

The Springfield-Sangamon County Regional Planning Commission

Who we are and what we do

ADVISING

PLANNING

EVALUATING

LEADING

Planning at work
for our communities

WHY EFFECTIVE PLANNING IS IMPORTANT TO COMMUNITY SUCCESS

In today's world, managing a municipality is a complex undertaking. A community's success depends upon many factors, but one of the most important is the development of a shared vision and the strategies necessary to achieve that vision.

That is what effective planning is meant to do, for as the saying goes, "When you don't know where you are going, any road will get you there!" Effective local planning helps a community not only identify the road it is on, but also helps it decide on the best route to get where it wants to go.

Good planning is a notable component in community success because it allows for up-front agreement on decisions without the public conflicts that can sometimes arise when decisions are made on a piecemeal basis. This is because it allows all interested parties to know what to expect as the community makes decisions. In so doing it leads to a consistency in local actions that reduces development risks, encouraging the increased private investment that can additionally help a community.

And effective planning also allows a community to better target its limited resources and use them more efficiently. In today's world the effective and efficient use of public resources is a must.

Effective planning is where the **Springfield-Sangamon County Regional Planning Commission (SSCRPC**) comes in. Our on-going mission is to provide the professional expertise and objective analysis that communities in the region need to assess their opportunities, sharpen their visions, and design the strategies needed to achieve them. The SSCRPC works to help local leaders, the agencies and organizations they direct, and the citizens they serve, do just that.







The best way to predict the future is to create it.

Abraham Lincoln

ABOUT THE PLANNING COMMISSION

The Springfield–Sangamon County Regional Planning Commission is the joint planning body for Sangamon County and the City of Springfield. However, along with its on-going responsibilities to the County and Springfield, the SSCRPC works with many other municipalities, special districts, public agencies, public-private partnerships, and not-for-profit organizations throughout the region to promote orderly growth, focused redevelopment, and a high quality of life.

To achieve this end, the SSCRPC conducts numerous studies, analytic reviews and planning projects each year. It also acts in regional capacities, for example serving as the Metropolitan Planning Organization for transportation planning through the federal, state and locally supported Springfield Area Transportation Study (SATS).

Since the SSCRPC operates under the legal authority of Sangamon County, it can provide planning services to its partnering jurisdictions and others at a fraction of the cost that would be required if private consultants and research firms were employed. This offers even small communities, agencies and not-for-profits the access to experienced professionals who know the region and its special needs, providing a resource that they might otherwise be unable to afford.

HOW THE COMMISSION IS ORGANIZED

The Commission that oversees this work is made up of 17 members that include representatives from the Sangamon County Board, Springfield City Council, special units of government, and six citizens appointed by Springfield and the County. The Commission's three officers — a Chair, Vice-Chair and Secretary — must be elected from the six citizen members, and the offices must rotate annually between the County and City members.

The Commission's Executive Director is appointed by the Commission's Executive Policy Board and confirmed by the Sangamon County Board. In addition to managing the work of the Commission, the Executive Director also oversees the Sangamon County Zoning Office and serves as the County Plats Officer.

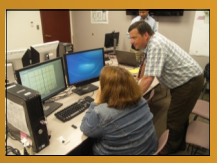
Like many private consulting firms, the SSCRPC is organized around four primary planning practices, each with its own staff. These are: Strategic and Comprehensive Planning; Land Use and Environmental Planning; Development Planning; and Transportation Planning. Most recently the SSCRPC has begun work to add Economic Development Planning to its service portfolio.

SSCRPC PLANNING SERVICES

MUNICIPAL COMPREHENSIVE PLAN DEVELOPMENT — CORRIDOR AND AREA REDEVELOPMENT PLANNING — STRATEGIC PLANNING & COMMUNITY VISIONING — TRANSPORTATION PLANNING, REVIEW & MODELING — PROGRAM & PROJECT EVALUATION — LAND USE, ZONING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PLANNING, ASSESSMENT & REVIEW — DEMOGRAPHIC & ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW & TREND ANALYSIS — POLICY RESEARCH & ANALYSIS — CONFLICT RESOLUTION, PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT & COMMUNITY NEEDS SURVEYS.

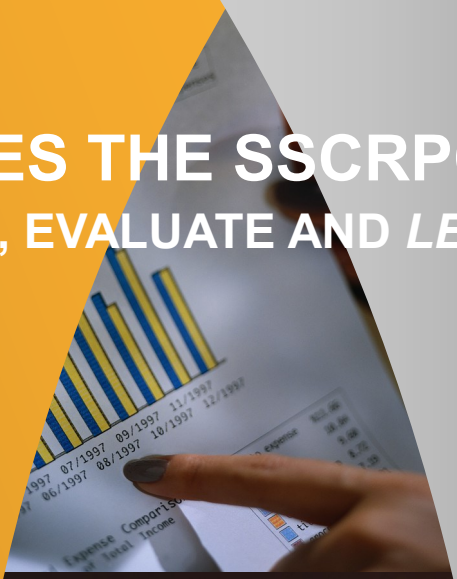
SO WHAT DOES THE SSCRPC DO?

WE ADVISE, PLAN, EVALUATE AND *LEAD.*



EVALUATING

As there are always more public needs and wants than the resources to address them, the SSCRPC can help evaluate a community's or agency's services and operational plans, conduct surveys, and help identify the measures that are important in anticipating future service demands. It can also help link a community to potential resources that local leaders may not know are available.



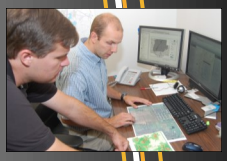




PLANNING

The Commission's staff assists communities and public agencies in Sangamon County with strategic and comprehensive planning, including development planning and land use. It also conducts many special planning projects and studies, and keeps member communities and agencies informed about best practices in a number of critical areas. This even includes helping to develop needed local policies and ordinances.





ADVISING

The SSCRPC can be a community's "whether" bureau. Its staff can study the various issues and problems facing a municipality, agency or organization, and provide an objective and well-reasoned opinion as to how they might be addressed. The staff can also provide the external facilitation needed to resolve conflicts among and between various local interests.



LEADING

Since planning looks to the future, it must *anticipate* the future as well. The SSCRPC tracks demographic, economic and social trends affecting our region. It often provides communities and agencies with insights into how these changes will affect them, and then offer useful and objective counsel as to how communities might best prepare to address new challenges. The SSCRPC wants communities to be *prepared* for the future, not simply *react* to it.

EXAMPLES OF MAJOR PROJECTS & ACTIVITIES

Putting planning to work.

The breadth and scope of the Planning Commission's efforts may be best described by its many on-going activities and recent projects. The Commission's staff assignments are organized around the four areas of planning practice and expertise noted below.

Strategic & Comprehensive Planning

- Development of the Sangamon Regional Strategic Plan.
- Municipal comprehensive plans for Springfield, Sherman, Williamsville, Curran, Leland Grove, Riverton & Dawson.
- Redevelopment and corridor planning projects for MacArthur Blvd., an East Springfield commercial corridor, the Martin Luther King Jr. Ave. and Cook St. commercial node, and west North Grand Ave. streetscape.
- Research and analysis for the Citizens' Efficiency Commission for Sangamon County.
- Local economic development studies and planning.
- Demographic studies, such as the Commission's analysis of the 2010 Census and study of the Millennial Generation.

Land Use & Environmental Planning

- Sangamon County and City of Springfield zoning review and analysis.
- Zoning ordinance development and zoning issues research.
- Zoning process in-service for commissioners and board members.
- Digital zoning map development and case tracking.
- Floodplain management and recertification in the National Flood Insurance Program Community Rating System.
- Land Evaluation and Site Assessment system scoring.
- Natural hazard mitigation planning.
- Historic preservation activities.

Development Planning

- County and City of Springfield land subdivision review and process coordination.
- Large scale project and planned unit development review.
- Plat Act administration and land divisions.
- Site plan review coordination.
- Natural areas inventory and updating.
- Development of the Land Development Project Locator system.
- Economic impact modeling
- Inventory and analysis of existing potential development sites.
- Study of waste water intake for Springfield Metro Sanitary District.
- Development of web-based tools to provide for public access to SSCRPC information resources.

Transportation Planning

- Coordination and administration of Springfield Area Transportation Study activities.
- Development of long-range and arterial roadway network plans.
- Study of the impact of transportation on the growth of regional economic centers.
- Bicycle and pedestrian ways planning.
- Public and rural transportation planning assistance.
- Data and planning assistance related to high speed passenger rail.
- Transit Oriented Development planning and illustrative design.
- Downtown Springfield parking survey.
- Travel demand modeling.

For more information on SSCRPC services, projects and activities, visit us on the web at www.sscrpc.com.

ADVISING
PLANNING
EVALUATING &
LEADING

The Springfield-Sangamon County Regional Planning Commission strives to be a partner in achieving local success.

If you would like to know more about the Commission, please contact us at the address to the right, or visit us on the web.

If you believe that the SSCRPC might be able to assist with a local problem, project or planning activity, please contact one of our senior staff.

- Norm Sims, Executive Director.
- Molly Berns, Assistant Director and Strategic and Comprehensive Planning manager.
- Steve Keenan, Senior Planner for Land Use and Environmental Planning.
- Linda Wheeland, Senior Planner for Transportation Planning.
- Joe Zeibert, Senior Planner for Development Planning.

While visitors are welcomed, since SSCRPC staff are often in the field it is advisable to contact the appropriate staff members in advance to arrange a visit.

SSC RPC Springfield-Sangamon County Regional Planning Commission

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Please visit us on the web at
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And on Facebook

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