



Garden Springs Neighborhood - February 22, 2018

Thank you for your interest in the City of Columbia! Here are some quick facts and answers to some frequently asked questions. If you have any additional questions or need additional assistance, please feel free to ask me or a City Staff member.

I can be reached at: Andrew Livengood, *Annexation Coordinator*
803-545-3217
annexation@columbiasc.net
www.columbiasc.net/annexation

If Annexed:

General Information:

www.columbiasc.net

City Council:

- Garden Springs would be in District 4 – Daniel J. Rickenmann
- Garden Springs would also be directly represented by
 - Steven Benjamin, Mayor
 - Tameika Isaac Devine, At-Large Councilperson
 - Howard E. Duvall, Jr., At-Large Councilperson

Sewer:

- Water and Sewer bills are approximately 40% cheaper for City residents.
 - See how much exactly at <https://www.columbiasc.net/customer-care/estimator>
- Sewer main construction has been assigned a project number of SS7447
 - Currently in Assess & Evaluate phase, estimated completion by the end of 2020
 - Track the progress at <http://www.cleanwater2020.com/projects/ss7447>
- Sewer tap fees for a single family residence are \$3,940 (includes sewer tap and sewer expansion fees) and will remain so for this annexation area for a period of at least 365 days following the completion (Permit to Operate) of this sewer construction project.

Solid Waste & Recycling:

<https://www.columbiasc.net/solid-waste>
803-545-3800

- No additional solid waste fees (vs \$249/yr for unincorporated areas)
 - Mondays – curbside garbage pickup
 - 2nd & 4th Mondays – curbside recycling pickup (blue roll cart)
 - Thursdays – yard trash pickup
 - Get the app or visit our Waste Wizard
 - <https://columbiasc.net/solid-waste/recycling/waste-wizard>
 - Android: [Columbia, SC Solid Waste](#)
 - Iphone: [Columbia, SC Solid Waste](#)

Police Department:

<https://columbiapd.net>
803-545-3500

- South Region
2132 Devine Street, Columbia SC 29205
803-737-5880

Fire Department:

<https://colafire.net/>
803-545-3700

- Your property will still be served by Columbia – Richland Fire
- The ISO (Insurance Service Office) rating on your property will improve from a rating of 2 to a 1, the best available. This may lower your homeowner's insurance rates- contact your agent!

Q: I want to annex into the City of Columbia. What do I need to do?

A: You just need to sign the petition. If you have questions you would like to have answered before you decide, please let us know at annexation@columbiasc.net or 803-545-3217.

Q: How long will it be before the Garden Springs Neighborhood is annexed?

A: While it may be sooner, expect at least 8 months. The actual timeframe depends upon when enough owners sign the petition to qualify for annexation, which may take up to 6 months. Then, a public hearing must be held after a notice of at least 30 days. Once the public hearing is held, annexation is completed after City Council votes in favor of the annexation request on two separate occasions (called the 1st and 2nd readings).

Q: Will I lose my Richland County Council representation?

A: No. All City of Columbia residents are County residents as well, and 10 of the 11 Richland County Council Districts are represented within the City limits. Garden Springs is within Richland County's Council District 11 – and represented by Councilman Norman Jackson.

Q: Will my school district change after annexation?

A: No. Garden Springs is served by Richland County School District One, which is separate from the City of Columbia. School district boundaries and attendance zones are set by the school district and do not change with annexation.

Q: If annexed, when will my first tax bill that includes city taxes arrive?

A: The earliest you would pay the City of Columbia tax rate on a real estate tax bills would be January of the year following annexation. Taxes are due in January for the previous tax year. Tax bills are compiled and mailed before the end of the calendar year so some residents may not pay the City of Columbia Tax Rate until the second January following annexation.

Q: What will annexation into the City of Columbia cost me?

A: There is no fee associated with the process of annexation. While each applicant's scenario is unique, the simple answer is that annexation saves MOST new City residents money, and a typical homeowner can expect savings of about \$400 a year when you consider all of the taxes and bills you pay.

- **Taxes-** Many are surprised to find that their in-city taxes are not as high as they think. And while you will pay both County and City taxes on a single bill, you may find that your bill actually goes down! This is because single family residences in unincorporated areas are assessed an annual \$249 solid waste fee that does not apply to properties within the City limits.
- **Bills-** Your water and sewer bills are less expensive in the City limits, though your electric and gas bills will go up slightly. Most other bills remain unchanged.

You can visit <https://www.columbiasc.gov/planning-preservation/annexations/#WhyAnnex> to estimate your savings or contact Andrew Livengood at annexation@columbiasc.net or 803-545-3217