

## Annexation

As the city grows in size it must look for opportunities to extend its borders to continue to provide a high quality of life for its residents. To do this, the State of Nebraska has established a process for communities to expand their municipal boundary into areas that are contiguous to the community, provided such actions are justified. However, this power should be used when development becomes urban rather than rural in nature. In addition, State Statutes restrict annexation to land that is within 500 feet from the corporate limits of the municipal boundary. There are three ways annexation can be pursued. These include:

**Property owners can request annexation.**

**The municipality can annex any contiguous or adjacent tracts, lots, or streets/roads that are urban or suburban in nature.**

**At the time land is platted adjacent to Lexington’s Corporate Limits it could be annexed at the time of approval of the final plat with a pre-annexation agreement.**

In the case of the first method, the property owner must submit a plat prepared by a licensed surveyor. The plat must be approved by the city and filed with the city, along with a written request signed by all owners of record for the proposed annexation properties. Annexations must be approved by both the Planning Commission and City Council. To adopt an annexation ordinance, a majority of affirmative votes are required by the governing body at each reading of the ordinance. Then the certified map is filed with the County Assessor, County Clerk, and Register of Deeds along with a certified copy of the ordinance. The city then has one year to adopt a plan for the extension of services to the annexed area.

### Areas for Potential Annexation for Lexington

Within Lexington’s extraterritorial jurisdiction and the identified growth areas of the city there are areas adjacent to the existing corporate limits which will likely be the first ones considered for annexation in the future. Lexington’s annexation policy should include all urban development once it becomes adjacent and contiguous to the corporate limits. Future annexation policies for subdivisions not developed as SIDs, should be to annex these properties into the corporate limits as soon as they meet the State Statutes of adjacent and contiguous as well as urban and suburban in character.

The City of Lexington has identified several areas adjacent to the corporate boundaries as potential areas of annexation. The Planning Commission shall review these areas and others annually to consider future growth and annexation. Areas for potential annexation are displayed in Figures 59 and 60 with future housing and job growth. These maps can be found on page 203 and 204.