

Annexation Information

CITY OF HOT SPRINGS



What are the facts about annexation?

Major benefits of annexation include basic services that will be provided by the City of Hot Springs once a property becomes part of the city.

Police ♦ 911 (emergency), 501.321.6789 (non-emergency)

Coverage will begin on the effective date of annexation. The Hot Springs Police Department is AACP accredited and is a leader among law enforcement agencies in the state and region.



Fire ♦ 911 (emergency), 501.321.6971 (non-emergency)

On the effective date of annexation, annexed areas will be covered by the Hot Springs Fire Department. The Fire Department is comprised of certified first responders, emergency medical technicians (EMTs) and paramedics. It not only responds to all fire calls within city limits, but also to medical calls, vehicular accidents, hazardous materials spills, and specialized rescue such as structural or trench collapse and swift water rescue. The department also offers pre-fire planning and fire extinguisher training for area businesses.

HSFD has no fire district fee. Most home or business owners will see a decrease in the cost of hazard insurance as a result of the ISO (Insurance Service Organization) rating that HSFD carries (currently ISO-2).

Solid Waste ♦ 501.321.6911

Within the year following annexation, residential households should begin receiving weekly curbside trash collection and recycling once their county contract expires. Containers are delivered along with information outlining the service and weekly pickup details.

Animal Services ♦ 501.262.2091

Following annexation, Hot Springs will provide animal control to ensure the health, safety and welfare of animals. Animal Services also responds to rabies cases, bite calls, animal attacks, cruelty and neglect investigations, injured animal rescues, animal placement and adoption, and disaster rescue.



Neighborhood Services ♦ 501.321.6650

Once annexation becomes effective, city residents will enjoy the benefits and values of a clean and safe neighborhood. Contact Neighborhood Services with service requests and questions.

Street Maintenance ♦ 501.321.6931

Upon the effective date of annexation, all paved public streets within the annexed area will be included in the city's master street plan. Street name and traffic regulation signs will be maintained and/or installed where warranted. Streets constructed after annexation will be in accordance with city standards.

Utilities ♦ 501.321.6200



City homes and businesses enjoy water and wastewater rates without the 50% non-city surcharge. If the property is served by an on-site septic system, it would remain until wastewater is available. Any

extension of the city's water or sanitary sewer would be in accordance with city policy and procedures.

Stormwater ♦ 501.321.6743

The city will manage stormwater drainage if there is public runoff water in a ditch or other drainage way. **Public runoff** is any drainage from public roads or other public land areas. However, when runoff originates solely from private property, the city can provide technical advice. The purpose of stormwater management is to improve water quality, manage drainage infrastructure, minimize flood hazards, provide notice of weather emergencies and educate the public about the importance of managing stormwater.

Parks and Trails ♦ 501.321.6871

Hot Springs' parks enhance life for all citizens. The city acquires, develops, improves, beautifies, and maintains a variety of parks, trails and recreation facilities that provide leisure activities. When complete, the Hot Springs Creek Greenway Trail will provide an accessible paved walking and bicycling connection from downtown to Lake Hamilton. City residents can rent a park pavilion for \$10/hour.



Will my school district change?

School boundaries are not affected by annexation.

How will my taxes change?

Hot Springs currently levies a 2-year, 2.6-mill tax for public safety communication system upgrades.

How do I obtain a building permit?

Building permits and inspection services will be available from the effective date of annexation. Contact the Building Safety Division, 501.321.6851.

Will I get street lights in my area?

Street lighting would be installed in accordance with city policy and procedures or in conjunction with major road projects in the area.

What if I operate a business in the newly-annexed area?

Business licenses are required within the city, even if it is a home-based business. Contact Business Licensing at 501.321.6826 to obtain a city license. Contact Planning and Development, 501.321.6651, for zoning approval for a home-based business. The city's zoning regulations allow lawfully existing annexed businesses to continue operation and, under certain circumstances, to expand.

How does the city decide what to annex?

In 2015, the Arkansas General Assembly passed legislation providing that a lake or river can serve as the "fourth side" along with existing city limits to



enclave unincorporated county lands for the purpose of municipal annexation. Logical municipal boundaries enable cost-efficient service delivery for both city and county governments. It is intended that eventually all land that lies

between Hot Springs city limits south to Lakes Hamilton and Catherine will be annexed into the city. In many cases, annexation is initiated by property owners wishing to develop their land. In some instances (enclaves or "islands"), the city may initiate annexation by drafting an annexation ordinance which sets forth a schedule for providing services described in this brochure.