



TOWN OF OAK RIDGE

8315 Linville Road • P.O. Box 374 • Oak Ridge, NC 27310
Phone (336) 644-7009
www.oakridgenc.com

February 6, 2023

Dear Oak Ridge Neighbor:

Recently, the Oak Ridge Town Council announced that it would accept applications for voluntary annexation into the Town of Oak Ridge. This means that properties located in unincorporated Guilford County on the western and southern borders of Oak Ridge can now become part of our Town. This includes the Extra-Territorial Jurisdiction (ETJ) area where all zoning and land use decisions are already made by the Town of Oak Ridge instead of Guilford County.

Application for annexation into Oak Ridge is strictly voluntary, and only areas in which a valid annexation petition has been submitted will be considered.

Voluntary annexation into the Town of Oak Ridge ensures that:

- Your property will be within the Town of Oak Ridge. Although the legislature currently does not allow involuntary annexations, that could change in the future. If your property is in the Town of Oak Ridge, it can never be annexed into Greensboro, Kernersville, or any other city and be subject to their property taxes, zoning ordinances or other laws.
- The elected officials of the Town of Oak Ridge will be accountable to you for decisions regarding land use, growth and development, infrastructure, and other issues that may affect you and your neighbors in the future.
- You will have a voice in shaping the future of our community, including a commitment to preserve the unique character of Oak Ridge and its historic and natural resources while also planning for thoughtful, measured growth.

The information on the reverse side of this letter is intended to answer questions you may have about voluntary annexation so that you can make an informed decision about becoming a part of Oak Ridge. If your question is not answered here, please feel free to call Town Hall and speak with a member of staff, or call any member of the Town Council. We will be glad to answer any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

Ann Schneider
Mayor

Questions concerning your right to submit a petition for voluntary annexation to the Town of Oak Ridge:

- **How long do we have to decide?**

The Town Council has set a period in which to accept these voluntary annexation petitions. The period for submitting your voluntary petition is from now until April 17, 2023. The planned official annexation is July 1, 2023. Annexation petitions received after April 17, 2023 will be accepted but will not be considered until the following year.

- **What do we have to do to submit a petition to become part of Oak Ridge?**

Use the petition included in this letter or get a copy of it from the Town Hall and sign it. If you wish for your property to be considered for annexation this year, make sure the petition is turned in to Oak Ridge Town Hall by April 17, 2023. Please contact Town Hall to confirm you are submitting an application for an eligible property.

- **What information will I have to provide in the petition?**

There are only four basic entries to make the petition valid:

1. Type or print the name of the record property owner – that means the names of all the persons on the deed to the property, including spouses, or all the persons who own property under a will or by inheritance or under a trust, or the name of the business entity that owns the property.
2. Type or print the address, phone number and email address of the owners.
3. Type or print the tax parcel number currently assigned to your property (which is on your tax assessment notice, or which you can get at Oak Ridge Town Hall).
4. Have all the owners sign and date the petition form.

If you own more than one property in this area you will need additional petitions. Please feel free to copy this form or contact Town Hall for additional copies.

- **What do we do if we do not want to be in Oak Ridge?**

Nothing – do not sign a petition.

- **If I sign the petition, will my property automatically become a part of Oak Ridge?**

No, the Town Council will have to vote to accept each individual petition.

- **How much will being annexed cost us in taxes?**

Currently the property tax for Oak Ridge is 8 cents per \$100 of property value. This means that on a property valued at \$100,000, the tax would be \$80.00 per year. The property tax on a \$500,000 piece of property would be \$400.00 per year. If your property is classified as farmland, the farmland discount would apply. You will still be required to pay County taxes.

- **When would my first tax bill be due?**

December 31, 2023.

- **I live in a subdivision. Will the Town consider annexing only a portion of a subdivision?**

If your property is not adjacent to current Oak Ridge boundaries, the Town cannot consider annexation unless your entire subdivision also petitions for annexation. Please contact Town Hall if you are unsure about the eligibility of your property.

- **Will I be able to vote in Oak Ridge elections?**

Yes, once your petition has been accepted and providing you live on the property that was annexed.

PETITION FOR VOLUNTARY ANNEXATION TO THE TOWN OF OAK RIDGE

To the Mayor and Members of the Town Council of the Town of Oak Ridge, N.C.:

The undersigned respectfully petition the Town Council of the Town of Oak Ridge to annex the hereinafter described property to the Town of Oak Ridge, such annexation to be pursuant to the provisions of G.S. 160A-31 and in support of this petition do hereby respectfully represent:

1. The undersigned whose names are signed to this petition own 100% of all real estate lying outside the corporate limits of the Town of Oak Ridge but within the area of eligibility for voluntary annexation to the Town of Oak Ridge, hereinafter described, which we would like to have annexed to the Town of Oak Ridge.
2. The land and property hereby petitioned to be annexed to the Town of Oak Ridge, and of which we the undersigned are owners of 100%, is described as follows, to-wit:

Respectfully submitted this _____ day of _____, 20_____.

Type or Print Name of Property Owner

Current Address

Primary Phone No. _____

Parcel No. _____

Email address _____

Signature of Owner (s)

Date Received: _____

Received by: _____

(Please use a separate form for each piece of property you own.)