

GENERAL PLAN UPDATE

A Shared Community Vision



Joint Study Session

December 17, 2015



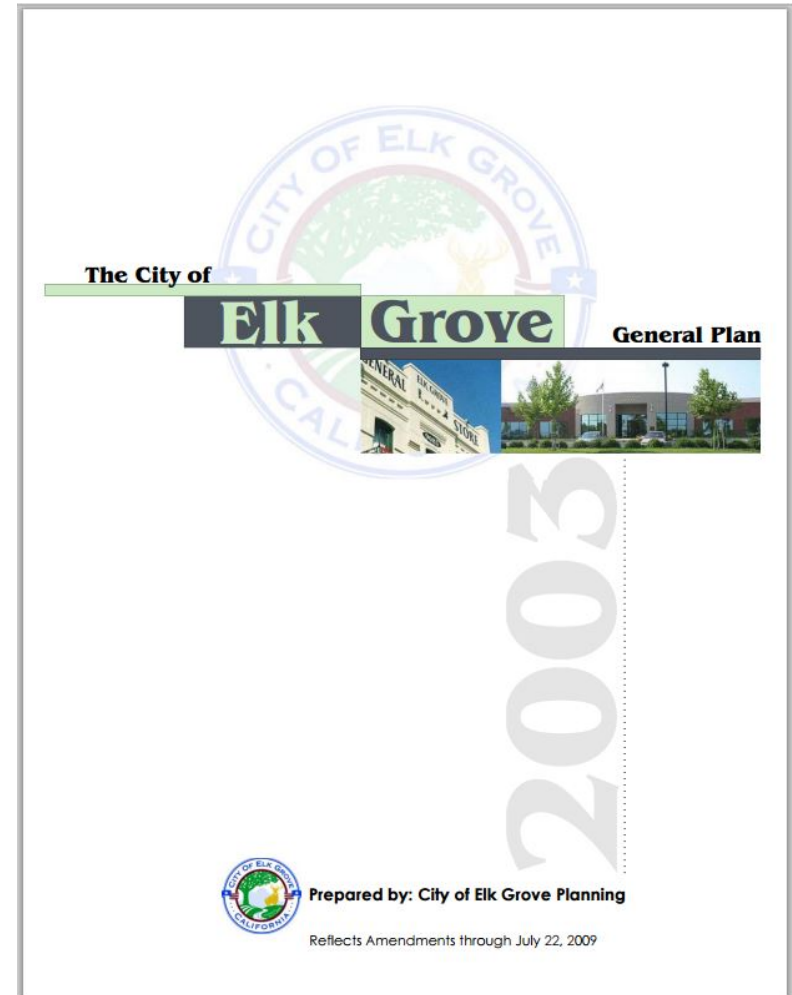
AGENDA

- Progress and process update
 - Project status update
 - Summary of community engagement
 - Public comment and discussion
- Vision and next steps
 - Draft community vision
 - Draft supporting principles
 - Next steps
 - Public comment and discussion



WHY UPDATE THE GENERAL PLAN?

- General Plan adopted in November 2003
- Numerous developer- and City-initiated amendments adopted
- Upcoming amendments in process
- State law changes since 2003



Elk Grove's General Plan

GENERAL PLAN ELEMENTS



GENERAL PLAN UPDATE OBJECTIVES

- Up-to-date, forward-thinking plan
- Accessible and usable format
- Clarity and flexibility
- Active and engaged community
- Engaged City staff and decision-makers
- Fiscally viable plan



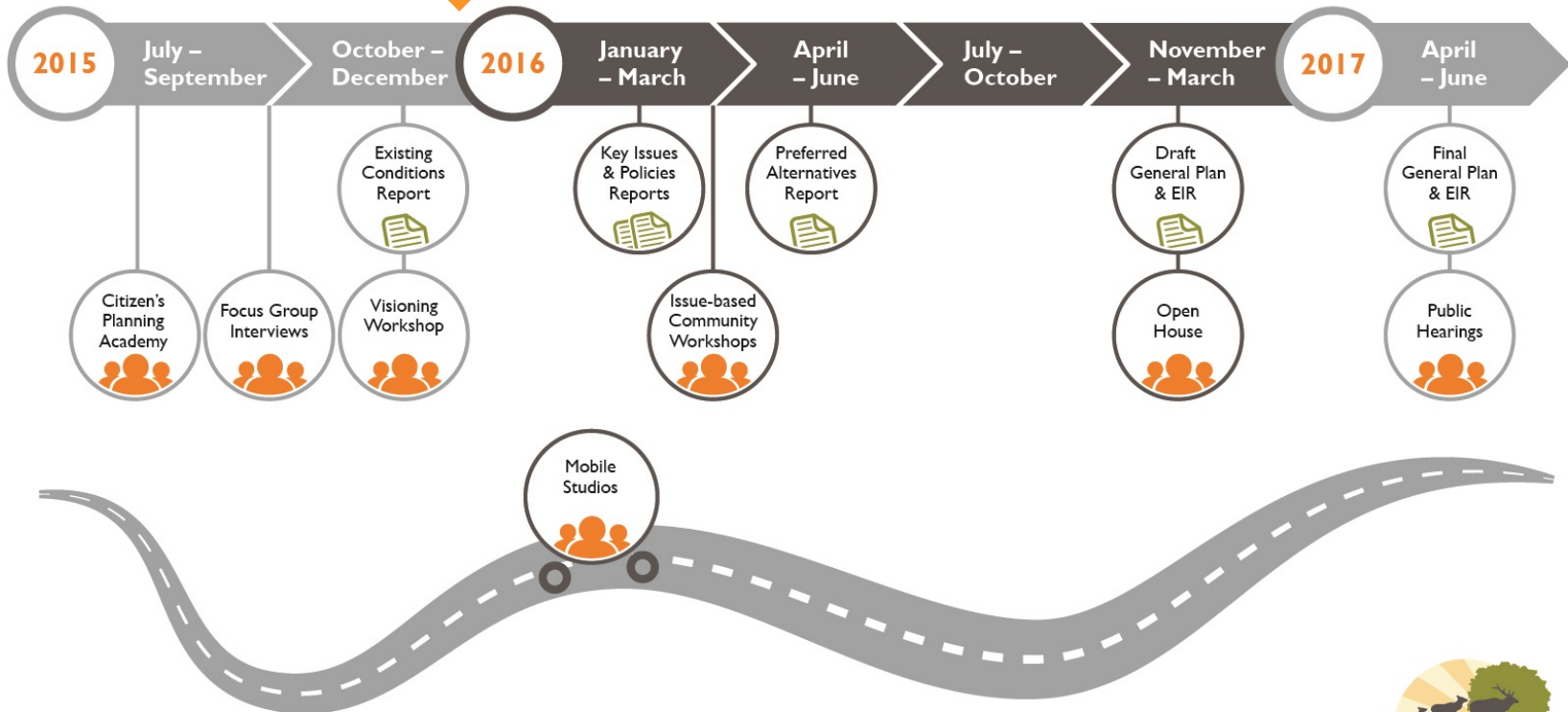
PROJECT STATUS UPDATE

- Existing Conditions Report
- Community engagement
 - Efforts to gather input on a community vision began in August 2015
 - Outreach will continue through June 2017
 - Designed to ensure the early inclusion of a broad range of perspectives
 - Feedback will be used to enhance understanding of key issues and convey community interests to decision-makers
- Draft Shared Community Vision and Supporting Principles



PROJECT TIMELINE

We are here



SUMMARY OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

OUTREACH EVENTS

CITYWIDE VISIONING

*Weekend community
visioning workshop*

PLANNING ACADEMY

*Training session to
educate attendees about
the planning process*

MOBILE WORKSHOPS

*Pop-up workshops held
at community events
throughout the City*

COMMUNITY & AGENCY SERVICE PROVIDER MEETINGS

*Interviews with committees,
community organizations,
and regional agencies*

PLANNING COMMISSION/ CITY COUNCIL STUDY SESSION

*Joint Study Session to
present and discuss the
community's vision*

**MANY MORE
WAYS TO
ENGAGE YET
TO COME!**



FALL MOBILE WORKSHOPS

- 5 locations
- 509 participants
 - 313 east of Highway 99
 - 197 west of Highway 99
- Project information and fun facts
- 4 interactive stations
 - Where do you live?
 - What are your priorities for Elk Grove?
 - What does the future of Elk Grove look like to you?
 - Rate your neighborhood
- Children's activities



MOBILE WORKSHOP RESULTS

- Community priorities

- Citywide

- Multimodal transportation
 - Open space and resource management
 - Rural areas

- Neighborhood

- Open space and resource management
 - Multimodal transportation
 - Neighborhood identity

- West of Highway 99

- Multimodal transportation
 - Economic vitality
 - Coordinated services

- East of Highway 99

- Open space and resource management
 - Multimodal transportation
 - Rural areas

MOBILE WORKSHOP RESULTS

- Neighborhood ratings
 - Things that are doing well
 - Presence of children and seniors
 - Feeling of safety
 - Ease of walking/biking
 - Cleanliness/quality of maintenance
 - Things that need improvement
 - Evidence of volunteerism
 - Comfort of places to sit
 - Ease of walking/biking
 - Mix of stores/services
 - Results were further divided by east and west and are available online



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MOBILE WORKSHOP RESULTS

- Visionary comments and ideas contributed to the Draft Shared Community Vision and Supporting Principles



VISIONING WORKSHOP

- Saturday morning
- 21 participants
 - 10 east of Highway 99
 - 8 west of Highway 99
 - 3 unknown
- Several small group activities
 - Community priorities
 - Important issues using personas
 - Headline development
 - I like/I wish/I wonder
 - Where do you live?
 - General comments



VISIONING WORKSHOP RESULTS

- Community priorities
 - Economic vitality
 - Coordinated services, tech, infrastructure
 - Sustainable & healthy community
- Important issues
 - Neighborhood identity
 - Youth & senior services
 - Economic vitality
 - Sustainability & multimodal transportation



VISIONING WORKSHOP RESULTS

Headline examples

- Elk Grove embraces its agricultural history by supporting the farm-to-fork movement
- Elk Grove has the best-paying jobs in the region
- City Hall attracts Green Tech companies in droves
- Light Rail connects Elk Grove neighborhoods to other valley cities
- Elk Grove School District is ranked no. 1 in the nation
- Elk Grove bicycle paths are an example for California
- Elk Grove wins national recognition as a livable, healthy city
- City expands senior services
- Small businesses appreciate City's support

VISIONING WORKSHOP RESULTS

I wish...

- Infill, not expansion
- Connected bike routes
- Regional recycling leader
- Maintain rural area
- Respond to needs of existing neighborhoods
- More library space
- Pedestrian safety and access
- More diversity
- Mixed-use options
- Less traffic
- Attract tech employers

I wonder...

- How will we support a growing population with jobs opportunities?
- Where will our water come from?
- Why do we need to develop so much of the City?
- Will more retail arrive?
- How can we improve east-west travel?
- How can we fund a new library?

INTERVIEWS WITH REPRESENTATIVES PROVIDING COMMUNITY SERVICES

- Historic Preservation Committee
- Multicultural Committee
- Trails Committee
- Industry Working Group
- Regional agencies
- Community-based organizations and service providers
- Farm Bureau
- Youth Commission
- Chamber of Commerce
- Disability Advisory Committee
- Library staff

TOPICS FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION

- What can we do to **better unify Elk Grove?** Which **neighborhood characteristics** do we want more of or less of?
- How can we **conserve open space** while also meeting **infill development** needs and providing ample **civic amenities**?
- How can **transportation planning** support community **health** and **sustainability**? How can it improve **quality of life**?



COUNCIL/COMMISSION COMMENT & DISCUSSION



DRAFT SHARED COMMUNITY VISION

- Defines the future for Elk Grove
- Outlines the community's common vision for achieving a brighter future.
- Represents a summary of:
 - Where the city will go
 - What it will do
 - How it will do it



HOW THE VISION IS USED

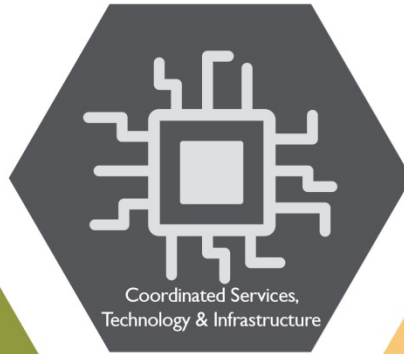
- Policies and actions in the General Plan must be consistent with the Vision
- Next round of outreach and Joint Study Sessions will develop the policies of the Plan that will implement the Vision
- Vision creates a “roadmap” for the policies

COMMUNITY VISION STATEMENT

Elk Grove is a great place to make a home and a great place to work. Our community is healthy and safe and is family-oriented, with thriving schools and plentiful parks, shops, and places to work. Agriculture, rural homes, and urban life flourish together. Our natural resources, including water and open spaces, are protected and offer a variety of recreational opportunities. Community members travel easily by automobile, by bicycle, on foot, or using transit. The City is proactive in making daily life healthy and sustainable—considering the needs of future generations while protecting what is valued today.

Well-maintained infrastructure and the right mix of services and amenities draw new and dynamic businesses and development to Elk Grove. Development is guided to ensure responsible growth and opportunities for a diversity of individuals that call Elk Grove home.

SUPPORTING PRINCIPLES



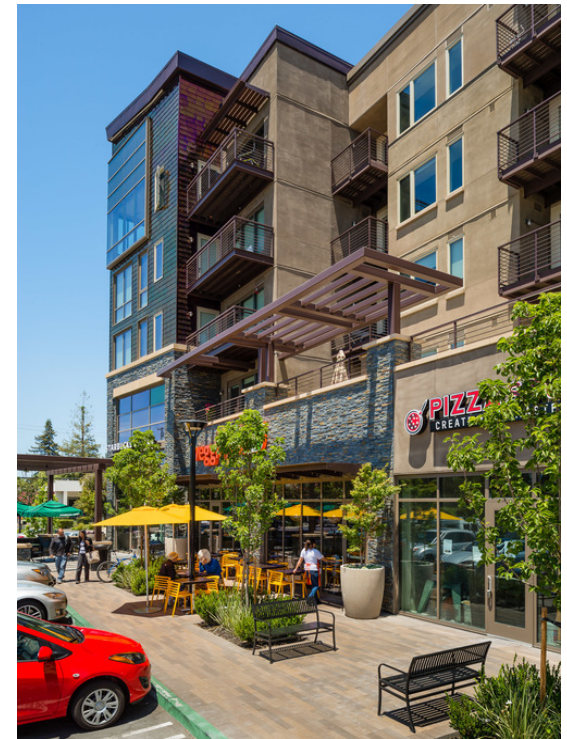
OUR REGIONAL NEIGHBORS KNOW US AND OUR CONTRIBUTIONS

- Elk Grove occupies a prominent place in the regional dialogue
- Elk Grove's contributions to the region include:
 - Recreational opportunities
 - Higher education
 - Job centers
 - Quality neighborhoods
- Jobs-housing balance



DEVELOPMENT FILLS IN THE GAPS

- Undeveloped gaps become opportunities to develop economically successful additions to the City
- Small-business preservation
- New housing in a variety of shapes and sizes
- Innovative infill and building solutions
- A creative growth management strategy



OUR ECONOMY THRIVES AND NEW BUSINESS ADDS VALUE

- Diverse economy
- Major employment centers
- Innovative technology infrastructure
- Technical education opportunities
- Plentiful goods, services, activities, and entertainment



CITY CORE, HERITAGE, AND WELL-KNOWN NEIGHBORHOODS

- Civic core
- Central gathering spaces
- Annual community events
- Old Town Elk Grove continues to protect and showcase our heritage
- Preservation and change in our neighborhoods are guided by values of:
 - Diversity
 - Neighborly spirit
 - Small-town character



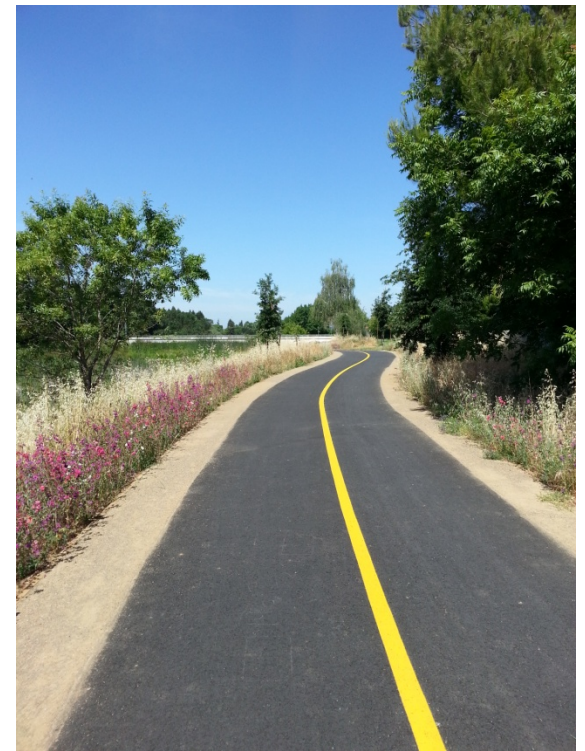
PROTECTING OUR FARMING HERITAGE AND RURAL LIFE

- Celebrate rural life
- Balance rural heritage with other needs, services, and lifestyles desired in Elk Grove
- Commitment to maintaining the rural area is clear and codified in planning documents and programs



OUTDOOR RECREATION IS RIGHT OUTSIDE OUR DOOR

- Our parks and trails are of high quality and highly valued
- We enhance and maintain our recreational open spaces so that they are:
 - Safe
 - Connected
 - Accessible to all
- Our trails connect easily to other trails and parks in the region



MOVING AROUND ANYWHERE, ANY WAY

- Connected transportation networks, regional coordination, and public and active transportation options
- Variety of transportation modes
- Efficient and safe roadways
- Facilities for pedestrians, bicyclists, and transit users are clean, safe, and well maintained

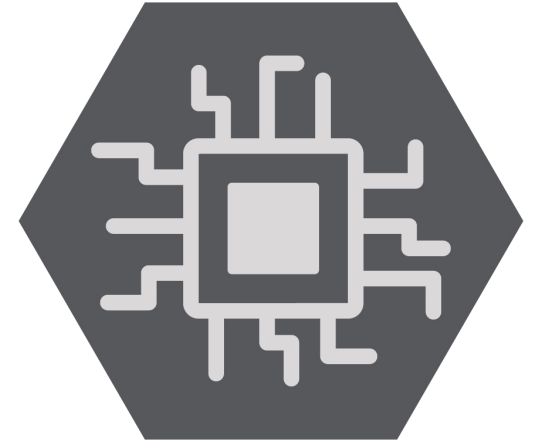


CLEAN, GREEN PRACTICES AND HEALTHY LIVING

- Leader in conservation
- Elk Grove embraces innovations in green technologies
- City layout and land uses promote healthy living, with healthy food options and destinations nearby



SERVICES FOR THE NEEDS OF ALL RESIDENTS



- City ensures important community services are available, including:
 - Social
 - Housing
 - Transportation
 - Health
 - Education
- Entertainment and social centers create a thriving economy and give residents a place to shop, play, and relax



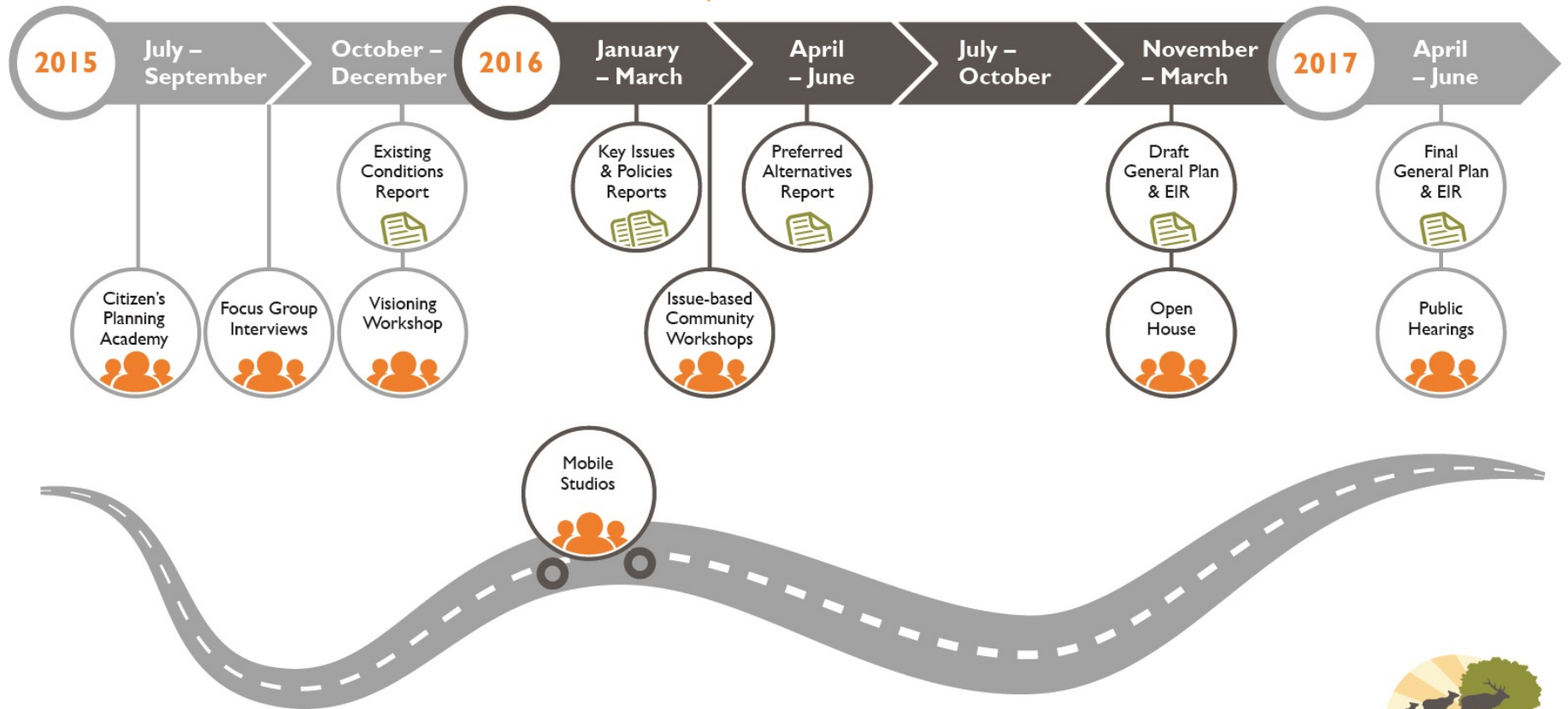
NEXT STEPS

- Topic-specific workshops:
 - Neighborhood identity
 - Growth strategies
 - Transportation and mobility
- Next PC/CC Joint Study Session scheduled on **February 11, 2016**



NEXT STEPS

Topic workshops on January 26 and 28 and February 1, 6-8 PM in Council Chambers



PUBLIC COMMENT AND DISCUSSION

WHAT DO YOU
CHERISH ABOUT ELK GROVE
TODAY?

I LIKE
DIKE TRAILS / PARKS
SMALL-TOWN
FEEL
COMMUNICATION (USE
SITE, THIS MEETING)
FESTIVALS

I LIKE
The small town feel
and the trails, parks
and the fun activities
TRAILS, OPEN SPACE!!

I LIKE
THE RURAL
AREA
↪

I LIKE
The people
awesome community
atmosphere!

I LIKE
TELL US
WHAT YOU
LIKE!

I LIKE
MY NEIGHBORS
& Non-
Profits

I WISH
VERY DIVERSE
IN ETHNICITIES.

I LIKE
LIBRARY

I LIKE
that people
care about
one another

I LIKE
Diversity

www.elkgrovecity.org/generalplan



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[General Plan Video](#)

[Share Your Ideas](#)

[General Plan Basics \(FAQ\)](#)

[Elk Grove Citizens' Academy](#)



The City of Elk Grove is updating its General Plan and this website is your hub for all project information. The General Plan lays out the vision for the future of the city and a roadmap to get there. A state-mandated document, General Plans address issues such as transportation, housing, open space, conservation, safety, and more.

CURRENT VISION FOR ELK GROVE

The current Vision for Elk Grove does not contain one unifying statement; rather, it is made up of a series of vision statements by topic, including:

- High Quality of Life
- Rural Areas of Elk Grove
- Diversified Economic Base
- Historic Resources
- High Quality of Public Services
- Managed Growth
- Traffic/Circulation

CURRENT VISION FOR ELK GROVE

HIGH QUALITY OF LIFE

Elk Grove in the future is envisioned by the residents to continue to reflect the attributes which brought them to the community: a diversity of high quality residential and commercial areas in a rural setting, a high level of public services provided by the City of Elk Grove, and a pleasing environment in which to live and work. The future will also provide more shopping opportunities (including a regional mall), increased employment opportunities, and an increased tax base to support City government and the services it provides.

CURRENT VISION FOR ELK GROVE

RURAL AREAS OF ELK GROVE

The Elk Grove of the future is a community in which the rural portions of the community are valued and retained as an important part of the city.

These rural areas are envisioned as continuing to provide a scenic backdrop, where cattle and horses can be raised, and where reminders of the area's past and its natural history are available to all residents. As development of open lands in the western portion of Elk Grove continues, these rural areas are envisioned to have an increasing importance as a place for a rural lifestyle and as a place where wildlife such as the Swainson's hawk continue to find refuge.

CURRENT VISION FOR ELK GROVE

DIVERSIFIED ECONOMIC BASE

Elk Grove is envisioned to contain a diversity of local and regional retail uses, building on the stores and service providers in existing at the time of the preparation of the City's first General Plan. New commercial areas will provide many opportunities not only for residents but for persons from throughout the region to shop, eat, and entertain in Elk Grove, bringing increased tax revenues to City government and helping to fund a wider range of public services. In the Elk Grove of the future, many more residents will live and work within the city. New office and other commercial developments provide an opportunity for workers at all levels to find work close to their homes. An increasing number of workers are envisioned to be able to avoid commuting to other cities, helping decrease traffic and decrease air pollution.

CURRENT VISION FOR ELK GROVE

HISTORIC RESOURCES

Elk Grove's historic resources will continue to form an important part of the community's character and will be protected and preserved to maintain this important part of the community for future generations.

CURRENT VISION FOR ELK GROVE

HIGH QUALITY OF PUBLIC SERVICES

The Elk Grove of the future remains a place in which residents expect—and receive—a high level of public services. Where necessary to meet the needs of an expanding population, the level of public services also expands. Because the population will continue to change and grow, public services are envisioned to be adjusted to meet new conditions and to expand as needed to serve a larger population.

CURRENT VISION FOR ELK GROVE

MANAGED GROWTH

The future envisioned in the General Plan is one in which the City carefully manages the growth of new residential and commercial areas in the City—to the extent possible—by directing to those areas where new development can be supported and in a manner which does not cause or add to traffic congestion or other problems. Land use and economic development policies will play a key role in achieving this vision, by directing growth to appropriate areas and by directing economic development efforts. This vision also includes a future in which the planning financing of public infrastructure is accomplished in a manner that supports the “upfront” development of major infrastructure facilities, such as roadways, ahead of need.

CURRENT VISION FOR ELK GROVE

TRAFFIC/CIRCULATION

The vision for future traffic congestion in Elk Grove is that the City will “hold the line,” keeping traffic at manageable levels. This vision, however, recognizes that not all traffic problems can be solved; some congestion may continue because the solution to congestion may be worse than the problem it solves.