



## **PROPOSED CURRIER CREEK ANNEXATION AREA**

### **Informational brochure and frequently asked questions**

#### **Annexation**

Annexation is the process of expanding the City limits to include properties currently outside the City.

The most common method used is the Petition Method of Annexation. The petition method is based on the tax assessed value of property. Any area that is to be annexed must have property owners representing at least 60% of the tax assessed value of the area requesting annexation.

For annexation laws see RCW 35A.14.120. For information on tax assessed values see Kittitas County TaxSifter or Kittitas County Assessor's webpage.

#### **City and County Agreement**

In March 2017 the City of Ellensburg and Kittitas County reached an agreement in which the County agreed to help fund the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) Highway 97 and University Way Intersection Project. In return, at the County's request, the City committed to facilitate annexation of properties located in this area.

#### **Utility Extension Agreements**

Utility extension agreements are a binding contract between the City of Ellensburg and property owners in which the City agrees to provide utilities to areas outside of the city limits and the property owner agrees to cooperate with any future annexation of their property.

The agreement is binding on any subsequent owners of the property for which it was signed. Currently property owners representing just over 70% of total assessed property value of the proposed annexation area have signed utility extension agreements.

#### **Well Water and Septic Systems**

Property owners with well and septic systems can continue to use these systems after annexation. Annexation does not trigger hookup requirements. In the event your well or septic system fails, being part of the city may allow you to connect to city water and/or sewer as necessary.

#### **Homeowners Insurance**

Homeowner insurance policies are partially based on the fire district/department rating of the area. The City of Ellensburg has a better fire protection rating than the surrounding unincorporated areas. A better rating can result in lower insurance premiums. Rates vary between companies and individual insurance plans. Check with your insurance agent to determine the effect on your premiums.

#### **Police Services**

Upon annexation, the Ellensburg Police Department would provide law enforcement services instead of Kittitas County Sheriff's Department. City officers will provide for more police coverage in the annexation area than is currently provided by Kittitas County.

### City Services

Upon annexation, the City will provide road and street maintenance, which includes snow plowing.

### Elected Officials

Upon annexation, residents of the area will still be able to vote for Kittitas County Commissioners. Residents of the area will also be able to vote in the elections for the seven Ellensburg City Council positions.

### Livestock

You can keep your farm animals, they will be “grandfathered.” Certain livestock are actually allowed in some zoning districts under the term “agriculture.”

### Parks and Recreation

The City offers year-round recreation, sports, and learning programs for youth, families, and older adults. City residents pay a slightly lower fee for use of the City pool, otherwise parks and recreation fees are the same for residents and non-residents.

The proposed annexation area does not include any property that is currently owned by the City. In order to provide recreational opportunities in this area, in the future, the City would pursue acquisition of park property.

### Schools

Annexation will not affect schools. School district boundaries are independent of city boundaries.

### Property Taxes

The City may ask residents in the proposed annexation area to assume a portion of its outstanding bonded indebtedness. The estimated annual cost of existing City indebtedness for a home with a value of \$250,000 is \$29 per year, which is included in Table 1.

The 2018 property tax rate for the City of Ellensburg taxing district was \$12.24 per \$1,000 of Assessed Value; the Kittitas County taxing district of the proposed annexation area was \$11.07. Of the \$12.24, the City receives \$2.05, with the remainder going to the State, Kittitas County, school district, and other taxing districts.

**Table 1. Total Property Tax Comparison Rate per \$1,000 of Assessed Valuation\***

	<b>Ellensburg (district 18)</b>	<b>Kittitas County (district 22)</b>	<b>Annual increase or decrease</b>
Property tax rate	\$12.24	\$11.07	\$1.18
Average annual property tax paid**	\$3,061.39	\$2,766.67	\$294.72

\*Numbers are rounded to the nearest hundredth.

\*\*These figures are based on a home value of \$250,000 & assume that residents would assume a portion of Ellensburg’s outstanding debt; actual property taxes will vary by individual property values.

### Contact Information

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