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# News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Little Elm named among nation's top ten family cities *Financial services website places Town ninth in America*

LITTLE ELM (August 11, 2016) NerdWallet, a website devoted to financial matters, has released its list of Best Small Cities for Families in America, and Little Elm has placed ninth overall.

The website analyzed 245 U.S. cities with populations from 25,000 to 100,000, and Little Elm rated ninth highest according to their criteria.

Half of the rating was defined as "income and affordability," comparing the relationship between the cost to own a home and family income. Median home values were divided by the median annual household income from the 2014 U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey. Little Elm's score indicated that household incomes were viewed favorably in comparison to the other cities in the study, while, at the same time, the amount of home ownership was also very high.

"Prosperity and growth" counted for 25% of the overall score. In this category, the website looked at population growth and median annual household income growth from 2009 to 2014 using the most recent data from the American Community Survey.

And, lastly, the final quarter of the score was attributed to "family friendliness." To arrive at this score, researchers looked at the percentage of families with at least one child under age 18, the percentage of families with children with incomes below the poverty level, crime, and quality of schools.

The percentage of families with children and the percentage of families with children in poverty are from the 2014 American Community Survey. School ratings, with 10 as the highest ranking, are from GreatSchools.org. Crime data are from NeighborhoodScout.com.

In rating Little Elm, the website wrote: "There's no doubt Little Elm is family-friendly: Nearly 54% of families in this city of about 30,000 residents have children under age 18, the highest percentage in the top 10 cities. It's also growing quickly, with a 32% jump in population from 2009 to 2014. Located in the Dallas-Fort Worth metroplex, Little Elm — and its over 66 miles of shoreline on Lewisville Lake — is ideal for those who love being near the water. Homes in Little Elm are also the third-most affordable among the top cities, with a median home value of \$159,200 in 2014."

Town Manager Matt Mueller says the ranking validates what Little Elm residents already know, and what others in the area are quickly realizing.

"Little Elm's leaders, staff and residents have worked hard to put the right things in place so that families can feel like this is the right place for them," he said. "Having an independent source look at us objectively and come up with the same conclusion is very gratifying."

View the entire analysis here: [www.nerdwallet.com/blog/mortgages/best-affordable-small-cities-families-2016](http://www.nerdwallet.com/blog/mortgages/best-affordable-small-cities-families-2016)<<http://www.nerdwallet.com/blog/mortgages/best-affordable-small-cities-families-2016>>

Last August, NerdWallet named Little Elm the seventh best place for first-time homebuyers in the Dallas-Fort Worth metropolitan area.

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**ABOUT LITTLE ELM** – Little Elm is one of the state's fastest growing communities. Nestled on the shores of Lake Lewisville, the Town was incorporated in 1966, adopting the Council/Manager form of government. The population increased dramatically over the last several years, growing from under 4,000 in 2000 to over 30,000 today. Little Elm's population exceeds the state average in education and income, and is increasingly trending younger and technologically proficient. The Town's footprint is just over 21 square miles and boasts some 66 linear miles of shoreline within its boundaries.