

Benefits of Living in the City

City of Whitehouse

Whitehouse Welcomes New Residents

Becoming a resident of the Whitehouse community offers citizens a number of advantages. Annexation to the City of Whitehouse provides an opportunity to share existing, efficient public services as well as allowing for more extensive involvement in City and community affairs.

Police and Fire Protection

A major advantage of living in Whitehouse is the service and protection offered by the municipal Police and Fire Departments. The Whitehouse Police Department provides fast and courteous responses to our residents. In addition, the Police Department offers diligent law enforcement and greater patrol presence. Whitehouse residents can rely on the Police Department to respond to their emergencies in an average of less than four minutes. With 14 uniformed officers, your family and property will be well protected.

The Whitehouse Fire Department provides quick responses to citizens in need of fire protection or emergency medical care. The Department also offers educational programs in our public schools.

The City of Whitehouse Fire Department is staffed 24 hours a day 7 days a week and consists of 10 Full Time Equivalent (FTE) firefighters. Only Tyler and Whitehouse offer paid 24 hour coverage in Smith County. The Insurance Service Organization (ISO) rating for fire protection within the City is a 4, which is better than the ISO rating in the unincorporated area of the County. That difference may save you money on your homeowners insurance.



Waste Collection

Republic Services performs waste collection for the City. Our residents receive weekly pickup of household trash and recyclables for \$22.38 per month.

An additional benefit of annexation is having the City work on your behalf to get an issue resolved with the provider should you have trouble with your waste collection service.

Additionally, bulk waste collection, brush pickup, and public improvements are available upon annexation. Brush/yard debris and bulky item may be picked up the first and third Saturday of each month. Residents simply call in ahead of time to schedule a pickup. Residents may also take items to the landfill once per month for free with their City water or trash bill.

Mosquito Control

The City sprays for mosquitoes—beginning in the spring and continuing into the fall or until there is a significant drop in the mosquito population. We use an eco-friendly spray that is specifically targeted to kill adult mosquitoes and is non-toxic to humans, plants, and animals. Currently, the County offers no such service for its residents.

Streets

One of the most important benefits to living in the City is maintenance and upkeep of streets and drainage. The City of Whitehouse will have spent close to 1.75 million dollars by the end of the fiscal year for street and drainage improvements over a five year period.

Additionally, it is very costly to construct

Police and Fire Average Response Times

| | |
|------------------------------|----------|
| Whitehouse PD | 00:03:45 |
| Smith County Sherriff Office | 00:12:30 |
| Whitehouse Fire Dept. | 00:04:09 |
| ESD#2 Fire Dept. | 00:12:17 |

concrete and asphalt streets. Within the City of Whitehouse, when there is new development, the developers and owners are required to construct new streets within their development. The same is true for water and sewer systems, which are required to meet the City's standards and paid for by developers. It is usually beneficial to annex potential growth areas ahead of time and require developers and owners to install street, water, and sewer systems that meet City requirements, which is better than converting existing areas to City services and passing on those costs to other Whitehouse residents.

Zoning

Most resident's single largest investment is their home, and protecting their property values is a must. Many people express concern over possible limits to the use of their property if they are in the City limits. Through zoning, the City has some control over the type of structures, standards, activities, businesses, health, safety, and aesthetic standards of any new development; however, this can be very positive for those who are interested in maintaining the value of their property. This zoning helps to ensure that your neighbor does not place something on their property that negatively affects your property, such as a feed lot, sexually-oriented business, junkyard, mobile home park, or salvage yard. These regulations can also ensure that your home is not located by an illegal landfill or dumpsite.

Zoning also gives more control over planning and building utilities and other infrastructure, thereby allowing for a more orderly, efficient, logical, and less costly growth of those facilities.

Code Enforcement

Property and property values are also benefited by Code Enforcement. Code Enforcement performs inspections and investigates 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.

Benefits of Annexation

As mentioned earlier, residents of Whitehouse receive more comprehensive services than residents immediately outside of the City's limits. With more responsive local police protection; consistent, reliable water distribution (A Superior Rating by TCEQ) and sewer collection; and street maintenance, there are many benefits to being inside the City limits of Whitehouse.

In addition to these services City residents also have access to our parks, library and reduced cost memberships at The Rec. In fact, a family membership for residents of Whitehouse to this 24-hour gym is only \$25/month

Annexation allows residents of the community to have real involvement in the workings of the City. Citizens are encouraged to attend the regular City Council meetings at the City's Council Chambers at E. Main Street and Bascom Road. These meetings are designed to allow every citizen in the community the opportunity to be involved in important issues and a chance to speak on their concerns or issues directly to their elected officials. Additionally, citizens of Whitehouse are encouraged, and appointed to, boards and commissions that serve an advisory function to the City Council.

The City of Whitehouse considers annexation beneficial both to prospective Whitehouse residents and to the City. Annexations are, however, subject to legal procedures and guidelines established to ensure orderly City growth and the efficient provision of services to new City residents.

Thank you for your interest in the benefits of annexing into the City of Whitehouse. The City strives to provide its citizens with quality services each and every day.

For more information about annexation and available City services, please contact Aaron Smith City Manager at 903-839-4914 extension *225 or email asmith@whitehousetx.org with any additional questions