

Economic Development Strategy Frequently Asked Questions

What is the purpose of this economic strategy report?

The report aims to assess Spring Creek's current economic conditions and provide strategies for ensuring future prosperity of the community.

How does Spring Creek compare economically to Elko and other surrounding areas?

Collective community wealth is greater in Spring Creek (higher levels of education and income) than in Elko and the surrounding areas.

What industries are most important to Spring Creek's economy?

Key industries include mining, utilities, construction, and outdoor recreation. Emerging sectors like healthcare, education, and transportation are also growing.

How many jobs exist in Spring Creek?

As of 2022, there were about 1,200 jobs in Spring Creek. However, many of these jobs are filled by people who live elsewhere.

What impact do projected job losses in sectors like manufacturing and finance have on the local economy?

The data available for use in the economic development study does not provide the necessary details to answer this question. The greatest impact would typically be on wages and local spending, but wages are dependent on occupations within those sectors, and occupations are specific to the types of manufacturing and finance employment within a region.

Why are new jobs in Spring Creek being filled by workers who live elsewhere?

Workers with the skill sets to fill the jobs being offered in Spring Creek live elsewhere.

What does the report mean when it says that Spring Creek is a "bedroom community"?

A bedroom community is a place where most residents live but commute elsewhere for work. In Spring Creek, many residents work in Elko or beyond rather than locally.

How was the need for additional commercial space (e.g., grocery stores, retail, personal services) determined?

A leakage analysis was conducted. The leakage analysis compares supply (using taxable sales data) and demand (using household income and spending data, including visitor spending) to determine the amount of retail spending captured inside Spring Creek, and what is spent outside of Spring Creek (i.e. spending that is 'leaked' elsewhere).

How can we stop retail dollars being spent elsewhere?

The only way to do this is for new commercial businesses to build in and around Spring Creek. SCA needs to work with owners of surrounding properties and the County to develop larger commercial spaces.



What types of businesses are needed in Spring Creek?

Retail, personal services (e.g. beauty salons, spas, pet care), dry cleaning (cost of water may be a limitation), and larger grocery or big-box stores are identified as major gaps in the community.

Is there interest from major retailers like Walmart or Target?

The report suggests that a large retailer could be supported based on local demand, but it is unknown if there has been any solicitation or interest shown. The only place such retail development could come to fruition is in the Ruby Vista potential development area.

Is water supply a limiting factor to commercial development?

Great Basin Water Company has sufficient water rights to serve buildout of Spring Creek. Proposed adjacent future developments can acquire sufficient water rights for their developments. Ruby Vista, which includes potential development of 34 acres of commercial land in phase one, already has some water rights banked with Great Basin Water Company. Wastewater service is more likely to be a limiting factor for new development.

Are there plans to expand recreational opportunities in Spring Creek?

The SCA currently provides various recreational services, but future expansions will depend on funding and community priorities.

Are there plans for new housing developments?

Two developments totaling almost 1,780 acres have been approved for residential development on the borders of Spring Creek. Neither development is moving forward at this time.

What are the biggest community challenges?

The biggest challenges include the need for more local jobs, infrastructure improvements, and governance changes as the SCA approaches expiration.

How safe is Spring Creek?

Spring Creek has lower crime rates than the Nevada and national averages, making it a relatively safe place to live.

Why is Spring Creek's per capita income decreasing?

Growing people per household appears to be a contributing factor, other potential root causes cannot be discerned from the data used in the study. Spring Creek still has the highest median household income of communities in Elko County.

What is being done to address rising poverty rates in Spring Creek?

At this time, nothing. A program must be created based on solid understanding of the root cause of the rise, which is not currently known.

Where can more information be found?

The study is available on Spring Creek Association's website at springcreeknv.org.

