

Annexation is the process cities follow to add adjacent properties to their existing jurisdiction.

## Frequently Asked Questions:

### *How will the City serve new areas?*

Before an area qualifies for annexation, the City makes sure it is able to properly serve that area. City departments analyze proposed annexations to determine if additional resources are needed. The City then looks at the expected revenues to ensure that enough funds will be received to cover the additional service costs.

### *How does property become annexed?*

Annexation is a democratic process governed by State law that requires the consent of the majority of property owners within the district. When the majority of property owners sign petitions in favor of annexation, the City of Bowling Green Mayor and Commission vote to adopt an ordinance officially annexing the area.

### *Will joining the City cost me money or save me money?*

Residents will start paying City property taxes. Some residents will save money on fire service and property insurance. We have found that for most homeowners, the cost or savings is very small and is not a factor in deciding whether or not to join.

# Annexation Process, Benefits & Concerns

## Benefits of Joining the City of Bowling Green:

### **Police Protection:**

The accredited BGPLD provides 24-hour police protection with community policing, around the clock dispatch, and patrol officer “take-home” fleet program. The BGPLD also features a motorcycle unit, bicycle patrols, and the “Spot-A-Cop” traffic calming program to reduce speeding in residential neighborhoods. Police personnel attend most neighborhood organization meetings and work closely with groups on a variety of “quality of life” issues in neighborhoods.

### **Fire Protection:**

Immediate Fire protection is provided with response times usually being five minutes or less. This protection includes fire suppression, hazardous materials emergency response, specialized rescues, and First Responder medical assists. The accredited BGPLD has an ISO rating of 3; only the top 3.5% of fire departments in the country have a rating this high.

### **Streets and Public Works:**

The accredited BG Public Works Department provides a number of street maintenance services including snow and ice control, street sweeping in areas with traditional curb and gutter, and regulatory, warning, and street signage placement in accordance with Federal guidelines. In addition, Public Works maintains storm drain systems and retention areas, partners with the BGPLD to work to reduce speeding in residential neighborhoods, and works to reduce pollution through a variety of river, basin, and street side clean-up activities. In addition, the City works very hard to provide capital funds to build new sidewalks and storm water mitigation yearly.

### **Voting in City Elections:**

Annexed residents may vote for Mayor and City Commission members.

### **Trash, Recycling & Brush Pick-up:**

A contract with Scott Waste Management provides curbside pickup within City limits once per week for all trash and brush items. In addition, Southern Recycling provides curbside pickup for a monthly charge. The City also operates a *Loose Leaf Pickup Program* from late October through December for no charge.

### **Street Lighting:**

The City pays for the cost of street lights. A street lighting survey will be done for each newly annexed area and then prioritized by the City. If an annexed subdivision already has street lights and the owners are paying for them through a property tax assessment, the City will take over the cost.

### **Animal Control & Protection:**

The City has two full-time animal control officers who enforce the City’s animal ordinance.

### **Neighborhood Property Maintenance:**

The Neighborhood and Community Services Department provides full-time enhanced enforcement of property maintenance codes, including enforcement against overgrown weeds, junk vehicles, substandard housing and other issues.

## City Services—Did You Know:

—We have 57 Neighborhood Groups participating in Neighborhood Watch.

—Hundreds of potholes are filled each year to make our streets safer.

—BYPD takes approximately 60,000 calls to the 911 center in a year.

—Each year, thousands of feet of sidewalk are constructed and repaired by Public Works.

—Public Works collects approximately 1,000 tons of leaves during fall and winter as a service to residents.

—On average, more than 100 tons of deicer is used per winter to clear City streets for residents.

—The Fire Department investigates over 50 fires per year on average.

## Benefits Continued:

### City Property Taxes:

City property taxes in annexed areas are currently based on \$.206 (20.6 cents) per hundred dollars of the assessed value. For example, property valued at \$100,000 would require \$206.00 yearly in city property taxes. Properties are taxed by January tax rolls. Real property (such as vehicles) is taxed at 26 cents per hundred dollars of the assessed value, or \$26 on a vehicle valued at \$10,000. County taxpayers annexed into the city no longer have to pay the Warren County storm water tax, nor do they have to pay a volunteer fire department fee. The City's current tax rate is the lowest it has been since 1970. It was \$.269 in 2004. Individual assessments can be obtained from the Property Valuation Office in the County Courthouse, third floor. Their telephone number is (270) 843-3268.

### Homeowners Insurance:

Depending on the insurance company, rates for homeowner's protection could be less for properties that lie within the city limits, although city homeowners do pay an insurance premium tax dedicated to pay for replacement of fire equipment. Contact your insurance company for specific rating on your current policy. (Note: Insurance companies use the credit ratings of homeowners in factoring rates, so all homeowners may not realize the same degree of savings, if any.)

### Citizen Involvement:

City residents are able to participate in a number of initiatives that help make our community a great place to live. These include: Citizens Police Academy (and CPA Alumni Association), Volunteers in Police Service (VIPS), Retired Senior Volunteer Program, Crime Stoppers, Parks Advisory Board, Bowling Green Coalition of Active Neighborhoods (BGCAN), and a variety of other boards and commissions that oversee everything from the airport to youth programs. Public forums, surveys, focus groups, and open houses are just a few tools that are routinely used to inform and involve residents on a host of varied issues that impact all of us.

### Citizen Assistance & Public Information:

With one call to City Central (393-3444), citizens can be connected to most non-emergency City services, including code enforcement, street signage issues, storm drainage, potholes, traffic calming, and so on. The City's website [www.bgky.org](http://www.bgky.org) provides most City forms in a format online that can be filled out, printed, and submitted to the appropriate office. The City also disseminates information in a number of electronic formats to which anyone can subscribe, publishes a variety of brochures on City programs (including some in Spanish and Serbo-Croatian), and frequently does specialized, neighborhood-specific mailings regarding proposed or ongoing projects.

### Grants for Neighborhood Groups & Other Programs:

Crime watch groups, homeowners associations, and other neighborhood organizations in the City limits of Bowling Green have the opportunity to apply for grants (up to \$2,500) for neighborhood projects of their own choosing. Examples have included tree plantings, block parties, decorative signposts, neighborhood entry signage, playground equipment, and more. Neighborhood groups can also participate in the popular Summer Stroll series, which brings elected officials and City staff out to front porches and yards in neighborhoods to hear residents' concerns, ideas, and success stories. The City's Neighborhood Services Office works as a specialized resource for all kinds of neighborhoods, including those wishing to get organized, those participating in Neighborhood Watch, or those who petition for/against a particular project in their neighborhood.



## Annexation Procedures:

### Step 1:

Request annexation into the City by completing a "petition" form provided by the City.

### Step 2:

City staff will complete a preliminary analysis and recommendation to be given to the Board of Commissioners in the form of a City ordinance. The ordinance will require two readings before it is approved.



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## What Does Not Change with Annexation:

### Voting:

Annexed residents will continue to vote for Fiscal Court representatives (Magistrates and Judge Executive) *in addition* to now being able to vote in City elections, namely for Mayor and City Commission seats. One's voting precinct and magisterial seat will not change.

### Schools:

Existing school districts *are not affected* by annexation. Many neighborhoods within the City limits of Bowling Green are located in the Warren County School District.

### Utilities:

Utility districts for telephone, water, electricity, and cable television services *are not affected* by annexation. For example, the City of Bowling Green works with WRECC *and* BGMU on street lighting projects depending on location.

### 911:

911 calls for all of Warren County are routed first to the central communications center at BGPD headquarters. From this primary answering point, calls are directed to the appropriate jurisdictional agency for fire, police, and emergency medical services. For annexed residents experiencing an emergency, *911 is a direct connection* to the dispatch center for the BGPD and Fire Departments and those departments will respond to your emergency. The communications center features computer-aided dispatch software, enhanced 911 (E-911) service, GIS (geographic information systems) mapping, and the growing capacity to track the location of cellular 911 calls.

## Bowling Green City Limits:

