

CITY OF FORT WAYNE
CARROLL ROAD ANNEXATION - 2007
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



City Service Fair for
Carroll Road
Annexation Residents
Wednesday, Aug. 29
6 pm - 8 pm
Carroll High School

[Annexation Map](#)

[Stormwater FAQS](#)

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Information](#)

Q -1: What is the location of the area being annexed?

A: The Carroll Road annexation lies on the northwest side of Fort Wayne and includes parts of both Perry and Washington Townships. The annexation area is generally bounded by Carroll Road and Hometown town boundaries to the north, Lima Road and Fort Wayne City boundaries to the east, Till and Dupont Roads to the south, and the CSX Railroad and Bethel Road to the west.

Q-2: How big is the annexation area?

A: The Carroll Road annexation includes about 954 acres, or about 1.5 square miles.

Q-3: What is the population of this area?

A: The current population of the area is estimated to be about 4,300 people.

Q-4: When was this annexation created?

A: The Carroll Road annexation became law under City Council Ordinance X-02-06, passed by the City Council on August 8, 2006.

Q-5: When will this annexation take place?

A: The Carroll Road annexation takes effect on September 30, 2007.

Q-6: Why is the annexation occurring in September, instead of the end of the year?

A: Fort Wayne City Council wanted to ensure that Carroll Road area residents would have the opportunity to vote for City officials in the November, 2007 general election, hence the date change. For more voting information, contact the Allen County Election Board at 449-7329.

Q-7: What change will I see in my property tax rate?

A: Based on current taxing levels, we project that City taxes will increase your property tax bill about 37% if you live in the Washington Township portion of the area, and about 33.5% if you live in the Perry Township area. This is based on the differences between City and non-City areas of those townships right now, for taxes payable in 2007. By the time of your tax bill, your total tax bill may increase more, due to property re-assessment or possible tax increases for the school district, the library, or even the township relief fund.

Q-8: When does this new City tax rate take effect?

A: The first tax bill with a City rate will come in the spring of 2009. All property taxes are paid in arrears for the prior year. Thus, the year 2008 is the first full year for City services in this area.

Q-9: What about taxes for the last part of 2007, after September 30? Will I owe City property taxes for the last part of this year?

A: No. The timing of the Carroll Road annexation was a special case, and no City taxation is being charged for the last part of this year. The year 2009 tax bill for 2008 will be a year-long billing.

Q-10: Will police protection be provided by the City after annexation?

A: Yes. Fort Wayne Police Department patrols will formally start with the annexation. Patrol officers are already driving the area to familiarize themselves with streets and area landmarks. In addition, there are already about a dozen Fort Wayne police officers residing within the Carroll Road Annexation area, although they will not necessarily be the patrol officers for the area. The proposed annexation area will be part of Police District (A) of the Northwest Police Division. This is in the Northwest Area Partnership (NWAP). All newly annexed neighborhoods that actively participate in NWAP meetings will receive a designated Neighborhood Liaison Officer (NLO) to help resolve neighborhood issues. The Police Substation for the Northwest Police Division is located at 1415 Northland Boulevard off Lima Road.

Q-11: What about fire protection? Will that also come from the City after annexation?

A: Yes. The Fort Wayne Fire Department will provide you with 24-hour, full-time fire protection. Primary response and service will come from Station 15 at 1415 Northland Blvd. off Lima Road. The station lies 2.5 to 4.25 miles from the annexation areas. Response times are projected at 4 to 8 minutes. Secondary response will be from Station 16 at 11330 Coldwater Road, north of Pine Valley. The response time there is estimated at 5 to 9 minutes. Your tax bills will begin to show charges for City fire services, but township fire service charges will disappear from your tax bill.

Q-12: We have heard that our home insurance rates will go down once we have full-time fire protection. Is that true?

A: Many insurance companies do offer discounts for customers who are covered by a full-time municipal fire protection service. You will need to notify your home insurance provider that you are now protected this way. Whether you are entitled to a discount depends on the policies issued by your individual insurance company.

Q-13: We're on AquaIndiana water now, so will we switch to City water when annexed?

A: No. Your current water utility will not change due to the annexation. City Utilities is actively seeking to acquire AquaIndiana and will notify you in the event of a change in ownership.

Q-14: If we are on a well, are we required to get City water?

A: No. The City does not require you to switch. However, if a new water line is run past your property, you may be required to pay a share of any main that is installed, even if you do not hook in.

Q-15: We're on a septic system. Are we required to get hooked up to a City sewer?

A: No. The City does not require you to switch, but County regulations might force you to hook up if a sewer is run past your property. If this is a City sewer, there is a cost-sharing program called Barrett Law to pay part of the sewer cost and extend your payments out over time, typically ten years.

Q-16: If we're on a septic system, are we going to get a sewer with annexation?

A: Not necessarily. You and your neighbors can petition to have a sewer, and if over half sign, a sewer may be run if one is close by. If this happens, the Barrett Law cost-sharing method applies.

Q-17: Will my ZIP code change after annexation?

A: No. Postal ZIP codes are set by the U.S. Postal Service and will not be affected by the annexation.

Q-18: Will the City take over our subdivision's grassy parklands and playgrounds after annexation.

A: No. Those facilities are private commons areas owned by your neighborhood association. They are not public property. The association must still maintain them.

Q-19: Our subdivision has a hired snow removal contractor right now. Will the City take that over?

A: The City Street Department policy is to plow all City streets within 48 hours. However, there is a strategic priority to main roads such as Dupont Road, Bethel Road, or Carroll Road. Residential streets are last. Most people want out onto their neighborhood streets much faster, so almost all subdivisions keep their private contractor for very fast response.

Q-20: Will we have to change our school or school districts because of the annexation?

A: No. The annexation will not affect the school or district where your children attend. School districts are separate, State-defined governmental units, and their boundaries do not change because of annexation. Most of the annexation area is within the Northwest Allen County School district, while a small portion is in the Fort Wayne Community Schools district.

Q-21. Will we have to pay for both Fort Wayne Community and Northwest Allen Schools?

A: No. As State-defined taxing units, school districts have physical, geographic boundaries. You only pay property taxes for the school district in which you own property.

Q-22: If I have questions about annexation, who do I call?

A: If you have questions, please call 427-1140 or 427-1127 and ask for City Planning. Department members are always happy to assist you. You can also learn more about City services, initiatives and activities by checking our website at www.cityoffortwayne.org.



CARROLL ROAD SOLID WASTE

- Residents of the Carroll Road annexation area will pay a garbage/recycling user fee of \$9.75 per month on their City utilities bill.
- Each resident receives a 96 gallon trash cart as well as two 18-gallon recycling bins.
- Trash service is every week while recycling service is on a bi-weekly schedule.



Frequently Asked Questions About Fort Wayne's Stormwater Utility and Rates

All properties within the City of Fort Wayne pay a monthly fee to the Stormwater Utility. Upon annexation, you will begin to receive a bill for the monthly stormwater fee. This information has been assembled to answer some common questions about the Stormwater Utility.

Q: Why am I paying a stormwater fee to City Utilities?

A: The stormwater fee paid by City Utilities' customers is used to support and maintain the hundreds of miles of storm sewers and other structures used to control stormwater runoff and prevent unnecessary flooding and erosion. The fee also ensures proper treatment of stormwater, thus improving overall water quality as required by federal environmental regulations that govern stormwater. One might not think of stormwater as "dirty," but the federal government is tightening its rules on how clean stormwater has to be in order for it to be discharged to a river or stream. In metropolitan areas, stormwater may contain oil, grease and other chemical contaminants. In Fort Wayne, the stormwater fee is the primary means of support for keeping the stormwater system up to date and working.

Q: Who is required to pay?

A: All properties within the Fort Wayne city limits that have impervious surface such as concrete, asphalt, stone, building rooftops, etc. are charged a stormwater fee. This includes residential properties and non-residential customers – for example, commercial, industrial and institutional properties, churches, schools, businesses and government buildings. Not-for-profit entities that own property in Fort Wayne receive a 25% discount on their stormwater fees. A determination of not-for-profit status is based on property records in the Allen County Auditor's Office.

The residential stormwater fee is \$3.65 per month per property.

Q: Why am I paying a stormwater fee to City Utilities when I have no storm sewers and water stands on my lawn, street, sidewalk, etc.?

A: You don't have to have storm sewers in order to contribute to the stormwater Fort Wayne is required to manage. To some degree, every property with "impervious" surface area contributes to the stormwater runoff that Fort Wayne has to manage. An impervious surface is one, such as concrete, stone or asphalt, which prevents water from soaking into the ground. Even if water stands on your property for a while, it drains into Fort Wayne's stormwater system once it disappears. Water from your property may drain onto other nearby properties, then into storm sewers and ditches.

Q: How is the stormwater charge on my Utility bill calculated?

A: Fort Wayne's Stormwater Utility charges properties based on the contribution that each property makes to the total amount of stormwater that the City must handle. The amount of hard – or impervious – surface on each property is used to approximate the amount of water that runs off each property. Based on a study of the hard surface on a sample of 600 residential properties, it was determined that the average residential lot has 2,500 square feet of hard surface. Each residential property within the City limits is charged for one equivalent residential unit (ERU) at a rate of \$3.65 per month for the Stormwater Utility.

Non-residential properties are charged based on the amount of hard or impervious surface on their property. For example, a business that has 25,000 square feet of rooftop, parking lot, sidewalks or other hard surface would pay for 10 ERUs. The stormwater bill for that business would be \$36.50 per month (10 ERUs X \$3.65).

(over)

Q: The drainage from my neighborhood goes into a pond. Why do I have to pay a stormwater bill to the City?

A: In order for the water to drain off your property and get to the pond, it probably goes through street inlets and storm sewer pipes. Those inlets and pipes are maintained by the Fort Wayne Stormwater Utility. If the water drains out of the pond into a storm sewer or a ditch, those facilities are maintained by the Fort Wayne Stormwater Utility. The fee that you pay to the Stormwater Utility helps to fund the operation and maintenance of those structures. Also, the City of Fort Wayne must comply with federal regulations on stormwater quality. A portion of the fee that you pay every month goes to pay the cost of regulatory compliance.

Q: What services does the Fort Wayne Stormwater Utility provide?

A: Services from the City's Stormwater Utility include maintenance of existing public stormwater facilities, including above and below ground stormwater collection and conveyance systems (pipes, swales, roadside ditches, etc.) The City Stormwater Utility will respond to and investigate drainage complaints and will work with neighborhoods on resolving chronic drainage issues. All drainage complaints are prioritized according to the City's accepted criteria including amount of property damage, impact to transportation and safety delivery systems, cost benefit ratio and other factors. The stormwater utility also designs and builds new storm water conveyance systems each year, which could be pipes or ditches.

Q: What does the City have to do to comply with the new federal program on stormwater quality?

A: The pollutants in stormwater runoff can be a very serious environmental problem because they threaten the quality of our rivers, lakes and drinking water supplies. These pollutants can also threaten fish and other wildlife. Fort Wayne cleans drainage inlets, does street sweeping and provides recycling and leaf collecting to help keep litter and debris out of our streams. Contractors and developers will be required to comply with new requirements to reduce erosion and to keep dirt and sediments from running off construction sites. The City is also working on education programs to help people understand these threats and what they can do to improve stormwater. Some suggestions for citizens:

- Don't dump anything down a storm drain
- Use fertilizer and other lawn chemicals according to the manufacturer's directions. Avoid over-applying chemicals that can run off the lawn when it rains.
- Pick up pet waste
- Don't litter

Q: I pay a drainage fee to Allen County. Do I have to pay the City fee, too?

A: Residents who are currently paying ditch or other assessments to Allen County will continue to pay those assessments. The County Surveyor's Office is responsible for the maintenance of County-regulated drains even when they are inside the City limits. The County assesses for a number of different maintenance and repair districts and those assessments are applied to many areas inside the City limits. Because the Fort Wayne Stormwater Utility also provides maintenance and other stormwater management services, the City bills each property within the City limits a stormwater fee. The City does not receive any of the ditch assessment funds collected by the County, so the County assessments are not applied as an offset to the City stormwater fee.

Questions about the Stormwater Utility and stormwater billing may be directed to City Utilities Customer Service at 427-1234.

