

# Unilateral Annexation: Overview

Annexation is the process of incorporating new land into the city limits.

The ongoing growth of our City has resulted in the need to follow a proactive annexation program to provide for the orderly and economically responsible expansion of the City, and to manage growth to minimize land use conflicts.

Planned annexation is necessary to bring areas on the edges of urban development into the City so that there can be an orderly extension of City services such as roads, water and sewer. Additionally, the City has limited authority to regulate development unless property is annexed before a project is initiated. Because land uses are not regulated in the county (per state law), if such properties remain outside the City limits there are no land use regulations, design standards, or building permits required to protect neighboring properties. In the past, this has resulted in abuses such as feed lot businesses abutting residential areas.

In the annexation process, Texas law requires the following:

- ◆ Limits unilateral annexations to no more than 10% of current City land area in a given year
- ◆ Requires the City to notify property owners and to hold City Council hearings for all annexations, and gives all interested parties the right to appear and be heard before City Council regarding annexation proposals.

## Annexation Benefits

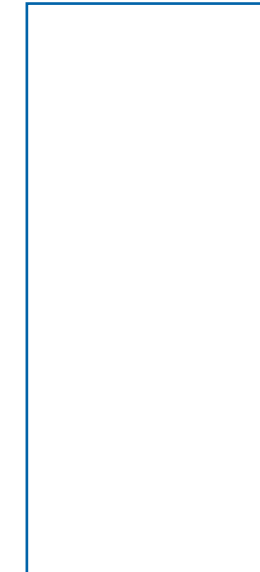
There are many benefits to being a full-fledged citizen of the City of Round Rock, among them fire protection, police protection, planning, zoning and code enforcement protections, City water and street maintenance, solid waste & recycling services, and participation in City recreational programs and library services at resident rates.

## Voting & Public Participation

An important benefit of becoming a Round Rock citizen is securing the right to vote in all City elections, to run for City office, and to serve on City boards and commissions.

### Helpful Phone Numbers

City Hall Operator	218-5400
Planning Department	218-5428
Administration	218-5401
Police Department	218-5500
Fire Department	218-5590
Library	218-7000
Parks & Recreation	218-5540
Utility Billing	218-5460
Round Rock Refuse	255-4980
Building Inspection	218-5550
Transportation	218-5562
Public Works	218-5555



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City of Round Rock  
Planning & Community Development  
301 West Bagdad Suite 210  
Round Rock, Texas 78664



# Unilateral Annexation

## Overview and Frequently Asked Questions

City of Round Rock  
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Round Rock, Texas 78664

Phone: 512-218-5428  
Fax: 512-218-3286  
[www.roundrocktexas.gov/planning](http://www.roundrocktexas.gov/planning)

## Frequently Asked Questions

### Q: Why annex my property?

**A:** As urban development begins to approach properties within the City's extraterritorial jurisdiction (ETJ), it is appropriate for the City to annex areas adjacent to the city limits because:

- ◆ Availability of City services significantly increases development potential.
- ◆ Control of land use protects property values.
- ◆ Annexation allows rationalization of emergency service boundaries and can reduce insurance premiums.
- ◆ Annexation allows rational planning for the extension of City utilities and services.

### Q: Does annexation affect ownership of my property?

**A:** No. Annexation has no effect on property ownership.

### Q: Will I have to pay City taxes?

**A:** Yes. After being annexed into the City, you will be required to pay City taxes. In return, you will be provided with municipal services.

The current City tax rate (2008) is \$0.36522 per \$100 assessed value. Property taxes are billed in October of each year but do not become delinquent until February 1st of the next year.

### Q: Will the Emergency Services District tax continue to apply?

**A:** No. Upon annexation, you will be served by City police and fire departments and will no longer be required to pay ESD taxes. The 2008 rate for this tax is \$0.10000 per \$100 assessed value.

### Q: Will I be allowed to shoot firearms on my property?

**A:** Yes, if certain circumstances and restrictions are met. The Texas Local Government Code states:

*"A municipality may not apply a regulation relating to the discharge of firearms or other weapons ... in an area annexed by the municipality after September 1, 1981, if the firearm or other weapon is (1) a shotgun, air rifle or pistol, BB gun, or bow and arrow discharged on a tract of land of 10 acres or more and more than 150 feet from a residence or occupied building located on another property, and in a manner not reasonably expected to cause a projectile to cross the boundary of the tract; or (2) a center fire or rim fire rifle or pistol of any caliber discharged on a tract of land of 50 acres or more and more than 300 feet from a residence or occupied building located on another property, and in a manner not reasonably expected to cause a projectile to cross the boundary of the tract."*

### Q: Can I still burn brush on my property?

**A:** Yes, but only under some circumstances and with a permit from the City of Round Rock Fire Department.

The City's Parks and Recreation Department also offers residential brush pick-up every week on Wednesday. Requests for service must be submitted by 5:00 p.m. Tuesday of the same week service is requested. Brush must be piled by the roadway, and may not exceed ten feet in length.

The cost for the first five minutes of brush chipping is \$25, and additional minutes are charged at \$1 per minute of chipping service. The costs will be added to your water bill.

### Q: Can I keep my current agricultural exemption?

**A:** Yes, until you no longer use the property for agricultural purposes.

### Q: Will I be able to continue a lawful business I have on my property after it is annexed?

**A:** Yes. The Texas Local Government Code states:

*"A municipality may not, after annexing an area, prohibit a person from continuing to use land in the area in the manner in which the land was being used on the date the annexation proceedings were instituted if the land use was legal at that time."*

### Q: Will I be able to keep animals?

**A:** Yes. If you do not have an agricultural exemption, the City of Round Rock Code of Ordinances regulates as follows:

- ◆ One animal unit for the first acre, plus one animal unit for each additional half-acre in the same parcel.
- ◆ An "animal unit" is defined as: one horse, mule, llama, or cow equals one animal unit; or two swine equal one animal unit; or five sheep, goats, or emus/ostriches/rheas equal one animal unit.

If you do have an agricultural exemption, the Texas Agriculture Code applies and generally allows you to keep your animals. It states:

*"If an agricultural operation... is subsequently annexed..., the governmental requirements of the city do not apply to the agricultural operation unless the requirement is reasonably necessary to protect persons who reside in the immediate vicinity or persons on public property in the immediate vicinity of the agricultural operation."*

### Q: What zoning district will apply to my property?

**A:** The City typically zones newly annexed land as agricultural or rural residential until the property owner requests a different zoning.

### Q: Will I be required to sign up for City trash collection service?

**A:** Yes, for a monthly fee you will receive twice weekly service, billed as part of your utility bill. Curbside recycling is available for an additional monthly fee. However, upon request, the City will honor any existing private trash collection service contract you have for up to one year. Thereafter, you must pay for City trash collection services. If you do have a private contract in place and wish to continue it, please call Utility Billing Manager Irma Mendoza at (512) 218-5465.

### Q: When can I use City recreation and library facilities at resident rates?

**A:** Immediately upon annexation.

### Q: Will the City maintain my street?

**A:** The City will maintain public roads, but not private roads.

### Q: What services will be available and when?

**A:** Immediate services include fire protection, police protection, street maintenance, public facilities maintenance and solid waste collection. Water and wastewater are to be provided within 2-1/2 years (unless extended by agreement to 4-1/2 years).