

# Living in Rock Hill

## Rock Hill City Limits and Annexation

### What is annexation?

Annexation is when your property becomes a part of Rock Hill's City limits, and is no longer in an unincorporated area of York County. Annexation laws are different from state to state.

### My address is Rock Hill. Am I not already in the City?

Due to the nature of annexation laws in South Carolina, it is possible for properties to remain unincorporated, outside of the City limits, even though they are in the heart of the City. This can be confusing when these unincorporated properties, or "doughnut holes," are directly adjacent to properties in the City limits and subject to different rules and guidelines.

### What does it cost to be in the City limits?

While property taxes are slightly higher, water & sewer rates for City customers are about half the rates as outside the City. For an analysis of the cost/cost savings associated with annexation, please contact Erin Musiol in Planning & Development at 803-326-3869 or [erin.musiol@cityofrockhill.com](mailto:erin.musiol@cityofrockhill.com).

### What services does the City provide to people in the City limits?

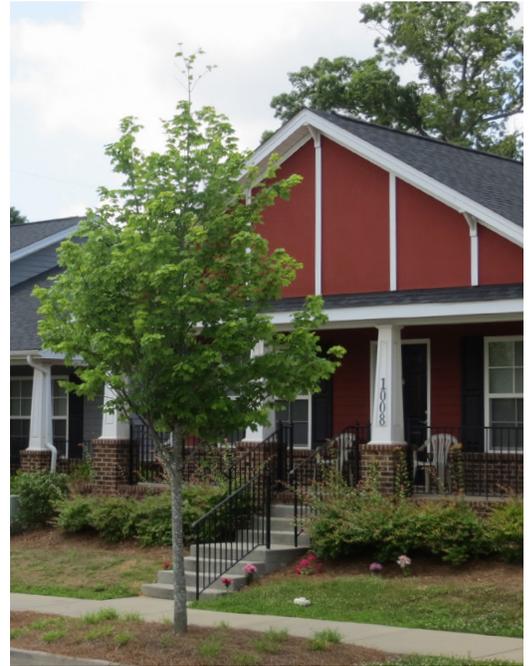
Rock Hill services include police, fire, curbside sanitation and recycling pickup, water, sewer, stormwater and street lighting. The City provides electric service to most properties inside the City limits but when a property that is served by a different electric provider is annexed, the electric service doesn't change. The City has also created the Housing & Neighborhood Services department that is dedicated to encouraging responsible home ownership, revitalizing neighborhoods, supporting community pride, and developing personal empowerment. By living in the City limits, you can vote in City Council elections, having valuable input in choosing City leaders and a voice in decision-making.

### I already get police and fire protection. How does Rock Hill's compare?

Police and fire response times are carefully monitored as part of the City's strategic planning process to ensure public safety response is provided at the highest level.

The Rock Hill Fire Department is the only fire department in York

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### ABOUT ROCK HILL

Founded in 1852 and incorporated in 1892, the City of Rock Hill is the largest city in York County and, according to the US Census, is the 5th largest city in South Carolina. The City limits encompass more than 36 square miles with an estimated population of just over 70,000 residents.

Providing quality services is at the heart of the City's 24/7/365 operations. In addition to public safety and sanitation services, the City provides reliable, safe and efficient utility services, including electric, water, sewer and stormwater.

Sports tourism has put Rock Hill on the map to an international audience. The City is home to four recreation centers, about 27 miles of public, multi-use trails, and several neighborhood and regional parks, including Olympic-caliber cycling facilities.

Because of our place in the Charlotte-metro area, we expect continued growth in Rock Hill. Strong planning principles and proactive infrastructure improvements will ensure Rock Hill is ready.

County with a Class 1 ISO rating. The Class 1 rating is the highest rating awarded and is based on factors such as response time, reliability of water sources, and dispatching. Properties inside the City may be eligible for a lower homeowner insurance premium due to the Class 1 rating.

Six City fire stations are strategically placed throughout the service area and are fully staffed 24 hours a day/7 days a week. All City firefighters have basic Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) training and some are trained to the Paramedic level. City firefighters are automatically dispatched to medical emergencies within the City to support Emergency Medical Services. City firefighters are also trained to deal with hazardous material emergencies and handle various types of technical rescue, such as confined space rescue, trench rescue and swift water rescue.

The Rock Hill Police Department (RHPD) is a Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc., (CALEA®) nationally accredited agency. The CALEA® accreditation process ensures the department is meeting an established set of professional standards. Only 10 percent of the nation's departments have received this accreditation.

The City has more police officers per resident, smaller police zones and faster response times in comparison to the County, which leads to better response times. RHPD utilizes COMPSTAT, a data-driven performance management system that allows officers to strategically use resources to prevent and respond to crime. The Police Department offers community assistance and support in the form of neighborhood empowerment, neighborhood watch, and Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) to help keep your neighborhood safe.

### **How does curbside sanitation work?**

For a low monthly fee (currently \$19.52/month) Public Works staff will pick up your garbage, recycling and yard debris every week at the curb. City residents are required to have sanitation service through the City, but residents can also take items and overflow trash to the County recycling centers.

The City collects bulky items each week on the same day as your regular pickup, and metal goods, such as old appliances, by request. Seasonal leaf collection runs from November through January.

City recycle bins are free; trash rollcarts are mandatory and cost a one-time fee of \$50, which can be paid in installments; and YardCarts for yard debris are voluntary and can be purchased for \$50, which can also be paid in installments.

### **What does Housing & Neighborhood Services offer?**

Housing & Neighborhood Services (HNS) helps form partnerships among neighborhood residents, the business community, and local government to create a safer, healthier and friendlier environment.

Services and programs include:

- First-time homebuyer assistance.
- Inside Rock Hill, a free, 10-week civics course about the workings of City government.
- Rolling in Rock Hill, a volunteer-based house painting program.
- Housing rehabilitation assistance.
- Foreclosure prevention counseling.
- Assistance to neighborhood organizations through the Neighborhood Empowerment office.
- Community improvement efforts related to various property maintenance issues including overgrown property, inoperable vehicles, debris and building condition.
- Demolition program that removes abandoned or uninhabitable structures.

### **More Information**

For more information about City departments and the services they provide, please visit our website at [cityofrockhill.com](http://cityofrockhill.com).