

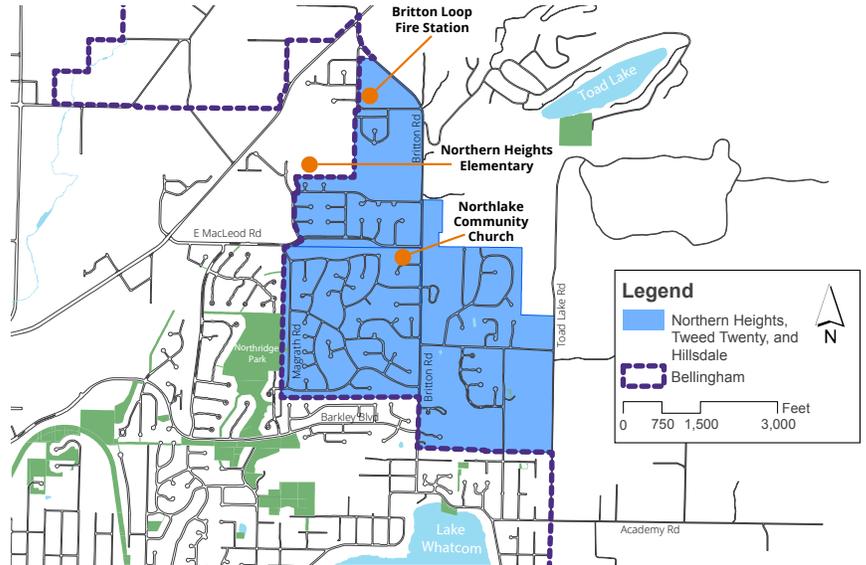


Welcome Northern Heights, Tweed Twenty & Hillsdale!

The University of Washington (UW) Master of Urban Planning students are partnering with the City of Bellingham Planning to assess the interest of your area joining the City. We look forward to discussing this possibility with you today.

What is Annexation?

Annexation is the procedure for bringing unincorporated areas of a county into an adjacent incorporated city. An unincorporated area has yet to join a city or form a town or city of its own. The most common form of annexation is the "petition method", whereby property owners (or residents) of the area sign a petition asking to become part of the city. If an area is annexed, the city becomes the primary provider of local government services.



Why is the city exploring annexing these areas?

The Growth Management Act of 1990 says that all areas defined as urban growth areas (UGAs) should be in a city. Whatcom County does not have the resources to support urban areas while the City of Bellingham does. Due to this, both the County and City agree that these areas should be part of the City of Bellingham to best serve the residents of the UGAs.

A single family homeowner in Northern Heights/Tweed Twenty will pay **\$889 less** a year in taxes and fees. A Hillsdale homeowner will pay **\$372 less**.

	UGA			
	Northern Heights & Tweed Twenty	- \$266 Property Tax	- \$23 Storm Water Fee	- \$600 City Water & Sewer
	Hillsdale	- \$266 Property Tax	- \$23 Storm Water Fee	- \$83 Lake Whatcom Watershed Fee

Has annexation happened before in nearby areas? What changed afterward?



Yes, the most recent annexations were of Mt. Baker Highway/Britton Road and Bennett/Bakerview/Airport Drive in April 2019. The effects after annexation vary by community; however, the following have generally happened:



- Lower utility costs for City of Bellingham water and sewer services and extension of service to vacant properties (upon the submission of an application)



- Consideration for the City of Bellingham to improve public park spaces (trails, playfields, etc.) identified in the Parks, Recreation and Open Space (PRO) Plan



- Inclusion in City planning and budgeting for parks, infrastructure, and other neighborhood improvements



- Increased levels of service provided by the City of Bellingham police and fire departments



- The ability to vote in Bellingham elections along with representation on the Bellingham City Council

- Establishment of Neighborhood Associations officially recognized by the City of Bellingham and representation on the Mayor's Neighborhood Advisory Commission (MNAC)

- Access to city and state funding for neighborhood development through programs such as Small and Simple Grants and Safe Routes to School

Additional Resources

University of Washington Bellingham Annexation Research Initiative Website
www.cob.org/uwresearch

City of Bellingham Annexations Website
<https://www.cob.org/services/planning/annexations/Pages/bellingham-annexations.aspx>

City of Bellingham 2018 Annexation Strategy <https://www.cob.org/Documents/planning/growth/annexations/annexation-strategy.pdf>

***Cost estimates based on an owner-occupied single family home assessed at \$400,000 with 2,500 sq ft of impermeable surfaces. Water and sewer costs are estimated using typical yearly usage for City of Bellingham municipal water. Actual homeowner savings will vary.

A special thanks for data from the City of Bellingham Planning and Community Development Department, Whatcom County GIS and icons via The Noun Project.

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