

Dear Community Members:

The Eldridge community continues to be a desirable destination for families and businesses moving to our region. As a result, our population has grown by nearly 20% over the past 15 years.

This growth has created additional demand for public services. Our facilities, which we have occupied for more than 40 years, do not meet the current needs of our community. Specifically:

- The Police Station/City Hall building is out of space and cannot be expanded.
- The Public Works facility is too small and needs significant maintenance.

The City developed a plan to address these challenges. Before we finalize this plan, we need your feedback through this community-wide survey.

To keep all feedback confidential, survey responses are collected by Community Perceptions, an independent research firm.

TWO WAYS TO TAKE THIS SURVEY

Online: (Saves postage expense)

Go to:

www.Survey2000.com

Enter your code:



Paper: Return to City Hall or mail it to Community Perceptions, PO Box 607, Slinger, WI 53086.

The survey code can be used only once. To obtain additional surveys for other adults in your household, please call City Hall at (563) 285-4841.

Survey deadline: June 15

If you need additional support to complete this survey (including a different language), please contact City Hall. Survey results will be reported at a Council meeting and available on our website.

Thank you for helping Eldridge grow responsibly while maintaining our small-town atmosphere!

Sincerely,

Scott Campbell
Mayor

Andrew Lellig
Police Chief

Tony Rupe
Public Works Director

Nevada Lemke
City Administrator

Respondent Information

What is your age? 18-24 25-34 35-44 45-54 55-64 65+

Is your primary residence in the City of Eldridge? Yes No Not sure

If yes, do you rent or own? Rent Own

How would you like to receive information from us? (Select all that apply.)

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Website | <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletters (mailed) | <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletters (online) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Council meetings | <input type="checkbox"/> Emails | <input type="checkbox"/> Facebook/social media |
| <input type="checkbox"/> North Scott Press | <input type="checkbox"/> City YouTube Channel | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: |

Overall Satisfaction

On a scale of 0 – 10, how likely would you be to recommend the City of Eldridge to a friend or family member?

- 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
- Extremely Unlikely Neutral Extremely Likely

If you'd like to explain why you gave us this rating, please use the space below:

SAMPLE

Facility Challenges

Police Station/City Hall

This facility was purchased in 1987 as a temporary building to be used for 10 years. Since then, the number of City and police staff has increased as our population has grown. The

City	Year Built	Square Feet	Population	Growth since 2010
Hiawatha	2007	29,000	7,500	+5.8%
Decorah	1960	16,886	7,400	-9.1%
Clear Lake	1968	12,770	7,700	-2.6%
Eldridge	1978	5,600	7,085	+18.0%

The facility is significantly smaller than neighboring municipalities with similar populations, as seen in the table.

The building is not big enough for police and City staff:

- The police areas of the building do not have adequate security features.
- The building lacks proper areas for police interviews and suspect holding.
- There is not enough secure storage for evidence.
- Staff occasionally have to work in hallways because of a lack of office space.
- Members of the public have had to sit on the floor to attend Council meetings.
- The building does not support current technology needs.
- The only meeting room for City staff is within a staff member's office.

In addition, the building's sewer system backs up multiple times each year. Interior spaces are worn and outdated.

Public Works

This facility was built in 1980 (the City purchased it in 1996). It is deteriorating and too small:

- Because of a lack of storage space, the City must spend \$25,000 each year to store equipment in an off-site warehouse.
- The City still must store some expensive equipment (such as vehicles) outdoors, making it wear down more quickly.
- Outbuildings for storage are rotting/decaying, putting equipment at risk.
- There is one office that all department heads must share.

The City will need to build new facilities to address these problems. To pay for these, 60% of Eldridge voters would need to approve a bond referendum (allowing the City to take out a loan/issue debt).

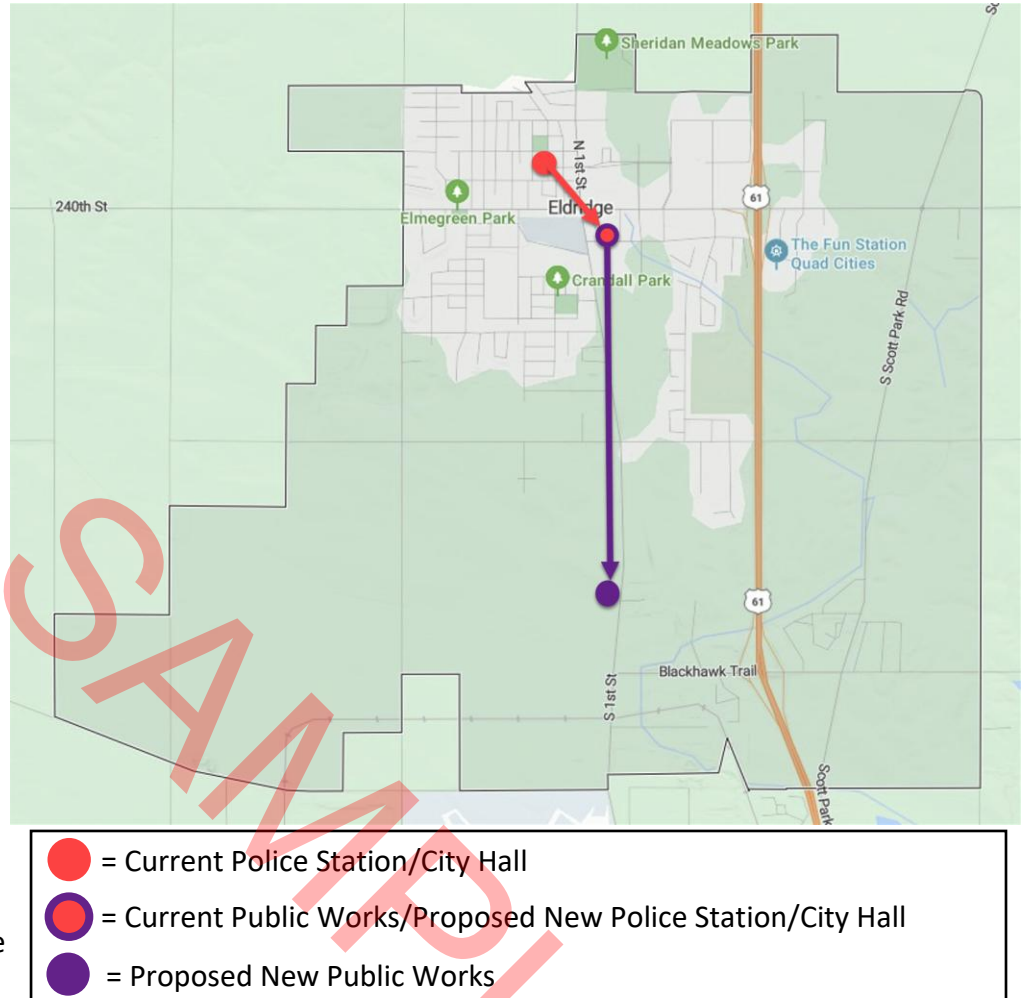
<p>Should the City explore building new facilities at this time?</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not sure
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Comments/suggestions/questions:

Recommended Plan

Two years ago, the City purchased land to build a Public Works facility. The land is located on South 1st Street between Lincoln Road and Blackhawk Trail Road.

The City explored multiple sites for a new Police Station/City Hall. We determined that using part of the current Public Works site along Iowa Street was the most responsible use of taxpayer dollars because no additional property would need to be purchased. It is also centrally located, offering the best response times for police and the most accessibility for our community.



The section of the current Public Works site along LeClaire Road not used for the new Police Station/City Hall facility would be sold (this location could become commercial development property). The City would also sell the current Police Station/City Hall. This would help offset the cost of the new facilities by making these properties taxable land.

Recommended Plan (continued)

The new Public Works facility would be located away from a high-traffic and commercial district and include:

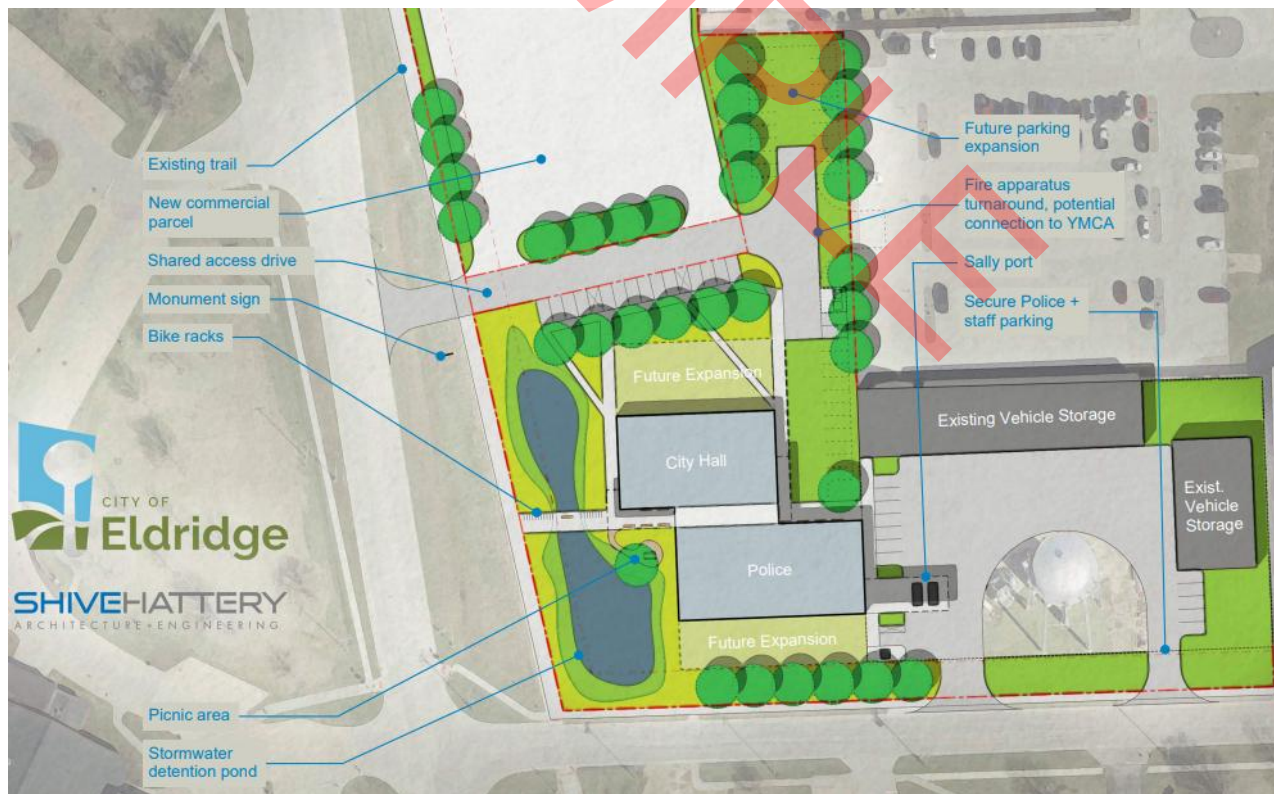
- ✓ Space for indoor vehicle storage and maintenance.
- ✓ Storage space for non-vehicle equipment.
- ✓ Increased salt storage space.
- ✓ Separate office space and shared meeting space for Public Works and Eldridge Electric.
- ✓ A meeting room and space for employee training.
- ✓ Adequate space for future expansion.

Estimated cost: \$20.7 million

The new 16,600-square-foot Police Station/City Hall facility would include:

- ✓ Secure spaces for police work, including interviews, holding cells, and evidence storage.
- ✓ Separate spaces for City Hall and the Police Department, with space for future expansion of both buildings.
- ✓ Secure parking for police vehicles and City staff.
- ✓ Space for community meetings and events.
- ✓ Larger rooms for public meetings.
- ✓ Enough office space for City staff.

Estimated cost: \$12.2 million



Comments/suggestions/questions:

Funding Support

The total cost of the plan is \$32.9 million. The tax impacts are shown in the table below. Financing assumes a multi-phase borrowing repaid over 22 years at an interest rate of approximately 5%.

Please note: The estimated tax impacts below do not account for proceeds from the sale of current facilities. Sales would lower the debt service levy amount and help offset the cost to taxpayers.

How much would the referendum cost me?	
Amount of Assessed Property Value	Estimated Annual Tax Increase**
\$150,000	\$125
\$250,000	\$210
\$350,500*	\$295
<p>Would you support a \$32.9 million bond referendum to fund the recommended plan?</p>	
<p> <input type="checkbox"/> Definitely yes <input type="checkbox"/> Probably yes <input type="checkbox"/> Undecided <input type="checkbox"/> Probably no <input type="checkbox"/> Definitely no </p>	

*Approximate average home value in the City of Eldridge.

**Interest rates, property tax valuation growth, final project costs, and timing will determine final tax levy impact.

If you are undecided or would not support the bond referendum, what are the main reasons?

Is there any other information you would need before making a decision?

Service Priorities

We need the community's help to understand what services are most important as we plan future budgets.

What priority would you place on each service below?

Please use this scale when responding to the following items.

High: *Invest additional funding in this service*

Medium: *Maintain funding in this service*

Low: *Cut funding to this if needed*

Service	High	Medium	Low
Police	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fire	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Garbage and Recycling Pick-up	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Park Maintenance (mowing, field maintenance)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Snow Removal	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Street Maintenance and Stormwater Management	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Comments/suggestions/questions:

The City currently owns and operates water, sewer, and electric utilities. We are exploring options for partnerships and private sector ownership. **Should the City continue to operate each utility below?**

Service	Yes	No	Not sure
Water Utility	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sewer Utility	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Electric Utility	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Comments/suggestions/questions:

Thank you for your participation! We sincerely value your time and input.

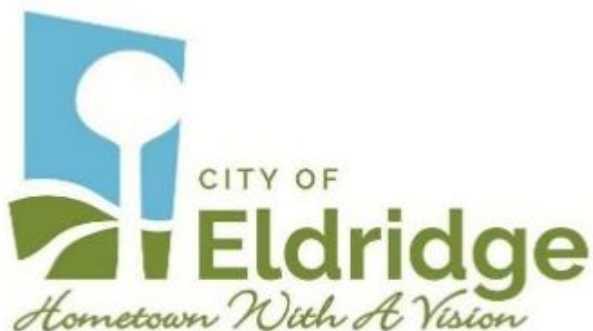
City of Eldridge
305 North 3rd Street
Eldridge, IA 52748

**IMPORTANT CITY SURVEY
ENCLOSED**

Questions?

Contact City Hall at
563-285-4841.

***Please complete this survey by
June 15.***



*This publication was produced for the residents of the **City of Eldridge**. Due to the overlap of postal routes, residents from neighboring municipalities may receive this publication. Given the limitations of bulk mailing, this overlap was difficult to eliminate without significant cost. Thank you for your understanding.*