



# Springfield, MO



Springfield is located in southwestern Missouri in the heart of the Ozark Mountains. John Polk Campbell, a Tennessee homesteader, was the founder of Springfield, announcing his claim in 1829. The city is known as the site of the nation's first recorded shootout, which occurred in the town square between "Wild Bill" Hickok and Dave Tutt in 1865, and also as the birthplace of Route 66.

Springfield has many museums and historical and cultural attractions. The Route 66 Car Museum features a 70-car collection of sports cars, 1907-to-1980 classics, and movie cars. Other museums include the Springfield Art Museum, History Museum on the Square, the Discovery Center, the Missouri Sports Hall of Fame, the Missouri Institute of Natural Science, the Air and Military Museum of the Ozarks, the History of Hearing Museum, and the Railroad Historical Museum. The Archery Hall of Fame has a collection of memorabilia depicting archery history. Calaboose is a police substation with a police museum on the first floor.

The Trail of Tears National Historic Trail auto tour route, which travels through the Springfield area, commemorates the forced relocation of the Cherokee by the federal government in 1838. Springfield is also the site of the 1861 Battle of Wilson's Creek, which was the first Civil War battle west of the Mississippi; reenactments and canon firings are offered on this historic 1,750-acre battlefield.

The Springfield Ballet and Springfield Little Theatre perform in the historic Landers Theatre. The restored Gillioz Theatre features various musical and theatrical shows as well as movies, conventions, concerts, and film festivals. The Juanita K. Hammons Hall for the Performing Arts on the campus of Missouri State University is home to the Springfield Symphony and accommodates touring Broadway shows and other performances. Springfield Contemporary Theatre presents a variety of productions at SCT's Center Stage at Wilhoit Plaza. Springfield Regional Opera performs in several venues.

## Neighborhoods

Center City Springfield comprises many neighborhoods, including the Downtown District, Historic Walnut Street, Historic C-Street District, government offices, and universities. The Downtown District is the site of numerous 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 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 Homes*) and feature front porches.

Located near downtown, 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 Gabled-El, 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 with amenities that include swimming pools, golf courses, the Jordan Valley Ice Park, dog parks, ball fields and courts, playgrounds, a skate park, greenway trails, and gardens. The largest public garden, the Mizumoto Japanese Stroll Garden in Nathanael Greene Park, features Japanese-style landscaping. 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 500 animals representing 160 species.

Lake Springfield offers 153 acres of rolling parkland, featuring trails, woods, bluffs, and more than a mile of shoreline. Canoes, kayaks, and paddleboards are available for rental. Fishing is another popular activity.

The 56-acre historic Doling Park is home to Doling History Museum (open April–October), Giboney Cave, Doling Lake, a playground, a walking trail, and horseshoe and bocce courts. The Doling Indoor Aquatic Center is located in the Doling Family Center, which also contains a gymnasium, a walking track, aerobic equipment, weights, and a game room.

Cooper Tennis Complex has 12 indoor and 16 outdoor tennis courts and the 2,500-seat Mediacom Tennis Stadium.

Springfield is home to Bass Pro Shops Outdoor World, which hosts the Bass Pro Shops Outdoor World Spring Fishing Classic. The NRA National Sporting Arms Museum is located inside the shop, and the Wonders of Wildlife National Museum and Aquarium is adjacent.

Located beneath the Ozarks, Fantastic Caverns offers rides on Jeep-drawn trams through the caves to view such formations as stalactites and stalagmites.

Springfield has several professional sports teams: the Springfield Cardinals (baseball), Springfield Lasers (tennis), and Springfield Thrill (basketball).

## Education

Springfield Public Schools educate more than 25,000 students in 35 elementary schools, an intermediate school (grades 5–6), 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.

Springfield has many opportunities for higher education. Missouri State University has undergraduate and graduate programs, including degrees in nursing and physical therapy and physician assistant training. Drury University is a private liberal arts university with undergraduate and several master's programs. Evangel University and Baptist Bible College are private Christian colleges that offer undergraduate and graduate degrees. Cox College of Nursing grants degrees in nursing and other medical-related fields.

Business, medical, and technical courses and degrees are available at Ozarks Technical Community College, a public community college.

## Health Care

Springfield is served by the following health care facilities:

Cox Medical Center South: 646 licensed beds

Mercy Hospital Springfield: 866 licensed beds

Cox North Hospital: 75 licensed beds

Meyer Orthopedic and Rehabilitation Hospital: 86 licensed beds

Select Specialty Hospital – Springfield: 44 licensed beds

Lakeland Behavioral Health System: 100 licensed psychiatric beds

Mercy Rehabilitation Hospital Springfield: 60 licensed rehabilitation beds

Springfield Behavioral Hospital: 32 licensed psychiatric beds

## City Stats

2017

City Population	167,376
Metropolitan Statistical Area Population	462,369
Per Capita Personal Income, Springfield, MO, MSA	\$38,968