



Mercer County: Better Together

Success Through Collaboration. #MCBT

ELIZA

The Eliza community is home to 543 people, located twelve miles southeast of Muscatine in the northwest corner of Mercer County. Though entirely unincorporated, Eliza area residents rally around their fire station, church and community center. A renovated elementary school, the Eliza Community Center offers meeting space for a variety of area clubs, as well as provides space for local community events and benefits. The spirit of collaboration is strong in the Eliza community in the support of a variety of local causes. The Eliza community enjoys recreational and economic benefits of Sturgeon Bay to the south and the Mississippi River to the west. Proximity to the Muscatine, Iowa area offers commerce and employment opportunities, as well as attracts families to live in the Eliza area.

Eliza Community Heart & Soul Statements

“We are a small, close-knit community that prides ourselves on working together, such as raising funds to turn an old school into a multi-purpose community center which is the cornerstone of the community and the meeting place for youth and community activities and family events.”

“We treasure our river access and natural resources, which provide opportunities for hunting, fishing and entertainment, and draw additional visitors to the area.”

“We value our local churches, which bring people together and offer opportunities for worship.”

“We treasure our historic assets which include cemeteries and river access, because they celebrate the unique history of our community and strengthen community pride.”

“We envision better roads and internet access, which have the potential to create more revenue for the area, increase our tax base and provide an opportunity for jobs and economic security.”

“We envision a local convenience store and restaurant to provide dining access and improved community life.”

Eliza Area Community Representatives categorized each line of survey data on the following questions; then summarized survey responses into most common themes –

1) Why do you live in Mercer County?

- Born here
- Family farm
- Marriage/spouse

2) Why did you move here or stay here?

- Good people/great community
- Want to be here

3) What do you especially love about your community?

- Community involvement/support
- Safety
- Quiet, wide open spaces
- River/hunting/fishing
- Neighborly environment

5) What do you think matters most to your neighbors?

- Jobs
- Safety/security
- Community Center
- Schools/athletics/children's activities
- Roads

6) Why is your community "home" to you?

- Family
- Values

8) What are the most important places in your community? Why?

- Community Center; gathering place
- Churches; place to worship, brings people in, brings people together
- Ball field; kids activities, heavily used
- Fire station; safety & security
- River/river access; fishing/hunting/entertainment/draws visitors
- Eliza Creek Cemetery

10) What should stay the same in your community?

- Community Center
- 4-H Club
- Softball
- Fire department
- Cemeteries

11) What should change in your community?

- Better roads
- More revenue/tax base
- Better internet
- Bring back restaurant/add convenience store
- Parks & recreation, other facilities for kids