



**Council Listening Session #5
Thursday, May 23, 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?

- Indoor and outdoor walking spaces with focus on outdoor connectivity of walking spaces.
- Elk River became a great community with recreation facilities focused on inclusivity; young, old, different abilities.
- Choose to become a place where people want to live, work, and raise their family.
- Need adequate space for seniors, beyond current facility's sedentary use. Need larger facility.
- Community activity center that serves the whole community.
- Informed, involved broad-based community participation throughout the master planning process including the use of a well-represented task force for planning and implementation.
- City, in collaboration with citizens, forged a program of education and mindful searching of potential for funds and needs to promote a better community life.
- Schools, River Rider (Tri-Cap), places to shop, jobs, Walmart, Menards, Home Depot, and medical facilities.
- Multi use facility; including senior facilities and youth activities with multiple sheets of ice to support hockey and figure skating.
- City focused on return on investment versus cost of project.
- Privatize hockey operation. Transfer to hockey association and get it off the tax payers.
- City retook control as an engaging community. Community came together for all aspects.
- Forward thinking of government body. Strategic geographic location. Invest in youth.
- Property taxes reigned in.
- Influx of businesses and booming housing.
- Made responsible decision to invest in growth.
- Quality put into city-owned facilities, such as city hall, public safety, and public works buildings. Should address the recreational facilities in the same manner.
- Maintain small town feel while growing much larger by intentionally investing in public spaces that promote community togetherness and shared community identity.
- Build beautiful new arena with three sheets of ice/dry land facility with spacious lobby and large concession area/stand.
- Elk River (wrestled with) embraces its new identity as an up and coming outer ring suburb and focuses city services on population in Elk River and the population likely to move here.
- Ability for people to agree and make sacrifices.