

SPRINGFIELD 2051 - A ROADMAP FOR OUR COMMUNITY'S FUTURE



Springfield 2051 is a community building process that will result in a new roadmap for Springfield and Clark County.

The 15-month project is being spearheaded by a coalition of citizens and supported by the state and local government, philanthropic entities, business community and nonprofit organizations. Springfield 2051 is guided by Future iQ and is rooted in their people-focused, data-driven, future-oriented methodology.

Through the process of creating a new community roadmap we will:

- Develop an actionable implementation plan for our community.
- Unify stakeholders and align resources throughout the Springfield area.
- Rally around the important work already happening across Springfield and Clark County.
- Co-create bold, community-driven initiatives to shape our future.

SPRINGFIELD 2051 – PROJECT TIMELINE



FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

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SCENARIOS OF THE FUTURE: SUMMARY SNAPSHOT SPRINGFIELD 2051

The Springfield 2051 Think-Tank workshops were held on September 19 and 26, 2025, and were attended by over 100 people.

The Springfield 2051 Community Visioning Sessions are being held in October and November 2025. These sessions will take the results and future scenarios from the Think-Tank out to the wider community and seek input via least desired, expected and preferred futures for Springfield in 2051.

To get involved and stay up to date on the project, visit:

www.springfield2051.com



SCENARIO A: COLLABORATION DRIVES INNOVATION AND GROWTH

This scenario forecasts a future when Springfield blends collaboration and innovation with a **reliance on its traditional organizations** and established strengths. By 2050, Springfield has worked to carved out a niche in aviation technology, while remaining grounded in its rural roots and agricultural expertise. Neighborhoods remain the heart of the community; however **existing patterns of population and wealth distribution remain in place**. Familiar faces, local traditions, and age-friendly design help maintain the area’s welcoming character, while new residents are drawn by the **region’s quality of life and affordability**.

SCENARIO SNAPSHOT - FUTURE IMPLICATIONS

- Builds on established strengths while fostering innovation.
- Unified leadership across local government, education, and cultural groups.
- Aviation, agriculture, and advanced manufacturing remain the focus.
- Downtown revitalized with adaptive reuse and vibrant mixed-use areas.
- Community character remains familiar.
- Traditional population patterns and inequalities persist.

SCENARIO B: SET FOR THE FUTURE

This scenario forecasts a future where Springfield has **fully embraced its identity as a forward-looking, innovative community, that has leveraged diversity as ‘its super-power’**. Built on a strong foundation of education, natural resources, and technological advancement; Springfield has established itself as a hub for learning, entrepreneurship, and sustainable growth. The community has achieved measured and inclusive growth. **New families are drawn to Springfield** through housing incentives, thriving arts and culture experiences, recreation, and a strengthened K–12 system that underpins Springfield’s success. Economically, Springfield has **harnessed its rich natural resources and strategic geographic position** to become a regional leader in data infrastructure, energy innovation, and advanced mobility technologies.

SCENARIO SNAPSHOT - FUTURE IMPLICATIONS

- Education and innovation define Springfield’s growth trajectory.
- Balanced expansion preserves agricultural land and honors natural resources.
- Springfield emerges as a regional hub for data, energy, and transportation innovation.
- Family-friendly approaches strengthen community and population stability and help create a safe and welcoming environment.
- Springfield builds a modern reputation rooted in safety, opportunity, and inclusion.

SCENARIO D: SLOW AND STEADY

This scenario forecasts a future where Springfield has largely been **absorbed by surrounding regional growth**. The community has chosen the path of preserving stability at the expense of innovation. While some technological adaptation has occurred, Springfield’s economy struggles to compete with nearby metropolitan areas. Socially, Springfield’s **deep generational ties and small-town familiarity have become both its strength and its weakness**. Families who have been here for decades cling to the familiar, while new arrivals from surrounding areas of Columbus and Dayton struggle to integrate. Divisions between neighborhoods have hardened as **inequality persists**.

SCENARIO SNAPSHOT - FUTURE IMPLICATIONS

- Economic stagnation persists; as traditional industries dominate with little additional diversification.
- Low cost of living masks limited opportunity and wage stagnation.
- Deepening inequality divides neighborhoods and weakens civic trust.
- Downtown and corridor development remain disconnected and uneven, even as significant efforts are made to revitalize the urban core.
- Springfield functions as a commuter base, not a driver of regional innovation.

SCENARIO C: CREATIVE COMMUTER COMMUNITY

This scenario forecasts a future where Springfield has evolved into a creative but uneven commuter community. By 2050, the **community sits between opportunity and challenge** - drawing people who appreciate its affordability and location; but struggling to create a fully cohesive and sustainable future. The **economy remains tied to external influences**, with many residents traveling to Columbus and Dayton for work. The social fabric of Springfield is diverse yet strained. The city’s **growing population brings vibrancy but also exposes tensions and divisions** between long-term residents and newcomers.

SCENARIO SNAPSHOT - FUTURE IMPLICATIONS

- Springfield grows as a commuter community but struggles to retain a unique identity and local cohesion.
- Economic dependence on nearby metropolitan centers limits self-sufficiency and draws economic investment away.
- Innovation is focused on community aspects and helps create a strong local quality of life for many residents.
- Education and training improve and create a vibrant learning environment, but do not reach all residents equally.

