



**Council Listening Session #4**  
**Wednesday, May 21, 2018**



It's the year 2028. The City of Elk River is recognized by the *Star Tribune* as the state's #1 community, citing its vibrant community, economic health, high quality of life, and excellent community recreational facilities. What led to this statewide recognition?

- Working together.
- Support Youth ↔Adult.
- Don't put a "band aid" on properties.
- Keeping up with other communities or staying ahead.
- Good communication between city and community.
- Listen to people.
- Easy to work with.
- Fixing buildings instead of building new.
- Multipurpose facilities to be used by youth, adult and elderly.
- Complex for concerts to bring community members of all ages together.
- Taking pride in the appearance of our community (grass, signs, buildings).
- Encourage and support economic growth.
- Family oriented parks. Not limited, handicap accessible.
- Good planning on up-keep of facilities and parks.
- Excellent and continually updating long range plan for all parts of the community.
- Accurate estimate of community size and demands.
- Center that helps not only sport affiliates but seniors with jobs and activities for the whole community.
- Renovate what we have to make the ice arena up-to-date.
- Enhance the current facilities by fixing all problems.
- Broad support/impact in the community.
- Value for money.
- Accurately predict what will be important 10 years from now.
- Increase in small local businesses.
- Low property taxes.
- Referendum on everything.
- The city went into a proactive mode with the citizens and came up with aggressive actions.
- Centralized activity/sports registration tool.
- Dynamic school district.
- Improved infrastructure.
- Undeveloped land set aside for nature parks.
- Cleaner lake.

- Renovate and keep up facilities.
- Fix the netting at Orono Park.
- City deeded the ice arena to the school district.
- Share the expense of the ice arena with cities that split the ice time (Zimmerman).
- Keep where it is, just renovate it.
- Lots of cooperation.
- Due to economy, Elk River used dollar wisdom.
- Facilities residents are proud of.
- Community participation/volunteering opportunities.
- City council and school board work together.
- Education comes first.
- Replace non-useful facilities, repair when can.
- Opportunity for employment.
- Clean facilities.
- Variety of activities for all ages.
- Welcoming to outsiders.
- Ideas do not come at cost of other organization (i.e. softball/seniors etc. have like facilities, don't get rid of things (i.e. Pinewood golf course).
- Comfortable space to fit the activity.
- Rebuild ice arena along with other facilities. Roof repair?
- Steel structure in ice arena repair instead of completely repairing to save maintenance costs.
- Fix it now instead of letting it get worse and add more costs.
- Energy efficient (green).
- Community communication.
- Education system (ranking).
- Close proximity to the metro with suburban feel.
- Technology adaptation.
- Competitive sports availability.
- Safety (crime rate).
- Attractions to new facilities.
- City identity.
- Taxes.
- Mean household income.
- Parks – green space.
- Accessibility (train, bus, highways).
- Diversity in age of population.

## What role might each of us play in creating the best possible future for Elk River?

- Sharing positive things.
- Neighborhood block parties “get to know each other”.
- Being involved – volunteering (i.e. community clean up).
- Get educated/listen.
- Welcome cultural diversity.
- Use media/technology wisely.
- Shop locally – eat locally.
- Get to know your local government and where they stand on topics.
- Invest!
- Continue to serve local organizations.
- Continue to support youth/high school activities.
- Promote involvement in expressing ideas and not sitting back and saying the city will do whatever it wants anyway.
- Respecting community buildings/parks.
- Educating students & athletes.
- Bring a sense of pride to the community.
- Volunteering in space you’re passionate and skilled.
- Supports community from within.
- Listen to and respect others POV – about diversity and alignment.
- Stay informed about issues and decisions.
- Open minded to all community needs/challenges.
- Respecting community cleanliness and keep your space tidy.
- Support by shopping and recreating in Elk River.
- Get involved!
- Support the leadership.
- Take pride in your community.
- Be an active community member.
- Be an active informed voter.
- Use your voice.
- Be proactive.
- Volunteer.
- Support local business.
- Promote.
- Be positive.
- Be part of the solution.
- Attend city meetings; share your thoughts.
- Contribute unique skills to projects.
- Clean up days in our city
- Respect our city.

- Be involved and support all events.
- Vote!
- Be involved in community government.
- Taking care of environment.
- Maintain family friendly atmosphere.
- Maintain and occupy buildings/neighborhoods.
- Contact local government to be involved in issues, ask for help, be interested in more than one issue.
- Go to meetings, know your representatives.
- Recycle (including buildings).
- Be involved in community activities.
- Can volunteer to clean up around town.
- Stand up for community, express your ideas.
- Be involved in local meetings.