

## Springfield Community Summary

### Greene County

#### Springfield

Often called the “Queen City of Ozarks,” Springfield is the seat of Greene County and serves as a healthcare, entertainment, and shopping hub for much of Southwest Missouri as the third-largest city in the state.

Springfield boasts a world-class parks system, more than 100 miles of scenic trails, two top-rated hospital systems, and four innovative and well-regarded colleges and universities. Springfield is home to the Springfield Cardinals, a Double-A affiliate of the St. Louis Cardinals, as well as two large sports arenas, Juanita K. Hammons Hall for the Performing Arts, and the 10,000+ piece Springfield Art Museum. Springfield’s newest attraction, The Wonders of Wildlife National Museum and Aquarium, was named the best new attraction in America. The city is also well-known as the home of Bass Pro Shops and Springfield-style cashew chicken.

#### Republic

Republic is a charter city located in western Greene County, Missouri. The city grew as a result of the railroad and is home to the annual Republic Pumpkin Daze festival which celebrates fall in the Ozarks.

### Christian County

#### Nixa

Nixa began as a crossroads settlement within a half-day’s ride of Springfield with a team of horses. It was officially incorporated as a village in 1902 with the name Nixa, in part as an homage to Nicholas A. Inman, who was one of Nixa’s first civic leaders.<sup>1</sup> Nixa grew exponentially in the 1960s and ‘70s as a commuter city for nearby Springfield employment. In more recent years, rapid residential construction has continued to spur Nixa’s growth, as well as a reputation for excellent schools. Nixa is regionally known for Nixa Sucker Days, a weekend festival and parade in May celebrating the Nixa Sucker Fish.

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<sup>1</sup> Nixa Area Chamber of Commerce, <http://www.nixachamber.com/>

## Ozark

Ozark gets its name in part because of its location nestled in the Ozark Mountains north of the Arkansas River. Before being formally named, travelers described the area north of the Arkansas River in French as “Aux Arks.” It was first incorporated as Hoover’s Mill, although that only lasted for about a year and a half before being changed to Ozark in 1840.<sup>2</sup> The city is the county seat of Christian County which lies along the Finley River.

Ozark too has enjoyed rapid growth in recent years, but maintains a strong reverence for its past via the numerous historic properties preserved by the Ozarks Historic Preservation Commission.<sup>3</sup> Nixa and Ozark enjoy a friendly rivalry, which most often plays out between the respective high schools during football season.

## Webster County

### Marshfield

Marshfield is a town built as a result of the post-Civil War railroad boom, largely as a dairy, poultry, and livestock producer. Marshfield is most famously known as the hometown of astronomer Edwin P. Hubble; several monuments and other attractions honor the native son. Also of note is the annual Marshfield Cherry Blossom Festival, which highlights American History, the planting of cherry blossom trees, and serves as a reunion of sorts for descendants of American Presidents.<sup>4</sup> Nearby Seymour also boasts the renowned Seymour Apple Festival, an homage to its history as the largest apple producer in the state.

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<sup>2</sup> OzarksWatch Video Magazine, “History and Profile of Ozark, Missouri”, <http://video.optv.org/video/1392946803/>

<sup>3</sup> Ozark Historic Preservation Commission, <http://ozarkmissouri.com/>

<sup>4</sup> Webster County, Missouri, <http://www.webstercountymo.gov/about-webster-county/>

