### WELCOME



Welcome to the City of Huntington. We're here to help you through the annexation process, answer your questions and provide you information to assist you in making a

smooth transition into our community.

Not unlike many households and businesses, the City has a well crafted plan for its future. That plan is in the form of its 2012 Comprehensive Plan, a 20-year vision for the City's future growth and development. This long range plan and other related documents are the foundation behind its long-term annexation plan released in 2014. Annexation however is just a small part of the successful implementation of the plan, we're ecstatic for what our collective future holds and excited to have you also call Huntington home.

Annexation into the City of Huntington offers many benefits, including enhanced property values, responsive police and fire protection, exceptional utility service and accessible government. We're also careful to balance the interests of annexation, making sure that we maintain the same high quality level of services for both current residents and new residents.

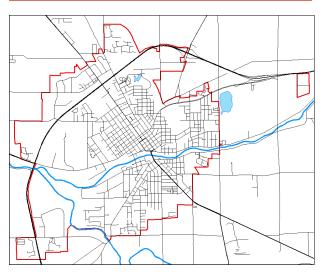
Most importantly, "We serve Huntington" and are committed to providing you with services in the most efficient manner possible in order to improve your quality of life. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact us.

Brooks L. Fetters, Mayor

# WHAT IS ANNEXATION?

Annexation is the legal process in which municipalities add land area to their boundaries and grow. Indiana law provides for the annexation of adjacent areas in order to provide a more rational and efficient delivery of services. Annexation also results in improved public services such as police and fire protection and water and sewer service. Annexation also contributes to more sound land use and development processes, strengthening municipal boundaries and providing and improved framework for residential and business expansion.

# **CURRENT CITY LIMITS**



\*As of 12/31/2016

If you have any questions or comments, we encourage you to contact us for specific information

#### **Annexation Information Contact:**

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Director

Community Development & Redevelopment
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City of Huntington 300 Cherry Street Huntington, IN 46750 (260) 356-1400 www.huntington.in.us

# ANNEXATION BROCHURE

Answers to common questions about annexation into the City of Huntington















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#### BENEFITS OF ANNEXATION

There are many benefits to becoming a resident of the City of Huntington:

- Access to more than 10 park areas featuring 11.8 acres of recreational opportunities and growing network of multi-use trails
- Faster response times from full-time police and fire professionals
- Property value protection through a citywide commitment to planning, zoning and code enforcement
- Water, sewer and storm water infrastructure
- Weekly curbside refuse service, recycling drop-off program and reduced landfill user rates

### **LOCAL GOVERNMENT & ACCESS**

Annexation brings you local government representation. The City of Huntington Mayor and Common Council members understand neighborhood issues and concerns because they represent a smaller urban geographic area. Elected by Huntington voters, your elected officials have the responsibility to assess the needs of the citizenry, set community priorities and represent Huntington in various matters of regional importance. Residency also affords you the opportunity to participate in City government by serving on various boards and commissions or even run for local elected office.

### POLICE PROTECTION

Once annexed, your neighborhood will be served by the Huntington Police Department. You can expect an enhanced level of police protection and rapid response times from law enforcement professionals. Our police department is community oriented, already maintaining an active presence in the community by employing a Resource Officer in Huntington schools and regularly speaking to various community groups. Centrally located in downtown Huntington and having 32 full-time officers, the Huntington Police Department provides a higher officer to citizen ratio than any other law enforcement agency in Huntington County.

## FIRE PROTECTION

The Huntington Fire Department is proud to maintain a 2008 Insurance Service Office (ISO) rating of 4/10, with 1 being highest. The department offers fire protection, rescue and medical assist services, with an average emergency response time of under 4.5 minutes. Each of our fire stations are fully equipped and staffed full-time with highly trained personnel ready to provide fire and rescue services. Fire personnel are also trained first responders and dispatched alongside paramedics from Parkview Huntington Hospital in the event of an emergency from our new state of the art dispatch center because in an emergency situation, seconds count.

### **PARKS & RECREATION**

Huntington offers an impressive array of recreational opportunities, with more than a dozen parks, playgrounds and athletic fields. The City features all types of recreational activities in our neighborhood and community sized parks located across the City. Recreational opportunities aren't just limited to parks, we also offer numerous programs and activities year round for residents of all ages and abilities. Our current multi-use trail system is constantly underdoing expansions with plans to link to the larger regional trail network.

#### PLANNING & BUILDING

Huntington is very conscientious about the types of development permitted within its jurisdiction. The City has carefully crafted zoning regulations that regulate the development and use of property. The City is committed to its long term vision through strict adherence to its Comprehensive Plan which seeks to improve your quality of life and help improve the property value of your most important investment, your home or business. Residents of Huntington have a strong voice in local decision-making concerning planning and zoning matters. Building and permitting functions are centrally located in downtown Huntington.

### **CODE ENFORCEMENT**

When the condition of a property in Huntington becomes an eyesore, nuisance or hazard, our team of code professionals respond to problems swiftly and effectively. They work with owners and neighbors to maintain high standards and preserve property values for everyone's benefit through the enforcement of nuisance, building, zoning and fire codes. Unlike rural areas of the County, the City employs additional tools such as minimum housing standards, nuisance junk debris & vehicle codes and garage sale regulations.

# **WATER, SEWER & SANITATION**

The City of Huntington owns and operates its own water and sewer utilities. Our two water treatment facilities deliver an ample supply of safe drinking water. Our wastewater treatment plant collects and treats sanitary and storm sewage for safe release back into the environment. This eliminates the need for private septic systems and their maintenance. Our residential sanitation programs provides weekly curbside trash collection and recycling drop-off locations. The City also offers special pick-up programs that provide for the disposal of large items such as furniture, trees and debris. The City also provides annual leaf pick-up and street sweeping as well as snow removal on public roadways.

#### **TAXES**

Annexation will trigger changes to your property tax bill, such as eliminating your obligation to pay certain Township property taxes. Overall differences will vary depending on your property's classification, value and exemptions. Any increase in taxes may even be partially offset by reduced insurance costs from being serviced by a full-time professional fire department or in the form of trash pick-up that is paid by your tax dollars, not a private contract. The more taxes that are generated in the local area, the more these taxes can remain in the local area for increased services, capital projects and improvements to the community for your benefit. Visit the DLGF tax bill calculator at www.in.gov/dlgf/4932.htm for more information.