

Should I Annex?

CITY OF HOT SPRINGS



Annexation benefits

- ◆ Excellent emergency services
- ◆ Lower hazard insurance premiums
- ◆ No surcharge for water and wastewater
- ◆ Public health and property standards
- ◆ Predictable development standards
- ◆ Same school district

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

Coverage will begin on the effective date of annexation. The Hot Springs Police Department was AACP accredited in October 2015 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.

HSFD has no fire district fee. Through mutual aid agreements with neighboring fire departments, additional help is never far away. Most home or business owners will see a decrease in the cost of hazard insurance as a result of HSFD's ISO-2 (Insurance Service Organization) rating.

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

City residents 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. Stormwater management improves water quality, manages drainage infrastructure, minimizes flood hazards, provides notice of weather emergencies and educates the public about the importance of managing stormwater.

Parks and Trails ◆ 501.321.6871

Sport Recreation ◆ 501.318.0472

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, Hot Springs Creek Greenway Trail will provide an accessible paved walking and bicycling connection from downtown to Lake Hamilton. City residents can rent a pavilion for \$10/hour.



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 a 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.

Enabling legislation

Logical municipal boundaries enable cost-efficient service delivery for both city and county governments.



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.

The Arkansas General Assembly passed legislation providing that when existing city limits enclave unincorporated county lands, the requirements for municipal annexation are met.