



**THE NCS**<sup>TM</sup>  
The National Citizen Survey<sup>TM</sup>

## Elk Grove, CA

Open Ended Responses

2015



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The National Citizen Survey™  
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The NCS™ is presented by NRC in collaboration with ICMA.

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# Summary

The National Citizen Survey™ (The NCS™) is a collaborative effort between National Research Center, Inc. (NRC) and the International City/County Management Association (ICMA). The survey and its administration are standardized to assure high quality research methods and directly comparable results across The NCS communities. This report includes the verbatim responses to an open ended question included on The NCS 2015 survey for Elk Grove. Additional reports and the technical appendices are available under separate cover.

Respondents were asked to record their opinions about Elk Grove in the following question:

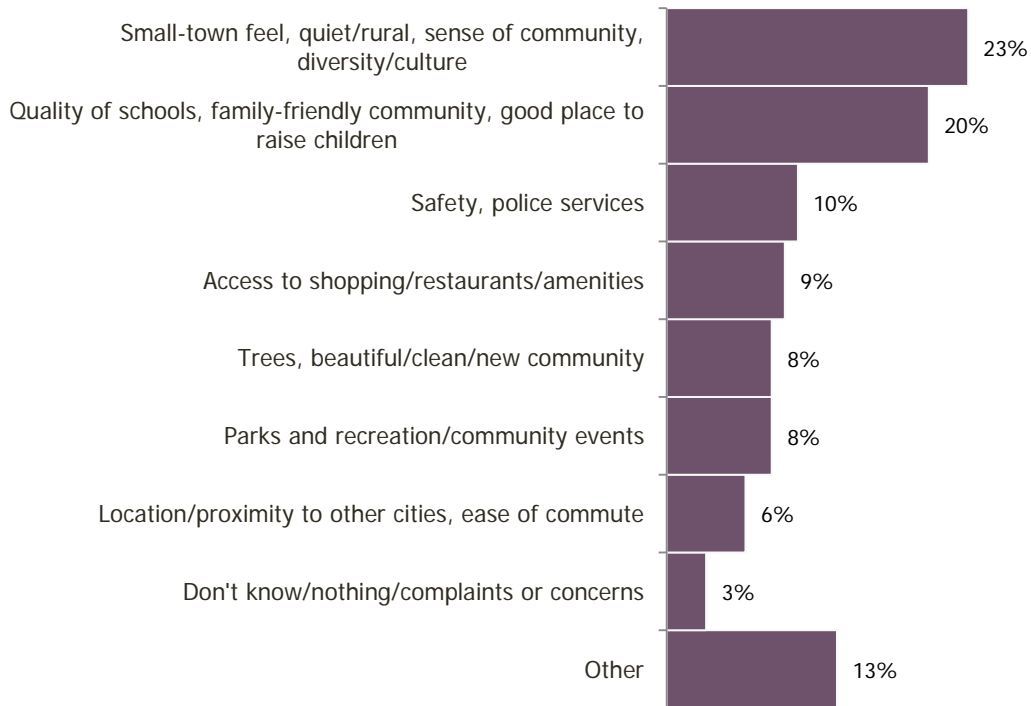
- In your own words, what one thing do you love most about Elk Grove?

The verbatim responses were categorized by topic area and those topics are reported in the following chart with the percent of responses given in each category. Because some comments from residents covered more than a single topic, those verbatim responses are grouped by the first topic listed in each comment whenever a respondent mentioned more than a single topic.

Results from the open-ended question are best understood by reviewing the frequencies that summarize responses as well as the actual verbatim responses themselves. A total of 275 surveys were completed by Elk Grove residents; of these, 198 respondents wrote in responses for the open-ended question. About one-quarter of residents made a comment relating to Elk Grove's small-town feel, the quietness or rurality of Elk Grove, or the sense of community, diversity or culture of the City. About 2 in 10 residents mentioned aspects of raising children in Elk Grove, including the quality of schools or family-friendliness of the community. About 1 in 10 residents commented on the safety and/or the quality of police services, and a similar proportion mentioned the ease of access to community amenities such as shopping opportunities or restaurants. Less than 1 in 10 residents cited overall beauty/trees/cleanliness, parks/recreation and community events or the location of the City as the thing they loved most about Elk Grove. About 13% of respondents either made a broad comment about living in Elk Grove or commented on an aspect of Elk Grove outside of the established categories.

Figure 1: Question 16

*In your own words, what one thing do you love most about Elk Grove?*



# Verbatim Responses to Open Ended Question

The following pages contain the respondents' verbatim responses as written on the survey and have not been edited for spelling or grammar. Responses have been organized by coded topic areas.

## In your own words, what one thing do you love most about Elk Grove?

Small-town feel, quiet/rural, sense of community, diversity/culture

- A "city" but does not feel like a city.
- Big city and small town all in one.
- Clean, quiet and good neighbors.
- Close to farms.
- Diversity & schools.
- Elk Grove is a rural community.
- Friendliness.
- Friendly people easy living for disabled senior.
- Friendly people, nice restaurants, effective law enforcement & emergency services.
- Friendly people.
- I like the peace and quietness at night.
- I love the culture of Elk Grove. It's easy going, fun, friendly, and the atmosphere of a modern twist on historical roots.
- I love the diversity of the population, the great schools and I love all the trees and landscaping.
- I love the sense of community- I work & live here & my children go to school.
- I love the smaller city feeling: Since it's a smaller city, we can get better use of services such as the police. Also, I love that ETran can get me to work quickly.
- In rural areas, like mine, the old town atmosphere & small family owned businesses.
- It is a diverse community that has rural roots and is developing into a nice suburban city.
- It's a nice community with diverse housing and people.
- It's not a congested area.
- It's openness-still a lot of country not too crowded.
- Keeping Elk Grove small, keep south sac residents out, landscaping, parks.
- Lots of quiet neighborhood.
- Neighborhood friendliness.
- Quiet and peaceful environment.
- Rural Area
- Rural area, safe environments.
- Rural area.
- Rural atmosphere (relative to Sacramento).
- Sense of community and is a good place to raise a family.
- Sense of community but it's growing so fast I hope we can keep it!
- Sense of community.
- Sense of community.
- Small town atmosphere, community.
- Small town feel, but close to Sacramento amenities.
- Small town feel, sense of community & safety.
- Small town feel, sense of community.
- Small town feel.
- Small town feeling-but traffic is getting worse.
- Small town rural feeling, has access to every modern & technological innovative necessity.
- Smaller town atmosphere; lots of rural areas nearby.
- That it still has a small town feel.
- That people are active and health conscious.

- The diversity.
- The small city feel in an urban environment. The planned community feel versus over-crowding.
- The small town feel.
- The small-town feel, but we need jobs & industry/tech to support us with a small commute.
- You are a few minutes from the rural areas.

Quality of schools, family-friendly community, good place to raise children

- Academics for children. Ex: sports, rec, etc.
- Elk Grove is a great place to raise a family.
- Family focused town.
- Family oriented community.
- Family oriented.
- Family.
- Great place to raise children.
- Great safe place to raise children.
- Great schools.
- I feel secure here, schools for children.
- I have enjoyed raising my kids in Elk Grove.
- I like the school district and parts and services offered through the CSD. The city of Elk Grove should leave the CSD alone.
- I love the schools and sports organizations/opportunities.
- I love the schools- the traffic is so bad on I5 and 99 it's getting me to think of moving out of Elk Grove.
- It is a great place to raise kids, lots of parks, good schools, good sports programs.
- Living, school district, community.
- Location to other cities that I wished I had chosen to live in. Sorry; but I really can't say I "love" much about Elk Grove. Closest, thing might be the Public School District.
- Quality of schools.
- School access, close to job, good neighborhood "but the traffic is getting worst". Elk Grove population is increasing. We need more entrance & exit on 99- thnx.
- Schools
- Schools.
- Sense of family.
- That it is an affordable, family oriented and diverse community that is safe and values educational opportunities for our kids.
- The EGUSD.
- The event they have for children.
- The family can live peacefully.
- The quality of schools parks.
- The School district and all the parks.
- The school system.
- The Schools.
- Tranquility- family oriented.

Access to shopping/restaurants/amenities

- Access to most shopping/restaurant without horrible traffic, still seem as small town.
- Availability of quality food, such as farmer's market and the nugget market.
- Being close to the delta and small town feel.
- Close to everything but still outside of the big city.
- Convenient food locations and a lot of community activities and celebrations.
- I love that the housing is nice and the shopping center are near, my apartment.
- I love watching the city grow. I am excited about the plans to resume the shopping complex off granting exit- I hope they start soon!!
- It's easy to get around and everything I want to do or need can be found here.

- Lots of shopping & places to eat.
- Old town Elk Grove.
- Proximity to health & travel.
- Proximity to shopping, eateries, doctor offices.
- Shopping close to home.
- Super market shopping-freeway access's-in the spring when the [?] bloom all over.
- That shopping is still relatively close, and that it still feels rural in certain areas of town. And that its not yet to big a city! And that we have 1 winery!
- The city especially in my area is very walkable to stores.
- The variety of shopping areas and restaurants.
- Walkable.

#### Trees, beautiful/clean/new community

- Clean and safe.
- Clean, safety, and good place to live for retiree.
- Everything looks new and clean. Overall aspect.
- Green belts-all.
- How green it is.
- New and clean.
- Nice city, most homes & developments are newer, cost of living vs. SF & larger cities; need to find solution for hard water as the scaling ruins all fixtures.
- The beauty of all our trees and safety thank to our Elk Grove police.
- The beauty of the city. I love the trees and walking/bike paths.
- The natural surroundings. Very green, well- kempt, and clean feeling. Feel relatively safe here as well.
- The streets are clean, sidewalk & walking trail for safety, no homeless on the street.
- The tree lined streets, walking trails with small wildlife to see.
- Trees.

#### Parks and recreation/community events

- Accessible parks around my neighborhood, but I'm looking forward to have a bigger shopping mall like in Roseville and Natomas.
- Availability of bike paths & rural areas.
- Bike trails- the ever dwindling rural feel. You don't ask what one thing we don't like: It would be the cheap retail stores and fast food chains. It cheapens the overall look and feel of the city. Need more quality restaurants as we are in the farm to fork region.
- City parks- CSD and opportunities for our youth.
- Community recreation & events.
- Elk Grove Park, also the small town feeling.
- Events at Elk Grove Park. Would be nice to get email alerts to calendar events for all of Elk Grove.
- Having a walking trail that is available to take my dog with access to dog poop bags as well as bag recycling for others to use.
- My family and I love all the parks in Elk Grove and when they have community events. Also the education system is great.
- Our parks, CSD, senior center.
- Parks and Lakes.
- Parks, safety, atmosphere.
- The parks.
- The parks.
- The variety of activities in old Downtown next to RR track any support of fine arts in Elk Grove.
- The walking pathways around my neighborhood. Variety of business to buy groceries.
- The walking/running trails and parks. Preservation of greenbelts.
- Wackford pool-love. One thing I don't love-police not returning calls!
- Walking paths bike trails. We need more bike trails!!fitness & fun.

- We moved to Elk Grove 35 years ago because of Elk Grove Park and the school district.

Location/proximity to other cities, ease of commute

- Close to Sacramento sf Tahoe balance of open area ag city. Just the perfect size city.
- Edge of sac/location.
- Great community to live in close proximity to job in downtown Sacramento.
- I love its location.
- Its central location in northern CA
- Living close to where I work.
- Location.
- Location.
- My commute is less than 10 minutes when I hit the traffic lights just right.
- The neighborhoods & access to highways.

Don't know/nothing/complaints or concerns

- I don't any more.
- I use to love that it was a small, rural town it is now overdeveloped, overpopulated & boring.
- I used to love so much about Elk Grove. Then it grew too fast & got too big. So, honestly, there is nothing I love about Elk Grove anymore.
- Not like it was in the 40s.
- Nothing.
- Nothing. (To much waste).
- Pass.
- That it used to be a nice town. I can't say that there is anything I "love" about the town any longer. I have been here since 1977, and after the mid-90's, all I see is an increased in gangs, and an overall decline in our neighborhoods. Police presence is poor, and I don't have confidence that the area is still a safe place to raise my children. I plan on leaving Elk Grove within the next 3 years.
- The feeling of safety that existed 10 year ago. Not the crime and theft that exist today. I no longer feel safe in my neighborhood.

Other

- A very nice place to live.
- Affordable housing.
- Air quality
- Ambiance.
- Atmosphere.
- Convenient.
- Cost of living is moderate.
- Delta Breeze
- Delta breeze in the evening & birds (water birds, hawks, etc).
- Delta Breeze is spectacular.
- Elk grove is where i grew up and where my family lives.
- Fresh air population not much.
- I own my home.
- I think Elk Grove is affordable, relatively safe, and offers great shopping. Weather is good, too.
- Lived here all my life and watched the growth increase, would like to see laguna become their own city; shopping mall built!
- My family is here and my church!
- My family, memories & location.
- My neighborhood (Laguna West), my home, my neighbors.
- My neighbors.
- Outgrowth expansion; little space.
- Quality of life.



- Sports program.
- Temperature.
- The climate.
- The life long residents of this town.
- The weather; the available services.
- Traffic situations.
- Very pleasant area to live.
- Weather some delta breeze. Safe place to live.