

WFO SPRINGFIELD, MO STATION DIGEST

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Springfield, Missouri sits atop a plateau of the one of the oldest mountain ranges in the country - the Ozark Mountains, surrounded by rolling hills and cliffs surrounding the south, east, and north parts of the city. The majority of the plateau is characterized by forest, pastures and shrub-scrub habitats. Many streams and tributaries such as the James River, Galloway Creek and Jordan Creek flow within or near the city. Nearby lakes include Table Rock Lake, Stockton Lake, Fellows Lake and Pomme de Terre Lake.

The city offers the best in metropolitan and outdoor adventure, making it a perfect family destination. With more than 420,000 people in the metro area and millions of tourists each year, Springfield is rich with interesting and entertaining attractions, approximately 6,000 hotel rooms, more than 800 dining options and a variety of shopping and cultural activities.

Our Office



The Springfield Missouri Weather Service Forecast Office (SGF) is located in the heart of southwest Missouri along Interstate 44. The office and WSR88D weather radar are located immediately southwest of the Springfield-Branson Regional Airport. The County Warning Area consists of 37 counties across southern and central Missouri and extreme southeastern Kansas. Our office responsibilities include:

Public and warning forecast responsibility for 37 counties with a population of 1.2 million people.

Aviation forecast (TAF) responsibility for airport at Springfield, Joplin and Branson.

Hydrologic services for the Ozark Plateau region covered by the Missouri Basin (MBRFC), Arkansas-Red Basin (ABRFC), Lower Mississippi (LMRFC) and North Central (NCRFC) River Forecast Centers.

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ASOS (Automated Surface Observing Systems): Springfield, Joplin, West Plains and Vichy/Rolla

13 All Hazards Weather Radio transmitters: Springfield, Joplin, Cassville, Neosho, Branson West, Gainesville, West Plains, Alton, Summersville, Dixon, Osage Beach, Hermitage, El Dorado Springs.

We have a very active outreach program involving spotter training sessions, interaction with local emergency management and natural resource agencies, and participation at local universities and colleges.

We also have strong relationships with area colleges, including collaborative efforts with Saint Louis University and the University of Missouri – Columbia.

Weather across the region can be considered highly variable, with four distinct seasons. Tornadoes, severe thunderstorms and heavy rainfall with flash flooding can occur throughout the year, with a wide variety of wintry weather possible from the late fall to early spring. Our web site is: <http://www.crh.noaa.gov/sgf/>



Station History

Weather observations have been taken in Springfield since the mid 1800s, with regular observations starting in 1887 with the U. S. Signal Corps. Forecasts for the area were received by telegraph from Washington, D.C., from the Chief Signal Officer. Flags were displayed for weather changes and warnings. These were displayed in other parts of the city with the Globe

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Clothing House one of the earliest business concerns to erect a flagpole for this purpose. Certain industries, including an early iron works, were authorized to use whistle codes to provide information to the public concerning changes in the weather.

On November 1, 1994, the weather office moved to its present location at 5805 West Highway EE. Staffing was added to include a Warning Coordination Meteorologist, a Science and Operations Officer, a Data Acquisition Program Manager, and 5 forecasters.

Other highlights after the move in 1994:

On November 16, 1994 the dome was placed on the new WSR-88D (NEXRAD) Doppler radar.

On May 17, 1995, Upper air equipment moved from Monett with the first flight released on May 19, 1995 at 19Z.

On September 14, 1995, the new WSR-88D (NEXRAD) Doppler radar was commissioned.

On November 11, 1995, ASOS was commissioned.

On November 5, 1996, took over 1st Period Zone Forecast responsibilities.

Currently there are 23 personnel employed at WFO Springfield: A MIC, WCM, SOO, ESA, IT, OPL, 2 ETs, Hydrologist, 13 in Operational Staff and an ASA.

Community Description

Population

Springfield is the third-largest city in Missouri and the largest Springfield in the nation. The U.S. Census Bureau estimates the population within the city limits is 154,777. The estimated Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) is more than 420,000.



Springfield, Missouri is a regional shopping center serving a large geographic area, including Southwest Missouri and Northwest Arkansas. It is the third-largest market in the state and one of the top 150 U.S. markets.

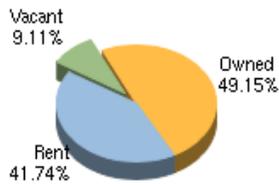
Springfield Housing Statistics

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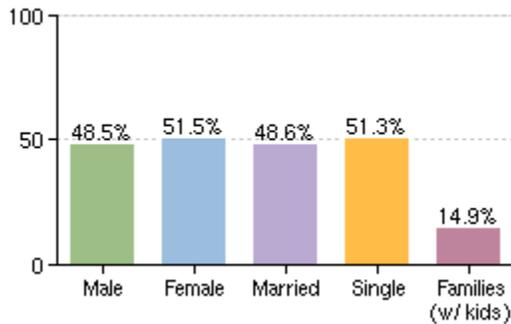
Median Home Age: 33 years

Median Home Value: \$142,500

- **Renter v. Owner**



- **Springfield Demographics**



- **Springfield Jobs and Politics**

Unemployment Rate: 5.4%

Recent Job Growth: 0.3%

Future Job Growth: 20%

Democrat: 37.2%

Republican: 62.1%

Independent (others): 0.5%



Like many cities across the nation, Springfield has seen a major resurgence in its downtown area. Many of the older buildings have been, and are continuing to be, renovated into mixed-use buildings such as lofts, office space, restaurants, bars, boutiques, and music venues with major investments in new and refurbished buildings accompanied by an influx of independent retailers.



There are 92 parks, three golf courses, a zoo and other facilities owned or managed by the Springfield-Greene County Park Board. The department incorporates a network of linear parks and trails that run near and around geologically unique areas of the Ozarks, such as creek beds and springs. Six recreational lakes are within 100 miles of Springfield. <http://www.springfieldmo.org/web/>

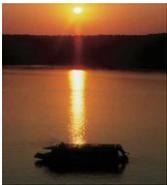


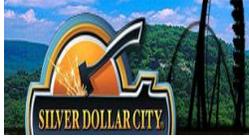
Table Rock Lake and Branson

Table Rock Lake and the Branson entertainment area are within 45 miles. Branson is a family destination with something for everyone. There is not one area in the United States that can beat the hospitality and friendliness that is shown throughout the beautiful Ozarks.



Branson, Missouri

Branson, Missouri has earned the nickname of Live Music Show Capital of the World. Each year, an estimated 7 million people visit Branson to see shows, visit amusement attractions and see the natural sights of the Ozark Mountains. Families who choose Branson as their vacation destination will find more family friendly attractions in the city than they can enjoy in one visit. If you set out to combine the glitz of Las Vegas with the family fun of Orlando and the music of Nashville, the result would be Branson, Missouri. One of the biggest attractions in the heartland, Branson boasts entertainment of every stripe. From theaters to museums and amusement parks, Branson offers enjoyment for the whole family. <http://www.explorebranson.com/>



Silver Dollar City

This amusement park literally grew from the ground. The first attraction on that site was Marble Cave, later renamed Marvel Cave. As lines of people waiting to see the cave grew, the operators began to construct diversions to amuse the waiting tourists. Tours of the cave continue, but the other attractions long since have overshadowed it. <http://www.silverdollarcity.com/>



Table Rock Lake

Table Rock Lake was created in the 1950s as part of efforts to control flooding and generate hydroelectric power on the White River. Along its 800 miles of shoreline, you'll find opportunities for boating, fishing and diving, although some consider the lake too brisk for swimming. Table Rock Dam and the Shepherd of the Hills Fish Hatchery Conservation Center both offer tours. In addition, the Showboat Branson Belle and Ride the Ducks provide tours on the lake.



Branson -The Strip

The Strip-With more than 50 theaters and 80 shows, Branson has more seating than New York City's Broadway. Most theaters are located on the Strip. The first musical variety show, "Baldknobbers Jamboree," opened in 1959 and production continues to this day. Another popular show (although not on the Strip), "The Shepherd of the Hills," is based on a popular 1907 novel.



Bass Pro Shops

More than 300,000 square feet, Bass Pro Shop is renowned as "The world's greatest sporting goods store." Enjoy an art gallery, fish and wildlife museum, 5 giant aquariums, a two story log cabin, trout stream and a 4 story waterfall. Retail department includes hunting, fishing, climbing, camping and athletics. Fish shows can be seen daily. <http://www.basspro.com/homepage.html>



Missouri Sports Hall of Fame

The Missouri Sports Hall of Fame is located 1 mile east of U.S. Hwy. 65 on U.S. Hwy. 60 in Springfield, Missouri: Hours Monday-Saturday 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Sunday Noon - 4:00 p.m.
<http://www.mosportshalloffame.com/>



Wilson's Creek National Battlefield

The battle fought here on August 10, 1861, was the first major Civil War engagement west of the Mississippi River, involving about 5,400 Union troops and 12,000 Confederates.
<http://www.nps.gov/wicr/index.htm>



Dickerson Park Zoo

Take a walk on the wild side at Dickerson Park Zoo. The zoo, located in Springfield, Missouri, is home to more than 340 animals representing 120 species. The zoo is recognized for its successful Asian elephant, cheetah and maned wolf breeding programs.
<http://www.dickersonparkzoo.org>



Discovery Center

The Discovery Center of Springfield is an interactive, hands-on museum committed to inspiring people of all ages with a life-long love of learning and appreciation of the world and our place in it.
<http://www.discoverycenter.org/>



Hammons Field

Hammons Field is a 6,750-seat baseball stadium that is home to the Springfield Cardinals, Double-An affiliate of the St. Louis Cardinals. 120' x 120' indoor practice facility that includes retractable batting cages and a Field Turf surface.

<http://www.minorleaguebaseball.com/index.jsp?sid=t440>



MediaCom Ice Park

Recreational and competitive ice sports can be found at the MediaCom Ice Park located at the Jordan Valley Park providing perfect entertainment for individuals or families. Enjoy open ice skating, figure skating, or join a hockey team (lessons and leagues available for all ages). The Ice Park is home to the MSU Hockey Bears, an ACHA team, the Springfield Youth Hockey Association, the Jordan Valley Figure Skating Club, and the Springfield WOLFPACK, an APFL team. The Ice Park is perfect for birthday parties, group functions or special events.

<http://www.parkboard.org/home.html>



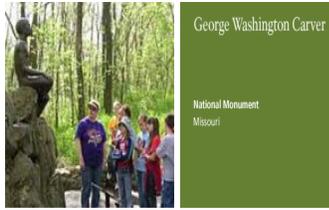
Fort Leonard Wood

Fort Leonard Wood is a United States Army Installation located in the Missouri Ozarks. The main gate is located on the southern boundary of St. Robert. The post was created in December 1940 and named in honor of General Leonard Wood former Chief of Staff, in January 1941.

Originally intended to train infantry troops, in 1941 it became an engineer training post with the creation of the Engineer Replacement Training Center. In 1984, as part of the Base Realignment and Closure process, most of the US Army Engineer School's operations were consolidated at Fort Leonard Wood. Before that, officer training was conducted at Fort Belvoir Virginia.

In 2000, again as part of the Base Realignment and Closure process, Fort McClellan Alabama was closed, and the US Army Chemical Corps and Military Police Corps schools were transferred to Fort Leonard Wood, which was concurrently redesignated the US Army Maneuver Support Center.

In 2009, the US Army Maneuver Support Center was redesignated the US Army Maneuver Support Center of Excellence; the "center of excellence" designation was placed on almost all US Army training institutions. http://www.wood.army.mil/wood_cms/



George Washington Carver

George Washington Carver dedicated 47 years of his life to teaching and working at Tuskegee Institute in Alabama. He chose a life of service to his fellow man and became a symbol of interracial cooperation. Photo courtesy of Tuskegee University. The young boy known as the "Plant Doctor," tended his secret garden while observing the day to day operations of a successful 19th century farm. Nature and nurture ultimately influenced George on his journey to becoming a renowned scientist of agriculture. Several exhibits in the Carver Museum interpret the life of George Washington Carver when he lived on the Southwest Missouri farm. The George Washington Carver National Monument, located near Diamond, Missouri, was established by an Act of Congress in July of 1943.

<http://www.nps.gov/gwca/index.htm>



Joplin

Located in the southwest corner of Missouri along Historic Route 66 on I-44 and MO Highway 71, Joplin is an ideal meeting and vacation spot. With all of the amenities of a large city and the down-home comfort of a small town, Joplin is the perfect combination of great service and friendly smiles. As the fourth largest metro area in the state of Missouri, Joplin has a nighttime population of 47,000. However, each day our population swells to 250,000 as people come to Joplin to work, play, eat and shop.

<http://www.visitjoplinmo.com/>



Lake of the Ozarks

Conveniently located in the heart of Missouri, The Lake of the Ozarks is the Midwest's premier lake resort destination, offering world-class boating, golfing, shopping and fishing, and a wide variety of lodging, restaurants, state parks, and other recreational activities to suit any budget and

taste. Lake of the Ozarks vacations are defined by the Lake and its many waterfront accommodations, restaurants, and recreational and entertainment venues.

<http://www.funlake.com>



Laura Ingalls Wilder House

Located in Mansfield, Missouri, the Laura Ingalls Wilder House was where the famous children's author lived from 1896 to 1957. The historic building houses artifacts from Wilder's life, including re-creations of rooms the Wilder family once lived in, original manuscripts and souvenirs Wilder collected when she toured the world. Laura Ingalls Wilder House 3068 Highway A Mansfield, MO 65704 417-924-3626 lauraingallswilderhome.com



Roaring River State Park

With its narrow valley, rugged, mountainlike terrain and deep blue spring, Roaring River State Park is breathtaking.

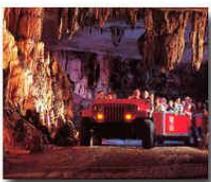
Roaring River is known for its premier trout fishing. Young and old alike will enjoy feeding and watching the fish in the spring pool or taking a tour of the trout hatchery. Other park features include a swimming pool, shaded picnic area and store.

Explore the natural wonders of the park on one of seven trails totaling over 10 miles. Ozark Chinquapin Nature Center exhibits interpretive displays and park naturalists present programs on the park's natural history.

Overnight guests have a variety of options. Campers will find 187 campsites ranging from basic to electric hookup. The elegant Emory Melton Inn and Conference Center features 26 guest rooms, a restaurant, gift shop and meeting rooms. Twenty-six secluded, rustic cabins with kitchens are perfect for families. Reservations for the inn and cabins are required.

Whether coming to fish, hike or relax by the pool, Roaring River State Park has something for everyone that will whet their appetite to return again and again.

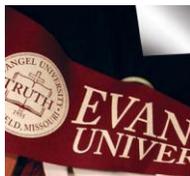
<http://mostateparks.com/roaringriver.htm>



Fantastic Caverns

America's Only Ride-Through Cave - is a family owned business. It was discovered in 1862 by a farmer - or more precisely, by his dog, who crawled through an entrance. It wasn't until five years later that the first exploration took place: 12 women from Springfield, answering a newspaper ad seeking explorers, ventured into the cave. Their names remain on a cave wall today.

Because the beauty of Fantastic Caverns is vulnerable, the Cave is toured in jeep-drawn trams. Since you ride all of the way through, you experience the magnitude, the stillness, and the splendor of Fantastic Caverns while preserving its natural features. <http://www.fantasticcaverns.com>



Education

Nearly 24,000 students attend the Springfield R-12 School District. Nearly 23,000 attend Missouri State University, 10,250 attend Ozarks Technical Community College, 5,000 attend Drury University, 1,800 attend Evangel University, 3,600 attend Southwest Baptist University at Bolivar, and 5,464 at Missouri Southern State University in Joplin. There are also numerous smaller colleges and in Springfield and the surrounding area.

Transportation



<http://www.flyspringfield.com/>

Springfield's central location in the nation also makes it easily accessible by major highways and the Springfield-Branson National Airport.

Interstate 44 connects the city with St. Louis, MO and Tulsa, OK. Kansas Expressway carries traffic north towards Kansas City, MO. Sections of historic US 66 can still be seen in the city.

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US 166's eastern terminus was once located in the northeast section of the city, and US 60 originally ended (westbound) in downtown Springfield. US 60 now goes through town on the James River Freeway. Major streets include Glenstone Avenue, Sunshine Street, National Avenue, Division Street, Campbell Avenue, Kansas Expressway, Battlefield Road, Republic Road, West Bypass, Chestnut Expressway and Kearney Street.). Springfield has public transportation (CU) that serves most areas inside the city limits with its fleet of biodiesel fueled buses.

The Springfield-Branson National Airport (SGF) serves the city with direct flights to 12 cities with 33 daily flights. It is the principal air gateway to Springfield region.

In May 2009, the airport opened its new passenger terminal. Direct connections from Springfield include Atlanta, Chicago, Dallas, Denver, Las Vegas, Memphis, Minneapolis, Orlando, Phoenix, St. Louis, Tampa and Los Angeles. No international flights currently have regular service into Springfield-Branson, but it does serve international charters.



<http://flybranson.com/>

The Branson Airport, which opened in 2009, is just 10 miles south of the world-famous Branson Strip. The new airport and 58,000-SF terminal have the capacity to handle more than 1 million enplanements annually. The airport is the first privately-financed and operated commercial airport in the United States.

Families and groups flying to Branson enjoy dining and auto-rental services on-site, as well as taxi and shuttle service into Branson. Air Tran Airways, Branson Air Express and Frontier Airlines are providing non-stop or 1-stop flights to Branson from most major U.S. cities, as well as international destinations.