

Community Profile: Greene County

History and Geography

Greene County was named for the War of Independence hero, Nathanael Greene who was a general in the colonial army and led patriots in the south. The county is situated on the great Ozark Plateau, in the southwestern part of the State of Missouri. Greene County was originally founded in 1833 by an act of the Legislature in session at St. Louis, which was at that time, the capital of the line of Arkansas. Its eastern boundary was roughly the Gasconade River, and it extended north to the Osage fork.



Greene County now is about forty miles from the Arkansas line on the south, and about sixty miles from the western boundary of the state. It is bounded on the north by Polk and Dallas counties, on the west by Lawrence and Dade, on the south by Christian, and on the east by Webster County. It is nearly square in shape; its dimensions are approximately twenty-three by thirty miles (approximately 678 sq. miles).

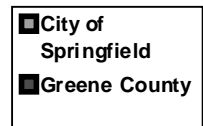
As one of the fastest growing areas in Missouri, Greene County has witnessed rapid population growth for almost a decade. Driving this growth is the area’s quality of life and its consistent growth as a tourist Mecca. This growth will affect every facet of the lives of its citizens. And this growth in population will result in exposing more people and property to hazards.

With more than 263,900 people, Greene County is the fifth largest county in Missouri and 239th in the entire country. Greene County has an average of 377.5 persons per square mile, with the majority of the population in and around the Springfield metropolitan area. The population of Greene County grew by 46,830 people from 1990 to 2006. Projected Greene County population for the year 2020 is estimated at between 285,000 and 300,000. Eighty-Five to ninety percent of the future Greene County population is expected to live in the Springfield urbanized area of the County. The Department of Insurance, Financial Institutions and Professional Registration reports there are approximately 240,391 people living in urban populated areas in Greene County.

Population Distribution

The majority of Greene County’s population resides in the City of Springfield as show on the graph at right. The data was taken from the 2000 U.S.

Census. While the data may not be as reflective as current figures or as the figures will be from the 2010 census, the ratio is still accurate of how many people truly live in the City of Springfield.



Population by Age

The median age for someone living in Greene County is 35.1 years, for males the median age is 33.4 years and for females, 36.6 years.

Households

Greene County has a total of 97,859 households, with an average of 2.34 persons per household.

The household median income is \$33,087.

It should be noted that 12.2% of the population is listed at or below the poverty level.

The Greene County assessed valuation is below:

Table 2A.1 Assessed Values for Unincorporated Greene County.

2008 Values for Unincorporated Greene County		
Residential	Commercial	Agriculture
\$95,653,450.00	\$50,445,800.00	\$13,358,690.00

Source: Greene County Assessor's Office

The Greene County Housing Data is below:

Table 2A.2 Greene County Housing Data.

Greene County Housing Data – Unit Type		
Type of Housing Unit	Number	Percent
Occupied Housing Units	97,859	93.6%
Owner Occupied	62,225	59.5%
Renter Occupied	35,634	34.1%
Vacant Housing Units	6,658	6.4%
Vacant for Rent	2,752	2.6%
Vacant for Sale	1,441	1.45%
For Seasonal, Recreation or Occasional Use	367	0.4%

Source: U.S. Census, 2000

Geology and Climate

The surface features of Greene County are due almost entirely to the erosion of streams, modified to some extent, by folds or flexures. The karst rocks are mostly limestone with intercalated beds of chert, impure flint, and some sandstone and shale; all of which vary greatly in hardness, crystalline structure, texture and chemical composition. They are variously acted upon by agencies as flexures, which produce shattering, and thus render the breaking down of the formations more easily; by frost, which facilitates this process; by the chemical and erosive action of percolating waters, and by the weathering out of soft layers, with the consequent undermining of superincumbent beds. These physical agencies help to modify the topographical features of the county, and each formation, according to its peculiar structure, exhibits special characteristics, due to the action of one or more of these agencies, as will be seen in the particular description of each horizon.

The main great divide, or watershed, of the Ozark uplift, divides Greene County into two slopes. The waters on the north flow into the Missouri river; those on the south side of the slope find

their way into the Mississippi through the White river. This divide is quite narrow in the eastern end of the county, falling away rapidly on both sides, forming the broken area around the headwaters of the Pomme de Terre and James rivers. To the west, it rapidly broadens into a wide, rolling plateau. The narrow eastern portion of this plateau is rough and rugged, where it falls abruptly to the headwaters of the Pomme de Terre and Sac rivers on the north and to the tributaries of the James on the south. In general, the rock strata of the county dip southwesterly, a condition modified, locally, by slight flexures.

The climate is generally moderate. Temperatures, according to the National Weather Service (NWS) station in Springfield, range from an average monthly high of 90 degrees Fahrenheit in July and August to an average monthly low of 22 degrees Fahrenheit in January. Monthly rainfall averages 4.25 inches from March through July, while the monthly average from September through December is just 3.98 inches. Record rainfall amounts have been recorded as high as 18.75 inches in a single month. January through April records a monthly average of 3.48 inches of snowfall. Record snowfall amounts have reached record numbers as high as 24.1 inches for a single month. The average wind speed for the area is 10.6 miles per hour. Wind directions are variable depending on frontal proximity, however, they are normally from the west southwest with summer winds predominately from the south.

Form of Government

Greene County has a non-charter form of government, meaning that the county is governed directly by state law. The Greene County Commission is the executive body of Greene County operating under guidelines established in the Revised Statutes of the State of Missouri. Within that authority, the Commission enacts ordinances, resolutions and policies, supervises the activities of county departments, fixes salaries, adopts the annual budget, provides for construction and other services, and conducts hearings on planning and zoning matters.

Community Partnerships

The cities and county collaborate on all issues such as a combined Office of Emergency Management, Health Department, and Parks and Recreation Department. The Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT), the cities and county collaborate concerning transportation issues. The Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) and local fire departments work together to safeguard the county's forested areas.

Media Relations

The *Springfield News-Leader* is the official newspaper of Springfield and Greene County. In addition, the *Springfield Business Journal* covers issues related to area business. Both provide adequate coverage of planning and mitigation issues. There are a number of other newspapers and magazines owned by colleges and other private organizations that cover local special topics. The Springfield Community Profile has a more extensive explanation for media as most stations and companies are located in the City of Springfield.

Emergency Alert System (EAS)

The primary Emergency Alert System (EAS) radio station for Greene County is KTTS 94.7 FM and secondary is KTTS 1260 AM in Springfield.

Economy

Employment

The economy in Greene County is diverse, though more heavily dependent on the services and trade sectors than the state as a whole. Table 2A.3 provides a profile of employment in various economic segments in Greene County.

The trade, transportation and utilities are by far the largest employers followed closely by the service sectors.

Unemployment in 2009 was listed as 8.2%, which is quite a bit higher than it had been in previous years.

Land Use

Much of rural Greene County is forested, pasture or farm land. The remainder of the land is divided into urban development lands.

Table 2A.3 Private Employment Figures.

Greene County Private Employment	
Natural Resources & Mining	259
Construction	6435
Manufacturing	13961
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	36506
Information	4018
Financial Activities	9391
Professional & Business Services	12491
Education & Health Services	25935
Leisure & Hospitality	14303
Other Services	4942
<i>Source: MERIC-2004</i>	

Table 2A.4 Land Use in Greene County.

Greene County Land Uses - 2006		
	Acres	% of Total Unincorporated Area
Single Family Residential	141682	40.49
Multi-Family Residential	379	0.11
Mobile Homes	9389	2.68
Commercial	5342	1.53
Industrial	279	0.08
Public and Semi-Public	14535	4.15
Agricultural and Vacant	172437	49.28
Other	5848	1.67
Total Unincorporated Land*	349891	100
<i>Note: Chart does not include right-of-way</i>		
<i>Source: Greene County Planning and Zoning</i>		

* Refer to the Greene County Land Use Map, located in Appendix of this plan.

Urban sprawl is the unplanned, uncontrolled spreading of urban development into undeveloped areas just outside the city. The continued increase in Greene County’s population has contributed not only to growth and sprawl, but to a resultant decline of farms and farmland. Additional factors that could likely impact farm numbers include increases in land prices and reduced profitability of farming.

Table 2A. 5 Greene County Farm.

2007 Greene County Farm Data	
Number of Farms	1960
Land in Farms (acres)	231,988
Average size of farm (acres)	118
Median size of farm (acres)	50
Estimated market value of land and buildings	
Average per farm (dollars)	\$387,845.00
Average per acre (dollars)	\$3,277.00
Estimated market value of machinery and equipment	
Average per farm (dollars)	\$40,074.00
Farms by size:	
1 to 9 acres	157
10 to 49 acres	803
50 to 179 acres	650
180 to 499 acres	272
500 to 999 acres	56
1,000 or more acres	22
<i>Source: 2007 Census of Agriculture, USDA, National Agriculture Statistics Service</i>	

Urban Forests and Tree Canopy Decline

One major concern in Greene County is the loss of trees in the urban area. Tree canopy decline is often a result of population growth and development.

The U.S. Forest Service estimates that well positioned trees can increase energy savings by as much as 25 percent. Trees reduce energy consumption because they transpire water, provide shade, and block winter winds. Localities are provided further economic benefits by urban forestation because shade trees extend the life of streets and defer maintenance by as much as 10 to 15 percent. A study by the USDA Forest Service showed that the benefits produced by one large tree are about \$111 per year.

In an effort to improve their urban forests, three Greene County municipalities (Ash Grove, Springfield and Willard) are members of *Tree City USA*. The benefits of membership include: assistance in providing a framework for tree resource management, increased citizen and community pride, indication to residents and visitors that the community cares about its environment and that its quality of life may be better, and preference given to “Tree Cities” for environmental grants.

Another reason for the decline in the tree canopy in areas of Greene County is damage from multiple ice storms in recent years. A major ice storm in 2007 caused significant damage to trees in the area causing almost 2 million public yards of vegetative debris.

Development Trends

Greene County’s significant population growth over the past two decades is projected to steadily continue in all age groups. Growth in unincorporated Greene County is due in part to

urbanization. As people choose to move out of Springfield into the urban service area or other rural parts of Greene County, the unincorporated areas of the county continue to grow.

Historic Properties/Districts, Endangered Species, Archaeological Sites

Greene County-Historic Properties/Districts

The Greene County Historic Sites Board (HSB) was established by court order August 6, 1979. It is an advisory board for the identification, protection, retention and preservation of historical sites in Greene County (historical sites within the city limits of Springfield are not within the jurisdiction of the HSB). Greene County’s Historical Site Register already includes 25 sites like the Nathan Boone homestead in Ash Grove, the Wommack Mill in Fair Grove, the Frame-Bouling house in Bois D’Arc, the Gilmore Octagonal Barn in Ash Grove, the Historic Greene County Courthouse in Springfield, the Prospect Baptist Church in Brookline, the Cave Springs Community Church in Cave Springs, the Murray Cemetery in Willard and others.

Endangered Species

Many animals and plants are listed as endangered across the United States. Below is a list of endangered or threatened plants and animals in Missouri, many of which are located in Greene County:

Table 2A.6 Endangered Species in Missouri.

Endangered Species in Missouri	
Classification	Species
Mammals	Gray bat (<i>Myotis grisescens</i>) Indiana bat (<i>Myotis sodalists</i>) Ozark big-eared bat (<i>Plecotus townsendii ingens</i>)
Birds	Bald Eagle (<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus -protected under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act</i>) Least tern (<i>Sterna antillarum</i>) Piping plover (<i>Charadrius melodus</i>)
Reptiles	Eastern massasauga (<i>sistrurus catenatus</i>)
Amphibians	Ozark hellbender (<i>Cryptobranchus alleganiensis bishopi</i>)
Fish	Arkansas darter (<i>Etheostoma cragini</i>) Grotto sculpin (<i>Cottus sp.</i>) Neosho madtom (<i>Noturus placidus</i>) Niangua darter (<i>Etheostoma nianguae</i>) Ozark cavefish (<i>Amblyopsis</i>) Pallid Sturgeon (<i>Scaphirhynchus albus</i>) Topeka shiner (<i>Notropis Topeka</i>)
Clams (Freshwater Mussels, Unionids)	Curtis’ pearlymussel (<i>Epioblasma florentina curtisi</i>) Fat pocketbook (<i>Potamilus capax</i>) Higgins eye pearlymussel (<i>Lampsilis higginsii</i>) Neosho mucket (<i>Lampsilis rafinesqueana</i>) Pink mucket pearlymussel (<i>Lampsilis orbiculata =l. abrupta</i>) Scaleshell (<i>Leptodea leptodon</i>) Sheepnose (<i>Plethobasus cyphus</i>) Spectaclecase (<i>Cumberlandia monodonta</i>)

Snails	Tumbling Creek cavesnail (<i>Antrobia culveri</i>)
Insects	Hine’s emerald dragonfly (<i>Somatochlora hineana</i>)
Crustaceans	Cave crayfish, <i>no common name</i> (<i>Cambarus aculabrum</i>)
Plants	Decurrent false aster (<i>Boltonia decurens</i>) Geocarpon, <i>no common name</i> (<i>Geocarpon minimum</i>) Mead’s milkweed (<i>Asclepias meadii</i>) Missouri bladder-pod (<i>Lesquerella filiformis</i>) Pondberry (<i>Lindera melissifolia</i>) Running buffalo clover (<i>Trifolium stoloniferum</i>) Virginia sneezeweed (<i>Helenium virginicum</i>) Western prairie fringed orchid (<i>Platanthera praeclara</i>)
<i>Source: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (list updated August 2007)</i>	

Greene County Archeological Sites

On September 11, 2001, while working on a new section of roadway, Greene County Highway Department personnel stumbled onto a rare archeological find. Just on the outskirts of Springfield, a cave approximately 2000 feet long, filled with archeological treasure was unearthed. Immediately, faculty from the Department of Geology, Geography and Resource Planning at Missouri State University, as well as members of the Missouri Speleological Survey were called in to assess the site.

Found in the cave were snake remains, peccary tracks, bones, claw markings, and many other finds too numerous to mention. To protect the cave, the County covered the entrance and installed a locked door and passageway system to guard against intruders. Unfortunately, four days after the cave was announced to the local media, vandals broke in, leaving behind graffiti, garbage and destruction to many of the archaeological areas of the cave. The areas vandalized have been returned as much as possible back to their original state.

Disaster Declarations

Flash flood events occurred in 2000 and 2002 which contributed to a Small Business Administration (SBA) Disaster Declaration in 2000 and a Presidential Disaster Declaration in 2002 (DR-1412). As a result of a wide-spread tornado event on May 2, 2003, many areas of southwest Missouri, including Greene County, were declared a Presidential disaster area. This declaration opened up funding for citizens, businesses and government to rebuild after the disaster. In March of 2006, severe thunderstorms, flooding and a tornado contributed to a disaster declaration (DR-1631). Nine months later, in December of 2006, another disaster was declared, for severe winter storms (DR-1673). Less than one month later, in January of 2007; another severe winter storm occurred, this time with flooding. This was the most devastating ice storm in Greene County’s history, causing millions of dollars worth of damage. Many homes and businesses were without power for up to two weeks. In August 2007, there was a rash of severe storms causing widespread flooding that was also declared (DR-1738). More severe winter storms occurred in December of 2007 and there was an Emergency Declaration for the entire state of Missouri (EM-3281). In January 2008, a line of strong cells produces thunderstorms and tornados causing significant damage and injuries, including one fatality in Greene County, resulted in a disaster declaration (DR-1742). In February 2008, there was another disaster declaration for flooding caused by severe storms (DR-1748). On May 8, 2009,

Greene County experienced a derecho that caused damaging straight line winds, flooding and produced tornados in some areas. This resulted in a disaster declaration (DR-1847)/

Environmental

The topographical form of Greene County is extremely karst in nature. These karst features allow for water runoff to readily permeate into the groundwater through faults or sinkhole and then into aquifers, rivers or creeks from which drinking water is drawn. Major concerns focus around hazardous chemicals and other compounds such as agricultural waters polluting groundwater sources. Greene County has adopted regulations that deal with environmental issues, especially those dealing with the watershed. The Missouri Department of Natural Resources explains Greene County is known to have more than reported 2,500 sinkholes.

Identified Assets

This section provides a survey of existing fixed assets such as infrastructure, critical facilities, employment centers, commercial centers and recreation centers as a major factor in disaster mitigation. Infrastructure includes transportation, communications, water/sewer, electricity, natural gas, solid waste disposal, law enforcement, fire prevention, emergency medical services and Emergency Management.

Transportation

Roadways

Table 2A.7 Major Roadways in Greene County.

Major Highways	
Interstate 44	Major connector from St. Louis to the Southwest U.S.
State Hwy. 13	Runs from Bethany, Missouri to Springfield
U.S. Hwy. 60	Runs from Missouri’s eastern border on the Mississippi to the Oklahoma border
U.S. Hwy 65	Runs from the Iowa border into Arkansas, the main highway linkage between Springfield and Branson
U.S. Hwy 160	Runs from Poplar Bluff, Missouri to the State of Kansas.
Major Roadways	
Korean War Veterans Frwy.	Connects from U.S. Highway 65 to the east of Springfield to I-44 to the west of Springfield. Also known as the James River Freeway.
<i>Source: Missouri Department of Transportation</i>	

The Primary mode of transportation in Greene County is the private automobile. Over the past several decades, the growth in the number of vehicles has outpaced the population.

The goal for planning area streets and highways is to provide an adequate system of thoroughfares that will ensure logical development of the community, safe and efficient movement of people and goods, and an economical expenditure of public funds. In June of 2001, the Vision 20/20 process determined that to achieve this goal, it was necessary to develop and update a Major Thoroughfare Plan to project and accommodate future roadway needs. This plan is now ongoing.

Railroads

The largest railroad in the region is the Burlington Northern/Santa Fe (BNSF) system that runs from east of Springfield, exiting the area northwest of Monett and Pierce City. Historically, this rail line was part of the “Frisco” line and was the first major transportation route into the region. The BSNF provides southwest Missouri with rail connections to metropolitan areas such as St. Louis, Kansas City, Tulsa and Memphis.

The Missouri and North Arkansas rail line, headquartered in Carthage, Missouri, provides rail service to several industries within the City of Springfield, using tracking rights on the BSNF railroad to reach this portion of its system.

Airports, Freight Trucking, Transit and Para-Transit

Please see the Community Profile of the City of Springfield

Emergency Services

9-1-1 Emergency Communications

The Springfield-Greene County 9-1-1 Center is the hub of emergency communications throughout both the city of Springfield and Greene County. The center is used as the centralized call center for incoming 9-1-1 calls from the public, as well as outgoing communications to emergency personnel in the field. Basic 9-1-1 service has been available in the Springfield community since 1979. In 1985, the Springfield Fire Department and Police Department consolidated their dispatch and telephone operations and in 1989 the Emergency Communications Center was established as a Municipal department by action of the City Council. In 1994, the department became the only 9-1-1 answering point for the enhanced Greene County 9-1-1 system, incorporating the ability for emergency personnel to identify an incoming caller’s phone number and address. In 2002, with the county’s new 800 MHz radio system coming on-line, the Greene County Sheriff’s Department Communication Division merged with the 9-1-1 Center. The City of Republic also operates a 24 hour / seven day Emergency Communications Department for citizens inside Republic city limits. This location serves as a future back-up site for the Springfield/Greene County centralized location.

The Emergency Communications Center currently dispatches for seven municipal police departments, 13 fire departments and the Sheriff’s Department. In 2008, the center handled the following numbers of calls for service:

Table 2A.8 Calls for Service.

2008 Calls for Service, Springfield-Greene County Emergency Communications Center			
	Daily Average	Monthly Average	Yearly Totals
911 Calls	581	17,720	212,640
Admin Calls (Incoming & Outgoing)	556	16,959	203,511
Total Incoming Calls	867	26,449	317,392
Total Phone Calls	1137	34,679	416,151
Total CAD Incidents	1005	30,644	367,731
<i>Source: 2008 Springfield – Greene County Emergency Communications Center Report.</i>			

Law Enforcement

The first Greene County Sheriff was elected in 1833, the year Greene County was created. Today the Sheriff’s office provides law enforcement for Greene County, utilizing a Division and District concept to provide coverage of approximately 670 square miles. The department employs 246 people and 30 reserve deputies.



In addition to law enforcement duties, the Sheriff’s Office is also tasked with managing the 470 bed corrections facility. Prisoners from all Greene County jurisdictions as well as prisoners with federal charges, charges from other states, and charges from other Missouri counties are housed in the jail.

Fire Services

In addition to Springfield Fire, Republic Fire and Rural Greene County is divided into 13 fire protection districts:

Table 2A.9 Rural Fire Protection Districts.

Rural Greene County Fire Protection Districts	
Ash Grove Fire District	Logan-Rogersville Fire District*
Battlefield Fire District	Pleasant View Fire District
Billings Fire District	Strafford Fire District
Bois D’ Arc Fire District	Walnut Grove Fire District
Brookline Fire District	West Republic Fire District
Ebenezer Fire District	Willard Fire District
Fair Grove Fire District	

**The Logan-Rogersville Fire District has hazmat team capability as well as being one of two area regional Weapons of Mass Destruction response teams.*

For more information on the rural Fire Protection Districts, please see their individual profiles.

Emergency Medical Services

Emergency medical services (EMS) for Greene County are provided by Cox Health Paramedics and Mercy St. John’s Paramedics. These two private systems have divided the county into multiple response areas.

Both EMS systems use system status for deployment of field units. This means that every time an ambulance is dispatched to a call for service, all on duty ambulances in the system shift their positions to better cover the system’s service area.

The Cox Health system employs approximately 80 personnel to staff its 14 advanced life support ambulances. The Cox system also maintains a medical evacuation helicopter which is staffed 24 hours per day with a pilot, flight nurse and flight paramedic. The helicopter is based in Springfield at Cox South Hospital.



Mercy St. John’s employees 73 personnel to staff 13 advanced life support ambulances. The system also maintains three medical evacuation helicopters

which all operate 24 hours per day and are staffed with a pilot, flight nurse and flight paramedic. The helicopters are stationed in Branson West, Bolivar and St. Robert, MO.

Public Health Department

Since 1873 the Springfield-Greene County Health Department has provided public health services that promote health and prevent disease in order to achieve their mission of Healthy People Living in a Healthy Community.

Many services provided by public health are unseen. Restaurant inspections, communicable disease investigations, well water testing, animal control and monitoring of morbidity and mortality reports are a few examples of vital activities which occur behind the scenes each and every day.

Other services are much more visible to the community; health education is an example. Because good health is their goal, they make every effort to engage the community and focus public attention on issues for educational purposes.

The department provides 35 different public services divided into three sections; Maternal, Child and Family Health, Environmental Health and Community Health.

Office of Emergency Management

The Springfield-Greene Office of County Emergency Management (OEM) is funded through Federal, State, County and City resources. The office was founded in the mid 1950's. The original purpose for the office, known as Civil Defense, was to help protect citizens from nuclear attack. The purpose has grown since the 1980's to include planning and protection from all hazards which could cause disaster situations.

The OEM has seven paid staff: Director, Assistant Director, Emergency Planning Specialist, Homeland Security Specialist, Exercise and Training Specialist, Administrative Services Coordinator and a part-time Administrative Assistant. Paid staff is often augmented by Contract Employees, University Interns and a cadre of volunteers.

In order to save lives and protect property in the face of the hazards that affect the Jurisdictions of Greene County, this office, in coordination with Federal, State and local agencies, apply the four phases of Emergency Management: Mitigation, Preparedness, Response and Recovery.

The Office of Emergency Management is the primary control point for activation of the outdoor siren warning system which has more than 80 sirens throughout the County. The Springfield/Greene County Emergency Communications Center is the secondary control center for the system. The Public Works Maintenance Center may also activate the system whenever deemed appropriate for testing and repair. Also, any law enforcement officer, firefighter, trained Emergency Management weather spotter, or National Weather Service representative may act as a single source for activation when reporting a funnel cloud or tornado that is threatening the safety of Springfield residents.

When weather permits, the siren warning system is tested the second Wednesday of each month at 10:00 a.m. If not activated, the date for testing defaults to the third Wednesday of each month. If unable to test the sirens on the third Wednesday, the testing is canceled until the following month. It must be noted that the new siren warning control system automatically tests each siren electronically. Mechanical tests are performed periodically as scheduled by the Public Works Maintenance Control Center. This provides a high probability that a problem with any individual siren within the system will have been detected and repaired prior to the need for operational application of the system.

The Office of Emergency Management hosts a Severe Weather Spotter training program taught by the National Weather Service early every spring for public safety responders and amateur radio operators. Emergency management personnel are required to complete this training yearly.

The Office of Emergency Management runs awareness campaigns during the spring for severe storms and the fall for severe winter weather. Special statements are issued throughout the year by appropriate departments for heat and drought (Health Department), and wildfire (National Weather Service, Department of Conservation and local fire agencies).

Throughout the year, the Office of Emergency Management conducts surveys of business and other facilities to provide recommendations to facility owners or managers on possible in-place protection measures they could take in the event of a severe storm or hazardous materials release.

MO-1 Disaster Medical Assistance Team (DMAT)

A DMAT (Disaster Medical Assistance Team) is a volunteer organization which branches from the National Disaster Medical System (NDMS). The DMAT organization consists of various teams of medical professionals that volunteer to provide medical care to areas overwhelmed by natural or man-made disasters.

A DMAT's mission is to provide the highest level of medical assistance to victims involved in catastrophic events such as earthquakes, floods, and other natural disasters

In the summer of 2002, an alliance was formed between the Cox Health System and the Mercy St. John's System. This venture turned into Ozark Health Ventures. The purpose was to form a DMAT in the Springfield region. One year later, as a result of merging ideals, the southwest Missouri venture joined with an existing DMAT from St. Louis. MO-1 DMAT, in existence for over four years is a fully functional Level I team. This means the team can be called on at a moments notice to respond anywhere within the 50 U.S. states or territories.

As a member of MO-1, personnel from Springfield and Southwest Missouri will have access to resources for training and response should the need arise.

Utilities

**** Due to security concerns, utilities are not mapped to any degree in this plan. ****

Electric

The utilities in Greene County are mainly provided by four companies. The Springfield area’s utilities are provided by City Utilities and the rural areas of the County are provided utilities by Southwest Electric Co-op, Empire Electric, Webster Electric Co-op and Ozark Electric Co-op.

Natural Gas

Many communities and rural residents have access to natural gas for fueling appliances. Those who are not serviced by natural gas rely on Propane for heating and cooking needs.

Sewer and Water Facilities

Greene County has two established sewer districts for its unincorporated residents. At this time, all other houses or subdivisions are required to have acceptable sewage containment/release systems approved. Other sewer districts have been proposed, however, funding precludes further development at this time. For more information on city sewer systems, see individual profiles.

Missouri One Call

The Missouri Underground Facility Safety and Damage Prevention statute (RSMo Chapter 319) provides for a notification center to be used by participating utilities to receive locate requests.



The Missouri One Call System utility location contact number is 1-800-DIG-RITE. Listings of utility lines posing a possible hazard include a contact number for emergency personnel.

Table 2A.10 Missouri One Call Members.

Missouri One Call Members		
Alpine Village MHC	City Utilities of Springfield	Mediacom
Aqua MO Formerly Aquasource	Empire Connect	Missouri Gas Energy
ATT Distribution	Empire District Electric	Missouri State University
ATT Transmission	Enbridge Energy	Missouri Telecom
Baptist Bible College	Explorer Pipeline Company	MODOT District 8
Cable America	General Council Assemblies of God	MRAC
CenturyTel	Greene County PWS D 1	Ozark Electric Co-op
Cherokee Pipeline	Greene County PWS D 5	RDE Water Co
Choctaw Telephone Company	Greene County PWS D 6	St. John’s Hospital, Springfield
City of Ash Grove	John Youngblood Motors	Sho-Me Technologies
City of Battlefield	K-Powernet	Smith-Glynn Callaway Clinic
City of Fair Grove	Level 3 Communications	Southern Missouri Natural Gas
City of Republic	Lightcore	Southern Star Central Gas
City of Rogersville	Lindsey Communications	Southwest Electric Co-op
City of Strafford	Magellan Midstream Partners	Webster Electric Co-op
City of Walnut Grove	MCI	
City of Willard	McLeod USA	

Source: Missouri One Call Website

Wells

Unincorporated Greene County has thousands of private wells sunk into the groundwater system. By far, the majority of wells in the county serve individual farms and residences. The actual number of such wells is unknown. The County Resource Management office is tasked with the job of trying to locate and track both working and abandoned wells in the County. Abandoned wells are often discovered during the redevelopment of a piece of property.

In 1987, the Missouri DNR began regulating the installation of private water wells. This includes the licensing of drillers and dictating methods of construction, materials, and the amount of casing. Casing depths in Greene County are set ten feet below the Northview formation where it is present, or a minimum of one-hundred feet in other areas. These standards apply to Greene County as a part of “Sensitive Area C” as defined in the Missouri Well Construction Rules. As a practical alternative to actually measuring the depth to Northview at each site, the Division of Geology and Land Survey-DNR has prepared a casing depth map for the area. This map indicates the amount of casing required in each individual quarter section.

The Springfield-Greene County Health Department maintains a database of tests on private wells. Besides well test results, information is recorded on the well’s location, reason for request, and type of construction, when known. The most common tests requested on working wells are for coliform bacteria and nitrates.

In addition to private wells, there are approximately 150 public wells in unincorporated Greene County.

Abandoned Wells

A partial survey of wells in Greene County by the Resource Management Department suggests that there are hundreds of abandoned wells in the county. Besides the obvious safety hazards, abandoned wells constitute a pollution hazard for groundwater by serving as an open conduit from the surface or near-surface to deeper aquifers. State laws require the plugging or sealing of abandoned wells, and if the well is determined to present a threat to groundwater, the Division of Geology and Land Survey can order it to be plugged. Ultimately, homeowners are responsible for plugging abandoned wells on their property. Often, drillers who notice abandoned wells will notify landowners that they must be plugged. A registration report must be filed with the Division upon plugging the well.

Solid Waste Disposal

Solid waste disposal in Springfield and Greene County is handled by the following private waste haulers:

Automated Waste Services	Lorance Trucking
Allied Waste Services	Mike’s Trash Hauling
Always Hauling	Moore’s Trash Service
BWI/Bulk Waste	Ozark Refuse
Epps Trash Service	Rain Tree Disposal
Hometown Disposal	Rensch David Construction
J&J Refuse Service	Waste Corp. of MO
Karman Refuse	Waste Management Inc.

Most waste is trucked to the Solid Waste dump approximately 10 miles north of Springfield just west of Missouri Hwy. 13. Greene County continues to focus on reducing its solid waste through precycling, recycling, reuse, and numerous other means; however, the Springfield Sanitary Landfill remains a vital part of Springfield's Integrated Solid Waste Management System (ISWMS). The ISWMS is not supported by general tax revenue. Landfill tipping fees are the major funding source for the ISWMS, in addition to donations and revenues generated by the sale of Yardwaste Recycling Center products.

The Springfield Sanitary Landfill provides efficient, reliable, and environmentally secure disposal of municipal solid waste that cannot be recycled or reused. At present, these wastes represent 60-80 percent of Springfield's solid waste generation. This facility also provides for the proper disposal of those non-hazardous commercial, industrial and residual wastes requiring special handling to meet state and federal regulations.

In addition to the Sanitary Landfill, there are also 3 recycling centers and a yardwaste recycling center and a household chemical collection facility. These facilities give residents the option to recycle much of their waste. In addition, the ISWMS has other programs such as: requiring all licensed trash haulers offer the convenience of curbside collection of recyclables, and an ongoing program of information and education including a Recycling Hotline and webpage.