

### CARY OVERALL AS A PLACE TO LIVE

The respondents were asked to rate Cary overall as a place to live using a 9-point scale from very undesirable (1) to very desirable (9). Table 33 indicates that Cary was perceived as a very desirable place to live. The mean has increased from 8.11 in 2016 to 8.15 this year. Although not in a traditional grading scale format, if the mean (8.15) were converted to a grade, then the rating would remain a very strong A- this year. This year, 97.3% were on the “desirable” side of the scale or above 5. More telling was the fact that only 1.2% of the responses were on the “undesirable” side. Although this mean increase was not statistically significant, this breaks a streak of three consecutive survey periods that the mean for Cary as a place to live has declined. To gather more insight into any lower ratings, the respondents who answered with a rating below 5 were asked the reason for the low rating (Appendix G). There were only six respondents who made comments with two comments focusing on the cost of living being too high. See Appendix B for selected Cary overall as a place to live crosstabulations (B240-B248).

Table 33. Cary Overall as a Place to Live

YEAR	MEAN	GRADE
18	8.15	A-
16	8.11	A-
14	8.23	A-
12	8.25	A-
10	8.28	A-
08	8.10	A-
06	8.09	A-
04	8.31	A-
02	7.79	B+
00	7.63	B

### QUALITY OF LIFE IN CARY

The perception of the quality of life in Cary over the past two years was assessed with a 5-point scale. The response categories for this question were much worse (1), somewhat worse (2), the same (3), somewhat better (4) and much better (5).

Overall, a large proportion of the respondents (56.9%) perceived the quality of life in Cary as the “same” over the past two years (Table 34). The mean has increased this year from 3.16 to 3.21 but was not statistically significant. Keep in mind, higher means (above 3.00) indicate perceptions of an improvement in the quality of life. This year, the percentage on the “better” side (above the midpoint of 3) of the scale exceeded the percentage on the “worse” side (below 3) by 30.2% to 12.9% (Figure 7). This better/worse percentage in 2016 was 22.9% to 8.9%, illustrating the level of improvement this year. There is some concern the “worse” side increased from 8.9% to 12.9% this year. However, this was offset by the large gain for the “better” side from 22.9% to 30.2%. See Appendix B for selected quality of life crosstabulations (B249-B257).

To gain more insight into those giving lower ratings, the respondents who answered with a rating below 3 were asked the reason for the low rating (Appendix H). There were 77 total comments, and the primary reasons for lower quality of life ratings were traffic (14 comments), overdevelopment (eight comments), crime (seven comments), overcrowded (seven comments), construction (six comments), cutting down trees (six comments), growth issues (five comments), high-density housing (4 comments), schools overcrowded (four comments) and streets/roads (four comments). The major changes from 2016 were for overdevelopment moving into second (five to eight comments), while crime (11 to seven comments) dropped to third. Cutting down trees was a growing concern with six comments.

Figure 7. Quality of Life

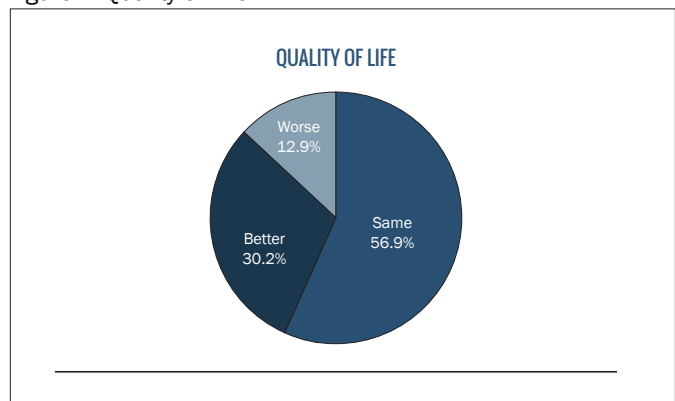


Table 34. Quality of Life in Cary

YEAR	MEAN	% BELOW 3	% ABOVE 3
18	3.21	12.9	30.2
16	3.16	8.9	22.9
14	3.23	7.9	25.7
12	3.22	5.3	23.9
10	3.11	7.5	15.3
08	3.01	26.1	22.9
06	3.24	12.1	30.6
04	3.44	8.4	41.6
02	3.18	19.6	31.4
00	3.05	24.4	26.4

### QUALITY AND VALUE OF SERVICES PROVIDED

There were two new questions this year asking the respondents to rate the quality and value of the services provided by the Town using the 9-point scale from very poor (1) to excellent (9). As for the overall quality of the services provided, Cary received a solid mark of B with a mean of 7.71 (Table 35). There were 91.4% above 5 (average) versus only 1.6% below 5. Table 36 indicates the overall value of the services provided by the Town for the taxes and fees paid to live in Cary earned a slightly lower but solid grade of B-. The mean was 7.34 with 85.7% above 5 (average) versus only 4.1% below 5. See Appendix B for selected quality and value of services provided crosstabulations (B258-B275).

Table 35. Overall Quality of the Services Provided by Cary

YEAR	MEAN	GRADE
18	7.71	B

Table 36. Overall Value of the Services Provided by Cary

YEAR	MEAN	GRADE
18	7.34	B-

### RECOMMEND CARY AS A PLACE TO RELOCATE

The respondents were also asked if they would recommend Cary as a place to relocate. There was overwhelming support for recommending Cary with 90.0% of the respondents answering “yes” and 6.5% answering “maybe” (Figure 8). More impressive was the fact that only 3.5% of the respondents answered “no”. See Appendix B for selected recommend Cary as a place to relocate crosstabulations (B276-B284).

Those who responded “no” were then asked the reason they would not recommend Cary for others to relocate (Appendix I). There were 40 total comments and the primary reasons mentioned were overcrowded (10 comments), due to growth issues (8 comments), cost of living (6 comments) and affordable housing (3 comments). In addition, there were two comments focusing on relocating only if they buy a house and not build. Finally, traffic also garnered two comments.

Figure 8. Recommend Cary as a Place to Relocate

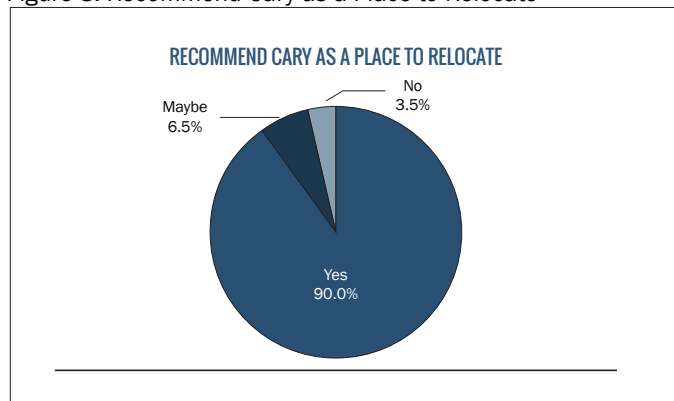


Table 33. Cary Overall as a Place to Live

YEAR	MEAN	VERY POOR 1	2	3	4	AVERAGE 5	6	7	8	EXCELLENT 9	GRADE
18	8.15	0.0	0.0	0.2	1.0	1.5	2.7	15.5	33.7	45.4	A-
16	8.11	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.3	2.0	2.8	19.3	31.0	44.5	A-
14	8.23	0.2	0.0	0.2	0.0	2.0	1.5	15.7	30.1	50.2	A-
12	8.25	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.3	1.3	2.0	14.0	35.3	47.3	A-
10	8.28	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.5	2.8	0.8	12.5	30.1	53.1	A-
08	8.10	0.0	0.0	0.5	1.0	4.0	4.2	12.1	29.6	48.6	A-
06	8.09	0.5	0.0	0.7	0.5	2.5	2.7	12.7	37.1	43.3	A-
04	8.31	0.5	0.5	0.2	0.2	2.2	2.2	10.3	22.6	61.2	A-
02	7.79	0.2	0.2	0.7	1.0	5.7	4.4	22.1	27.8	37.8	B+
00	7.63	1.3	0.3	0.5	2.5	3.8	9.0	20.1	27.6	34.9	B
98	7.61	0.0	0.3	0.8	1.0	3.0	8.0	30.6	30.3	26.1	B

Table 34. Quality of Life in Cary

YEAR	MEAN	MUCH WORSE 1	SOMEWHAT WORSE 2	THE SAME 3	SOMEWHAT BETTER 4	MUCH BETTER 5	% BELOW 3	% ABOVE 3
18	3.21	0.5	12.4	56.9	25.6	4.6	12.9	30.2
16	3.16	0.7	8.2	68.1	20.2	2.7	8.9	22.9
14	3.23	0.7	7.2	66.4	19.2	6.5	7.9	25.7
12	3.22	0.0	5.3	70.9	20.9	3.0	5.3	23.9
10	3.11	0.0	7.5	77.1	12.3	3.0	7.5	15.3
08	3.01	0.8	25.3	51.0	18.1	4.8	26.1	22.9
06	3.24	1.9	10.2	57.3	22.9	7.7	12.1	30.6
04	3.44	0.5	7.9	50.0	30.6	11.0	8.4	41.6
02	3.18	1.0	18.6	49.0	23.9	7.5	19.6	31.4
00	3.05	1.6	22.8	49.2	22.0	4.4	24.4	26.4

Table 35. Overall Quality of Services Provided by Cary

YEAR	MEAN	VERY POOR 1	2	3	4	AVERAGE 5	6	7	8	EXCELLENT 9	GRADE
18	7.71	0.5	0.0	0.3	0.8	7.1	5.6	21.8	30.6	33.4	B

Table 36. Overall Value of the Services Provided by Cary

YEAR	MEAN	VERY POOR 1	2	3	4	AVERAGE 5	6	7	8	EXCELLENT 9	GRADE
18	7.34	0.8	0.8	1.0	1.5	10.2	8.6	25.9	22.8	28.4	B-