

ANNEXATION

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. What is the Extraterritorial Jurisdiction (ETJ) and how is the ETJ determined?

A. The ETJ of a municipality is the unincorporated area that is contiguous to the corporate boundaries of the municipality. The size of the ETJ depends on the population of the city. The City of Fort Worth's ETJ extends 5 miles beyond the city boundaries and includes all unincorporated territory that is not located in another city's ETJ. The Texas Legislature declares it the policy of the state to designate certain areas as the extraterritorial jurisdiction of municipalities to promote and protect the general health, safety, and welfare of persons residing in and adjacent to the municipalities.

Q. What authority does the City have in the ETJ?

A. The City holds authority over development standards in the ETJ through its Subdivision Ordinance.

Q. What City services will be provided on the day an area is annexed into the City?

A. In accordance with State law, the following services will be provided on the effective date of the annexation:

- Police protection,
- Fire protection,
- Emergency medical services,
- Solid waste collection,
- Operation and maintenance of water and wastewater facilities that are not within the service area of another water or wastewater utility,
- Operation and maintenance of roads and streets, including road and streetlights,
- Operation and maintenance of publicly owned parks and playgrounds, and
- Operation and maintenance of any other publicly owned facility, building, or service.

Q. How will annexation affect my taxes?

A. City property taxes are assessed on the January 1st after annexation and added to the City's tax rolls. You will receive your city tax bill in the fall of the same year, which must be paid by February 1 the following year to avoid penalties. The City Council adopts a new tax rate each fall. The current tax rate in Fort Worth is \$0.855 per \$100 assessed value.

Q. Does the City provide exemptions on ad valorem (property) taxes?

A. The City of Fort Worth allows exemptions for a number of conditions that lessen the ad valorem taxes you would pay. Exemptions currently being claimed by Fort Worth property owners are Homestead, Over-65, Disability, and Disabled Veterans.

The City Council has the option to locally increase or decrease any of these exemptions. These 'local option' exemptions include:

- General Homestead/Residential 20%
- Senior Citizen \$40,000 in addition to Homestead
- Disability \$40,000 in addition to Homestead*
- Other state approved exemptions may apply to your property, including Agriculture.

**Homeowners cannot claim both the Senior Citizen and Disabled exemptions.*

Q. How would these exemptions affect my tax bill?

A. If you qualify for tax exemptions, your actual tax bill could be reduced. Using the average \$105,000 value of single-family residential properties, as well as property of greater or lesser values, the following chart shows the impact of the various optional exemptions.

City Taxes (\$0.855/\$100) on a house with a value of:

Property Value	\$50,000	\$105,000	\$150,000
No exemptions	\$427.50	\$897.75	\$1,285.50
General Homestead	\$342.00	\$718.20	\$1,026.00
Sr. Citizen with General Homestead	\$0.00	\$376.20	\$684.00
Disability with General Homestead	\$0.00	\$376.20	\$684.00

The average valued home of \$105,000 with a general homestead exemption is \$718.20 per year or \$59.85 per month in City ad-valorem taxes, based on the 2014 tax rate.

Q. Will I still have to pay county taxes?

A. Yes, however, you should discontinue paying the Emergency Services District #1 tax or any other Emergency Services District Tax. County taxes are collected from all property owners throughout the county, whether a resident of a city or not, to provide the services administered by the county.

POLICE

Contact: Noah Heath, Senior Planner 817-392-4241

Email: Noah.Heath@fortworthtexas.gov

Q. What are response times?

A. Response times are defined as the length of time between a 911 dispatcher receiving a call for service and the officer arriving. Officers typically respond from within their assigned patrol beat in the community and not from a police station. The Police Department has three primary categories of response time: Priority 1, 2 and 3.

- Priority 1 is for emergency calls that need an immediate response due to the threat to life.
- Priority 2 is for calls that do not have an immediate threat but have the potential to escalate or there is a threat to property. Most calls for service are in this category.
- Priority 3 is for calls that do not require immediate response and have no potential threat to life or property.

Average response times vary for different areas of the city and is also impacted by frequency of calls and other factors. The Police Department can provide response time statistics .

Q. Will there be neighborhood patrols?

A. Yes, neighborhoods will be patrolled. The city is currently divided into 81 patrol beats. There are 4 patrol shifts (to provide 24-hours / 7 days-a-week-coverage) and a Neighborhood Police Officer (NPO) is also assigned to the beat. The NPO's work variable hours and work closely with neighborhood groups, residents, and businesses to solve police-related problems. Based upon a recently completed management study of the police department, the beat boundaries are scheduled for reevaluation in the near future.

Q. Does a police officer have to come to my location for all reports?

A. No, for minor offenses a resident can contact the police department and make a report themselves using s Police Department automated reporting system. However, if a resident prefers, we will send an officer on all reports. Add where to contact

Q. Will the city build a police station in my area?

A. The Police Department operates out of multiple facilities across Fort Worth. The Police Department currently has five Patrol Divisions each with dedicated patrol facilities. A sixth division is planned. The department's officers typically respond from their assigned police division and not from a station.

Q. Will detectives be assigned in my area?

A. Each of the five Patrol Divisions have detectives assigned that conduct follow-up investigations on a number of offenses including shoplifting, theft from automobiles, burglaries and robberies.

Q. How many police officer positions does the city have?

A. The City currently employs 1,599 police officers, including all ranks. Additionally, the department employs 461 civilians.

Q. What services can I expect other than neighborhood patrol?

A. The Fort Worth Police Department continues to utilize community-oriented and intelligence-led policing to enhance the department's abilities to address criminal activity throughout the city, creating one of the safest communities in the nation. The Fort Worth Police Department is composed of the following three administrative bureaus, each headed by an Assistant Chief responsible for the department's specific, day-to-day operations:

- The **Patrol Bureau** provides primary police services, including responding to calls for service, engaging in specific details and crime prevention activities, investigating criminal activity, enforcing traffic regulations, apprehending criminals, and the overall protection of life and property.
- The **Support Bureau** provides specialized tactics and investigations of all crime. The Support Bureau also processes and stores all departmental records and acquired property, provides forensic analyses to solve crimes and provides crime prevention activities.
- The **Finance/Personnel Bureau** provides fiscal and personnel management, internal affairs, technology services, strategic planning, program support, and the maintenance of all fleet vehicles. The Finance/Personnel Bureau also trains new police recruits and current officers.

In addition to the three bureaus listed above, Police Administration—led by an administrative captain—provides the necessary support services for effective and efficient departmental operations, including special investigations and public relations.

The Police Department strives to engage the community they serve and provide residents opportunities to support Police. Residents can enroll in the Citizens Police Academy, a multiple session program that provides comprehensive information on Fort Worth Police Department operations. Neighborhoods and residents can form Citizens on Patrol volunteer groups. Members receive 6 hours training from police officers on patrol techniques, recognizing and describing suspects, etc. Members are issued distinctive hats and windbreakers, and the group receives magnetic signs to affix to cars (with the neighborhood name on the sign) and portable police radios to report suspicious behavior and contact officers. Also, neighborhood watch groups throughout the city report suspicious activities in their neighborhood using telephones and distribute information regarding crime prevention to their neighbors. Residents can also become a member of the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT). Training is to provide citizens with basic skills that they will need to respond to their community's immediate needs in the aftermath of an extreme disaster, when emergency services are not immediately available. For more information on volunteer opportunities please visit the Fort Worth Police Department's website at: <http://www.fortworthpd.com/get-involved/Default.aspx> Thanks to the efforts of citizens and police officers the Fort Worth Police Department has won a number of awards for community policing over the past decade.

FIRE

Contact: Rick Hicks, Battalion Chief, Fire Prevention 817-392-2492

Email: Richard.Hicks@fortworthtexas.gov

Q. What will be the response time for fire service to my area?

A. From 911 call to Fire Department arrival, we strive to achieve a city-wide average response time of 6 minutes. In outlying areas, the time can be longer because units may not converge from multiple directions. Our response time to a particular location can be impacted by many factors including call volume, location of the fire station(s), the design and condition of the roads/streets, any traffic congestion or traffic calming devices (speed-humps) the units may encounter, and/or weather conditions.

Q. How will the fire department put out our fires in our area since there currently are no fire hydrants?

A. Each fire engine carries 750 gallons of water and large diameter hose to convey water from hydrants to the fire scene. In addition, the fire department has specialized apparatus to conserve and also transport water for firefighting:

- Compressed Air Foam Systems (CAFS) that allow water supplies to have 4 times the extinguishing capability.
- 3,000 gallon water tankers to transport water.

The Fire Department regularly evaluates deployment of this equipment with respect to City limits, structures, and the hydrant grid. Aided by digital mapping programs that support our computer aided dispatch (CAD), deficient areas are also identified when the 911 call is processed.

Q. Will the city build a fire station in my area?

A. The Fire Department recommends sites for new fire stations based upon providing the best protection to the most people. The criteria used to determine where a fire station is needed includes: response time to a given area, the number of calls for service to that area, and the current, as well as, projected population density and/or fire load of the area.

Q. Will the Fire Department now conduct building inspections? If they find something wrong, what will the property owner have to do?

A. Per the adopted Fire Code, the Fire Department conducts annual fire inspections of all commercial properties that possess a Certificate of Occupancy (CO). A CO is issued through the Planning and Development Department (817-392-2222) after compliance with an ordinance inspection. Specific Fire Code standards are dependent on the occupancy classification determined by the Development Department. Hazards found during the annual fire inspection require corrective actions and/or permit. Dependent on the severity of the violation, certain corrective actions may need to take place immediately. Others may be allowed to be completed within an appropriate timeframe. If hazards remain uncorrected, a municipal citation or stop work order can be issued.

Q. Why does Fort Worth call it a service if they make you pay for ambulance services?

A. The City of Fort Worth is member the Area Metropolitan Ambulance Authority (AMAA), which utilizes the MedStar name and operates the ambulance service for many cities in the region. Each city pays a subsidy to AMAA from its general fund to provide ambulance service and the balance of the cost of the service is borne by the users in the form of transport fees. The Fire Department also responds to medical emergencies in order to ensure prompt response and assistance for the MedStar system.

Q. Will Fort Worth change my property's address?

- A. The Fire Code includes addressing standards to ensure the efficient dispatch of emergency services through the 911 system. These standards include alignment with the numbering grid that radiates from the Tarrant County Courthouse. If a street numbering change is required, all affected homeowners, all utility providers, and the United States Postal Service (USPS) will be notified by the Fire Department. To ensure mail delivery during the transition, the USPS utilizes both the new and old mailing addresses for up to 18 months. While the Fire Department has authority for street name and numbering, the USPS district office has sole authority to determine city and zip code designation of mailing addresses.

STREETS – Streets and Drainage

Contact: Richard Martinez, Assistant Transportation/Public Works Director

817-392-7914 Email: Richard.Martinez@fortworthtexas.gov

How can I get my street repaired?

A. For minor and emergency repairs, such as patching potholes; flooding; or cleaning drainage ditches, gutters, inlets, and culverts, call Customer Service at 817-392-8100. Requests for more extensive repairs, such as overlay, reconstruction or correction of major drainage problems, should be directed to the Engineering Services Division at 817-392-8100. Staff will investigate each request and recommend the project for inclusion in the appropriate maintenance or capital improvement program.

Q. How can I get my street fixed?

A. For routine maintenance, such as potholes, call 817-392-8100; conditions will be promptly inspected, and repair work will be scheduled depending upon severity. For major repairs such as overall poor pavement, call 817-392-8100; one of our technical staff will investigate to determine appropriate treatments. Major repairs are made through annual maintenance programs that are planned several years in advance.

Q. A utility company (Water Department, TXU Gas, TXU Electric, Cable TV, Southwestern Bell Telephone) has dug a hole in my street. Who is supposed to make repairs?

A. Each utility company is responsible for leaving the cut in a safe condition until the company, or their contractor, can make permanent repairs.

Q. I live on a street with open ditches. How can I get a street with curb and sidewalk?

A. This type of improvement must be included in a bond program approved by the voters. These projects are evaluated on the basis of need and must compete with similar projects for available funds.

Q. Will I have to pay for maintenance or reconstruction of public streets and drainage ways?

A. No. Routine and major repairs are paid for by annual operating funds of the City. Total reconstruction of streets or drainage ways and installation of streetlights are paid for by bond funds approved by the voters. Abutting property owners will not have to pay for any of these improvements.

Q. I have a flooding problem. Who should I call?

A. For routine cleaning of ditches and culverts in the street right-of-way, call 817-392-8100. For reconstruction and upgrade of these facilities, call 817-392-8100. Our technical staff will investigate, evaluate and make recommendations for programming any necessary improvements.

For further information, please visit us at our web site:

<http://fortworthtexas.gov/tpw/> or call us at 817-392-8100.

TRAFFIC – Streetlights, Signs and Pavement Markings

Contact: Marisa Conlin, TPW 817-392-8779

Email: Marisa.Conlin@FortWorthTexas.Gov

Q. Will the city put up streetlights?

A. Streetlights will generally be located at the following locations when city funds are available:

- Intersections,
- The end of dead-end streets longer than 200 feet,
- Significant curves in the street; and
- Mid-block 300 feet between lights.

Q. Who do I call about streetlights?

A. The TPW Traffic Management Division at 817-392-8100 will respond to all streetlight maintenance calls as well as investigate requests for any new installations.

Q. What is the process of getting a streetlight and how long will it take?

A. Once a request is received, it will take about 4 weeks for staff to investigate and assess a request. If a streetlight is determined to be appropriately spaced and has the support of surrounding residents, the streetlight is programmed for installation. If power and funding is available, a light can be installed within 8-10 weeks. If there is no public power available, the City may request an easement from the property owner. This can extend the installation time an additional 6-8 weeks. If no funding is available, the request will be considered for inclusion in the next bond election.

Q. Who pays the cost to install the streetlight?

A. The City pays the cost to install the streetlight as well as the ongoing costs to operate and maintain the streetlights.

Q. Who do I call for missing traffic signs or traffic signs that are in need of replacement?

A. Call 817-392-8100 and request assistance. Most traffic signs are considered a matter of public safety, and as such are handled on a priority basis. Shortly after annexation, staff will investigate field conditions to make sure stop signs and other traffic controls meet current city standards.

For further information, please visit us at our web site:

<http://www.fortworthtexas.gov/tpw/index.htm>, or call us at 817-392-7800.

WATER DEPARTMENT

Contact: Wendy Chi-Babulal, EMBA, P.E., Water Engineering, 817-392-8240

Email: Wendy.Chi-Babulal@fortworthtexas.gov

OR

Contact: Nowzar Dinyarian, P.E., Water Engineering, 817-392-8256

Email: Nowzar.Dinyarian@fortworthtexas.gov

Q. Will my property taxes pay for new water or sewer services?

- A. The water department maintains a form of governmental accounting called an “enterprise fund”. An enterprise fund is established to account for operations that are financed and operated in a manner similar to private business enterprises, where the intent of the governing body is that the costs of providing goods and services to the general public on a continuing basis be financed or recovered primarily through user charges. The user charges in the Fort Worth Water Department are generated in the form of water bills. The Fort Worth Water Department does not utilize or benefit from the collection of property taxes.

Q. I have a water-well and/or septic system. Will I have to hook up to city water and wastewater mains?

- A. Existing water wells and septic systems (On-Site-Sewage-Facilities) may remain in use until such time you choose to hook on to City Services or until such times as extensive repairs are necessary. If the repairs are un-repairable and such that they create an imminent danger to the environment or neighboring residents, at the time these sort of repairs occur, you may be required to abandon your well and/or septic system and connect to city services. The City and the County Health Department have a responsibility to the public as a whole. Once leakage, cracks, seepage, etc., start, public health concerns follow. As long as your existing services are in good working condition the city sees no reason why you would need to connect to city utilities. Also, please note, you are only assessed a fee for these services after a connection is made. The Tarrant County Health Department will continue to inspect your existing systems.

Q. Who is responsible for inspecting and regulating septic tanks after annexation?

- A. Tarrant County is still responsible for inspecting and regulating the proper use and maintenance of water wells and septic tanks. This aspect of your current system should not change.

Q. Do impact fees apply to existing development?

- A. Only if an additional demand is being placed on the public system. For example, if a larger meter is installed in an existing home for a swimming pool or irrigation system, an impact fee is assessed based on difference in fee between the existing meter the fee of the new meter. If a business or individual chooses to switch service from a private water well or a septic tank to the city's water and/or sanitary sewer system, then the customer will be charged an impact fee.

Q. What are the required water and sewer fees at the time of tying into the water and sewer services? How much are the fees?

- A. The chart below lists the most commonly used meter sizes. Water and wastewater impact fees are determined by the size of the water meter installed. The size of the water tap and service line supplying the meter does not affect the amount of the impact fee charged. Fees for other meter sizes are available on request. Irrigation meters must pay the water impact fee, but the wastewater impact fee does not apply. No impact fees are charged on fire lines. The fees shown below were adopted by Fort Worth City council on September 18th, 2012 and are effective beginning January 1, 2013.

Water and Wastewater Impact Fee's

Meter Size	Water Impact Fee	Wastewater Impact Fee
5/8" X 3/4"	\$469	\$452
3/4"	\$704	\$678
1"	\$1,173	\$1,129
1.5"	\$2,345	\$2,258
2"	\$3,752	\$3,612
3"	\$10,201	\$9,820
4"	\$17,588	\$16,932
6"	\$37,520	\$36,120
8"	\$65,660	\$63,210
10"	\$98,490	\$94,815

Additional information regarding impact fees is available on the City's Web page:
http://www.fortworthgov.org/water/info/default.aspx?id=3022&ekmense=c1977b5b_1304_2120_3022_4 .

Q. Who pays for the plumbing reroute from the water well and septic tanks to the service taps at the property line?

A. The property owner must hire an approved plumber to get a plumbing permit from the City of Fort Worth and is responsible for the costs for plumbing reroute.

Q. How could I get City water if another water company is currently providing me water service?

A. The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality in Austin is the state authority that assigns the water service area rights to each water company. Comments or petitions about the services provided by the water company will need to be forwarded to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality.

<i>Texas Commission on Environmental Quality:</i>	
Tony Walker, DFW Regional Director 2309 Gavel Dr. Fort Worth, TX 76118-6951 817/588-5800 Fax: 871-588-5700	Office of Compliance and Enforcement Mr. Ramiro Garcia, Deputy Director MC 172 PO Box 13087 Austin, TX 78711-3087 512-239-5100 Fax: 512-239-0532
Office of Executive Director Mr. Zak Covar, Executive Director Mr. Richard A. Hyde, Deputy Exec. Dir. MC 109 PO Box 13087 Austin, TX 78711-3087 512-239-3900 Fax: 512-239-3939	Office of Legal Services Caroline Sweeny, Deputy Director MC 218 PO Box 13087 Austin, TX 78711-3087 512-239-0600 Fax: 512-239-0330

Q. How soon will water and/or wastewater facilities be available to annexed individual lot?

- A. Several factors determine the timing of service availability. These factors include:
- The distance of a property from existing service mains,
 - The number of residents in a particular area interested in service; and
 - The existence of any proposed developments that may speed up the service being provided.

Based on the City’s standard policy, 200 linear feet of water and sewer main credit per existing occupied residential or commercial property is available. To apply for the credit, a petition requesting the credit must be submitted to the Fort Worth Water Department Director. Any costs beyond the covered credits will be divided equally among all petitioners.

Q. Is Fort Worth able to meet the water service commitments required by the state?

- A. Yes, we addressed this issue with the state when we applied for the Certificate of Convenience and Necessity to be the water provider within a significant portion of our ETJ. We received approval from the state for this major CCN amendment.

Q. What are the total fees for connecting to the water or wastewater system once the facilities are accessible to my house?

- A. There are several fees that are accessed in order to connect to the water or wastewater system that are not included in the 200 LF credit. These fees are part of the commitment that must be paid in order to receive the 200 LF credit and are summarized in the tables below for a typical residential connection. The tables shown “with” pipe installation assume that the taps for the connection is made during the construction of the pipe with the initial service commitment. The cost tables “after” pipe installation show the costs for customers who choose not to make a commitment and connect after the pipe is installed.

**Water Tap and Impact Fee Summary
With Pipe Installation**

Item Name	Price
Water Tap (1" in dirt street)	\$890
Meter Deposit	\$35
Reducer Fee	\$40
Water Impact Fee (5/8" X 3/4")	\$469
Total Water	\$1,434

**Water Tap and Impact Fee Summary
After Pipe Installation**

Item Name	Price
Water Tap (1" in Paved street)	\$1,790
Meter Deposit	\$35
Reducer Fee	\$40
Water Impact Fee (5/8" X 3/4")	\$469
Total Water	\$2,334

**Wastewater Tap and Impact Fee Summary
With Pipe Installation**

Item Name	Price
Sewer Tap (4" in dirt street)	\$1,600
Sewer Impact Fee (5/8" X 3/4")	\$452
Sewer Charge - Per Acre	\$394
Total Sewer	\$2,446

**Wastewater Tap and Impact Fee Summary
After Pipe Installation**

Item Name	Price
Sewer Tap (4" in paved street)	\$4,000
Sewer Impact Fee (5/8" X 3/4")	\$452
Sewer Charge - Per Acre	\$394
Total Sewer	\$4,846

Q. What other fees will be incurred when connecting to the City of Fort Worth water and wastewater system facilities once I've made a commitment to take water and/or sewer services?

- A. Additional fees include a water meter deposit of \$35 for new residential customers as well as an account activation fee of \$20 which covers costs associated with application processing. Other costs associated with obtaining water and sewer services are summarized in the tables attached to this document for your reference. For additional information visit the City of Fort Worth Water Department website at <http://www.fortworthgov.org/water/> or contact the Customer Service Department anytime at (817) 392-4477

ZONING / LAND USE REGULATIONS

Contact: Jocelyn Murphy, Planning Manager 817-392-6226

Email: Jocelyn.Murphy@fortworthtexas.gov

Q. Will a property owner be able to continue to use their property in the same way after annexation?

A. Yes, you may continue the existing use of your land provided that it is a legal use. Section 43.002 of the Texas Local Government Code says that after annexing an area, a municipality may not prohibit a person from continuing to use land in a legal manner for which the land was being used when it was annexed, or from beginning to use land in a way that was planned before annexation if the owner meets certain requirements. The law does not prevent the city from imposing certain types of regulations, such as regulations relating to public nuisances. City staff can address questions about specific existing land uses.

Q. I don't want certain business or uses established next door. Will the City help protect our land?

A. Yes, the City's Zoning Ordinance helps protect yours and surrounding land. All property within the City must be zoned for specific uses. Registered neighborhood groups and property owners within 300 feet of the property are notified of proposed zoning changes and have the opportunity to address the Zoning Commission and the City Council concerning the proposed change. The City's Code Compliance Department enforces compliance with the Zoning Ordinance.

Q. Who will determine the zoning placed on my property?

A. If your property is annexed, your participation in the zoning process is sincerely appreciated. City staff will notify you of a community neighborhood meeting to discuss the various zoning categories. At this meeting, you will be asked to consider the current and future use of your land. Staff will work with you to identify the best zoning for your land and surrounding properties. The formal process of zoning includes a hearing before the Zoning Commission and their recommendation being considered by City Council.

Q. If I am annexed, will I have to change school districts?

A. No, annexation into the City of Fort Worth has no bearing on school district boundaries.

BUILDING CODES

Contact: Kevin Yarbrough, Inspections Supervisor

817-392-8793

Email: Kevin.Yarbrough@fortworthtexas.gov

Q. Do I need a building permit and inspections for construction of what was already started before annexation?

A. No, existing structures are grandfathered and do not require permitting or inspecting. However, to protect yourself from legal problems, it is suggested that you declare your project to the City so that it can be recognized as a structure already started. Contact Allison Gray at 817-392-8030.

Q. Will I have to get a certificate of occupancy on my commercial buildings?

A. Yes, all commercial businesses need to be inspected by a three-inspector team comprised of a Building Inspector, Electrical Inspector, and Fire Inspector. Upon inspection, a Certificate of Occupancy (CO) or a notice of correction will be issued. Upon passing inspection, a CO will be issued. Most properties will receive a CO at first visit. Some will have to make repairs and will receive a CO upon a subsequent visit. After issuance of the CO, the fire department will inspect a commercial property annually.

Q. Will I have to bring my home up to city code if I sell it?

A. No, you will not be required to bring your home up to city code requirements; however, you will be required to meet the Texas Real Estate Inspector's requirements before selling. As such, the Real Estate Inspector may note several items that are not within code. Those items would be dealt with in the selling process and could affect the selling price of your home.

Q. How do I obtain a building permit?

A. Permits may be obtained in-person at 1000 Throckmorton St, Lower Level, Fort Worth TX. In some cases, permits may be obtained by calling Customer Service 817-392-2222, or by fax 817-392-8116, or by using the appropriate request form available on the City's web page:

<http://www.fortworthtexas.gov/PlanningandDevelopment/info/default.aspx?id=22224>

Information Needed to Obtain a Building Permit:

- Identify and describe the work to be covered by the permit,
- Describe the land on which the proposed work is to be done by legal description, street address, or similar description to readily identify and definitely locate the proposed building or work,
- Indicate the use or occupancy for the proposed work,
- Submit plans, diagrams, computations, specifications, and other data as required to clearly define the work being performed,
- State the valuation of any new building, structure or any addition, remodel, or alteration to an existing building,
- Be signed by the applicant or the applicant's authorized agent; and
- Provide other data and information, as may be required by the building official.

HEALTH AND PUBLIC SAFETY

Contact: Call Center, 817-392-1234

Email: CodeCares@fortworthtexas.gov

Q. What purpose does Animal Control serve?

A. The Animal Care and Control Division protects the community from the threat of rabies and other diseases and injuries caused by roaming animals. The Division does this by promoting responsible pet ownership through education, enforcement and legislation. The Animal Care and Control Center is a full service shelter operated by the Animal Services Division.

Q. How many animals can I have?

A. A residence may house up to three dogs and three cats.

Q. Will leash-laws apply to my pets?

A. Yes, all city health and safety requirements become effective upon annexation. The City of Fort Worth requires dogs to be kept behind physical fences to separate them from the public.

Q. Do I have to get licenses for my animals?

A. The Municipal Code requires that all dogs, cats, ferrets and pot-bellied pigs be registered with the city. All are to be licensed annually. You may register your dogs, cats and ferrets at most veterinary clinics when you get your pets their annual rabies vaccinations as required by Texas law. Licenses are also available at the Animal Care and Control Center, 4900 Martin St., or by mail. Cost is \$24. Pot-bellied pigs have several requirements for registration. Cost is \$50. Please contact the division for more information.

Additional information on pet requirements and free educational programs are available through the City's web page: <http://www.fortworthtexas.gov/animals/>

GARBAGE COLLECTION

Contact: Val Familo, Solid Waste Contract Services Administrator 817-392-5160

E-mail: Valerie.Familo@fortworthgov.org

Q. Who will pick up my trash?

A. The Solid Waste Services Division of the Code Compliance Department is responsible for providing residential collection of garbage, recyclables, yard waste, and bulky waste to the residents of Fort Worth who live in single family and duplex housing. Fort Worth provides two separate roll carts to residents for the collection of garbage and recycling. You will have a choice to either continue with your current service for up to 2 years following the annexation, or you can subscribe to the City service immediately or anytime in the two year period. At the end of the two year period, you will be required to use the city provided service. Commercial customers and property managers of multi-family dwelling complexes having three or more units may continue to use their current private service providers for their solid waste collection services or may contract with another private solid waste service provider of their choice. Private solid waste collection providers must have an active Grant of Privilege with the City to provide service within the city limits.

Q. Do I have to pay for water / sewer just to get the trash pickup?

A. No, if you have private water service, such as a well. If you subscribe to the City's garbage collection service, you will receive a utility bill from the Water Department but it will only have the sanitation (garbage) charge on it.

Q. What is the current cost for trash pick-up?

A. Residential Fees:

- The deposit and monthly fee for residential collection services is billed and collected by the City of Fort Worth Water Department on the monthly water bill.
- The residential deposit is \$15.00/household.
- The monthly fee structure is based upon the size of garbage cart that you choose to use.

The rates for the carts are: (Residential Curbside Service)

- 32-Gallon Cart \$ 12.75 plus Texas sales tax
- 64-Gallon Cart \$ 17.75 plus Texas sales tax
- 96-Gallon Cart \$ 22.75 plus Texas sales tax

Residential Elective Carryout Service

- \$30.00 plus the cost of the cart above and Texas sales tax

Commercial Curbside Service

Small commercial customers and certain multi-family dwelling complexes having three or more units that can be serviced by curbside collection in a manner similar to that provided to single family residences may be eligible for City provided collections. Rates will be on a volume-based fee. Call 817-392-(EASY) 3279 for more information.

Q. When would my garbage collection day be?

A. Collection routes are established by the City in coordination with our contractor, Waste Management. To verify what day your garbage will be collected, please call 817-392-EASY (3279). Please be ready to provide the Customer Service Representative your Water Account number or your address. You can also check on-line collections map on our website <http://www.fortworthtexas.gov/solidwaste/>.

Q. Is recycling available?

- A. Yes, residential recycling pickup is provided to all residential customers in Fort Worth on a weekly basis. The City's contractor, Waste Management of Fort Worth, Inc., provides this service. A blue 64-gallon recycling cart is provided to each household for use in this program. Your recycling collection day is the same as your garbage collection day. Your blue recycling cart and your brown garbage cart must curbside by 7 a.m. on your collection day. Collection crews will empty recyclables from the recycling cart and leave the empty recycling cart at the curb for your reuse.

Currently, recycling is not available with the commercial collection service provided by the City. However, this is subject to change in the future.

Q. Can I dispose of my grass clippings?

- A. Yes, but not in the brown garbage cart or in the blue recycling cart. The City has a weekly yard waste collection program that collects these items separately to prevent these natural resources from being buried in a landfill. The yard cart deposit is \$75.00/household. Please call 817-392-3279(EASY) for more information.

Q. I'm used to being able to burn my brush and bulky waste, what happens now?

- A. The Fire Code prohibits open burning of trash and brush. Bulky waste collection service is provided to each Fort Worth household once per month. The bulky waste crews pick up items that are too large, heavy or bulky to be collected during normal garbage collection.

These items include:

- Tree trimmings and limbs that are less than 8 feet in length and but greater than 4 inches in diameter,
- Furniture; and
- Debris that results from minor remodeling performed by the resident.

EXCEPTIONS Items that will not be picked up by the bulky waste crews:

- No household garbage or plastic bags. (Put garbage in the brown garbage cart.),
- Automobile parts, batteries, and tires,
- Contractor remodeling and demolition debris such as shingles, wallboard, and lumber,
- Electronic equipment such as computers and televisions. (Take these items to a drop-off station for recycling.),
- Household appliances that contain: coolant, gasoline, or other chemicals, including air conditioners, refrigerators, and lawnmowers. Please call 817-392-EASY (3279) for disposal options.
- Dirt, rocks, or concrete; and
- Liquids, poisons, or explosives.

For more information on this service, please call 817-392-EASY (3279) or visit our website at: <http://www.fortworthtexas.gov/solidwaste>.

CODE COMPLIANCE

Contact: **Brandon Bennett, Code Compliance Director 817-392-6322**

Email: Brandon.Bennett@fortworthtexas.gov

Q. What does Code Compliance do?

A. Code Compliance Officers perform inspections and investigate complaints concerning dangerous buildings, substandard structures, junked motor vehicles, vehicles illegally parked in front and side yards, excessively high grass and weeds, accumulations of trash and debris, miscellaneous animal related violations, illegal dumping, zoning violations, and other general nuisance related violations.

Q. How will annexation affect my ability to keep horses, cows or chickens on my property?

A. The City of Fort Worth allows horses, cows, and chickens on property within the city limits. A specified square footage is required per animal. If a resident currently has livestock or fowl on their property, they will be grandfathered. If the animals exceed the limit as specified by the City, the property will be given a legal, nonconforming designation.

Q. If I sell my property, can the buyer bring in livestock and fowl?

A. The new owner can have livestock and fowl on the property if, at the time of the sale, the property was used for livestock and fowl. The new owner will be allowed to continue to keep the number of livestock and fowl that were present on the property at the time of annexation or the number of livestock and fowl allowed under current ordinance; whichever is greater.

Q. The structure across the way is falling down, and no one lives there. What will you do about it?

A. When a complaint is received regarding a substandard structure, an officer inspects the premises to determine if the complaint is valid and warrants further action. If sufficient cause is found, the officer will prepare a report documenting the violations. A copy of the report is sent to the property owner along with a letter directing that repairs or demolition work be started within 30 days. The officer routinely monitors the location to determine if any work has commenced, or if sufficient progress has been made. If the owner fails to respond, the officer may initiate criminal action through issuance of Municipal Court citations.

Alternatively, civil action may be initiated by presenting the case to the Building Standards Commission for the purpose of obtaining a demolition order. If the Commission recommends the demolition of a substandard structure, the City Council is asked to approve the award of a demolition contract. Based on the impact of those structures on the surrounding community and the availability of funds, staff determines submission of substandard structures to the City Council. The costs for razing a structure include the contractor's charge as well as a \$300 administrative fee. Failure to pay the demolition costs will result in a lien being levied against the property.

Q. Are Code Compliance Officers police officers?

A. No, we are authorized to pursue criminal and civil remedies to abate nuisances within Fort Worth. Environmental or nuisance complaints vary. Many complaints are received by Code Compliance on nuisance issues, which cover things such as:

- high weeds and grass,
- proper keeping of animals in the city,
- trash and rubbish accumulation and disposal methods,
- illegal dumping,
- junked motor vehicles,
- discarded appliances; and
- other conditions that may be unsanitary, hazardous, detrimental, or offensive to the public health.

Protocols for nuisance complaints differ according to the specific violation and the magnitude of the problem to be corrected.