



# Springfield A Community Serving South Dakotans

Project Prison Reset Task Force

April 29, 2025

Springfield Community Services Center

City of Springfield is an equal opportunity employer and provider.

# Springfield - The First Hundred Years

- ▶ Surveyed in October 1869. Incorporated as the Village of Springfield in 1872.
  - ▶ Original Trustees include George Snow, future Lt Governor (1901-1905) and John L. Turner, 1<sup>st</sup> Mayor, businessman, and delegate to the 1883 state constitutional convention; and R.T. Wood
  - ▶ The first 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebration was in 1872. The tradition continues today with the annual frog jump and fireworks.
  - ▶ The “City of Springfield” ferry began crossings between Springfield and Santee Agency in 1910.
  - ▶ In 1955, Springfield became the only town on Lewis and Clark Lake. Springfield State Recreation Area, City of Springfield Recreation Area followed, and Springfield Boat Basin quickly followed.
  - ▶ A modern water treatment plant using Missouri River water was built in 1966.

# Springfield Normal- Challenges and Problems

- ▶ Importance of the Territorial Legislative Session Laws of 1881.
  - ▶ Chapter 101 - Normal Schools - Springfield. Authorized a Normal School.
  - ▶ Chapter 104 - Penitentiary. Authorized and Directed establishment and construction of a Territorial Prison.
- ▶ Springfield Normal School first building constructed in 1896 at citizen expense
- ▶ Legislature funded building the Science Hall in 1911, the first state funded building for the school.
- ▶ Southern's scope expanded in 1948 with the addition of Vocational education.
- ▶ Throughout the latter 1950's and early 1960's a significant expansion in students and facilities occurred. This included the Armory, administration building, automotive technology, and several dormitories. Science Hall was also remodeled.

# Springfield State Prison - The New Normal

- ▶ **The Problem: Cody v. Hillard - 1980**
  - ▶ Inmates at SD State Prison sued Secretary of Charities and Corrections Hillard for violation of constitutional rights in US District Court.
  - ▶ Plaintiffs won in May 1984. Defendant ordered to stop double-celling and provide plan for relief of other items within 120 days.
- ▶ **The Solution: 1984 Legislative Session, Senate Bill 221.**
  - ▶ Mission change for the University of South Dakota at Springfield.
- ▶ **The Challenge: Convert a college campus into a minimum-security coed prison and provide education and work for rehabilitation of the inmate population in preparation for return to society.**
  - ▶ Two prisons in one - all Female inmates and minimum-security Male inmates.
  - ▶ Alleviate overcrowding at SDSP while converting all buildings for to prison standards, establish prison industries, transition and tailor select vocational courses to assist in inmate rehabilitation.
- ▶ **The Result: A well managed part of the state corrections system**

# Springfield- Adding Value for years to come

- ▶ Correctional employee mental health from small town, outdoor centric community.
- ▶ Blending a college/vo-tech atmosphere with incarceration - similar to methods with successful rehab. and low returns
- ▶ Community is concerned with overcrowding and the effect on correctional workers and families
- ▶ Springfield is a diverse economic community
  - ▶ Rush-Co Tension Fabric Manufacturing Plant
  - ▶ Regional hunt (duck) and fishing draw
- ▶ Chief Standing Bear Bridge opened commerce, employment, and tourism

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**Thank You for the opportunity to be a part of this important discussion on the future of our state**

***National Corrections Week is May 4 - 10, 2025. Springfield honors and recognizes the dedication of service of those Corrections workers that work at Mike Durfee State Prison.***

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