

ANNEXATION FACTS & BENEFITS

Fire Protection and Medical Services: The City of Mesa provides fire protection and paramedic services to all residents at no cost. This is a significant difference. Currently, unincorporated property owners either pay Rural Metro an annual service fee for a fire protection policy, or the actual staff and equipment charges for any service call (if you do not have their protection policy). Mesa's improved water system, modern fire equipment, and fire and paramedic training programs have helped the City attain international accreditation and a Class 2 fire insurance rating—one of the best in the state. Because of our higher fire insurance rating, you may be eligible for a rate reduction on your homeowners' insurance policy, depending on your insurance company. The Mesa Fire Department currently has approximately 440 personnel, along with 16 fire stations.

Dial-A-Ride: The City of Mesa provides its senior citizens (age 65 and older) and people with disabilities subsidized door-to-door transportation service.

Police Protection: Protecting and improving the quality of life for Mesa's citizens is achieved by the more than 1,300 highly trained employees with state-of-the-art equipment and technology. The Mesa Police Department offers quality protection and community programs.

Water and Wastewater Service: Water and wastewater (sewer) service for your area may or may not be provided by the City of Mesa. As a result, annexation may or may not change your current water/wastewater rates. Per City ordinance, new development outside Mesa's corporate limits will not be served water or wastewater service until such time as it is annexed into Mesa.

Library Services: The City of Mesa offers its citizens a wealth of information and resources in our three library facilities and at www.mesalibrary.org. The East Mesa Regional Library is located at 635 N. Power Road.

Refuse and Recycling Collection: After annexation, the City will provide refuse/recycling collection to all residential units. Therefore, all private garbage hauler companies will discontinue providing residential collection service in the City of Mesa annexed area. The City's weekly service includes one curbside collection of household garbage (90-gallon barrel) and one curbside collection of recyclables (60-gallon barrel). A 60-gallon refuse barrel is available to residents who prefer a smaller barrel for a lower monthly fee. Residents also may choose to have green barrel service to collect green yard waste. The monthly solid waste fee currently pays for other solid waste services such as monthly landfill usage, neighborhood cleanup, annual Christmas tree recycling and household hazardous waste events at little or no additional cost to Mesa residents.

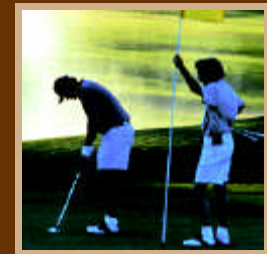
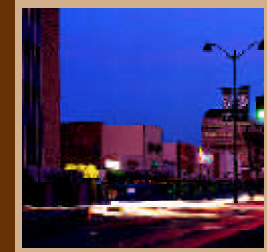
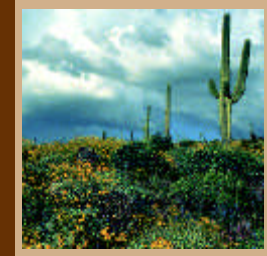
Street Maintenance: Upon annexation, the City of Mesa assumes responsibility for repair, sweeping and maintenance of all paved public streets, which are improved to city or county standards. Dirt streets located within dedicated public right-of-way will be periodically graded and treated for dust control. Street name and traffic regulation signs also will be maintained and/or installed where appropriate.

Property Tax: The City of Mesa is one of the few cities in the West that levies no City property tax. The monies to operate our local government (for which most cities tax) are provided through the sale of utilities, a City sales tax and our share of state and federal revenues. Upon annexation, you will still pay county and school district property taxes as you always have, but you will not pay an additional property tax to the City.

Neighborhood Services: Mesa's Neighborhood Services Department helps residents build strong neighborhoods that foster a high quality of life through the programs of the Community Revitalization Division, the Neighborhood Outreach Office and the Code Compliance Division.

Zoning: After annexation, the City of Mesa (as required by State law) will establish city zoning districts comparable to those existing under the county's jurisdiction.

Joining the City of Mesa



JOINING THE CITY OF MESA THROUGH ANNEXATION

Perhaps the most commonly asked question about annexation is: “How do we join the City?”

The answer is simple: You and your neighbors have to request annexation to join the City of Mesa.

When asked, City staff will consider requests for annexation and assist the property owners in the process.

Requests are analyzed to determine if requirements are met to be considered for annexation. If the minimum requirements are met, the process can begin.

The requirements, the process and the benefits of annexation are described in this brochure.



DOES MY PROPERTY MEET THE REQUIREMENTS TO BE ANNEXED?

Arizona statutes have specific criteria for property to be eligible for annexation:

1. State law requires that any property must be contiguous to an existing City limit for at least 300 feet to be considered for annexation.
2. State law requires that annexed property may extend out from a current city limit up to twice the distance of the width of the property. For example, if the property is contiguous only for the minimum 300 feet, the annexation can only extend out 600 feet from the current city limits.
3. State law requires that in order for a municipality to annex an area, the city must receive the signatures of a majority (51 percent) of the number of property owners, and that majority also must represent a majority of the assessed property value.

The City cannot annex an area without meeting these legal requirements.

While following State law, the City of Mesa also tries to maintain uniform City limits. This means that the City will seek annexation of an entire subdivision, rather than single parcels within subdivisions.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

City of Mesa Planning Division
55 North Center Street
Mesa, Arizona 85201
Phone: (480) 644-2385
Fax: (480) 644-2757

STEPS IN THE ANNEXATION PROCESS:

1. Determine if your property meets the requirements for annexation.
2. A request for annexation may be submitted by sending a letter or e-mail to the City of Mesa Planning Division, or by telephoning. Planning staff is available to help answer any questions and assist you in the process.
3. The Planning Division will create a map and legal description of the proposed area to be annexed.
4. The Planning Division will request property owner information from the Maricopa County Assessor and the Arizona Department of Revenue.
5. The Planning Division will record a blank annexation petition with the Maricopa County Recorder's office. This begins a 30-day period during which all property owners and concerned private and government agencies will be notified of a public hearing that will take place within the last 10 days of the 30-day period.
6. Then, the process begins to obtain signatures of a majority of the property owners on the annexation petition. Signatures may be gathered by the initiator of the annexation or by mail through the Planning Division. The petition is effective for one year from the last day of the 30-day period.
7. After the signatures have been received and verified, the City Council will consider the annexation ordinance at two separate public meetings. At the first meeting, the ordinance will be introduced to provide public notice. At the following City Council meeting, the City Council will hold a public hearing and consider adopting the annexation ordinance.
8. The annexation becomes effective 30 days after the adoption of the ordinance.