Springfield, Massachusetts is known as the City of Homes because of the variety of historic and contemporary housing. Located in Hampden County, Springfield is only 25 miles from Hartford, Connecticut, and 89 miles from Boston. Springfield, the cultural and commercial center of the Pioneer Valley Region, is the third-largest community in Massachusetts. The Connecticut River separates Springfield from West Springfield.

**Springfield has 17 economically and ethnically diverse neighborhoods defined by the city’s Election Commission. Downtown, Springfield’s oldest neighborhood, offers a variety of residential styles, including nineteenth-century row houses, early twentieth-century apartment buildings, converted factories and schools, and high-rise towers. Restored brick Victorian row houses line both sides of historic Mattoon Street.**

The Springfield Museums, located in downtown Springfield, comprises four distinct museums: the Museum of Fine Arts, the George Walter Vincent Smith Art Museum, the Springfield Science Museum, and the Connecticut Valley Historical Museum. The Dr. Seuss Sculpture Garden, a series of bronze sculptures of Dr. Seuss’s characters that honors the birthplace of Theodor Geisel, is located at the Museum. Also in the downtown area are Symphony Hall and City Stage, which host the performing arts, and MassMutual Center, which hosts the Falcons Hockey Team and many shows and concerts and also serves as a convention center.

Just a few blocks from Downtown are the Maple Hill and Ridgewood Historic Districts, where large homes were constructed on the hills overlooking the valley from the 1820s through the 1920s. Among the other neighborhoods of Springfield, Forest Park, with its Forest Park Heights Historic District, is the city’s most populous neighborhood. Housing styles in this neighborhood vary and include Colonial and Tudor revivals, Queen Anne, Shingle-style homes, and even pockets of Craftsman-style houses and condominiums. Atwater Park, another community bordering a park, was developed from a nineteenth-century country estate and is composed of Colonials, Tudors, and ranches. East Forest Park offers a wide variety of pre- and post-WW2 homes on the hillside of Watershops Pond, Springfield’s largest body of water (other than the Connecticut River). Mostly constructed after World War II, Sixteen Acres, the neighborhood with the largest area, brings suburbia to the city with housing styles that include ranches, Colonials, split-levels, capes, and large condominium complexes.

Indian Orchard began in the 1840s as an isolated mill village and has preserved its identity over the years, even after become more fully encompassed by the city. McKnight contains the region's largest array of Victorian houses and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

**Parks and Recreation**

There is no shortage of parks throughout the neighborhoods of Springfield. Forest Park, a 735-acre park, features a small zoo. Others include Greenleaf Park, Van Horne Park, Lake Lorraine State Park with its public swimming beach, and Hubbard Park. City parks on Five Mile Pond and Loon Pond provide places to swim, fish, boat, and picnic. There are year-round educational and recreational activities in the parks, including ice skating, sports leagues, and after-school programs.

The Connecticut River offers opportunities for rowing and boating, as well as miles of bike and walking trails.

**Education**

The Springfield City School System educates over 25,000 students in 44 public schools, eight alternative schools, and four charter schools. A number of Springfield’s public schools are magnet schools, which specialize in such subject areas as math, literature, business, and the arts. There are also 10 private and parochial schools located in Springfield.

Four colleges are located in Springfield: Springfield College, Western New England College, Springfield Technical Community College, and American International College. Thirteen other colleges and universities are within a 40-minute radius of Springfield.

**Health Care**

Four hospital systems serve Springfield, delivering acute care, pediatric care, long-term acute care, and rehabilitation services at six hospitals. In total, there are 1,047 acute care, long-term acute care, and rehabilitation beds in the city.

**Springfield City Stats**

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<th>Population (2006)</th>
<th>151,176</th>
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<tr>
<td>Metropolitan Statistical Area</td>
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<tr>
<td>Per capita personal income, Springfield MSA (2006)</td>
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