



Overview

The Purpose Of Comprehensive Planning

Comprehensive Plan Planning Process

Comprehensive Plan Components

Governmental And Jurisdictional Organization

INTRODUCE SPRINGFIELD

1.1 OVERVIEW

Economic Vitality \$

Both economic and residential development will occur outside of Springfield's extraterritorial jurisdiction. There is a need to preserve Springfield's existing community while preparing for a new chapter in the life of what was once a previously small railroad village.

Recreation



Springfield continues to be a promising community. The newly formed link of the MoPac Trail connects the Springfield community to better regional recreational opportunities. The additional businesses of downtown in the past year exhibits both economic opportunity while holding steadfast to their local values.



Connectivity

Today, Springfield is situated in the fastest growing county of Nebraska with the ever-expanding Omaha Metropolitan Area growing nearer. This is a great economic opportunity for the future of Springfield.



 Growth Potential

Since 1970, Sarpy County has continually been ranked third for the largest population growth per decade behind only Douglas and Lancaster County. Meanwhile, Sarpy County has experienced the largest population percentage growth in each of the decades since 1970.



Today, **Springfield** is both a bystander and a beneficiary of the continued growth of the Omaha Metropolitan Area. It is ripe for economic and residential changes. Through the process of planning, Springfield residents can express their opinions and concerns on how they would like Springfield to develop.

1.1 OVERVIEW

Location 

The City of Springfield is centrally located in Sarpy County along the eastern border of Nebraska. The town of Springfield was originally platted along a rail line but is now commonly accessed by regional corridors of Highway 50 and Platteview Road. Interstate 80 is the State of Nebraska's largest regional transportation network and Springfield's connection is found a mere five miles north of town.

 Geography

The Census Bureau locates Springfield at:

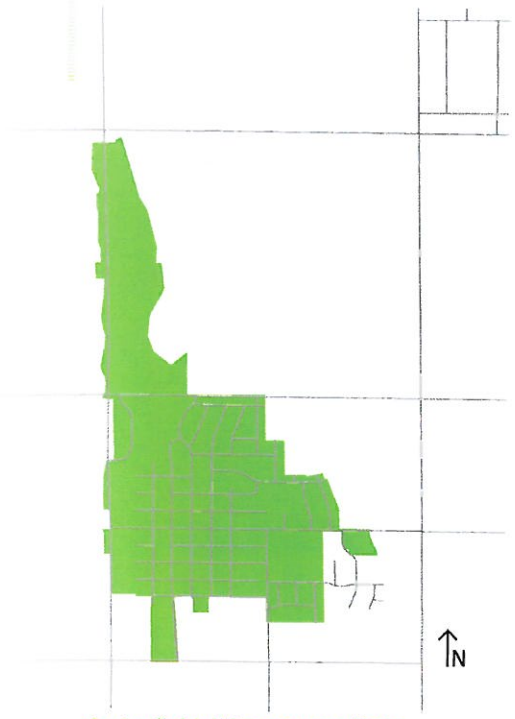
41°4'56"N
96°7'57"W
41.08222°N
96.13250°W
(41.082245, -96.132431)

Filling all land within

.69 square miles



Community Populations represented proportionally



Springfield, NE corporate limits



Climate

Much like the Midwest and surrounding communities, Springfield experiences varying temperatures throughout the year. The average temperature ranges from 76 degrees Fahrenheit in the month of July to 21 degrees Fahrenheit in January. The highest amount of precipitation occurs in the month of May with an average of over four and a half inches. Snowfall amounts are between six and seven inches in January and February.



Topography / Soils

Based on Sarpy County LiDAR information, Springfield has elevation levels between 1,014 feet along the Springfield Creek on the south side to 1,160 feet on a ridge east of downtown. The State of Nebraska’s General Soil Map lists Springfield as the Associations of Marshall-Ponca and Gibbon-Gothenburg-Platte. The Marshall and Ponca Associations are described as “very deep, gently sloping to moderately steep, well-drained, silty soils on uplands.” The Gibbon, Gothenburg, and Platte Associations relate directly to nearly level soils found south of Springfield on bottomlands of the Platte River Valley. More detailed soil and hydrologic analysis are found in the Profile Section.



History

A Civil War veteran, Captain Spearman, purchased 160 acres in 1873 and promptly platted the village of Springfield. The name resembled the many natural springs in the area. Another village, Sarpy Center, was platted as well in anticipation for the oncoming Missouri Pacific Railroad; however, this “paper town” did not survive and was physically moved to the village of Springfield. Thus, Springfield began on October 1st, 1881.

Community events have always played a large role in Springfield. In the early days of Springfield, parades were led by the founder of Springfield (Captain Spearman), and other notable local Civil War figures, the Kirkwood Post of the Grand Army of the Republic (G.A.R.), Jim Johnson, and I.V. Cornish.

The Springfield Community Hall, listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1998, was a Works Progress Administration (WPA) project. Since its completion in 1940, the building has continually provided a public facility used for educational, recreational, and political events.

Even the County Fair Grounds have a long history in Springfield. The Sarpy County Fair has been a mainstay since September 3rd, 1939. It has grown into a very large event at the end of each summer with multiple venues and exhibits.

1.2 PURPOSE OF COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING

The Springfield Comprehensive Plan is a legal document that addresses Springfield’s land use and is designed to promote orderly growth and development. This document’s purpose is to “promote health, safety, morals, or the general welfare of the community.” The Comprehensive Plan presents data from multiple sources, such as public input and the United States Census Bureau to provide policy guidelines for elected officials to make informed decisions.

A Comprehensive Plan acts as a tool:

to develop a road map or blueprint that guides the community through change as it occurs tomorrow and fifteen years from now

The Springfield Comprehensive Plan aims to provide guidelines for the locations of any future development within the planning jurisdiction of Springfield. This update will assist in evaluating the impacts of development, including economic, social, fiscal, and service, and encourage appropriate land uses throughout Springfield’s extraterritorial jurisdiction.

The Plan assists the city in balancing the physical, social, economic, and aesthetic features as it responds to private sector interests. Planned growth will help Springfield prepare for its own management of resources as well as coordinating with further development in Sarpy County. The City of Springfield strives to maintain the expected standard of living and quality of life when serving its residents and managing future growth and resources.

1.3

THE PLANNING PROCESS

Comprehensive planning begins with the data collection phase. This Profile Section depicts historical and current data that represents demographic information from the American Community Survey estimates and bicentennial Census from United States Census Bureau. Additional data are obtained from city staff, public input, and field data collection. Data is collected that provides a snapshot of the past and present conditions of Springfield. Analysis of data provides the basis for developing forecasts for future land-use demands in the city.

The second phase, Envision, of the planning process is the development of general goals and objectives, or policies, based upon the issues facing the city, and prioritized by the community through public input. These are practical guidelines for improving existing conditions and guiding future growth. The Comprehensive Plan is a vision presented with text, graphics, tables, and maps that represent the desires of the city for the future.

The Springfield Comprehensive Plan represents a blueprint designed to identify, assess, and develop actions and policies in the areas of population, land use, transportation, housing, economic development, community facilities, and utilities. The Comprehensive Plan contains recommendations that, when implemented, will be of value to the City of Springfield and its residents. Implementation is the final phase of the process. A broad range of development policies and programs are required to implement the Comprehensive Plan. The Springfield Comprehensive Plan identifies the tools, programs, and methods necessary to fulfill the recommendations. Nevertheless, the implementation of the development policies contained within the Comprehensive Plan is dependent upon the adoption of the plan by the governing body, and the leadership exercised by the present and future elected and appointed officials of the city.

Data Sources:




The **United States Census** is taken every ten years to update information through census tracts. This decennial census supplies information which shows both past trends of a community and help to prepare for its future. The United States Census Bureau created a short form Census beginning in 2010. The information is now gathered in a supplemental program known as the American Community Survey.



The **American Community Survey** is an ongoing statistical survey that samples a small percentage of the population every year. The survey will ask about age, sex, race, family and relationships, income and benefits, health insurance, education, veteran status, disabilities, where you work and how you get there, where you live and how much you pay for some essentials. All this detail is combined into statistics that are used to help give communities the information they need to plan investments and services. This annual program now has 5-year estimates which give a more accurate account of your local data and trends.

Logos US Census Bureau / US Department of Commerce

1.3 PLANNING PROCESS

The Springfield Comprehensive Plan was prepared under the direction of the Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee. The steering committee was composed of members of city staff and the Planning Commission. Review and recommendations by the Springfield Planning Commission were completed prior to adoption of the comprehensive plan update by the Springfield City Council. The timeline for achieving goals, objectives, programs, and developments identified in the Springfield Comprehensive Plan is up to 20 years. However, Sarpy County is developing so quickly, this comprehensive plan should be reviewed annually and updated completely every five to ten years, or when a pressing need is identified. Updating the Comprehensive Plan will allow the city to incorporate ideas and developments that were not known at the time of the present comprehensive planning process.



1.4 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN COMPONENTS

Nebraska State Statutes require the inclusion of certain elements in any Comprehensive Plan.

A “Comprehensive Development Plan,” as defined in Neb. Rev. Stat. § 19-903 (Reissue 1997), “shall consist of both graphic and textual material and shall be **designed to accommodate anticipated long-range future growth**.”

The Springfield Comprehensive Plan update provides an emphasis on land use and transportation and is comprised of the following components:

- 1 INTRODUCE SPRINGFIELD
- 2 PROFILE SPRINGFIELD
- 3 ENVISION SPRINGFIELD
- 4 ACHIEVE SPRINGFIELD
- 5 IMPLEMENT SPRINGFIELD

Analyzing past and existing demographic, housing, economic, and social trends permit the projection of likely conditions in the future. Projections and forecasts are useful tools in planning for the future; however, these tools are not always accurate and may change due to unforeseen factors. The expansion of cities within Sarpy County and additions of Sanitary Improvement Districts (SIDs) make projections difficult. Therefore, it is important for Springfield to monitor its population, housing, and economic conditions that may impact the city. This includes the surrounding development and available utilities of Sarpy County. Through periodic monitoring, the city can adapt and adjust to regional and local changes. Having the ability to adapt to socio-economic change allows the city to maintain an effective Comprehensive Plan for the future, to enhance the quality of life, and to raise the standard of living for all residents in Springfield and its jurisdiction.

“The Comprehensive Plan update records where Springfield has been, where it is now, and in what direction it will likely go in the future. This plan is an information and management tool for city leaders to use in their decision-making process when considering future developments. The Comprehensive Plan is not a static document; it should evolve as changes in the land-use, population, or local economy occur during the planning period. Considering the accuracy of the Census Bureau’s estimates and the culture social media has created with more readily-available information, it would behoove Springfield to revisit this document on a shorter time frame than most communities due to the rapid growth of Sarpy County.

1.5 GOVERNMENTAL AND JURISDICTIONAL ORGANIZATION



The Springfield City Council, which is a board of elected officials including the Mayor, performs the governmental functions for the city.

The city may enforce zoning and subdivision regulations including building, electrical, plumbing, and property maintenance codes within its planning jurisdiction. The planning and zoning jurisdiction of Springfield, pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. § 19-901 through 19-933 (Reissue 1997) includes all of the incorporated portions of the city, including an established extraterritorial jurisdiction of one mile.

