



SPRINGFIELD, MISSOURI | FORWARD SGF

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

ADOPTED NOVEMBER 14, 2022

Letter from the Mayor...

September 21, 2022

It is my pleasure to introduce the Forward SGF 2040 Comprehensive Plan. This plan is the culmination of approximately 10,000 points of interaction with the Springfield community to guide growth and development in the community for the next two decades to come.

Springfield is a vibrant city that continues to experience rapid growth. Forward SGF, Springfield's 2040 Comprehensive Plan is a community-driven approach to guiding growth in all of Springfield's communities and focuses on the guiding principle of quality of place, representing the lens through which future growth and planning efforts should be directed. Through significant outreach and record-breaking numbers of citizen participation the message received was loud and clear that the Springfield region should continue to focus on creating unique places and experiences for residents and visitors alike.

The overall themes of community physical image, health and well being and arts, culture and historic preservation run throughout the plan and align with City Council's priorities of quality of place, legislative engagement, fiscal sustainability and accountability, economic vitality, and public safety.

Forward SGF serves as a blueprint to better transportation and transit, investment in our core and our neighborhoods and investment in opportunities for residents and visitors. If successful, Forward SGF will:

- Attract potential investors and provide for fair certainty by telegraphing the community's aspirations for the future and assist with certainty in decision-making
- Serve as a coordinated "playbook" for departments and partners
- Lay the groundwork for future grant seeking
- Aid in review of proposed development
- Guide public improvements and related capital needs
- Align regulations and policies

I want to thank everyone who contributed to the development of this plan, including the Forward SGF Advisory Team, Downtown Advisory Team, Commercial Street Advisory Team, Focus Group participants, community partners and all of those who attended workshops, filled out surveys and otherwise contributed to the vision for Springfield moving forward.

Lastly, I would like to encourage citizens and engaged community partners to review and identify how each of us can contribute to the implementation of Forward SGF and make this plan a reality, as we collectively work together to make the most of our fair city.



Mayor Ken McClure



Ken McClure, Mayor





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CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

In this chapter

What is the Comprehensive Plan?

Key Functions of the Plan

*How will the Forward SGF
Comprehensive Plan be used?*

In the summer of 2019, the City of Springfield set out to create a new Comprehensive Plan, **Forward SGF**, a blueprint for the future. The Plan is intended to guide growth and development in the community for the next two decades to come, establishing policies that will help City leaders make substantive planning decisions. Ensuring **Forward SGF** is representative of the needs and desires of the community, large-scale community engagement was executed to learn the community's ideas and desires. Based on this feedback, the Plan was developed to grow Springfield as an attractive, safe, and inclusive place for everyone to live, work, and thrive into the future.

WHAT IS THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN?

A Comprehensive Plan is a blueprint for the future. It is a community vision that is intended to guide the City for the next 20 years. The Comprehensive Plan will result in a set of policies that direct future growth and development. Additionally, the creation of a Plan could lead to potential strategies that will help effectively guide City leaders with making substantive and thoughtful decisions for the community.

MISSOURI STATE LAW

Missouri law requires any municipality with a planning and zoning commission to adopt a comprehensive plan to guide the physical development of the municipality. Sections 89.350 of the 2018 Revised Statutes of Missouri state that the general purpose of the plan “should be to guide the coordinated development of the municipality, in accordance with existing and future needs, to best promote the general welfare, as well as efficiency and economy in the process of development.” *Forward SGF* fulfills this requirement—it aims to guide strategic growth within the community and inform future decision-making regarding planning and development. This includes strategies, policies, and recommendations for future land use, transportation, community facilities, natural resources, and sustainability. Per Section 11.7 of the City’s Charter, the comprehensive plan (also called the master plan in the charter) should be reviewed and updated every five years.

KEY FUNCTIONS OF THE PLAN

Forward SGF serves the following key functions:

COMMUNICATING THE CITY’S VISION

The Plan is a powerful statement of the community’s vision for how it grows and changes over the coming years. The Plan identifies the City’s priorities and charts a path for long-term growth.

INFORM DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS

The Plan is a long-term guide by which to measure and evaluate public and private proposals that affect the physical, social, and economic environment of the community. The Plan guides and assists in the evaluation of public and private development proposals and helps ensure that proposed development supports the City’s long-term objectives.

FOUNDATION FOR THE REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

The Plan is a foundation for zoning regulations, the official zoning map, and other decisions guided by these regulations. Future amendments to City regulations should support the long-term goals and objectives of the Plan.

COORDINATE INITIATIVES

The Plan informs and coordinates planning initiatives that affect the City at the local, county, and regional levels. The Plan may aid and inform efforts related to housing, transportation, trails, natural resources, economic development, tourism, and recreation.

FUTURE STUDIES

The Plan establishes a guiding framework for the City as a whole and cannot address every issue faced by the City in detail. It identifies numerous geographic areas and specialized subject matters that will require additional study to implement City-wide policy recommendations. Future planning work and more targeted studies such as neighborhood plans or subarea master plans, will be added over time. Those future studies will become part of this all-encompassing Comprehensive Plan that will ultimately span multiple years and address geographic areas. Additional discussion of outstanding planning work the City will carry forward is provided in the Relevant Plans and Initiatives section of **Chapter 3: Community Profile**.

INFORM AND EDUCATE

The Plan is a valuable source of information for the City Council, the Planning and Zoning Commission, and staff, as well as for local organizations, businesses, and residents. This broad spectrum of interests should use the Plan to inform the community and provide important information that can assist with future initiatives. The Plan is also an effective marketing tool that can be used to promote the community and highlight opportunities for investment.

CIP AND BUDGETING

The Plan informs the development of the City’s Capital Improvements Program (CIP) and budgeting processes by helping to establish priority expenditures and sequence capital improvement programming.

HOW WILL THE FORWARD SGF COMPREHENSIVE PLAN BE USED?

CITIZENS AND THE PUBLIC

Springfield residents can and should reference the Plan and relate their aspirations for change and improvement through the policies and recommendations when participating in community forums and addressing proposals or other matters before City Council and other appointed boards or commissions.

CITY STAFF

City staff should be familiar with the Plan, the Vision, and guiding principles and should consult future land use policies, goals, and strategies when reviewing development proposals, and drafting in-depth neighborhood, corridor, and area plans. All city departments should be familiar with the Plan’s content, especially when preparing work plans and making recommendations for budgets, facilities, services, and capital improvements.

APPOINTED BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

Appointed and elected community leaders should be familiar with the Plan to best carry out their work and mission. Board and committee members should demonstrate a commitment to the Plan’s Vision, guiding principles, and policy recommendations to ensure consistency in applying the plan to land use decisions and when making other important policy decisions.

OTHER AGENCIES AND COMMUNITY PARTNERS

The City of Springfield and various other community partners must work together to implement the Plan. Each community partner is a contributing member of the greater community, the Plan should be consulted and considered when plans and projects are undertaken. The Plan should be presented as the City’s official position on planning and implementing important transportation, environmental, and economic development initiatives that impact the citizens of the City.

DEVELOPMENT INTEREST

Property owners, builders, and others investing in public and private development and redevelopment in the city should consult and take ownership of the Plan’s vision, goals, and recommendations when formulating their own plans. Citizens should rely on the plan to guide the City towards a future that will improve and expand opportunities to live, work, and play. Since each contribute to the City’s quality of life, the Plan should be used to coordinate everyone’s interest in the development of the City.