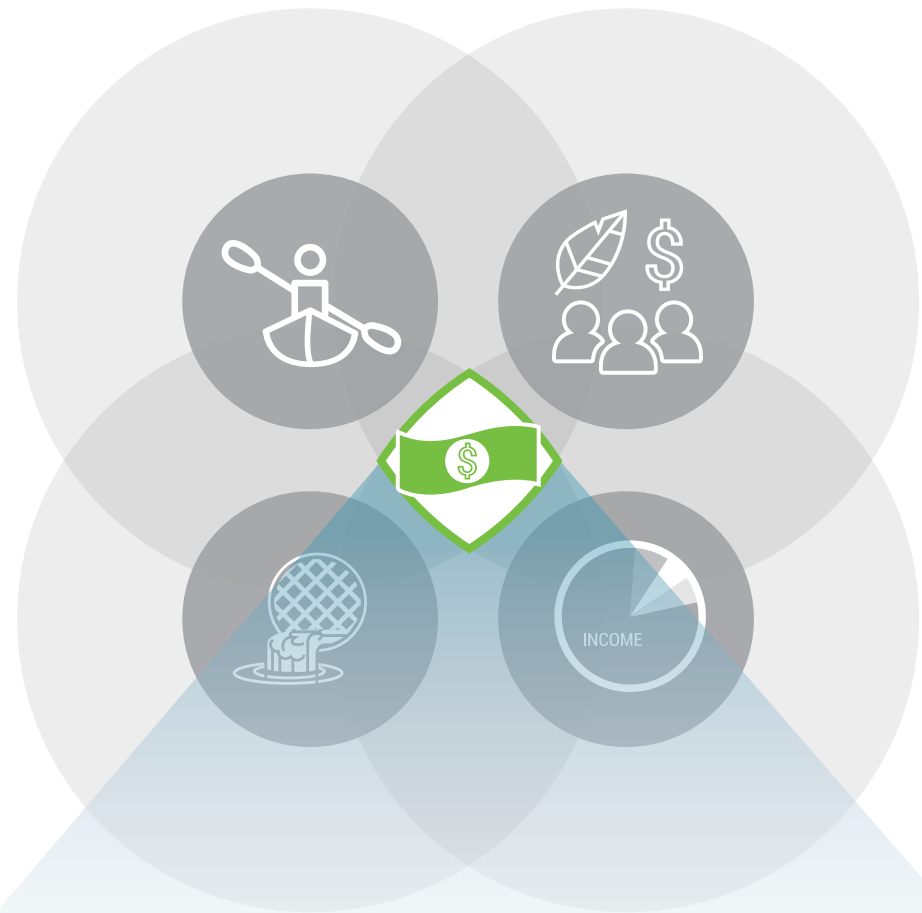




# Springfield - Greene County, Missouri Integrated Plan for the Environment



If we only had **ONE DOLLAR** to spend...

...what is the most effective solution we could implement?

...that matter most to our community?



...to address the most pressing problem(s)?

...and would be affordable to our citizens?

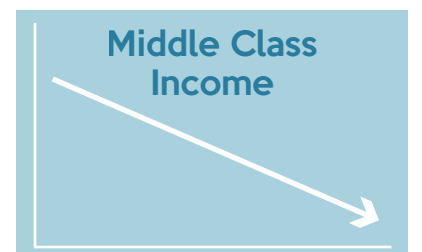
Like many other communities across the nation, Springfield is addressing the challenge of increasingly stringent environmental regulations from every front.

From stormwater and wastewater to air quality and drinking water, as regulations continue to evolve, our community is required to devote more money and resources to comply. In the midst of these growing environmental obligations, Springfield is facing growing levels of poverty and a shrinking middle class. More than ever before, there is an increasing demand for public spending.

This is a huge issue for communities who are struggling to meet these regulations with limited resources. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) realizes this and in June of 2012, released its "Integrated Municipal Stormwater and Wastewater Planning Approach Framework" which emphasized a commitment to work with states and communities to implement an integrated planning approach to address environmental objectives.



In response to this opportunity, leaders from the City of Springfield, Greene County and City Utilities developed a local approach to integrated planning titled "A Citizen Focused Approach." This holistic approach proposes to use local knowledge to examine our environmental resources related to wastewater and stormwater as well as solid waste, drinking water, and air quality. The planning approach has received written endorsement from both the Missouri Department of Natural Resources and EPA Region 7. The Springfield-Greene County community is working hard to implement an Integrated Plan that will ensure our vital natural resources are protected in a manner that is affordable to our community.



A coordinated effort between:

**A true Integrated Plan is never complete...**

As we achieve success and learn more, a truly comprehensive plan requires that we continue to refine our analysis, check the effectiveness of our solutions and constantly reprioritize.



# PRIORITIZING OUR COMMUNITY'S INVESTMENTS

## CAPTURE OUR COMMUNITY'S PRIORITIES

In the Ozarks, our quality of life and economic development are tied directly to the quality of our natural resources. We understand the importance of protecting these resources and the ways in which our community is unique. A citizen-based Environmental Priorities Task Force will work to define the issues that our community is focused on. By proactively addressing the issues that our citizens find important, rather than simply reacting to the latest regulation, we will build trust and support for our programs.

## IDENTIFY & PRIORITIZE THE MOST SIGNIFICANT SOLUTIONS

Using the Sustainable Return on Investment (SROI) approach developed by HDR, Inc., our planning team will evaluate the environmental, economic, and social costs and benefits for many of the solutions considered by our community. By finding the "triple bottom line," we can ensure that the most effective solutions are being targeted toward the most serious problems.

## IDENTIFY & PRIORITIZE THE MOST SIGNIFICANT PROBLEMS

Using a Multiple-Criteria Decision Analysis (MCDA) toolset developed specifically for the Integrated Plan, we are able to take a structured look at how different pollutants impact the natural environment and the relative significance of each source.

## ASSESS OUR COMMUNITY'S FINANCIAL CAPABILITY

Our community applauds the efforts that EPA has made in working with the U.S. Council of Mayors, American Water Works Association, Water Environment Federation and others in finding new ways to assess community affordability. Building on the work of our citizen-based Affordability Task Force, our community will continue to make an honest assessment of financial capability and take a candid look at how community resources should be allocated toward environmental stewardship.

