



Council Listening Session #1 Saturday, May 5, 2018



It's the year 2028. The City of Elk River is being recognized as the state's #1 community for various reasons, such as quality of life, core services, and great roads. What happened 10 years ago, in 2018, which led to this statewide recognition?

- Decided to make community investment.
- Reach outside community.
- Growth in early childhood activity and community.
- Consider whole community.
- Organizations work together.
- We as a city became proactive as to the long needs of Elk River.
- Made broad investments in general committee amenities. (example) Parks trails general facilities.
- We build a recreational center.
- City recognized and built facilities to support youth activities.
- A recreational water center.
- Communicating with school and community service providers to provide relevant and non-duplicate services.
- Recreational center.
- Bigger, better parks.
- Better trails/extend.
- Bike track.
- Skate Park.
- Rink at park or dog park.
- Make parks bigger.
- Sport facility.
- Improving and taking care of existing facilities.
- Secure long-term funding strategy for servicing.
- Another outside rink.
- More parks.
- Panda Express
- Public hockey/ice skating rink
- Voting for bond issues passed.
- New recreational facilities.
- Growth.
- Good council and leadership.
- Good communication.

- Good location.
- Voice of the people.
- Get involved.
- Invest in current buildings.
- Improve infrastructure/roads, railroad tracks.
- Family based community, all age groups and diversity, and housing, recreation.
- Quality of life.
- Pride in community.
- Walking/biking trails.
- Proactive on grants – Federal and State.
- Bring back “where country and city meet”.
- Become economic center between St. Cloud and Minneapolis.
- Maintain housing values.
- Foresight to improve/add schools.
- Outdoor recreation for families.
- Waste management landfill closes.
- Elk River wins awards for fiscal responsibility.
- Elk River recognized for returning hockey to outdoor sport.
- New baseball, football, and hockey facilities.
- Expansion down Highway 169.
- Elk River grows.
- Elk River high school suicide rate at zero.
- New restaurants.
- Amazon and Best Buy move to Elk River.

What role might our entire community play in order to help create the best possible future for Elk River?

- Try to educate as many people as possible as to things facing the city. To encourage the concerns and likes about things Elk River is facing in the community.
- Be positive, not negative.
- Leave a legacy for the future.
- Get involved.
- Ask questions.
- Share your opinions.
- Provide facilities, promote and encourage youth in sport and other activities.
- Forecasting community growth.
- Different organizations working together.
- Sponsorship ↔ business involvement.
- Creating space/facilities to bring families together for events, activities, etc.
- Supporting everyone’s interests.

- Cutting edge technology to support “energy city” designation.
- New families moving to Elk River due to “energy city” designation.
- Events to raise money.
- Promote the communities.
- Get people involved in local events.
- Become educated on issues.
- Volunteer services to the community.
- Community police to reduce crime.
- Get to know your local leaders.
- Be open minded.
- Learn from other communities.
- Frugal with money/spend wisely.
- Supporting initiatives to keep children and families active.
- Anchor organizations that help build the community.
- Mayor/council listens.
- More volunteering from citizens.
- Use of scientific surveys from community.
- Use taxes to serve the entire community, not a select few.
- Work collaboratively with city, schools, and county.
- Community events to bring together.
- Have families/communities adopt streets.
- Take interest in all
 - City, schools, roads, parks, safety.
 - Contact city
 - Attend meetings
- Engage!

How can I help Elk River become front page news in ten years?

- Sales tax, will shop other places.
- Vote negative on referendum.
- Keep open mind, thoughts, and concerns of others.
- Encourage people to want.
- Encourage people who want amenities to pay for them rather than force the entire community to pay.
- Learn about our community and stay informed.
- Keep perspective on features not considered.
- Be considerate.
- Get involved and teach children to do the same.
- Learn the issues.
- Attend council meetings.

- Have a voice.
- Be open to change.
- Talk with neighbors.
- Be informed.
- Open minded.
- Support local business ↔ local business support community.
- Community participation; volunteers, promote community.
- Listen to other people's input.
- Don't sit around and do nothing.
- Advocate for projects and get involved in a variety of community interests.
- To be involved, ask questions, be informed and stay engaged.
- Communicate and share need of city and volunteer in the community.
- Have more "entry fee" based events and generate income.
- Involve our youth in community decisions, engage all generations.
- Make it a priority!
- Volunteering your services.
- Communicate directly to elected officials; our wants and needs.
- Funding events. Example, a city gala.
- Care about all age groups of citizens.
- Support local businesses that support youth sports.
- Vote for sales tax idea!
- Be aware of what is happening; local and state wide.
- Educate our peer group and promote involvement.
- Give Elk River a good legacy that we can be proud of.
- Know city leaders.
- Energy cost savings.