

Helena's Westside Infrastructure Program

Frequently Asked Questions

As the City of Helena moves forward to extend water, sewer, and other services and to annex properties west of the city, many questions must be answered for residents.

Here are answers to some of those questions.

Questions not answered here?

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Questions & Answers

Q: Will my taxes change when I am in the city?

A: Yes. Assessments change between the city and county. Assessments vary depending on size and location. The Montana Department of Revenue is responsible for determining all property valuations.

Q: Will my street be paved or improved after the project is completed?

A: All streets in the project area will be restored to at least the current condition following infrastructure installation; some streets may be improved.

Q: Can I use my water well after I am in the city?

A: If your current water supply is from a well, you can continue to use it for domestic water supply until you connect to the city water supply at which time a well can only be used for irrigation and other non-domestic water uses. Eventually, all

properties in the city limits will be required to use city water and sewer.

Q: Do I have to connect to the city's water and sewer at the same time?

A: Connection to the city water and sewer lines can be done at any time after they are installed and ready for service. It is required to connect to both services at the same time.

Q: How much will it cost for me to connect to city water and sewer?

A: The cost is based on the square footage of your property. The cost will be comparable to – or less than the cost to install septic and well systems on residential property outside the city limits.

Q: Will my property be zoned once it is in the city?

A: All property will be zoned upon annexation into the city. All land south of Hauser Boulevard is pre-zoned R-2 (Residential) at this time. Other property in the project area is yet to be pre-zoned. For more information about zoning, refer to city code 11-2-3: LAND USE TABLE FOR ZONING DISTRICTS.

Q: Who will pay for the extension of water and sewer?

A: The city will be paying for the installation of water and sewer mains up front. At the time of connection to the water or sewer main the property owner will be responsible to pay their proportional share of the cost into a rebate program.



Q: Will I have the opportunity to connect to the water and sewer mains when the project is being installed?

A: Yes. All property owners will be notified when work will be done and information on the contractor will be provided so that a property owner may potentially have their property connected to the water and sewer mains at that time.

Q: Will I be required to install a sidewalk on my property?

A: Sidewalks are installed when a person is granted a building permit for construction of the principal structure, or when it is required to be installed (ordered in) by the City Commission.

Q: Will property owners have options to finance the installation of city water and sewer to a home?

A: City staff are considering options to assist homeowners in financing the projects on their property.

Q: If I haul my solid waste or have it picked up by a private hauler, can I continue to do so?

A: After annexation, a residential property (3 dwellings or fewer) that is not currently served by another hauler would be serviced by city solid waste (and be assessed on the tax bill). For residential property that is served by another hauler the property owner can choose either the city or a private hauler. For commercial solid waste the property owner can choose either the city or a private hauler.

Q: If I am connected to either city water and/or sewer, how will this project affect me?

A: Annexation into the city will not change your water and sewer services, but it will enhance available services to your property such as police, streets, and parks, as well as make your property more flexible for future development.

Q: Who will provide emergency services to my property?

A: The Helena Fire Department currently provides service to the area by agreement with the county. They will continue to do so after annexation. The Helena Police Department will assume responsibility for law enforcement upon annexation.

