

Theme: Regionalism

Because Greene County's future workforce is primarily developed regionally, a broad based effort will be required to adequately impact the county's economic growth. Media based awareness campaigns for early childhood issues can have an influence regionally. Centralized training and services can be provided at a lower cost than replicating them community by community. Economic problems of the rural areas tend to gravitate to the urban center where services are provided and become Springfield's problems. A unified effort to prevent poverty, mental and physical health issues and adequately trained workers through early childhood development is a winning combination for all.

As the largest city and economic hub, Springfield will benefit from the growth and economic expansion of the region and should lead the way with economic development initiatives and market the region in order to continue healthy, well balanced growth.

One of the most effective ways to provide a real future for people who need jobs is to provide education and training that is related to the economic future of the region for the jobs in growth industries. The Ozark Regional Economic Partnership engages key Ozark leaders from many sectors including education and workforce development in the development of regional economic strategies supported by the region. The committee's recommendations will serve to align the workforce development goals and strategies to ensure that they are coordinated with the work of the region's education and training institutions. This will assist the Ozark region's students and workers to develop the skills and knowledge needed to be successful in the region's labor market.

One of the major goals for the Growth Management and Land Use committee was to increase collaboration between the City of Springfield, Greene County and the surrounding municipalities to provide better and more cost effective services to our community. All initiatives are inclusive of Greene County, surrounding cities and Springfield Sister Cities Association.

Regionalism and the environment go hand in hand. As evidenced in the objectives within this chapter, many of the initiatives have social, economic, and political ramifications beyond the geo-political boundaries of Greene County. When we look at air and water quality in particular, we have to consider where the impact is coming from, and where our community's impact is going; it's certainly not limited to just us and regional cooperation is essential. Efforts regarding these initiatives have very little effect without regional coordination.

Many of the objectives detailed in this chapter will establish Springfield/ Greene County as a leader in the region and prompt other municipalities to follow suit. While we can improve some of our local environment with programs and initiatives, it's only when communities come together as regions, and regions come together as states and a nation that we can effect true and lasting environmental change.

The only effective way to improve the community's health and sustain strong public health functions is to work globally and understand there are minimal limitations, if any, to geographic boundaries in improving population health. Essentially everything the committee is recommending has at minimum a regional focus in that all responsible parties serve the greater region and beyond and that outcomes will be measurably evident throughout the region. The committee's recommendations will serve to align public health goals to ensure a regional effort is coordinated, measurable, and effective.

Regionalism is considered throughout this plan – in the Vision Statement, the Goals, and the Objectives. This City is consistently asked to work with the region's jurisdictions and organizations. This plan recognizes that transportation is not an activity unto itself. The decisions made for Springfield impact the surrounding region, while the transportation system in Springfield is also impacted by the activities and decisions of the surrounding region.

Performance Measures – Regionalism

9/4/12 – DRAFT

- By 2016, a Regional Transit Authority will be formed.
- By 2016, the Springfield Regional Economic Partnership will _____.
- By 2015, State funding for public health will increase by 25% over 2012 funding levels.
- By 2014, early childhood development will be listed as a legislative priority for the City of Springfield, Greene County, Springfield Economic Partnership, and all municipalities within the region.
- By 2016, the region’s air quality will improve by 3% compared to the 2012 level.
- By 2016, the region’s water quality will improve by 5% compared to the 2012 level.
- By 2016, a regional workforce development initiative will help improve the level of workforce readiness to ___ from the 2012 level of ___.
- By 2017, average regional earnings will improve by 7% over the 2012 level.
- By 2016, the Parks property acreage and linear miles of trails will have increased to ___ compared to the 2012 level of ___.