The city of Blue Springs, Missouri, has a rich history that can still be seen throughout our community. As we plan for the future, we work to preserve the history while embracing the changing needs of residents, businesses, and visitors.

Incorporated in 1880, Blue Springs was developed in the early 19th century as settlers built the town around an abundant water supply coming from a spring of the Little Blue River—hence the name Blue Springs. As the City expanded, growth centered around the new railroad tracks still visible in the downtown corridor. In the past 40 years, the population grew from 6,779 to the current populace of more than 53,000 residents. To meet the needs of such a fast-growing community, a conscious effort was made to invest in places and people, bringing vibrancy and convenience to the residents.

The Blue Springs community has a vision for a vibrant, mixed-use downtown that is the economic and social heart of the City. This concept has been achieved through years of intense community discussion, including multiple citizens’ visioning sessions. As a result, the Downtown Master Plan was adopted by the Blue Springs City Council in 2007.

To date, more than $1.6 million has been invested in downtown Blue Springs as part of the Downtown Master Plan to construct new infrastructure, leverage façade improvements, and add historic-style streetlights. Funding for these improvements was made possible through the Community Development Block Grant program and Chapter 353 Tax Abatement through the Main Center Redevelopment Corporation.

The City has made significant progress in the downtown corridor by developing relationships with various community partners, including Downtown Alive!, an enthusiastic group of volunteers. As a four-year participant of Missouri Main Street Connections, Downtown Alive! has engaged and connected with Blue Springs community members to provide improvements to downtown that are both aesthetic and functional. One of the primary advocacy goals Downtown Alive! was to address was the lack of parking for downtown patrons.

As the City began to plan for a major renovation to the Howard L. Brown Public Safety Building, the design committee incorporated the community’s desire to increase public parking into the scope of the $22 million dollar project. By working with private land owners and the Blue Springs Chamber of Commerce, the City was able to add 160 parking places and nine handicap parking places to the downtown district in 2014, for a total investment of approximately $450,000. With this increased parking capacity, the Howard L. Brown Public Safety Building is slated for completion later this year and will feature a more customer service-oriented design to better serve the residents and police officers.

Streetscape improvements also have been a major project for Downtown Alive! and the City, including the addition of new benches and new recycling/trash receptacles along Main Street. Placing recycling bins throughout downtown gives community members the option to increase recycling and improve livability in the corridor. Another addition to the corridor was bikeracks, handcrafted and donated to Downtown Alive! by Blue Springs Bike Shop. This increased accessibility for bicyclists who visit the downtown corridor. Such enhancements won the City, Downtown Alive! and the Blue Springs Chamber of Commerce the Streetscape & Public Improvement Project Award from Missouri Main Street Connections in 2015. As a result of the City’s infrastructure investments, many new and established businesses have relocated from major corridors to the thriving downtown district, showing that working closely with community partners makes a positive difference for residents and business owners.

In the process of bringing new life to the downtown corridor, Blue Springs is careful not to erase its history. One
Within its 76,000-square-feet of indoor space, the Fieldhouse offers four, hard-surfaced courts that can be used for basketball, volleyball or pickleball; two walking tracks, one hard-surfaced track, an artificial turf track; and a new artificial turf field for indoor soccer, flag football or sports training.