

# City of Fircrest Annexation Information Sheet

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## Intent

In order to provide more efficient services, provide necessary utilities (like sewer) and eliminate islands of unincorporated areas, Pierce County and local jurisdictions are working together towards annexation. As the first step involves outreach, we hope you find the below information helpful.

## Benefits

Annexation would provide many benefits especially in the area of increased service levels. Some of the benefits include:

- Lower property taxes
- Faster police response with more neighborhood police patrols.
- Closer and quicker service for permits, code enforcement, and other government resources.
- Discounted rates of recreational activities, including the pool.
- Greater ability to have your voice heard and be involved in the decisions that affect you!

## Property Taxes

Upon annexation, you will no longer pay the County Road Tax, Pierce County Rural Library tax or taxes related to Fire District #3. You will continue to pay an EMS tax, but at a slightly lower rate. Overall, the property tax rate would decrease.\*

## Other Fees

Properties would continue to pay the Weed Control and Pierce Conservation District Fee as part of their property tax. The Surface Water Management fee would be replaced with the City of Fircrest Storm Water fee.\*

## Utilities

Properties on septic will not be required by the City to hookup to sewer. The City is working to find the most cost effective way to make sewer service available in the area for when a property wants or is required to connect.

Properties that already have City of Fircrest sewer would see a slight reduction as they are charged the resident rate versus the non-resident rate.

Water service will continue to be provided by the City of Tacoma. All other utilities (phone, cable, internet) would remain the same. The City does charge a utility tax to those companies which would in most cases be passed on.

## Streets

The streets would become part of the City of Fircrest network. As such, they would be provided such services as regular street sweeping and snow removal. If future improvements occurred, the streets would be brought up to City standards with curb, gutters, and sidewalks.

## Garbage and Recycling

Garbage service for Fircrest residents is provided by Westside Disposal which is the same company, just different name, as University Place Refuse. Current rates are available for comparison.\*

## Schools

There would be no change. The properties would remain part of the University Place School District.

\*More detailed handout available

## Library Service

Fircrest residents do not belong to any of the library districts and do not pay the Pierce County Rural Library tax. Because of this, Fircrest residents are not eligible for a Pierce County library card. Instead, residents are able to purchase a library card from the Tacoma library system and the City will reimburse you in full.

## Fire/Police

Police service is provided by the City of Fircrest while Fire protection and EMS are provided by the Tacoma Fire Department. Both are housed in the public safety building located about a mile and a half away providing quick response time.

The Fircrest Police Department contains nine officers including the chief which is double the officers per 1000 population than the Pierce County Sheriff's Office.

## Pets

Pet Licensing is contracted through Tacoma Animal Care and Control. The current rates are less than current Pierce County rates.\*

Residents are limited to a total of seven household pets (maximum 4 dogs; 4 cats) and up to 4 small domestics (rabbits, ducks, pigeons, chickens, etc.)\*

## Zoning and Permitting

The area is currently zoned Moderate Density Single Family with Pierce County. The City has proposed an R-4 zone which is low density residential with a limit of four units per acre and a minimum lot size of 8,000 square feet.\*

Planning and Construction Permits would be issued from Fircrest City Hall. Many small projects can be issued the same day with

larger remodel/addition projects taking only a week or two to review and issue.

## Home Occupations

Home occupations (home-based businesses) are allowed with an approved permit and a business license. The home occupation permit has a one-time fee of \$90. A Fircrest annual business license is an endorsement on the Department of Revenue master license.

## Parks and Recreation

The City of Fircrest benefits from an array of public park and recreation experiences for the people who live in the community.

Fircrest residents receive discounted prices and priority registration youth sports, swimming lessons, and many other recreational programs.

Parks and Recreation also offer a FREE summer drop in program. The gym and rooms in community center as well as the Fircrest Pavilion and Whittier Shelter can be rented year-round.

## Going Forward

The next steps in the process would be for the City of Fircrest to pass a resolution stating their intent to annex through an interlocal agreement with Pierce County. After the details are worked out, but prior to adoption of this agreement, both the City and the County would hold public hearings.

