everyone. Jordan Valley Park, in the center city, is a crown jewel. It has the Expo Center; Jordan Valley Ice Park, which has two sheets of NHL ice; Hammons Field, home of the Springfield Cardinals AA Minor League Baseball Franchise; and Founders Park, where Springfield began.

Parks, Open Space, and Greenways

Springfield and Greene County residents value parks, open space and greenways; these areas were included in the first Vision 20/20 project, a grass roots strategic planning initiative, and were the first of the Vision 20/20 plan components approved. Voters approved a five-year ¼ cent sales tax to fund implementation. Because of the rapid rate of development in and around Springfield, there is a race to secure green space and set aside parks for wildlife habitat and citizen recreation.

More than 80 City-County Parks cover over 2,600 acres. These include historical and state-of-the-art facilities such as Dickerson Park Zoo, Chesterfield and Doling Family and Aquatics Centers, Japanese Stroll Garden, Nathanael Greene/Close Memorial Park, and Cooper Park.

The Springfield-Greene County Park System is a National Recreation and Park Association Gold Medal Award-Winning Department. Community-wide efforts garnered the city recognition as the *Sports Illustrated* Sportstown for Missouri, partly because the area boasts numerous sports facilities. Those include Cooper Park, which has facilities for tennis, soccer, baseball and softball, and is the stadium home of the World Team Tennis Springfield Lasers Professional Tennis Team; Jordan Valley Ice Park; and the park system, which supports three Municipal Golf Courses and two Junior Courses providing year-round golfing activities. Rivercut Golf Course, a premier public course, was ranked in the top five Missouri Golf Courses for the past three years.



Vision 20/20 supported the creation of numerous new parks and 75 miles of trails and facilities. New parkland acquisition and land partnerships over the last year have included Rutledge-Wilson Farm, Lost Hill Property, and the cooperative use of the Valley Water Mill property in north Springfield.

2005 was the inaugural year for the Springfield Cardinals, a AA minor league franchise of the St. Louis Cardinals organization. Attendance has exceeded expectations, with the Springfield Cardinals in the top ten of all minor league cities.

The Springfield-Greene County Library District's commitment to public service is exemplary. Computerized reference services, Walking Books visits to the homebound, summer reading clubs for kids and teens, a circulating educational toy collection, and extensive programming are just a few of the services that make the Library District a popular destination.

Library Usage	2004	2005
Circulation	2,990,000	3,156,468
Attendance	1,583,213	1,626,184
Programs (Attendance)	2,628 (70,369)	2,665 (73,789)

Springfield was recognized as one of 23 communities in the nation for efforts in becoming a bicycle-friendly community. Bike trails contribute substantially to the community's overall quality of life; the miles of trails and bike lanes highlight the area's progress.

	2003	2004
Miles of bike trails	37	40
Miles of bike lanes	52	58

Schools-Parks Collaboration

The School-Park concept, backed by the 2001 ¼-cent sales tax, will support 23 school parks over a 25-year period. To date, seven of those school parks are completed. The schools use the parks during the day and the parks provide programs after school.

Recreation and Leisure Activities

The variety of recreation and leisure activities available is impressive. Here is a partial listing:

The Springfield Family YMCA, in our community for 116 years, has over 20,000 memberships and served 567,769 people throughout the Ozarks in 2004. More than \$726,700 in scholarships was provided to children and



families in need. The youth sports program is non-competitive. Programs include childcare, fitness, youth and adult sports, swimming, and arts and humanities programs. Prime Time, the YMCA's before- and after-school childcare program, serves nearly 2,000 children daily, providing 27% of licensed day care in Springfield.

The Boys & Girls Clubs of Springfield has three campuses open to boys and girls, 6 to 18, who pay annual fees to participate in Club programs. Scholarship funds help children who cannot afford the fees. Boys & Girls Clubs serve more than 3,500 young people annually, averaging 500 youth daily during the school year and 800 during the summer.

Springfield-Greene County Library District has nationally recognized destination facilities, such as the Library Center and Library Station, which attract more than 20,000 patrons each week.

Wilson Creek National Battlefield, site of an important Civil War battle, offers a 13-minute film, a six-minute fiber optics map program, a bookstore, a walking tour of the battlefield, and excellent Civil War research library.

Springfield Lake, a public recreation area, offers fishing and boating (six-horsepower limit).

Fellows Lake is popular for sailing and fishing, especially for largemouth bass (40-horsepower limit). Muskie were stocked in 1996 and 1999.

McDaniel Lake, a reservoir north of Springfield, allows bank fishing.

Fantastic Caverns is a guided, all-riding tour of an ancient underground riverbed filled with massive formations in natural limestone.

Crystal Cave has natural walking paths.

Springfield Conservation Nature Center, with nature exhibits and three miles of hiking trails, provides free conservation and educational activities for all ages.

The Discovery Center, an interactive, hands-on science, center presents hands-on experiments in science, earth science and energy.

Founders Park has a historical timeline mural depicting Springfield events over the last 100 years and an amphitheater for outdoor movies and live performances.

Wonders of Wildlife, a 92,000-square-foot blend of museum and aquarium, hosts nearly 250 species of live animals.

Springfield Art Museum, Springfield's oldest cultural institution, has eight galleries of fine art exhibits.

History Museum for Springfield and Greene County, in historic City Hall, is dedicated to preserving the region's unique history. Permanent exhibits trace local history from prehistoric times through the 1950s.

Missouri Sports Hall of Fame features interactive displays and autographed memorabilia.

The Softball Museum displays softball paraphernalia dating to the 1920s, highlighting state, regional and national tournaments.

Springfield Skate Park has both an indoor park and 25,000-square foot concrete park with great spectator seating.

Riverbluff Cave was acknowledged in 2005 as the oldest fossil cave in North America.

Natural Environment

“As a community, we do not accept environmental degradation as the inevitable outcome of growth.”

Barbara Lucks,
Missouri Environmental Education Association

Overview

Southwest Missouri’s forests, rolling hills, limestone bluffs, springs, streams, and lakes offer a remarkable range of recreational opportunities. Rapid population growth provides exceptional economic development opportunities, but also brings intense pressure to bear on these irreplaceable natural resources.

Proactive Efforts. The community has proactively addressed the region’s challenges, with groups such as Ozark Greenways, Watershed Committee of the Ozarks, and the James River Basin Partnership collaborating with public agencies to promote a clean and healthy environment. Conservation/environmental education is a priority, with several programs devoted to raising awareness:

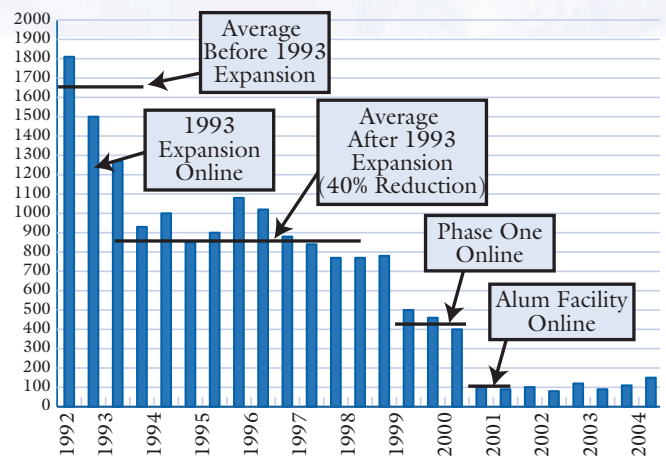
- The Watershed Committee’s Watershed Center will be a state-of-the-art education/demonstration facility.
- Springfield/Greene County Parks Department offers a full array of outdoor experiences and education through its Outdoor Initiatives Program.
- Missouri State University’s Ozarks Environmental and Water Resources Institute conducts research and educational activities about environmental resources, including water, for the entire Ozarks region.
- The Springfield Conservation Nature Center, owned/operated by the Missouri Department of Conservation and Dickerson Park Zoo, offers a wide range of educational experiences.
- The Discovery Center of Springfield will have the First LEED-certified Green Building to be constructed in Springfield and will use both the process and the building in their environmental education activities.

Air Quality. Springfield’s air is cleaner than Environmental Protection Agency standards. However, concentration of ozone and fine particles approach unacceptable levels. Ozone forms when sunlight acts on hydrocarbons (emitted by motor vehicles; oil and chemical storage and handling facilities;

commercial and industrial sources such as gas stations, dry cleaners and degreasing operations). Particulates are fine solids (dirt, soil, dust, pollens, molds, ashes, and soot) and aerosols from combustion by-products. Of special concern: fine particles less than 2.5 microns in diameter are easily inhaled and absorbed into the bloodstream.

Water Quality. Springfield’s drinking water supply is largely surface water. Groundwater, through private wells, is a primary source for many people. Trend lines suggest that community stewardship has been effective. The Springfield Southwest Wastewater Treatment Plant recently upgraded its facility, which has improved water clarity and lowered phosphorus content at Table Rock Lake (James River arm).

Water Quality
Phosphorus Discharged to Wilson Creek



- Springfield must meet stringent water quality requirements for storm water run-off management. Posted reports for the city's storm water management activities are online at www.springfieldmogov.org/stormwater.
- The City and County engage in numerous efforts, including stream and runoff sampling, illicit discharge prevention, GIS mapping, review and revision of developers design standards and on-site management practices, Show-Me Yards & Neighborhoods (urban lawn care educational program), revised internal maintenance standards for street sweeping, covering of salt storage areas, and regulation of erosion control on construction sites.
- Phosphorus reduction has been exemplary. The City’s Southwest Wastewater Treatment Plant reduced phosphorus entering the James River from over 1,600 pounds/day (pre-1993 expansion) to about 150 pounds/day (2004), two years ahead of the state-required deadline. A \$24 million expansion to that plant,

completed in late summer 2005, will provide the capability to remove nitrogen, for which there are no state regulations in place or planned. An expansion of the Northwest Wastewater Treatment Plant, to be completed in Fall 2006, will allow both phosphorus and nitrogen to be removed.

- Springfield was ahead of its time with the floodplain acquisition program, begun in 1994, which has made a significant impact. Funded by the Level Property Tax, Public Works has spent more than \$9 million to acquire over 100 flood prone properties totaling about 200 acres of land along waterways and in sinkholes. This land has been reclaimed as green space, including the Galloway, Wilson Creek and South Creek Greenway Trails.
- The Springfield-Greene County Health Department offers free water testing to private well owners. Testing, usually requested because of odor, turbidity or illness, accounts for about 40% of wells that test unsafe annually.

Solid Waste Management. Springfield is one of only three Missouri communities offering the full range of services for managing solid waste (trash) and the only community to include an award-winning Market Development Program. Springfield/Greene County’s Integrated Solid Waste Management System (ISWMS), approved by voters in 1991, includes Curbside Recycling (provided by private trash haulers), the Household Chemical Collection Center, Yardwaste Recycling Center, Recycling (Drop-off) Centers, Springfield Sanitary Landfill, Market Development Program, and Information and Education Program. About 200 to 300 tons of trash per day of the 1,500 tons Springfield generates go into the Springfield Sanitary Landfill.

Storm Water Management Program Funding and Maintenance. Springfield faces funding shortages to address increasing storm water runoff provisions of the national Clean Water Act. Experiences of places such as Seattle, Portland, Florida, and Maryland suggest the wisdom of staying ahead of coming demands. In addition, the city’s 600 miles of storm water infrastructure are aging and deteriorating; this, with rapid growth pressures in the county, make maintenance and replacement essential.

Solid Waste Management Funding. Tax money or general city revenues do not fund the ISWMS, which is funded primarily from revenues from the Springfield Sanitary Landfill tipping fees. National trash companies operate their own landfills outside Springfield, which reduced revenue available for ISWMS. At some point, a permanent, and stable source of funding is needed to secure the sustainability of Springfield’s ISWMS.

Water Quantity. Water quantity is emerging as a future challenge as the area experiences rapid and steady growth. About 60,000 people outside Springfield’s Urban Services Area depend on groundwater for their primary drinking source; heavy pumping is causing falling water tables.

Electric	Fiscal Year			
	2000	2001	2002	2003
Average Number Customers				
Residential	78,334	78,974	82,066	83,739
Commercial	12,429	12,534	12,868	13,068
Industrial	146	144	141	149
Kilowatt Hrs Used per Customer per Year				
Residential	10,499	10,893	10,555	10,716
Commercial	100,427	100,407	110,396	109,626
Industrial	3,294,102	3,319,999	3,217,585	3,100,322
Natural Gas				
	2000	2001	2002	2003
Average Number Customers				
Residential	66,071	66,737	68,682	69,733
Commercial	7,325	7,428	7,575	7,695
Industrial	101	100	96	101
Therms Used per Customer per Year				
Residential	780	950	815	890
Commercial	4,390	5,100	5,205	5,570
Industrial	20,692	19,398	20,055	191,940
Water				
	2000	2001	2002	2003
Average Number Customers				
Residential	62,477	62,923	65,403	66,543
Commercial	7,030	7,015	7,072	7,179
Industrial	94	93	82	89
Thousand Gallons Used per Customer per Year				
Residential	74	70	69	70
Commercial	526	518	563	550
Industrial	9,866	9,534	11,631	9,820
Energy Usage:				
	2000	2001	2002	2003
Electric, per Capita Kilowatt Hrs/Day	11.5	11.9	11.6	11.7
Gas, per Capita Therms/Day	.85	1.0	.89	.98
Water, per Capita Gallons/Day	81.1	76.7	76.7	76.7

SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT

	2004	5 Year Mean	Trend
Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) (pounds Recycled)	93,000	88,000	up
Percent of HHW Recycled	83%	83%	n/c
Recycled Material Received (tons)	3,800	3,400	up