



OAKPORT ANNEXATION INSIGHTS

February 2014

Information for Oakport Tract 2 Residents...

MAYOR'S MESSAGE

Hello Oakport Tract 2 Residents,

When I took office a few weeks ago, I began a new role as Mayor of Moorhead. This is a big change for me. But lots of other important things remain the same—I still live in the same great neighborhood with good neighbors and good friends.

I've thought about how you might feel as you approach a new role, too. In a few months you and your neighbors will be welcomed into Moorhead and become much appreciated "new" residents of this great community. I see some similarities between your transition and mine. I think for you and your neighbors, the important things will continue to be the important things, and together we will work through any of the issues that may arise.

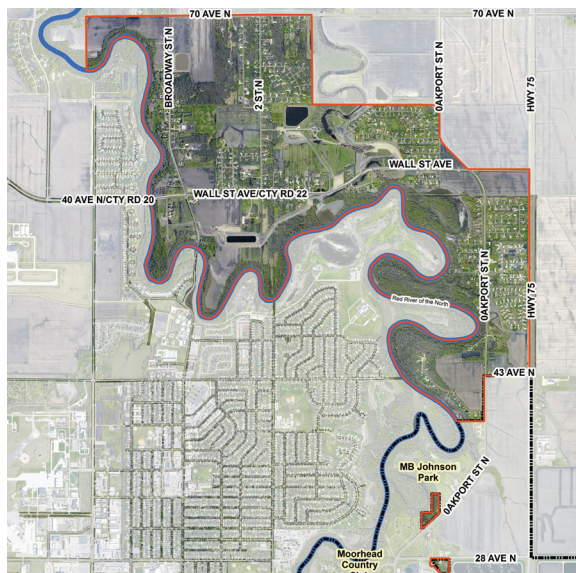
I am especially mindful of why you and your neighbors have chosen to live in Oakport. Clearly, it is a place beyond the hustle and bustle of the city where there is more room to roam and an opportunity to live a less urban lifestyle than most other areas in Moorhead. Annexation doesn't change your physical surroundings. I assure you neither I, the City Council, nor City staff has an interest in changing what you now know and love about Oakport. Thanks to the vision and foresight of leaders who came before me, the current Rural Residential Zoning District of Oakport Tract 2 assures the lifestyle to which you've become accustomed.

The orderly annexation decision was made decades ago at a time when the City was requested to extend water and sewer services to Tract 2 in order to address some serious health issues.

...Mayor's Message continued on Page 3

TRACT 2 MAP

— Boundaries of
Tract 2



ANNEXATION 1990 - 2015

- In 1990, the City of Moorhead and Oakport Township entered into a **Joint Resolution for Orderly Annexation** pursuant to Minnesota statutes, and the City, Township, and County entered into a **Joint Powers Agreement**. These documents can be reviewed at www.cityofmoorhead.com/oakport.
- These Agreements led to the **timely extension of wastewater and water distribution systems** to Tract 2 of Oakport Township to address significant wastewater issues at that time.
- The Joint Resolution and Joint Powers Agreement outline the **financing and extension of infrastructure (wastewater, water, electric)** and the application of **land use, zoning, subdivision, and building regulations**.
- The Joint Powers Agreement established the **Oakport Joint Powers Board**, comprised of representatives from Clay County, Oakport Township, and the City of Moorhead, that has authority to make decisions with respect to land use, zoning, building regulations, extension of utility services, bike paths/sidewalks, and street design.
- The City of Moorhead currently provides the following services to Tract 2 residents: zoning, building regulations, sanitary sewer, and municipal water.
- With regard to other traditional municipal services (public safety, street and park maintenance, pest control, etc.), the Orderly Annexation Agreement states that "upon the effective date of annexation of Tract 2, Moorhead will provide municipal services, including but not limited to, fire and police protection".
- The Joint Resolution grants the City of Moorhead sole authority to enact the **initiating resolution** to complete the annexation. The annexation is scheduled to occur January 1, 2015.

SERVICE NOTES

THE CITY OF MOORHEAD

will provide municipal services in Tract 2 beginning January 1. The frequency of level of service will be the same as other areas of the City, but just as in other areas of the City, some functions may be provided by private contractors under agreements with the City, especially as we work through the initial annexation transition.

TRASH AND RECYCLING

Garbage, yard waste and branch pick up, and curbside recycling service will be provided by the City of Moorhead beginning in January 2015. You may discontinue private hauler contracts December 31, 2014. Monthly garbage service charges will be part of your Moorhead Public Service (MPS) billing.

Garbage: Household garbage is picked up weekly. A 48-gallon wheeled trash cart is provided for the base monthly collection fee; 64 and 96 gallon carts are available at higher rates. The Public Works Department will contact you in advance of the service charge for cart size preference and to let you know what your collection day will be. Special pickups can be arranged for additional fees, and you can purchase pre-paid bags for occasional use.

"Clean-Up Week" is held the first full week of May. During that time, you can dispose of furniture and many other large trash items at your curb with limited exception for no additional fee.

Recycling: Curbside recycling is voluntary but all residential customers pay for the service. Collection is every other week on your regular trash pick-up day. Recycling bins are available on 3rd floor of City Hall for \$5.00. Recycling materials are separated within the bin by paper sacks. We'll send you additional details on schedules and what materials can be recycled before January.

City Garbage and Recycling Fees are itemized on MPS bill:

Garbage (48gal)	\$9.46
Solid Waste Mgmt. Tax	\$0.92
Recycling	\$2.84
Total	\$13.22

Want more information now?

Check out the Residents/Residential Services/Trash Recycling & Yard Waste section of the City website. Or call the Public Works Office: **218.299.5422**.

UTILITIES

Water and Wastewater: Tract 2 residents have been paying 1.5 times the City water and wastewater rates. Moorhead Public Service will continue to provide water and the City of Moorhead will continue to provide wastewater services to Tract 2 residents, but the rates will be reduced to the standard City residential rates on January 1.

Electric: Moorhead Public Service has taken initial steps to acquire the Tract 2 electric service territory from Red River Valley Cooperative and Xcel Energy; however, these current electric providers may not participate in formal negotiations until the annexation has been completed. Therefore, the buyout will likely not occur for a period of time after the annexation. Following the buyout, MPS will install new electric lines to Tract 2 neighborhoods and residences where required, utilizing existing lines as possible. MPS will be replacing existing meters with MPS meters (by appointment if the meter is located inside the home). Only Tract 2 residents who are upgrading or relocating an existing service will be required to relocate an interior meter to the outside of the house. Residents with off-peak or dual fuel systems are responsible to bring their systems into compliance with the MPS dual fuel program standards if they wish to continue with that program.

Stormwater: All City residents pay a monthly stormwater fee, currently \$10.21 per month. This fee is directed to the cost of managing stormwater runoff for flood prevention and pollution control.

Want more information now?

Check out the Residents/Residential Services/Water & Electricity and the Departments/Engineering/Stormwater Management sections of the City website. Or call the main line: **218.299.5400**.



The orderly annexation decision was made decades ago at a time when the City was requested to extend water and sewer services to Tract 2 in order to address some serious health issues. Now as we all prepare for the annexation to become effective, we have some work to do. Whether you have lived in Tract 2 all of this time or you moved to your home recently, you undoubtedly have questions. We have received some of these questions and we know there will be many others. City staff has prepared this "Oakport Annexation Insights" in which many of the current questions have been answered. There will be more communication moving forward, including Tract 2 neighborhood meetings, mailings, and postings to the City's website specific to annexation questions and issues.

When you have a minute, check out what your City has going on by browsing our new website www.cityofmoorhead.com. Sign up for e-Notifications on Oakport Annexation issues, but sign up for other things too: recreation updates, business news, service alerts, and more.

In closing I would like to extend a personal invitation to each of you to join me for my monthly "Coffee with the Mayor" meetings in the lobby area of Moorhead Center Mall adjacent to the elevators to City Hall. I hold these meetings on the third Wednesday of each month at 10am and 7pm. Let's get to know one another in our new City of Moorhead roles!

- Mayor Del Rae Williams



Oakport

BRANCHES/YARD WASTE

Leaves, grass clippings, and branches are picked up curbside on your scheduled garbage day, seasonally—usually April through mid-November. For large volumes of yard waste, the City will maintain the existing "self-serve" Oakport compost site located off of Wall Street. You may also drop off yard waste or pick up compost or wood chips at the compost site at 1800 Hwy 75 N.

Still want to burn it? Just as it is now, burning of yard waste is allowed in some circumstances on half-acre or larger lots. Instead of getting a permit from the Dilworth Fire Department, simply get a no-cost permit from the Moorhead Fire Department so the Department is aware of open burning activities. Moorhead's full-time, full-service fire department will become the primary fire service provider in Oakport following the annexation and the City maintains mutual aid agreements with neighboring cities for

additional support. The Moorhead Fire Department is discussing a possibility of "automatic aid" with Fargo Fire Department to help each city cover gaps in the future. Moorhead's Fire Department represents continued advancement in training, equipment, and service delivery for our residents.

Want more information now?

Check out Departments/Fire/Recreational Fires section of the City website.

STREETLIGHTS

Existing streetlights located within Tract 2 will be maintained. When MPS acquires the electric service territory, streetlights will be installed according to City of Moorhead policies and Minnesota Department of Transportation standards. All new streetlights will be energy efficient—LED lights that are "dark sky" compliant to reduce light pollution.

ROADS REMAIN "AS IS"

The Annexation Agreement outlined that existing roadways will remain "as is" following annexation. County roads and bridges in Tract 2 will remain the jurisdiction of Clay County. Roadways transferred from Oakport Township to the City of Moorhead will be included in City's Capital Improvement Program for routine maintenance (wear course/crack repair/seal coats/etc.). Future costs of major maintenance or repairs, such as paving, mill and overlay, rehabilitation, or reconstruction would be processed as special assessments as in other areas of the City only after public notice and required hearings. Street or storm drainage system changes may also be petitioned by property owners.

Existing gravel driveways will not be required to be improved with asphalt or concrete.

RECREATION NOTES

ALL-TERRAIN VEHICLES (ATVS) AND SNOWMOBILES

Recreational vehicles are common in Tract 2. ATVs and snowmobiles can continue to be used on private property after the annexation, and Class 2 ATVs are also allowed on shoulder areas of improved roadways (not state trunk highways—state law).

Also, the Oakport Joint Powers Board has recommended developing routes to allow snowmobiles in the ditch right-of-way of Tract 2 local roads so long as State regulations are followed.

Want more information now?

Check out the ATV link at www.cityofmoorhead.com/oakport section of the City website.

Want to follow the action on the routes?

Sign up for eNotification—Oakport Annexation and you'll be in the know.

PARKS AND TRAILS

Moorhead is committed to park and recreation opportunities throughout the City. Hopefully, you already frequent MB Johnson Park and have seen the wonderful upgrades to the park the past couple of years. There is also land dedicated for parks in Crystal Creek and North Crystal Creek subdivisions. This parkland will be transferred to the City for maintenance responsibilities at the time of annexation. The Moorhead Park Advisory Board and Planning Commission work with neighborhoods and developments throughout Moorhead under an ongoing Capital Improvement Plan for park locations and facility improvements. They are looking forward to working with you on park and recreation issues. Brentwood Park is privately owned and there are no immediate plans to transfer this park to the City.

Along the Red River corridor from Tract 2 to very south Moorhead, there are new opportunities for trails and pathways following public acquisition of riverfront properties. The City of Moorhead is currently studying the Red River Corridor for opportunities for a continuous river trail and recreation nodes from



Oakport



Wall Street Avenue North to 60th Avenue South. The Fargo-Moorhead Metropolitan Council of Governments is coordinating this effort. Please join in this conversation!

Want to participate or get more information?

Upcoming meeting opportunities and progress on the Moorhead River Corridor Study can be found on the FM Metro COG website, www.fmmetrocog.org.



DOLLARS AND CENTS

For more information, call [218.299.5370](tel:218.299.5370).

FINANCIAL NOTES

Monthly Costs		
	Pre-Annexation	Post-Annexation
Water	\$44.28	\$32.52
Wastewater	\$44.95	\$29.94
BRRWD Maintenance	\$8.67	\$8.67
Stormwater	\$0.00	\$10.21
Garbage & Recycling	\$22.98	\$21.37
Pest Control	\$5.00	\$2.70
Forestry	\$0.00	\$4.18
TOTALS	\$125.88	\$109.59
Annual utility expenses will decrease (excluding electricity ¹)		(\$195.48) /year
Annual property taxes for a \$200,000 home value increase		\$531.35 /year
Annual impact post-annexation:		\$335.87 /year²

¹An additional annual utility savings of \$155-\$180 is expected when electric service territory buyout is completed.

²Assumptions:

- 800 CCF Water/Wastewater usage.
- Garbage based on 96 gal. container with Metro Disposal services.
- Pre-annexation, no recycling pick-up. Post-annexation, biweekly curbside recycling pick-up.
- \$200,000 home value with homestead. Check out the City of Moorhead property tax estimator at: www.moorheadproperty.org for your estimated tax rate (link in the left margin).
- Does not include electricity – buyout in process.

I'm excited about the recycling services.

- Current Oakport resident



Oakport



First Ave, Moorhead

STAY INFORMED

We'll be in touch with you in the coming months regarding:

- More details on trash schedules and containers
- City Council schedule and voting locations
- Flood Mitigation Update
- Property Maintenance and Code Enforcement
- Other topics? Let us know what you want to hear more about!

Beginning in early March, you will also receive the Moorhead City Insights mailed to all Moorhead residents three times per year.

CODE RED

The City of Moorhead wants to reach you in the event of an emergency, severe weather warning, or disaster striking the community. **CodeRED®** will automatically call you to inform you of the situation and direct you to safety if action is required. **CodeRED®** is a unique system that has the potential to launch calls to the entire City of Moorhead in less than 20 minutes. The warning sent directly to you is tied to physical address and relevant location

to the dangerous event. By keeping you informed and ahead of impending danger, **CodeRED®** will be highly beneficial to you and your family.

For more information regarding the **CodeRED®** emergency notification system, please visit us on the web at www.cityofmoorhead.com or call the City Manager's Office at **218.299.5305**.

Photo: North Crystal Creek, Oakport



CONTACT INFORMATION

e-Notification: Sign up for e-Notification on the Oakport Annexation. Choose e-Notification on the homepage of www.cityofmoorhead.com. Select Oakport Annexation from the News category, and any other topics that may interest you.

Website: Most of the information discussed in Oakport Annexation Insights is directly linked to www.cityofmoorhead.com/oakport.

Contact us: We've set up a special email address for your questions: oakport@cityofmoorhead.com or give us a call at **218.299.5370**.

The information in this publication is current as of February 6, 2014.