



## About Our Co-Op

Shared Harvest, a new start-up cooperative will be located in Elgin, Illinois. Incorporated in 2012, the Co-op currently has 611 members/owners and growing. With a store site selected, we are positioning ourselves to open the store in late 2016 or early 2017. The store will be a full service, member-owned, grocery store focused on local, sustainable and affordable food options.

## About Our Community

Situated in the Fox River Valley, Elgin, Illinois was founded in 1835. Elgin's long history brought people and industry, including one of the largest watchmaking factories in the world. Although the factory ceased production in the early 1960s, the clocks at Chicago's Union Train Station still bear the Elgin name.

Elgin was once known as the "butter capital of the world"; home of the Borden Milk Company the largest producers of dairy products in the Midwest.

Elgin's population of 110,145, makes it the eighth-largest city in Illinois. We are proud of our diversity and culture. Furthermore, Elgin was recently highlighted in two national reports, naming Elgin as one of the safest and most diverse cities in America.

Elgin's economy is highly diversified, well-balanced and not dependent on a single industry or sector. And Elgin's close proximity, 35 miles northwest of Chicago has kept it an ever-bustling city for residents and businesses alike. Some of the world's leading companies share an Elgin, IL address; the Elgin Sweeper Company, Fisher Nuts/John B. Sanfilippo & Sons, Chase Card Services, Harting, Inc. of North America; to name a few.

Elgin is the headquarters of School District U-46 which is the second largest school district in Illinois, serving 40,000 students from 11 communities. We feature great schools, affordable housing, excellence in healthcare services, and accessibility to cultural, entertainment, and recreation opportunities. We have a thriving local agriculture economy that offers farm-produced goods from the surrounding communities.

Residents have access to the Fox River Bike Trail and the Illinois Prairie Path, numerous golf courses, swimming, boating and an array of sports and recreational activities. Plus, 1600 acres of parkland and 4000 acres of county forest preserves [Enjoy Northern Fox River Valley](#)

Elgin is home to the Elgin Symphony Orchestra (ESO). The Illinois Council of Orchestras recently named the ESO, the 2016 Professional Orchestra of the Year. Known for their high-quality performances, ESO musicians represent some of the most talented musical artists in the region.

From contemporary music and theater to shows for the entire family, the Hemmens Cultural Art Center features popular acts and special events throughout the year.

Elgin is located within easy access to O'Hare International Airport and Chicago's beautiful lakefront tourist attractions.

**COME JOIN US, ELGIN OFFERS SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE!**