

What is Annexation?

Annexation is the process that allows parcels of land to become part of the City of Steinbach. Historically, in Steinbach, annexation occurs to allow for further urban development. Annexation can also strengthen municipal boundaries and provide an improved framework for both residential and business growth.

Why Annexation?

Annexation is one of the oldest and most commonly utilized approaches to municipal boundary realignment. It is often pursued by a jurisdiction for for at least one or several of the following purposes:

1. Orderly and efficient growth
2. Efficient and equitable service provision
3. Economics (facilitating and encouraging development)
4. Health and safety
5. Social issues

Benefits of Annexation

There can be many benefits to annexation:

- Helps city accommodate growth in a sustainable manner
- May protect or enhance the city's tax base
- Property value enhancement through urban planning, zoning and code-enforcement
- Improved public water and sewer services
- Improved solid waste and recycling services
- Improved coverage of police and emergency services
- Subsidized access to first-rate recreational facilities

Growth Management

Perhaps the most common and practical reason for annexation of land adjacent to a city is to ensure that future growth occurs in an orderly and efficient manner. By acquiring jurisdiction over surrounding areas, a city can plan for development with a long-term perspective, considering future infrastructure needs and ensuring that development complies with the city's overall growth strategy. Annexation also enables a city to maintain an adequate land supply, as many jurisdictions target a supply of developable lands that will last a particular number of years. Steinbach has grown progressively over the past 30 years and rapidly over more recent years. The expectation is that this growth will continue.

Service Provision

It is not always feasible for rural municipalities to provide a full range of municipal services to areas surrounding urban centers. When peripheral lands are annexed, it provides the city with the opportunity to ensure that new development is serviced to the same standard as existing development within the city. This strategy also aligns with Provincial Land Use Policies. Annexation places land under the jurisdiction of a single entity, eliminating redundant and/or overlapping services, and ensuring these functions are carried out in an orderly and efficient manner. The City of Steinbach controls and operates its own top-quality water and wastewater treatment facilities, provides reliable curbside pickup of residential waste and recycling materials, recreational facilities including an indoor/outdoor aquatics centre as well as fire and police protection services.

Economics

Economic interests may also be a factor behind annexation. A city may consider expansion in order to allow land owners to develop their property. This diversifies its tax base and/or stimulates economic development.

Planning & Building

The City of Steinbach is conscientious about the types and locations of development allowed within city limits. The City's Official Community Plan provides strict development regulations and design requirements that control the development of property. Permitting functions are centrally located at Steinbach City Hall, are customer-friendly, and allow property owners to develop and improve residential and commercial properties. When a condition on a property becomes a neighbourhood concern, nuisance or hazard, our Community Services Officer responds to problems. The City works with owners and neighbourhoods to maintain high standards for everyone's benefit.

Health & Safety

In some instances, built up areas outside of the city may be lacking sufficient essential municipal services, such as water and sewer or police protection. Annexation can be a means to provide these services and ensure the health and safety of residents.

Social Issues

Annexation may be pursued in part based on a range of social benefits. For example, annexation can result in an increase in a city's population, and a city that is growing is often favourably perceived as a successful and vibrant area. This may attract additional grant funding from senior levels of government to promote enhanced programs that benefit the community.

Recreation

The City of Steinbach offers numerous first-rate recreation opportunities, including the Steinbach Aquatic Centre, Curling Rink and Jake Epp Library. Residents of Steinbach are provided easy access to these facilities at reasonable rates..