

Annexation is often misunderstood and is sometimes portrayed as a hostile action. In Glendale, just the opposite is true. The process to be annexed into Glendale begins when one or more property owners formally ask to become part of our city. From that point, Arizona state law dictates the uniform procedure that all cities must follow.

In the late 1970's, state law allowed cities to annex a narrow strip of land for the purpose of outlining where that city would plan its future growth. These lands did not become part of the city, but did become part of the city's municipal planning area.

As did many other cities around this time, in 1978 Glendale annexed a narrow strip of land to define its municipal planning area. Arizona state law requires that a city provide police, fire and sanitation services to all properties within its borders. Glendale has historically annexed land only when it is certain the City can provide those services without negatively impacting existing residents and businesses.

Even more important than future planning, Glendale's strip annexation was necessary to protect Luke Air Force Base from encroachment that was being discussed by other cities—encroachment that may have led to the closure of this vital national asset.

Glendale's strip annexation area is generally bounded by Peoria Avenue on the north, Camelback Road on the south and Perryville Road on the west. During the last ten years, Glendale has annexed Luke Air Force Base and also the land on which the Glendale Arena, Westgate City Center, Cardinals Stadium, and Cabela's have been built. We are one of the few cities still growing only within our original strip annexed area, in contrast to other cities that have annexed far beyond their original plans.

Glendale currently has 58 square miles within our incorporated area. We can never grow beyond the 91 square miles in our municipal planning area. By comparison, the municipal planning area in Goodyear is 151 square miles. Surprise exceeds 285 square miles and Buckeye is more than 585 square miles.

As we review future annexation requests, I assure you our decisions will be based on creating Glendale's best possible future.