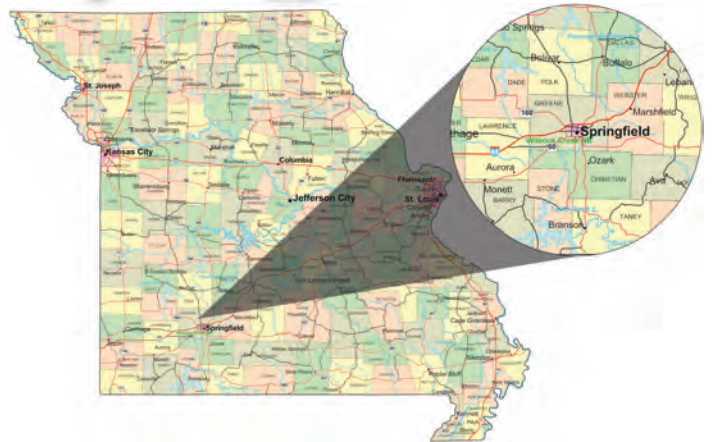


# Springfield, MO



Springfield, Missouri, was the site of the nation's first recorded shootout, which occurred in the town square between "Wild Bill" Hickok and Dave Tutt. Springfield also is known as the birthplace of Route 66.

Springfield has many museums and cultural attractions. Museums include the Springfield Art Museum; the History Museum for Springfield-Greene County; the Discovery Center, an interactive children's museum; the Missouri Sports Hall of Fame; the Air and Military Museum of the Ozarks; and the Railroad Historical Museum Inc. The Springfield Ballet, Springfield Symphony, Springfield Opera, and Springfield Little Theatre perform in the historic Landers Theatre, which is on the National Register of Historic Places. The restored Gillioz Theatre features various musical and theatrical shows. The Juanita K. Hammons Hall for the Performing Arts on the campus of Missouri State University accommodates touring Broadway shows and other performances. The Vandivort Center Theatre hosts a variety of contemporary productions.

## NEIGHBORHOODS

Center City Springfield is comprised of many neighborhoods, including the Downtown District, Historic Walnut Street, Historic C-Street District, government offices, and universities. The Downtown District is the site of many cultural attractions. Many lofts, condominiums, townhouses, and apartments can be found in renovated buildings in the Downtown and C-Street Districts. The Walnut Street National Historic Register District's historic homes anchor the residential east end of the street, while the west end of the historic district contains boutique shops and lodging, offices, restaurants, and apartments. Another Center City neighborhood, West Central, is located along Route 66 and has many historic buildings and homes, including Victorians, bungalows, and classic brick apartment houses. Woodland Heights offers many different types and styles of housing units. The majority of the homes are single-family residences that were built in 1900s architectural styles such as Queen Anne, Late Victorian, Bungalow, and Catalog (ordered from a catalog such as Sears' *Modern Home Catalog*) and feature front porches.

The closest neighborhood to the Downtown District, South Main Avenue, has multifamily residential housing surrounded by commercial and institutional properties. Most of the houses on South Main Avenue were built in the 1890s and have a distinct historic quality. The predominant types of houses include the Gabled-Ell, American Foursquare, Bungalow, and Catalog. Other city neighborhoods include Southern Hills, with ranch-style housing built in the 1960s to 1980s on large lots; Old Southern Hills, which is located near the Springfield-Conservation Nature Center and Springfield Lake; Stone Meadow, a gated, heavily wooded community with new custom-built brick homes; and Ravenwood, which has a combination of new and old homes.

## PARKS AND RECREATION

Springfield has many parks and gardens. The largest public garden, the Mizumoto Stroll Garden in Nathanael Greene Park, features Japanese-style landscaping. Jordan Valley Park offers recreational and competitive ice sports at Mediacom Ice Park, green space with a unique interactive water feature, and walking trails. The Springfield-Conservation Nature Center provides 80 acres of forests, prairies, and creeks and access to Lake Springfield, as well as an indoor facility with educational displays. Close Memorial Park has many specialty gardens, and Phelps Grove Park features

the Xeriscape Demonstration Garden. Dickerson Park Zoo has extensive landscaping in addition to 450 animals representing 160 species. In addition, the city has public swimming pools, golf courses, dog parks, ball fields and courts, playgrounds, a skatepark, and greenway trails.

Springfield is home to Bass Pro Shops Outdoor World, which hosts the Bass Pro Shops Outdoor World Spring Fishing Classic and has many attractions in addition to selling outdoor equipment.

Springfield has several professional sport teams: the Springfield Cardinals (baseball), Springfield Lasers (tennis), Springfield WolfPack (arena football), Springfield Demize (soccer), and Springfield Thrill (basketball).

Attractions located near Springfield include Wilson's Creek National Battlefield and the Wilson's Creek Civil War Museum, Ozarks Afro-American Heritage Museum, Fantastic Caverns, and Crystal Cave.

## EDUCATION

Springfield Public Schools educate about 24,000 students in 1 preschool, 37 elementary and intermediate schools, 9 middle schools, and 5 high schools. In addition, the district offers more than a dozen Choice Programs that cater to the diverse needs of many students, including the International Baccalaureate program, Wonders of the Ozarks Learning Facility (WOLF), and the Middle College Program.

Many opportunities for higher education exist in Springfield. Missouri State University, the largest, has undergraduate and graduate programs, including degrees in nursing, physical therapy, and physician assistant training. Drury University has undergraduate and several master's programs. Evangel University, Central Bible College, Global University, and Assemblies of God Theological Seminary are affiliated with the Assemblies of God and offer undergraduate and graduate degrees. Baptist Bible College also offers undergraduate and graduate degrees. Cox College grants degrees in Nursing and other medical-related fields. Business, medical, and technical courses and degrees are available at Ozarks Technical Community College, Bryan College, Vatterott College, and Everest College. Forest Institute of Professional Psychology and Ozarks Regional Campus of Webster University offer graduate degree programs only.

## HEALTH CARE

Springfield is served by three hospital systems with over 1,500 acute-care beds. In addition, the city has a long-term acute-care facility, an inpatient rehabilitation facility, and a child and adolescent psychiatric facility.

### CITY STATS

2007

City Population	154,703
Metropolitan Statistical Area	419,607
Per capita personal income, Springfield, MO, MSA	\$29,416